



drishti

Monthly Editorial Quiz (Consolidation)

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Practice Question

1. Regarding the 'Relative Economic Performance of Indian States: 1960-61 to 2023-24' report, consider the following statement:
 1. There is a significant disparity in economic performance between Indian states, with western and southern states generally outperforming eastern states.
 2. Coastal regions tend to perform better economically, with investment being more concentrated in urban conglomerates and richer states due to higher profitability.
 3. The widening economic divide among states is largely due to the effects of liberalisation policies since 1991, which favored the organised sector.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

2. Regarding Myanmar, consider the following statements:
 1. ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus, implemented in 2021, calls for ending violence, inclusive dialogue, and humanitarian aid in Myanmar.
 2. ASEAN's consensus-based decision-making model allows individual member countries to take unilateral actions regarding the Myanmar crisis without unanimous approval.
 3. India's Myanmar policy is influenced by its Act East Policy, with Myanmar serving as a vital link to ASEAN.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements:
 1. The earliest literature, the Rig-Veda, reveals that some kind of population count was maintained in India during 800-600 BC.
 2. The Arthashastra by Kautilya, written in the 3rd Century BC, prescribed the collection of population statistics as a measure of state taxation policy.
 3. The first complete census of an Indian city was conducted in 1830 by Henry Walter in Dacca (now Dhaka).

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

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

4. Which of the following statements about the Right to Privacy in India is correct?
 1. The Right to Privacy was recognized as a fundamental right under the Constitution of India by the Supreme Court in the K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India case in 2017.
 2. Any restriction on the Right to Privacy by the state must satisfy three conditions, legislative mandate, legitimate state purpose, and proportionality.
 3. The Right to Privacy allows unrestricted individual freedom without any state intervention.

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

5. Regarding India-China relations and strategic dynamics, consider the following statements:
 1. The economic disparity between India and China is stark, with China's economy valued at USD 18 trillion compared to India's USD 3.93 trillion.
 2. India's growth rate in sectors like artificial intelligence (AI) and patent filings demonstrates that it has surpassed China in technological innovation.
 3. India's strategic methods include alliances like the Quad and covert tactics as per Kautilya's principles.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

6. Which of the following best describes the recent Supreme Court judgment in *Omkar Ramachandra Gond v. Union of India* regarding disability assessment for medical students?
 - A. The judgment states that having a benchmark disability is sufficient to disqualify a candidate from medical studies.
 - B. It directs assessment boards to evaluate a candidate's functional ability to study medicine, not just their disability level, and provide clear reasons for disqualification if needed.
 - C. It restricts courts from ordering a reevaluation for disability assessments and upholds the opinion of assessment boards as final.
 - D. The judgment discourages the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities in medical fields due to undue hardship.

7. Regarding cybercrime, consider the following statement:
 1. The state should rely on social media platforms to monitor and remove posts related to cyber threats and digital frauds.
 2. Digital threats and scams are solely the responsibility of individuals who should protect themselves by improving their digital literacy and awareness.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. Regarding the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) framework, consider the following statements:
1. The FIT framework specifies an inflation target of 4%, with a tolerance range of 2% to 6%, to be reviewed every five years.
 2. Under FIT, the target is primarily focused on core inflation, excluding food and energy prices, to avoid fluctuations in essential commodities.
 3. Since adopting FIT, India has consistently maintained inflation below 4% on average each year.
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- A. Only one B. Only two
C. All three D. None
9. The Living Planet Index (LPI) report was recently published by which of the following:
- A. World Wildlife Fund
B. NITI Aayog
C. World Bank
D. World Health Organisation(WHO)
10. Consider the following statements regarding RBI's approach to managing USD-INR volatility:
1. The RBI's reduction of volatility in the USD-INR exchange rate could lead to sudden market disruptions if volatility spikes unexpectedly.
 2. Since 2019, India's Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) has appreciated, contributing to a decrease in export growth.
 3. The RBI's approach to a stable USD-INR rate could require higher domestic interest rates or reduced currency convertibility options in the future.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One B. Only Two
C. All Three D. None
11. Regarding Light Detection and Ranging(LiDAR), consider the following statements:
1. It is a remote sensing technology that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure the ranges of a sensor.
 2. LiDAR data can be used to create high-resolution 3-D models of ground elevation with a vertical accuracy of up to 10 cm.
 3. LiDAR is used to generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
B. Only Two
C. All Three
D. None
12. Which of the following best describes India's model of federalism?
- A. Centralised federalism with absolute power to the Union.
B. Cooperative federalism where the Union and states work collaboratively for development.
C. Confederative federalism where states retain complete independence from the Union.
D. Exclusive federalism with no interaction between the Union and states.
13. Which of the following best describes the potential advantage of using AI in electoral processes?
- A. AI can automate and streamline administrative tasks like voter registration and fraud detection.
B. AI can help reduce voter turnout by creating automated barriers to entry.
C. AI reduces the transparency of election procedures by creating complex black-box algorithms.
D. AI eliminates the need for real-time monitoring at polling stations.
14. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** For India, protecting domestic producers, particularly large industries, from competition should be the primary focus in its negotiations with the EU.
Statement-II: India should take a more flexible approach toward trade negotiations, considering global trends like ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) standards, and consider joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- 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
15. Regarding Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), consider the following statements:
1. MGNREGS is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural Development.
 2. It guarantees 100 days of employment each financial year for adult members of rural households willing to perform unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.
 3. The NITI Aayog monitors the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.

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

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

16. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) launched in 2019 aimed to reduce particulate matter concentrations by 20-30% by 2024 in 122 cities.
2. The National Green Tribunal has implemented the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to address air pollution based on Air Quality Index(AQI) categories.

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

17. Consider the following statements about the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve:

1. It was included in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2000.
2. The Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve is home to both endemic flora and fauna, including species such as the Nilgiri Chilappan and the star-eyed bush frog.
3. The Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve is managed exclusively by the Forest Department, as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.

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

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

18. Consider the following statements about the focus on methane at COP29:

1. Methane has a higher global warming potential than carbon dioxide, especially in the short term, making it a critical target for immediate climate action.
2. India has not signed the Global Methane Pledge due to concerns about economy-wide methane reduction targets.
3. India's agricultural sector, particularly rice cultivation and livestock, is the primary source of its methane emissions.

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

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

19. Regarding the India-Iran relationship, consider the following statements:

1. India and Iran signed a 10-year contract in 2024 to operate the Chabahar port, which strategically benefits India's trade by bypassing the Strait of Hormuz.
2. Iran is a significant source of natural gas and oil reserves globally, which could play a crucial role in meeting India's energy demands.

3. Iran has recently developed modern weapons platforms and has begun supplying armed drones to India to support its defense sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. Consider the following statements regarding the current di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) shortage in India:

1. The shortage of DAP is partly due to inadequate advance planning and insufficient opening stocks at the start of the rabi season.
2. Price controls on DAP have led to unviable import costs, contributing to the current shortage.
3. The government has implemented a per-acre payment system for farmers that provides subsidies for the purchase of necessary nutrients each crop season.

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

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

21. Consider the following statements regarding Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) in treating cholera:

1. ORT's solution can be easily prepared in any home, making it one of the most accessible and cost-effective treatments for dehydration.
2. ORT has been recognized globally as the most effective treatment to completely eradicate cholera, eliminating the disease in many regions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following statements regarding India's economic challenges and opportunities in manufacturing:

1. India's labour force distribution indicates that the majority are employed in the manufacturing sector, followed by agriculture and services.
2. Regulatory hurdles and excessive compliance requirements are major barriers to growth for smaller firms in India.
3. Infrastructure and skill deficits in India have transformed from critical issues to manageable challenges due to recent reforms and investments.

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

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

23. Consider the following statements about Israel's recent ban on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA):

1. UNRWA provides critical services such as healthcare, education, and employment to vulnerable communities, especially in regions like Gaza and the West Bank.

2. The ban aligns fully with international laws, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Geneva Conventions.

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

24. Regarding the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Delhi and West Bengal are the only states that opted out of PM-JAY, citing better health schemes as the reason.
2. The scheme has significantly reduced out-of-pocket (OOP) medical expenses for all medical treatments, including out-patient consultations.

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

25. Consider the following statements regarding Tuberculosis (TB):

1. TB is a viral infection caused by the Human herpesvirus.
2. TB primarily affects the lungs, but it can also impact other organs such as the spine, lymph nodes, and brain.
3. India registered a decline in TB incidence in the past few years, which is less than the global decline rate.

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

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

26. Consider the following statements regarding sanctions:

1. Economic sanctions are imposed to restrict or completely eliminate economic relations between two entities.
2. Sanctions are always harmful to the sanctioned country's economy, leading to significant economic collapse.
3. Sanctions can only be imposed by individual countries, not international organisations like the UN.

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 regarding Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):

1. SMRs are advanced nuclear reactors with a power generation capacity typically ranging from below 30 MWe to over 300 MWe.
2. The term "modular" in SMRs refers to the ability to construct them on-site using a step-by-step approach.

3. SMRs can use nuclear fission to produce both electricity and direct industrial applications.

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

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

28. Consider the following statements about carbon sinks:

1. Effective carbon sinks can tackle CO₂ and significantly reduce sulphur dioxide also.
2. Natural carbon sinks include forests and clean water bodies. Carbon sinks are ineffective in reducing urban heat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. Consider the following statements regarding global efforts to combat climate change:

1. The goal is to keep the rise in temperatures below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels.
2. The Paris Agreement of 2016 requires member countries to decide on a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) before 2025, with the USD 100 billion as a base value.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. Consider the following statements regarding the role of the Self-Regulatory Organisation for Fintech (SRO-FT) in India:

1. SRO-FT will develop baseline standards on market conduct, governance, risk management, and cyber security for its members.
2. SRO-FT will monitor unethical practices among fintechs to maintain the reputation of the fintech ecosystem.
3. SRO-FT membership is mandatory for all fintechs operating in India.

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

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

31. The 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16) was held in?

- A. Nairobi, Kenya B. Kunming, China
C. Cali, Colombia D. None of the Above

32. Consider the following statements about regulatory agencies in India:

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was established in 1988 as a statutory body to protect investors' interests and regulate the securities market.

2. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) recommended that all regulatory agencies in India be brought under the purview of the respective parliamentary standing committees.

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

33. Consider the following statements regarding the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):

1. The ANRF aims to strengthen India's research ecosystem by funding research and innovation across various disciplines, including science, technology, and social sciences.
2. ANRF is solely focused on funding research projects within government institutions in India.
3. The ANRF's Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) program promotes joint research and innovation projects between Indian teaching and research institutions.

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

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

34. Consider the following statements about the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) regulations:

1. The UIDAI allows law enforcement agencies access to core biometric information like fingerprints and iris scans to help identify unknown deceased individuals.
2. The Aadhaar Act, 2016 permits limited data disclosure through an order from a court not below the level of a High Court judge.
3. In cases of unnatural deaths, the Aadhaar Act requires a High Court order for the police to access core biometric data for identifying unidentified bodies.

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

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

35. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Current UGC regulations allow for interdisciplinary flexibility, enabling faculty members with varied educational backgrounds to apply for teaching positions in different subjects.

Statement-II: National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to provide more autonomy to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to recruit faculty based on a holistic assessment that goes beyond traditional metrics like Academic Performance Index(API) scores.

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

36. Consider the following statements regarding private-sector financing for climate change:

1. Developing countries are expected to require around USD 5.9 trillion in climate finance by 2030, mainly due to their continued reliance on fossil fuels for growth.
2. Private sector climate finance so far has been heavily skewed towards climate change adaptation projects, especially in low-income countries.
3. The majority of private climate finance has focused on countries with lower risk profiles.

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

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

37. Consider the following statements regarding the trend of contractualisation in India's employment landscape:

1. The share of contract workers in India's formal manufacturing sector has exponentially decreased over the last two decades.
2. Kerala has a significantly higher share of the industrial workforce employed as contract labour compared to Bihar.
3. Contract workers in India receive similar job benefits and protections as regular workers.

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

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

38. Consider the following statements regarding the use and development of drone technology in India:

1. Drones are being integrated into several government projects to accelerate progress in sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, and urban planning.
2. The 'Drone Didi' mission focuses on empowering rural women through drone technology by providing training and job opportunities.
3. Currently, all of the flight controllers used in small drones in India are indigenously manufactured.

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

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

39. Consider the following statements regarding India's approach to Free Trade Agreements (FTAs):

1. The Indian government recently decided to take a break from negotiating FTAs to prevent unintended concessions and to support domestic industries.
2. India's FTA negotiations with East Asian countries previously led to trade imbalances, with imports rising and market access benefits not materializing for India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

40. Which of the following statements regarding the recent Supreme Court judgment on "material resources of the community" is/are correct?

1. The verdict specifies that not all private resources can be deemed "material resources of the community."
2. The judgment allows the State unrestricted power to acquire private property as long as it is for the "public good."
3. The court endorsed the "public trust doctrine" as a guideline to identify resources that could serve the community.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

41. Which of the following countries were involved in the Abraham Accords signed in 2020?

1. Israel
2. United Arab Emirates (UAE)
3. Egypt
4. Morocco

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

42. Which of the following best describes India's interest in hosting the 2036 Olympics?

- A. To increase its military presence globally through the platform of the Games.
- B. To fulfill its commitment to the International Olympic Committee for hosting all future Olympics.
- C. To showcase its soft power and economic strength globally.
- D. To align with China's 2008 Olympic strategy.

43. Regarding the recent Supreme Court judgment in the case of private property, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court judgment in the case of private property and state power aims to restore the balance between the two.

2. The Court ruled that private property is always considered a "material resource of the community."

3. The judgment emphasizes that the state should act within limits and uphold private property rights while moving towards a fairer distribution of resources.

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

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

44. The recent World Development Report 2024, was published by which of the following?

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- D. None of the above

45. Consider the following statements:

1. Over 90% of education loans in India are utilized for studies in premier institutes within the country.
2. The PM Vidyalaxmi scheme provides full interest subvention during the moratorium period for students irrespective of family income.
3. The PM Vidyalaxmi scheme addresses both financial barriers to higher education and the shortage of quality educational institutions in India.

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

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

46. Consider the following statements regarding the Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

1. The Reserve Bank of India was established in 1935 and has evolved over the years, now balancing both financial stability and price stability responsibilities.
2. The RBI's approach to inflation targeting has always focused solely on maintaining headline inflation without regard to other economic growth objectives.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

47. Which of the following statements is true regarding India's progress in managing tuberculosis (TB)?

1. India achieved a 50% decline in TB incidence over the past eight years, surpassing the global average decline rate.
2. Despite improvements in TB diagnosis and treatment, India is unlikely to meet its target of eradicating TB by 2025.
3. India's health insurance program has already been expanded to cover all TB patients, including those with multi-drug resistant forms of TB.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

- Under the IWT, India has proprietary rights over the western rivers while Pakistan holds rights over the eastern rivers.
- The rule of "equitable and reasonable utilisation" (ERU) in international water law could be used to address challenges like climate change impacting the water flow in the Indus Basin.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

49. Consider the following statements regarding the challenges and reforms in India's policy-making:

- India's policymaking often faces delays due to resistance to change and a preference for entrenched traditional practices, which can impact its effectiveness.
- Interministerial conflicts in India are easily resolved due to a standardised procedure for collective decision-making mandated by the Constitution.
- Leveraging digital technologies and AI can enhance efficiency, data-driven decision-making, and improve transparency in public policy.

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:

- India's Viksit Bharat@2047 vision aims to significantly boost the nation's economic stature and raise its per capita income to support equitable growth.
- The National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) focuses on creating industrial cities with smart infrastructure to transform India into a global manufacturing hub.

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

51. India Ageing Report 2023 was recently released by which of the following?

- A. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
B. Population Foundation of India
C. World Bank
D. World Health Organisation

52. Consider the following statements regarding the Reserve Bank of India's Climate Risk Information System (RB-CRIS):

- RB-CRIS provides a centralised repository of processed, standardised climate data to help banks integrate climate risk into their financial supervision and risk management.
- RB-CRIS will allow Indian banks to perform scenario analysis and stress testing, enabling them to better assess the climate impact on their loan portfolios.
- The system primarily aims to provide regulatory oversight by setting a standard for banks to reduce lending to all carbon-intensive industries.

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

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

53. Consider the following statements regarding climate finance:

- UNFCCC COP29 aims to improve climate financing for the Global South and stresses cooperation between the Global North and South rather than adversarial positions.
- The cost of capital for climate projects is significantly higher in developing countries than in developed ones, making climate finance less accessible in the Global South.
- To attract investments, Global South countries are exploring options like tax breaks, revenue-sharing, and aggregating demand for green sectors.

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

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

54. Consider the following statements regarding regional inequality and economic development:

- Despite state intervention, disparities between Indian states have widened, with Bihar showcasing some of the lowest economic indicators.
- Historical policies like the Freight Equalization Scheme and the Green Revolution have contributed to completely eliminating regional disparities.

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

55. Consider the following statements regarding the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) stance on the repo rate and its impact on the economy:

- The RBI has maintained high interest rates partly to control non-food, non-fuel inflation by discouraging excessive lending and money creation.
- A reduction in the repo rate could lead to more household deposits moving into stocks, potentially worsening the asset-liability mismatch of banks.

3. Stock market volatility has no impact on RBI's decision-making regarding interest rates and inflation control.

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

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

56. Regarding the SC judgment on the UP Madarsa Act, 2004, consider the following statements:

1. It held that the doctrine of Basic Structure should be invoked to examine the validity of a constitutional amendment, not an ordinary piece of legislation.
2. In testing an ordinary law, courts should look just at legislative competence and consistency with fundamental rights.
3. It held that the right to manage its affairs given to a religious body is a fundamental right that cannot be abridged by any legislation.

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

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

57. Consider the following statements regarding the Musi River:

1. The Musi River flows through the city of Hyderabad in the Indian state of Telangana.
2. The river is a tributary of the Godavari River.
3. The Musi River originates in the state of Maharashtra and flows southwards into Telangana.

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

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

58. Consider the following statements about the BRICS grouping:

1. BRICS initially consisted of four countries, and South Africa joined as the fifth member in 2011.
2. The grouping has expanded recently with five new members, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

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

59. Consider the following statements about the global cooling efforts:

1. The Wilmington Declaration was issued by the Quad nations with a focus on high-efficiency cooling systems and sustainable energy solutions.
2. India has committed to reducing Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by 85% by 2047 as part of the Kigali Amendment.
3. The Global Cooling Pledge, introduced at COP28, is a binding commitment to reduce cooling emissions by 68% by 2050.

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

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

60. Consider the following statements regarding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):

1. RCEP is a trade agreement that includes the 10 ASEAN nations and five other key Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners.
2. RCEP aims to facilitate easier trade and investment among member countries by completely eliminating all tariffs and enhancing market access.
3. RCEP is currently the world's smallest free trade agreement by combined GDP, population, and total export value.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

61. Consider the following statements regarding the challenges in India's Public Distribution System (PDS):

1. The current coverage of free food distribution under the PDS is over 50% of the population.
2. Nearly one-fourth of the allocated rice and wheat in the PDS does not reach the intended beneficiaries, resulting in significant economic losses annually.
3. Implementing Point of Sale (PoS) machines at Fair Price Shops has entirely eliminated leakages in the PDS.

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

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

62. Consider the following statements regarding issues in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in India:

1. The decline in foreign direct investment (FDI) in India is partly due to delays and inefficiencies in the domestic judicial system.
2. India's commercial courts have fallen short of what investors expect because of delays and the frequent granting of temporary court orders.
3. Establishing world-class arbitration centers at places like GIFT City could reduce India's reliance on foreign arbitration centers and enhance its reputation as an ADR hub.

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

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

63. Consider the following statements:

1. An economy centered on care would focus on increasing rewards for underpaid care workers, including ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, with fair wages and social security benefits.

2. Care-focused economic reforms would enhance public and private support systems, providing social pensions for the elderly and better childcare infrastructure.

3. A care-centered approach would promote an educational shift, encouraging both men and women to value caregiving skills and empathy over competition.

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

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

64. Consider the following statements:

1. The recent stability of the rupee against the US dollar has been primarily driven by natural market forces, similar to the stability of the euro-dollar exchange rate.
2. The RBI's recent policy shift involves active intervention on both sides of the foreign exchange market to prevent significant appreciation or depreciation of the rupee.
3. Maintaining a pegged exchange rate without transparency can lead to confusion among private sector participants regarding the central bank's intervention policies.

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

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

65. Consider the following statements regarding the recent Supreme Court ruling on identifying a minority institution's character in India:

1. The Supreme Court emphasized that an institution's minority character is determined by factors such as its founder, purpose, and administrative structure.
2. The ruling stated that a university established through legislation loses its minority character by default.

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

66. Consider the following statements regarding the state's borrowing powers in India:

1. Article 293 gives State governments the power to borrow, with the requirement of central consent if past loans from the Centre are still outstanding.
2. Section 163 of the Government of India Act, 1935, which prevented unnecessary delays or conditions on loan approvals, was incorporated into the Indian 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

67. Consider the following statements about India's carbon credit mechanism:

1. India's carbon credit market aligns with its commitments under the Paris Agreement and aims to support its economic goals.
2. The carbon credit system must include strong protocols to prevent greenwashing and ensure projects have real additionality.
3. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement does not involve any compliance mechanisms for internationally transferred carbon credits.

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

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

68. Consider the following statements:

1. The demographic dividend refers to the economic growth advantage that arises when a large portion of the population is in the working-age group.
2. India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is declining faster than anticipated, with most states now below the replacement-level fertility rate.
3. Shifting the workforce from low-productivity sectors like agriculture to manufacturing and services has been a proven path for economic growth historically.

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

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

69. Consider the following statements regarding climate action:

1. COP29 will include discussions on expanding the Loss and Damage Fund, initially established at COP27 to address climate impacts on vulnerable countries.
2. The United States and the European Union have proposed that large emerging economies like China and India also contribute financially to climate goals.
3. India is prioritizing domestic climate actions to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and enhance energy security.

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

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

70. Consider the following statements regarding nuclear energy policy in India:

1. India's Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLND Act), 2010 has limited foreign suppliers' interest due to liability concerns.
2. The policy framework in India aims to place decision-making about nuclear reactor purchases primarily in the hands of private sector firms.
3. The Indian state's primary role in nuclear energy is to act as a direct controller of nuclear reactors owned by private companies.

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

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

71. Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court's recent ruling on arbitration clauses for public-sector undertakings (PSUs) in India:

1. The Supreme Court ruled that PSUs can no longer unilaterally appoint arbitrators for disputes with private contractors, as this violates Article 14 of the Constitution.
2. The ruling applies retrospectively, affecting all existing contracts between PSUs and private corporations.
3. The judgment encourages PSUs to adopt institutional arbitration processes rather than ad hoc procedures to promote fairness.

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

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

72. Consider the following statements about the recent H5N1 bird flu developments:

1. Avian influenza A(H5N1) is a highly pathogenic virus that primarily circulates among birds but can infect mammals.
2. Flu viruses can exchange genetic material, which increases the risk of a new variant that could infect humans more effectively.

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

73. Consider the following statements regarding the strategic significance of Depsang Plains and Demchok:

1. The Depsang Plains is considered vulnerable due to its flat terrain, which is suitable for mechanised warfare and provides direct access to Aksai Chin.
2. Control over Demchok allows India effective surveillance over Chinese activities in the Aksai Chin region.
3. The PLA's control over the Depsang Plains threatens India's strategic position over the Siachen Glacier by enabling a two-pronged attack from both China and Pakistan.

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

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

74. Consider the following statements regarding India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) and its role in climate finance:

1. India's Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022 provides a legal mandate for establishing a Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).

2. The CCTS aligns with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, specifically Article 6.2, to prevent the double counting of emissions reductions.

3. The Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI) framework has been introduced to enhance transparency but faces challenges due to high costs and potential transparency issues in India.

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

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

75. Consider the following statements regarding recent Supreme Court judgments on the rights and classifications of prisoners in India:

1. In *Sukanya Shantha v. Union of India* (2024), the Supreme Court ruled that prison segregation based on caste for assigning labour duties is unconstitutional.
2. The Supreme Court's judgment emphasized the need to incorporate basic amenities in prisons by amending the Model Prison Manual 2016.

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 regarding India's telecom sector:

1. Telcos are pushing for the auction of the 6 GHz spectrum band, claiming it is essential for 5G and 6G services, overlooking its intended purpose for affordable and accessible Wi-Fi.
2. PM-WANI, a public Wi-Fi initiative, has faced resistance from telcos despite support from the government and TRAI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

77. Consider the following statements about India's shipbuilding industry:

1. India holds less than 1% of the global market share in shipbuilding.
2. Ships in India are currently not classified as infrastructure, restricting shipbuilders from accessing long-term financing.
3. The SARFAESI Act, 2002 excludes vessels from being mortgaged as assets, which hinders bank financing for ship purchases.

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

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

78. Consider the following statements regarding India's trade policy and its stance on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):
1. India decided to stay out of RCEP in 2019, despite RCEP countries accounting for around 30% of global GDP.
 2. The "China plus one" strategy refers to countries seeking trade diversification by increasing tariffs on Chinese goods.
 3. Recent geopolitical events, such as the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, have led to supply chain disruptions and increased protectionism in global trade policies.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only one B. Only two
C. All three D. None
79. Where is Dal Lake, an iconic lake facing ecological challenges and known for its importance to tourism and the local ecosystem?
- A. Himachal Pradesh B. Uttarakhand
C. Jammu & Kashmir D. Sikkim
80. Regarding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, consider the following statements?
1. Financial Creditors (FCs) are primarily financial institutions and have the right to be part of the Committee of Creditors (CoC), giving them decision-making powers in the insolvency process.
 2. Operational Creditors (OCs) are involved in providing goods and services on credit but do not have voting rights in the CoC.
 3. Homebuyers were initially classified as Operational Creditors (OCs) but were later reclassified as Financial Creditors (FCs) to give them representation in the insolvency process.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- A. Only one B. Only two
C. All three D. None
81. Consider the following statements:
1. The NITI Aayog report, 'Unlocking the Power of Healthy Longevity,' published in 2024, highlights an increase in non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
 2. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are projected to account for three-quarters of all deaths in India by 2030.
- 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. Consider the following statements regarding the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC):
1. IMEC is expected to reduce transit time between its eastern and western nodes by 40% and costs by 30% compared to transportation via the Suez Canal.
 2. The corridor's progress has been significantly impacted by the escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- 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
83. Consider the following statements regarding climate finance for developing countries:
1. Developed countries committed to provide USD 100 billion annually by 2020 to assist the developing countries with climate finance, a target that was first met in 2022.
 2. The Loss and Damage Fund (L&D Fund) was established at COP28 to compensate vulnerable countries for climate change-related loss and damage.
 3. The projected economic cost of climate change-related loss and damage in developing countries by 2050 is estimated to reach between USD 1 trillion and USD 1.8 trillion annually.
- How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?
- A. Only One B. Only Two
C. All Three D. None
84. Consider the following statements regarding the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway (IMT-TH):
1. The IMT-TH project, once completed, will establish a direct overland link between India and Thailand, bypassing the maritime route through the Malacca Strait.
 2. The IMT-TH project aligns with India's "Act East" policy, enhancing its connectivity and trade with ASEAN nations, including Thailand and Myanmar.
 3. The IMT-TH is expected to reduce India's dependency on Chinese infrastructure for Southeast Asian market access by providing a more direct trade route to the ASEAN region.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One B. Only Two
C. All Three D. None
85. Consider the following statements regarding the types and causes of inflation:
1. Cost-push inflation occurs when consumer demand for goods and services exceeds their supply, often driven by high consumer spending in a booming economy.
 2. Demand-pull inflation results from a rise in production costs, which may include factors like increased wages, higher raw material costs, or supply chain disruptions.
 3. Built-in inflation occurs when higher wages lead to higher production costs, causing businesses to raise prices, thereby creating a feedback loop of rising wages and prices.

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

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

86. Consider the following statements regarding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in India:

Statement-I: The IBC has traditionally involved significant losses for creditors, with early cases seeing creditors take substantial haircuts.

Statement-II: Recent cases under the IBC demonstrate a shift towards more favourable recoveries for creditors, including instances where recoveries have exceeded admitted claims.

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

87. Consider the following statements regarding India's approach to a sustainable and resilient energy transition:

1. India aims to shift from centralized energy systems to decentralized systems, with a focus on Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) sources.
2. Emphasizing a circular economy is crucial for India, as it can enhance mineral security by salvaging valuable materials from waste.
3. India's energy transition approach includes a shift towards protectionist industrial policies similar to the US and EU, to create a self-sustaining clean energy supply chain.

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

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

88. Consider the following statements regarding the recent Supreme Court verdict on demolition of properties in India:

1. The Supreme Court ruled that demolishing the properties of individuals accused of crimes without due process violates fundamental rights and principles of natural justice.
2. Under the new guidelines, officials responsible for unauthorized demolitions may be held personally accountable for the restitution of demolished properties.
3. The Court's directives apply universally, including unauthorized structures located in public spaces like roads and footpaths.

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

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

89. Consider the following statements regarding the issue of delimitation in India:

1. Delimitation in India involves recalibrating the number of Lok Sabha seats per State based on population, as required by Article 280 of the Constitution.
2. If delimitation proceeds, it could reduce the number of seats for non-Hindi-speaking States that have successfully controlled population growth.

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

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

90. Consider the following statements regarding Cardiovascular Kidney Metabolic (CKM) syndrome:

1. CKM syndrome is a complex condition involving the interaction of lifestyle factors and globalisation's influence on health, contributing to a global health crisis.
2. CKM syndrome often begins with a gradual increase in body weight and waist circumference, which can lead to obesity and a cascade of health issues.
3. CKM syndrome primarily affects the heart, kidneys, liver, and blood vessels, increasing the risk of premature death in affected individuals.

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

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

91. Consider the following statements regarding foreign investment in India:

1. India's domestic savings are insufficient to fund its growth, necessitating the import of foreign capital in various forms.
2. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is considered more stable and beneficial for India's economy compared to Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI).
3. FPIs exceeding a 10% stake in an Indian company are automatically reclassified as FDI, without requiring government approval or investee company concurrence.

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

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

92. Consider the following statements regarding recent measures for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):

1. The government has set an increased lending target for MSMEs in the current financial year, with a planned further increase in the following years.
2. A new credit guarantee scheme will provide MSMEs with collateral-free and guarantor-free loans to enhance their manufacturing and export potential.

3. The non-performing assets (NPAs) on Mudra loans for public-sector banks (PSBs) have shown an improvement over the past few years.

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

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

93. Consider the following statements:

- The GST Council serves as an example of cooperative federalism, where the Union and states agreed to harmonise taxes, with compensation provided to states to offset revenue losses.
- Competitive federalism in India promotes efficiency gains among states but requires rules of engagement and conflict resolution mechanisms to maintain fairness and stability.

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

94. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian aviation industry:

- The "open skies policy" announced in 1990 led to the entry of numerous airlines in India, with many eventually ceasing operations or merging due to industry challenges.
- The Indian aviation industry currently faces a stable financial outlook with low debt levels.
- IndiGo, which started operations in 2006, now commands over half of the domestic market and has placed orders for a substantial number of new aircraft.

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

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

95. Consider the following statements regarding India's approach to carbon markets and emission reduction:

- The Indian carbon market is designed as a carbon-credit trading system, where industries are given progressively tighter emission targets.
- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency's 'Perform, Achieve and Trade' (PAT) scheme will be entirely replaced by the Indian carbon market.
- Floor and forbearance prices are proposed in the Indian carbon market to stabilise credit prices, encouraging investments in decarbonization rather than treating penalties as a regular cost of doing business.

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

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

96. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Rural wage growth has shown significant improvement, and non-agricultural wages have risen consistently over the last decade.

Statement-II: Structural changes, such as higher government spending on the rural economy and prioritising income growth for lower-income groups, are seen as essential to addressing long-term economic distress.

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

97. Regarding the Gulf of Guinea (GoG), consider the following statements:

- The Gulf of Guinea (GoG) is located at the junction of the Prime Meridian and the Equator.
- The Gulf of Guinea is one of the world's safest regions for maritime trade due to the low piracy activity.
- Major rivers like the Volta and Niger drain into the Gulf of Guinea.
- The Gulf of Guinea accounts for over 35% of the world's total petroleum reserves.

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

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

98. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Despite having over 1.4 million schools, more than half of children aged 14-18 in India struggle with basic arithmetic.

Statement-II: India's youth represent a significant global demographic advantage, with an average age of 29.

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

99. Regarding municipal finances, consider the following statements:

- The share of own-source revenue in municipal finances has declined over recent years.

2. Dynamic pricing for municipal services like parking is a long-term solution for improving municipal finances.

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

100. Consider the following statements about the current trends in microfinance lending in India:

1. Banks have increasingly extended loans to the microfinance sector, partly due to a decline in corporate credit demand and an aim to meet priority-sector lending targets.
2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently directed banks to stop issuing new microfinance loans to borrowers until they have repaid their previous loans.
3. Rising defaults in the microfinance sector could pose a systemic risk to the overall banking sector and the larger economy.

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

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

101. Consider the following statements:

1. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance is expected to be decided before 2025 as mandated by the Paris Agreement.
2. Developed countries, including India, have demanded USD 1-2 trillion in commitments under the NCQG to address climate finance needs.
3. Accessing climate finance through debt instruments is a viable option for developing countries to address their fiscal challenges.

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

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

102. Regarding Statutory Regulatory Authorities (SRAs), consider the following statements:

1. Statutory Regulatory Authorities (SRAs) in India have been given the power to create binding regulations within their domains without direct parliamentary approval.
2. Regulations issued by SRAs are always scrutinized by the parliamentary committees on subordinate legislation to ensure alignment with democratic and federal principles.

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

103. Regarding Emerging market economies (EMEs), consider the following statements:

1. Emerging market economies (EMEs) now account for over half of the global GDP based on purchasing power parity.
2. EMEs face challenges such as balancing sustainability with growth and maintaining shared prosperity despite industrialization.
3. Technological advancements, like mobile banking in India and digital platforms in Southeast Asia, have enabled EMEs to bypass traditional growth pathways.

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

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

104. Consider the following statements:

1. Bhagwan Birsa Munda was a prominent leader who led the "Ulgulan" or Munda Rebellion against British oppression in the late 1890s.
2. The Government of India celebrates Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary as "Janjatiya Gaurav Divas" to honour tribal freedom fighters.
3. The Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan focuses on improving the education system for tribal youth in urban areas exclusively.

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

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

105. Regarding Asian Elephants, consider the following statements:

1. India is home to about 60% of the world's Asian elephant population.
2. Elephants have a gestation period of about 22 months, the longest of any land animal.
3. Asian elephants (Indian) are classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

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

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

106. Regarding Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR), consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Gujarat and is spread over the Vindhya hills.
2. It is known for the Royal Bengal Tigers.
3. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India and the world.

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

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

107. Consider the following statements:

1. Insurance penetration in India is heavily skewed towards life insurance compared to non-life insurance.
2. The Indian insurance sector faces challenges due to a lack of consumer trust and adversarial claims processes.
3. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has mandated a system of "full settlement" within a stipulated period for health insurance claims.

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

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

108. Consider the following statements:

1. Recent policies have shifted the tax burden more towards individuals, making personal income tax the largest source of tax revenue in India.
2. A lower corporate tax rate has significantly boosted corporate investments in India as expected.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

109. Consider the following statements:

1. Earth Observation Satellite (EOS) data has wide applications including agriculture, natural resource management, and urban planning.
2. India's EOS initiatives are limited to governmental projects with no involvement of private startups.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

110. Regarding Copper, consider the following statements:

1. India is a net importer of refined copper, which is critical for the production of electric vehicles and green energy infrastructure.
2. Copper smelting produces sulphuric acid as a by-product, which is used in various industries, including fertilizer and battery production.

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. Consider the following statements:

1. Satellite communication services and terrestrial networks primarily complement each other rather than directly compete.
2. The spectrum allocation for satellite services in India requires auction-based pricing to ensure a level playing field.

3. Satellite services face significant technical challenges in providing mobile handset connectivity compared to terrestrial networks.

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

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

112. Consider the following statements:

1. Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin are legal to trade and hold in India, but they are not recognized as legal tender for everyday transactions.
2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has consistently supported the adoption of Cryptocurrencies as legal tender instead of Indian Rupee.
3. The G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, 2023 endorsed a comprehensive regulatory framework for crypto-assets rather than a blanket ban.

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

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

113. Regarding the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958, consider the following statements:

1. The act provides sweeping powers to the Armed Forces.
2. The Jeevan Reddy Commission recommended the continuation of AFSPA with minor amendments.
3. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) recommended repealing the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) of 1958.

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

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

114. Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Ocean Brown Cloud, identified by the INDOEX study, was primarily caused by biomass and fossil fuel burning.
2. Biomass burning, including household fuel and stubble burning, is responsible for more than half of India's PM2.5 emissions.

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

115. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 355 empowers the President of India to act without waiting for a Governor's report if satisfied that constitutional machinery in a state has failed.
2. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar described Article 356 as an essential mechanism for addressing a breakdown in constitutional governance during the Constituent Assembly debates.

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. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The IndiaAI programme focuses on creating government-led AI models using datasets, supported by data protection legislation.

Statement-II: GovAI aims to centralize governance entirely on a single AI platform for maximum efficiency.

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

117. Consider the following statements regarding diabetes:

1. Diabetes occurs when the pancreas either does not produce enough insulin or the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.
2. Type 1 diabetes usually develops during childhood, whereas Type 2 diabetes is more common in adults over the age of 45.
3. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle can help prevent Type 1 diabetes but not Type 2 diabetes.

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

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

118. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 covers 67% of India's population, with 75% coverage in rural areas and 50% in urban areas.
2. The Shanta Kumar Committee (2015) estimated that leakage in the public distribution system (PDS) was more than two-thirds based on 2011-12 consumption data.
3. Cash transfers for food subsidies are considered a more efficient alternative to the current system of foodgrain distribution.

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

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

119. Consider the following statements about the factors influencing inflation and monetary policy in India:

1. Imported inflation could increase due to global factors like tariff impositions and stimulus measures by countries such as China.

2. Vegetable price inflation in India is largely due to the absence of minimum support prices (MSPs) for these crops.

3. Core inflation is primarily influenced by manufacturers' ability to pass on higher input costs to consumers.

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

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

120. Consider the following statements regarding Inverted Duty Structure (IDS):

1. An inverted duty structure occurs when the import duty on raw materials and intermediate goods is lower than the duty on finished products.
2. Central government schemes like Advance Authorization and RoDTEP address the IDS issue for both export-oriented and domestic-oriented manufacturers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

121. Consider the following statements about India-Nigeria relations:

1. The Indian Prime Minister is the first foreign dignitary to receive Nigeria's 'Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger.'
2. Nigeria hosts India's largest diaspora community in West Africa, with over 60,000 members.
3. Nigeria is among Africa's top economies in terms of GDP and is a BRICS partner country.

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

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

122. Consider the following statements about India's G20 presidency:

1. India's G20 presidency included the African Union as a permanent member, expanding representation within the forum.
2. The presidency focused on integrating human-centric globalisation and digital public infrastructure into global governance discussions.

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

123. Consider the following statements regarding India's Account Aggregator system:

1. It is a consent-based data-sharing system designed to manage personal financial data securely.
2. The system ensures that entities processing data cannot retain it longer than necessary or use it for purposes beyond what was consented to.

3. The framework aligns with globally recognized principles of privacy by embedding regulatory principles directly into its design.

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

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

124. Consider the following statements regarding hypersonic missile technology:

1. Hypersonic missiles are capable of traveling at speeds faster than Mach 5, combining high speed with precision and manoeuvrability.
2. India's indigenously developed hypersonic missile can deliver payloads over distances exceeding 1,500 km.
3. Countries such as Russia, China, and the US have already developed and deployed hypersonic weapons.

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

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

125. Consider the following statements regarding India's economic goals:

1. The vision of 'Viksit Bharat' aims to transform India into a USD 30 trillion economy by focusing on manufacturing, farm modernization, sustainability, and women-led growth.
2. Localization of Printed Circuit Board Assemblies (PCBAs) has been identified as a critical step in boosting India's electronic manufacturing capabilities.

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

126. Consider the following statements regarding India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) scenario:

1. India aims to attract USD 100 billion annually in FDI, focusing on sectors like semiconductors, clean energy, and electric vehicles.
2. The judicial infrastructure in India, including delays and high litigation costs, has been identified as a major deterrent for foreign investors.
3. The government has recently revised its bilateral investment treaties to include provisions for mandatory international arbitration without exhausting domestic remedies first.

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

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

127. Consider the following statements:

1. The European Union (EU) has pioneered global regulations for Big Tech with frameworks like the

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA).

2. The GDPR has been highly effective, with consistent enforcement and significant penalties imposed on Big Tech.
3. The "revolving door" phenomenon, where former industry executives join regulatory bodies, poses unique challenges in the context of technology platforms.

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

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

128. Consider the following statements:

1. India's Make in India initiative, launched in 2014, has led to an increase in the share of manufacturing in the total gross value added (GVA) over the years.
2. Private sector investment accounts for a majority share of manufacturing investment in India, surpassing public sector investment.
3. Liberalisation of the financial market, including reforms in banking, mutual funds, and digital infrastructure, has significantly boosted private corporate growth in India.

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

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

129. Consider the following statements about the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):

1. The CBAM ensures that imported goods in the European Union (EU) are subject to the same carbon emission costs as EU-produced goods.
2. Exporters to the EU will need to provide data on emissions and purchase certificates to offset these emissions starting from 1 January 2026.
3. Iron and steel are the most impacted sectors under CBAM, accounting for over two-thirds of affected exports.

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

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

130. Consider the following statements:

1. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) serves as the regulatory authority for insolvency proceedings in India.
2. Insolvency proceedings for companies are adjudicated by the National Companies Law Tribunal (NCLT).
3. Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) handle insolvency proceedings for individuals.

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

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

131. Which of the following are the advantages of hypersonic missiles as compared to subsonic cruise missiles?

1. Hypersonic missiles can evade interception by travelling faster than supersonic fighter jets.
2. The kinetic energy of a missile travelling at hypersonic speeds causes devastating damage upon impact.
3. Hypersonic missiles carry their own oxygen for combustion, enabling them to function in oxygen-deficient environments.

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

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

132. Consider the following statements:

1. The suspension of derivatives trading in agricultural commodities was implemented to address food inflation and volatility in spot prices.
2. Futures markets help farmers hedge against price risks by assuring them of a fixed value for their produce.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

133. Consider the following statements:

1. India aims to achieve a 100% reduction in carbon intensity and a 1 billion-ton reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
2. Establishing stringent energy performance standards can protect domestic businesses from the adverse effects of low-quality imports.

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

134. Consider the following statements:

1. Investment in renewables now exceeds that in fossil fuels, and renewables are projected to meet nearly half of global electricity demand by 2030.
2. Developing countries and low-income households are equally equipped to handle the impact of green transition policies as developed economies.
3. The European Union (EU) has reduced GHG emissions significantly while achieving substantial economic growth, demonstrating the decoupling of emissions from growth.

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

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

135. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Rs 1,000 crore venture capital fund for India's space sector aims to support Indian startups in the space sector by providing financial assistance for innovation and scaling operations.

Statement-II: IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre) is responsible for overseeing and promoting private sector participation in space activities.

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

136. Consider the following statements regarding the labour force participation in India:

1. The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) includes employed individuals and those actively seeking employment.
2. India's female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) has seen significant growth in rural areas compared to urban areas in recent years.
3. The excessive burden of unpaid household care work is a critical reason for the low FLFPR in urban India.

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

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

137. Consider the following statements:

1. The Mulla Committee report, 1983 recommended extensive measures to improve prison conditions and administration.
2. In *Upendra Baxi vs State of U.P.* (1983), the Supreme Court affirmed that prisoners have the right to live in humane conditions with dignity.
3. The Nelson Mandela Rules (2015) require prison administrations to make reasonable accommodations and adjustments for prisoners with disabilities.

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

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

138. Regarding the National Clean Air Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019.
2. It is the first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target.

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

139. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Right to property is enshrined as a fundamental right in the Indian constitution.

Statement-II: The Directive Principles of State Policy mandate the State to undertake policies that would lead to a more egalitarian distribution of resources among the country's people.

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

140. Regarding Indian physicist Satyendra Nath Bose, consider the following statements:

1. He was the first Indian to receive the prestigious Nobel Prize for his contribution to the field of physics.
2. He developed a method to treat photons as indistinguishable particles, laying the foundation for what would later be called Bose-Einstein Statistics.

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

141. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The world sought to diversify from the overwhelming concentration in one country through China+1 geo-economics.

Statement-II: China is the world's largest trader and by far the largest exporter of manufactured goods, from both Chinese and foreign companies.

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

142. Consider the following statements:

1. The Green Revolution in Punjab significantly increased the diversity of crops cultivated in the region.
2. Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana has become a major contributor to air pollution in winter due to changes in the kharif sowing cycle.

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

143. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The delayed execution of large infrastructure projects in India has led to significant cost overruns and reduced project viability.

Statement-II: Subsidy rationalization in India is incomplete, with fertiliser and food subsidies still causing fiscal strain.

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

144. Regarding India's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), consider the following statements:

1. India aims to reduce the Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030, from the 2005 level.
2. India aims to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

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. The Emissions Gap Report 2024 is released by which of the following:

- A. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
B. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
C. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
D. None

146. Consider the following statements regarding India's Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs):

1. A typical BIT aims to balance investment protection with the state's right to regulate and reduce investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) tribunal discretion.
2. India's Model BIT of 2015 has seen limited adoption, with only a few treaties signed based on this model.
3. The India-UAE BIT strictly adheres to the provisions outlined in India's 2015 Model BIT.

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

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

147. Consider the following statements:

1. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requires that user consent be freely given, specific, informed, and devoid of coercion.
2. India's Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, aims to enhance transparency, accountability, and fair competition in digital markets.

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 Supreme Court in *Om Rathod v. Director General of Health Services and Ors.*, 2024 paved the way for a candidate with muscular dystrophy to pursue medicine.
2. In *Rajive Raturi v. Union of India and Ors.*, 2024 the Supreme Court directed the Centre to come up with a set of non-negotiable accessibility norms in all sectors within three months.

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

149. Regarding Headline inflation, consider the following statements:

1. Headline inflation is a measure of the total inflation within an economy, excluding commodities such as food and energy prices.
2. The headline inflation figure is reported through the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

150. Regarding the Liquid Nano Urea, consider the following statements:

1. It is a nutrient (liquid) to provides nitrogen to plants as an alternative to conventional urea.
2. Nano-liquid urea was launched in 2021 by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI).
3. It is a foliar spray, meaning it should only be used once leaves arrive on the crops.

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

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

151. Consider the following statements regarding the intersection of nuclear energy and artificial intelligence (AI):

1. AI's growing energy demands could significantly delay global net-zero emissions goals.
2. Tech companies are exploring nuclear energy to meet the clean energy demands of AI operations.

3. The cost of setting up new nuclear power plants has drastically decreased in recent years.

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

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

152. Consider the following statements:

1. Process reforms aim to restructure the economic framework entirely through macroeconomic changes.
2. Regulatory fragmentation in labelling rules creates compliance challenges, especially for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
3. A fixed calendar for regulatory updates could enhance predictability and reduce costs for businesses.

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

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

153. Consider the following:

1. It was a peasant resistance that erupted in Bengal under the leadership of Bangiya Pradeshik Kisan Sabha (BPKS).
2. It demanded a reduction in the jotedars' (landlords) share in the crop harvest from half to one-third.
3. In the South 24 Parganas district in West Bengal, Kakkdew emerged as one of the centers of the movement.

Which of the following movements best matches the above description?

- A. Tebhaga Movement
B. Sanyasi Rebellion
C. Rangpur Peasant Uprising
D. Faraizi Movement

154. Consider the following statements:

1. Wealth taxes are assessed on the wealth stock or the total net wealth a taxpayer owns.
2. Income taxes are levied on the flow from the wealth stock.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

155. Consider the following statements:

1. IndiaStack is a set of APIs (Application programming interface) that allows governments, businesses, startups, and developers to utilise a unique digital Infrastructure.
2. India, through India Stack, became the second country after the United States to develop all three foundational Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

156. Consider the following statements:

1. The Copenhagen Accord, introduced at COP15 in 2009, established a 2°C warming limit and emphasized developed countries funding climate actions in vulnerable nations, but did not create a binding treaty.
2. The Paris Agreement, adopted at COP21 in 2015, aimed to limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C, and introduced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for each country.

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

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

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

1. The MSP regime was established in 1965 by setting up the Agricultural Prices Commission (APC) as a form of market intervention.
2. MSP is the guaranteed amount paid to farmers when the government buys their produce.
3. MSP is based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), which considers various factors.
4. The CACP recommends MSPs for all the crop varieties grown in India.

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

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

158. Regarding India's Food Processing Industry, consider the following statements:

1. Making deceptive claims or advertisements are punishable offence under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
2. The use of calcium carbide for ripening fruits has been banned under the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011.
3. In India's Food Processing Industry, 100% FDI is allowed under Government routes in most food processing sectors.

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

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

159. Regarding the Guided Pinaka Weapon System, consider the following statements:

1. It is a multi-barrel rocket launcher system, designed by the Indian Space Research Organisation.

2. Named after Lord Shiva's bow, Pinaka is a versatile and high-precision rocket system.

3. While the initial version of the weapon system had a range of 400 km the upgraded version has an extended range of 800 km.

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

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

160. Consider the following statements:

1. Indian warships will soon upgrade their antenna system with the Japanese UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna) communication mast, following the signing of a co-development agreement between India and Japan.

2. The UNICORN provides an optimal placement of individual antennas within a single mast, instead of distributed antennas on mast tops and along the ship's upper deck.

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

161. Consider the following statements:

1. Local government is a central subject under the Seventh Schedule (List I) of the Constitution.

2. Article 243G provides for the devolution of powers to local bodies, making them key players in delivering infrastructure and services.

3. Since the last two decades, municipal finance has stayed at just 1% of GDP.

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

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

162. 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 developed countries to USD 300 billion per year by 2035.

2. COP29 reached a landmark agreement to finalise the mechanisms for carbon markets, including country-to-country trading.

3. Over 30 countries, including the US, Germany, UK, and UAE, 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

163. Regarding the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), consider the following statement:

1. CARICOM is a grouping of 21 countries consisting of island states and mainland territories like Suriname and Guyana.
2. CARICOM was founded in 1973 with the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas.
3. India-CARICOM Ministerial Meetings are held regularly, with notable events occurring on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

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

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

164. Regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It often leads to the development of critical infrastructure, including factories, utilities, and transportation networks.
2. It permits global optimisation of operations, including improved domestic competitiveness.
3. It gives access to the vast world market and de-risks the firm in slow periods in the Indian economy.

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

165. Regarding the 16th Conference of Parties (COP-16) to the International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), consider the following statements:

1. Parties agreed to establish a new permanent subsidiary body for preservation and maintenance of the knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous peoples.
2. Parties agreed to develop a new "Strategy for Resource Mobilization" to help secure USD 200 billion annually by 2030 to support biodiversity initiatives worldwide.
3. It introduced a new thematic action plan to help address the inequities through capacity-building, and technology transfer among developing countries.

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

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

166. Regarding Cali Fund, consider the following statements:

1. The Cali Fund was established to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources.
2. At least 50% of the Cali Fund will focus on the self-identified needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, particularly women and youth.

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

167. Consider the following statements regarding the tax exemption for Catholic priests and nuns in India:

1. The tax exemption for Catholic priests and nuns in India originated in the mid-20th century to acknowledge their social contributions.
2. The exemption was recently upheld by the Supreme Court as it aligned with the principle of equality under the law.

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

168. Kazan Declaration, which was recently seen in the news is related to which of the following?

- A. G20 B. BRICS
C. CARICOM D. UNFCCC COP29

169. Regarding antimicrobial resistance (AMR), consider the following statements:

1. AMR happens when microbes stop responding to the drugs used against them.
2. The drug-resistant infections are almost impossible to treat.
3. The Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS), the first global surveillance initiative, was launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization in 2015.

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

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

170. Regarding Nigeria, consider the following statements:

1. It is located on the Western coast of Africa and is often called the "Giant of Africa."
2. It is bordered by the Gulf of Guinea in the North, Chad, and Cameroon in the East, Niger in the South, and Benin in 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

171. Regarding Guyana, consider the following statements:

1. It is located on the northern coast of South America, bordered by Venezuela, Brazil, and Suriname, with the Atlantic Ocean to the north.
2. Essequibo River is the largest river in Guyana.
3. Pakaraima Mountains, Kanuku Mountains, and Acarai Mountains are the major mountain ranges.

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 Air Quality Life Index (AQLI), consider the following statements:

1. The AQLI is a pollution index that translates the effect of particulate air pollution into its impact on life expectancy.
2. It is released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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

173. Regarding the Neighbourhood First Policy, consider the following statements:

1. The concept of the Neighbourhood First Policy came into being in 2008.
2. This approach prioritises enhancing connectivity, infrastructure, development cooperation, security, and fostering greater people-to-people contacts.
3. India's approach to engaging with its neighbouring countries is characterised by consultation, non-reciprocity, and a focus on achieving tangible outcomes.

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

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

174. Regarding the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, consider the following statements:

1. The Labour Bureau under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been compiling the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) every year.
2. The CPI-IW is mainly used for determining dearness allowance (DA) paid to central/state government employees and workers in the industrial sectors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

175. Regarding the International Criminal Court (ICC), consider the following statements:

1. The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigates and tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community.
2. It is governed by an international treaty called the Rome Statute.
3. India is a party to the Rome Statute along with other major powers like the US and China.

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

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

176. Consider the following statements:

1. In the *Kesavananda Bharati Case 1973*, the Supreme Court held that secularism was a part of the basic structure of the Constitution.
2. In the *Maneka Gandhi Case, 1978*, the Supreme Court emphasized that the right to life includes the right to live with dignity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

177. Regarding the Preamble, consider the following statements:

1. It was adopted on 26th November 1949.
2. The source of authority of the Constitution lies with the people of India.
3. The 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 added "Socialist," "Secular," and "Integrity" to the Preamble.

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

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

178. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 44 emphasises that the economic system ought not to result in a concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment.
2. In *D.S. Nakara & Others vs Union Of India (1982)*, the Supreme Court said that the basic framework of socialism in the Constitution is to provide a decent standard of life to the working people and social security from cradle to grave.

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. Regarding Cornea, consider the following statements:

1. The cornea is the thin, clear outer layer of the eye.
2. Infection, accidents, or congenital conditions can turn it opaque.
3. Corneal opacities are the second major cause of blindness in India among those who are 50 years and older, and the primary cause in those younger.
4. Most corneal blindness is preventable or treatable.

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

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

180. Regarding Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to protect marine ecosystems and promote the sustainable use of resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
2. Its provisions focus on conserving marine biodiversity, ensuring equitable sharing of benefits from marine

genetic resources, and mandating environmental impact assessments for harmful activities.

3. India is yet to sign the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement.

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

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

181. Consider the following statements:

- India launched the Green Credit Initiative at UNFCCC COP28, to create a participatory global platform for the exchange of innovative environmental programs and instruments.
- Global River Cities Alliance (GRCA) was launched at UNFCCC COP 28, led by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The Global Stocktake (GST) is a periodic review mechanism established under the Paris Agreement in 2015.

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

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

182. Regarding Natural Farming (NF), consider the following statements:

- Natural Farming (NF) is a chemical free farming that involves local livestock integrated natural farming methods, diversified crop systems, etc.
- NF follows local agro-ecological principles rooted in local knowledge, location specific technologies and is evolved as per the local agro-ecology.
- National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) is launched as a shift to scientifically revive and strengthen agriculture practices towards sustainability and climate resilience.

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

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

183. Consider the following statements:

- Outer space, also known as space or celestial space, refers to the vast expanse beyond Earth's atmosphere and between celestial bodies.
- India has signed and ratified all five of the United Nations treaties on outer space.

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

184. Consider the following statements:

- Indian Space Policy 2023 defines the role of private sector players and streamlines authorization processes for both government and private space activities.

- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre(IN-SPACe) is a single-window agency, that promotes private-sector collaboration and supports industry clusters, manufacturing hubs, and incubation centers.

- New Space India Limited (NSIL) is ISRO's commercial arm and drives high-tech collaborations, creating demand for private sector involvement through technology transfers and aggregating resources.

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

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

185. Regarding the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), consider the following statements:

- It serves as a structured approach to address air pollution issues in the Delhi-NCR area according to the severity of the situation.
- The GRAP for Delhi-NCR is divided into four stages of air quality.

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

186. Regarding the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), consider the following statements:

- It is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health and chaired by the Minister of Health.
- It is responsible for setting standards, including acceptable limits of impurities and analytical methods for testing generic drugs for such impurities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

187. Consider the following pairs:

Committee	Objective
Vohra Committee	State Funding of Elections
Dinesh Goswami Committee	Electoral Reforms
Indrajit Gupta Committee	On the Nexus Between Crime and Politics

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

188. Consider the following statements:

- The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) calculates three types of production costs for every crop, both at the state and all-India average levels.
- A2 cost covers all paid-out costs directly incurred by the farmer in cash and kind on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, leased-in land, fuel, irrigation, etc.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. It is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or Companies Act, 2013, involved in various financial activities like lending, and investing in securities, etc.
2. They can accept public deposits for a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 60 months.
3. They do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on themselves.

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

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

190. Consider the following statements:

1. North East India is linked with the Indian heartland through the Siliguri Corridor, which is commonly known as the chicken neck, created by the Radcliffe line.
2. The Siliguri corridor is flanked by China, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.
3. The Northeast borders four countries, namely, China and Bhutan on its North; Myanmar on its East; and Bangladesh on its South and West.

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

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

191. Logistics Performance Index is released by which of the following?

- A. World Bank
B. World Trade Organisation
C. International Monetary Fund
D. None of the above

192. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 321 laid the foundation for the establishment of the Election Commission which was mandated with "superintendence, direction and control" of all elections.
2. The Constitution, through Article 329, debarred even the judiciary from interfering in the election process to ensure uninterrupted elections.

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

193. Regarding the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC), consider the following statements:

1. The National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) draws its mandate from the Citizenship Act 1955.
2. The NRIC aims primarily to enhance national security by maintaining a verified citizen registry but also offers additional benefits, such as streamlining identity verification.
3. The Rekhi Committee highlighted the need for a robust database that includes both citizens and non-citizens.

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

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

194. Regarding forest fires, consider the following statements:

1. National Action Plan for Forest Fires (NAPFF) was started in 2018 to reduce forest fires by informing, enabling, and empowering forest fringe communities and incentivizing them to collaborate with state forest departments.
2. The Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FPM) is the only government-sponsored programme dedicated to assisting states in dealing with forest fires.

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. Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY), consider the following statements:

1. The objective of the Scheme is to reduce poverty in the Scheduled Caste (SC) communities by generation of additional employment opportunities through skill development.
2. The SC persons living below the poverty lines are eligible for benefits under the various Income Generating Schemes and Skill Development Programmes.
3. In the case of Infrastructure Development, the villages having 50% or more SC population are eligible for grants under the Scheme.

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

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

196. Regarding the Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER), consider the following statements:

1. It is the weighted average of a country's currency in relation to an index or basket of other major currencies.
2. The weights are determined by comparing the relative trade balance of a country's currency against that of each country in the index.

3. An increase in a nation's REER is an indication that its exports are becoming more cheaper and its imports are becoming costlier, increasing its trade competitiveness.

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

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

197. Regarding Unified Payments Interface (UPI), consider the following statements:

- The UPI is a digital and real-time payment system developed by the NPCI in 2016.
- UPI is built over the IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) infrastructure and allows users to instantly transfer money between any two parties' bank accounts.

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. Consider the following statements:

- Over 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by water, with a total volume estimated at over 1.4 billion cubic kilometers.
- Of the total water on Earth, only 25% is freshwater, with 69% locked in polar ice caps and glaciers, and 30% as groundwater.
- Only 1% of the Earth's freshwater is available as surface water, including sources like lakes, rivers, and atmospheric water vapor.

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

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

199. Consider the following statements:

- In the *SP Gupta Case*, 1982 the Supreme Court (SC) labelled a constitutional breach as a severe violation of constitutional morality.
- In the *Naz Foundation v. Government of NCT of Delhi*, 2009 the high court emphasized that "constitutional morality" should prevail over societal perceptions of morality.

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

200. Regarding the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), consider the following statements:

- ICDS is a flagship program of the Government of India that aims to improve the health, nutrition, and education of children in the country.
- The program was launched in 1975 and is one of the largest programs of its kind in the world.
- ICDS is implemented through a network of Anganwadi centers (AWCs) only in a few of the Aspirational Districts.

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

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

Answers

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. (C) | 2. (B) | 3. (D) | 4. (A) | 5. (B) | 6. (B) | 7. (D) | 8. (A) | 9. (A) | 10. (C) |
| 11. (C) | 12. (B) | 13. (A) | 14. (D) | 15. (A) | 16. (A) | 17. (B) | 18. (C) | 19. (C) | 20. (B) |
| 21. (A) | 22. (B) | 23. (A) | 24. (A) | 25. (A) | 26. (A) | 27. (B) | 28. (A) | 29. (C) | 30. (B) |
| 31. (C) | 32. (B) | 33. (B) | 34. (A) | 35. (D) | 36. (B) | 37. (D) | 38. (B) | 39. (C) | 40. (C) |
| 41. (A) | 42. (C) | 43. (B) | 44. (A) | 45. (D) | 46. (A) | 47. (A) | 48. (B) | 49. (B) | 50. (C) |
| 51. (A) | 52. (B) | 53. (D) | 54. (A) | 55. (B) | 56. (C) | 57. (A) | 58. (D) | 59. (B) | 60. (A) |
| 61. (B) | 62. (C) | 63. (C) | 64. (A) | 65. (A) | 66. (A) | 67. (B) | 68. (C) | 69. (C) | 70. (B) |
| 71. (B) | 72. (D) | 73. (D) | 74. (C) | 75. (C) | 76. (C) | 77. (C) | 78. (B) | 79. (C) | 80. (C) |
| 81. (B) | 82. (C) | 83. (D) | 84. (C) | 85. (A) | 86. (B) | 87. (B) | 88. (B) | 89. (A) | 90. (C) |
| 91. (B) | 92. (C) | 93. (D) | 94. (B) | 95. (A) | 96. (D) | 97. (C) | 98. (B) | 99. (A) | 100. (B) |
| 101. (A) | 102. (A) | 103. (D) | 104. (B) | 105. (D) | 106. (B) | 107. (B) | 108. (A) | 109. (C) | 110. (C) |
| 111. (B) | 112. (A) | 113. (B) | 114. (C) | 115. (A) | 116. (C) | 117. (B) | 118. (B) | 119. (A) | 120. (D) |
| 121. (B) | 122. (D) | 123. (C) | 124. (C) | 125. (D) | 126. (B) | 127. (B) | 128. (A) | 129. (C) | 130. (D) |
| 131. (A) | 132. (C) | 133. (B) | 134. (B) | 135. (B) | 136. (C) | 137. (C) | 138. (D) | 139. (D) | 140. (A) |
| 141. (A) | 142. (D) | 143. (B) | 144. (C) | 145. (A) | 146. (B) | 147. (C) | 148. (D) | 149. (B) | 150. (A) |
| 151. (A) | 152. (B) | 153. (A) | 154. (C) | 155. (A) | 156. (D) | 157. (A) | 158. (B) | 159. (A) | 160. (D) |
| 161. (B) | 162. (B) | 163. (C) | 164. (D) | 165. (C) | 166. (C) | 167. (A) | 168. (B) | 169. (B) | 170. (A) |
| 171. (D) | 172. (A) | 173. (C) | 174. (B) | 175. (A) | 176. (C) | 177. (B) | 178. (B) | 179. (D) | 180. (B) |
| 181. (D) | 182. (C) | 183. (A) | 184. (D) | 185. (C) | 186. (B) | 187. (A) | 188. (C) | 189. (D) | 190. (B) |
| 191. (A) | 192. (B) | 193. (B) | 194. (C) | 195. (D) | 196. (A) | 197. (C) | 198. (B) | 199. (D) | 200. (B) |

Practice Explanation

1. (C)

Explanation:

'Relative Economic Performance of Indian States: 1960-61 to 2023-24' Report:

- The report highlights the significant disparity in economic performance between Indian states, with western and southern states generally outperforming eastern states. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Coastal regions** tend to perform better economically, with investment being more concentrated in **urban conglomerates** and richer states due to higher profitability. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The report attributes the widening economic divide among states largely to the effects of liberalisation policies since 1991, which favored the organised sector. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

2. (B)

Explanation:

Myanmar:

- **ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus**, implemented in 2021, calls for an end to violence, inclusive dialogue, and humanitarian aid in Myanmar, but has largely failed due to the junta's non-cooperation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ASEAN's consensus model **requires unanimous agreement**, limiting individual unilateral actions by member states on regional issues. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India's approach to Myanmar primarily revolves around its **Act East Policy**, viewing Myanmar as a crucial land bridge to ASEAN nations and maintaining a balanced relationship with the military regime. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

3. (D)

Explanation:

Census:

- The earliest literature '**Rig-Veda**' reveals that some kind of population count was maintained during 800-600 BC in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- '**Arthashastra**' by '**Kautilya**' written in the 3rd Century BC prescribed the collection of population statistics as a measure of state policy for taxation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The first complete census of an Indian city was conducted in 1830 by **Henry Walter** in Dacca (now Dhaka). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

4. (A)

Explanation:

Right to Privacy:

- The Right to Privacy was recognized as a fundamental right under the Constitution of India by the Supreme Court in the K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India case in 2017. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Right to Privacy also includes protections under Articles 14 and 19, not just Article 21.

- The Puttaswamy judgment laid out **three conditions** for restricting privacy, legislative mandate, legitimate purpose, and proportionality. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Right to Privacy is **not absolute** and can be subject to state intervention under specified conditions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

5. (B)

Explanation:

India-China Relations:

- The economic disparity between India and China is stark, with China's economy valued at USD 18 trillion compared to India's USD 3.93 trillion, yet India is catching up in several key areas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Although India is progressing in innovation, it has **not yet surpassed** China in technology dominance. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India's strategic approach includes forming alliances through forums like the Quad and **using grey-zone tactics**, drawing from Kautilya's philosophy of securing national interests through covert means when needed. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

6. (B)

Explanation:

- It directs assessment boards to **evaluate a candidate's functional ability** to study medicine, not just their disability level, and provide clear reasons for disqualification if needed.
 - ◆ The judgment emphasizes that a benchmark disability **alone is not enough** to disqualify a candidate from pursuing medicine.
 - ◆ The judgment **allows courts to order a reevaluation** if the assessment lacks proper reasoning.
 - ◆ The judgment **encourages** the consideration of **reasonable accommodations** for PwD candidates unless it imposes undue hardship.
- Hence, option B is correct.**

7. (D)

Explanation:

Cybercrime:

- It is **not the role of social media** platforms to monitor or determine the seriousness of digital threats; rather, platforms can assist in investigations by providing information when requested. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- While individual awareness is beneficial, the responsibility for cybercrime prevention and justice rests with the state. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

8. (A)

Explanation:

RBI's Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) framework:

- RBI's FIT framework targets a 4% inflation rate, with a tolerance band of $\pm 2\%$, to be reviewed every five years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The RBI's FIT framework **targets headline inflation** (which includes food and energy prices), not just core inflation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Inflation under FIT has not consistently stayed below 4%; it has fluctuated within the tolerance band. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

9. (A)

Explanation:

Living Planet Index (LPI) Report:

- According to the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**'s Living Planet Report 2024, there has been a catastrophic **73% decline** in the average size of monitored wildlife populations in just 50 years (1970-2020). **Hence, option A is correct.**

10. (C)

Explanation:

RBI's Approach to Managing USD-INR Volatility:

- The RBI's reduction of volatility in the USD-INR exchange rate could **lead to sudden market disruptions** if volatility spikes unexpectedly. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Since 2019, India's Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) has appreciated, contributing to a **decrease** in export growth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The RBI's approach to a stable USD-INR rate could require **higher domestic interest rates** or reduced currency convertibility options in the future. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

11. (C)

Explanation:

Light Detection and Ranging(LiDAR):

- It is a remote sensing technology that uses light in the form of a **pulsed laser** to measure ranges (or variable distances) of a sensor, usually mounted aboard an aircraft, to Earth's surface. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- LiDAR data can be used to **create high-resolution** 3-D models of ground elevation with a vertical accuracy of up to 10 cm, according to the US Geological Survey. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- LiDAR is used to **generate precise**, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

12. (B)

Explanation:

India's Model of Federalism:

- India's federalism is characterized by **cooperative federalism**, where the Union and states collaborate to drive development.
- Hence, option B is correct.

13. (A)

Explanation:

Potential Advantages of Using AI in Electoral Processes:

- AI can automate and streamline administrative tasks like voter registration and fraud detection.

- Increased Efficiency in Election Management.
- Enhanced Security and Fraud Detection.
- Combating Misinformation.
- Improved Voter Engagement and Accessibility.
- Increased Transparency.
- Hence, option A is correct.

14. (D)

Explanation:

India's Trade Policy:

- For India, insulating domestic producers, especially large industries, from competition **should not be the guiding principle** in its negotiations with the EU. **Hence, statement I is not correct.**
 - ◆ India should **seek flexible terms, protective measures,** and extended transition periods for specific products or categories in key sectors.
- India should take a **more flexible approach** toward trade negotiations, considering global trends like ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) standards, and consider joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option D is correct because Statement-I is not correct and Statement-II is correct.

15. (A)

Explanation:

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS):

- MGNREGS is one of the **largest work guarantee programmes** in the world launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural Development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It guarantees **100 days of employment** each financial year for adult members of rural households willing to perform unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Ministry of Rural Development** monitors the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

16. (A)

Explanation:

Pollution:

- The **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** launched in 2019 aimed to reduce particulate matter concentrations by 20-30% by 2024 in 122 cities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has implemented the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to address air pollution based on Air Quality Index (AQI) categories. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

17. (B)

Explanation:

Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve:

- The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve was included in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2000. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve hosts a rich biodiversity, including endemic species like the Nilgiri Chilappan and the star-eyed bush frog. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While the Forest Department plays a significant role, the management of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve **involves cooperation** between various stakeholders, including local communities, NGOs, and private organizations, not just the Forest Department. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

18. (C)

Explanation:

Methane:

- Methane has a **high global warming potential**, being 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 100-year timescale and 84 times more potent over a 20-year timescale, making it vital for short-term climate mitigation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India has **not signed the Global Methane Pledge** due to concerns about economy-wide methane reduction targets, especially given the dominance of agriculture in its methane emissions profile. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The primary source of methane emissions in India is the **agricultural sector**, with rice cultivation and livestock contributing significantly. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

19. (C)

Explanation:

India-Iran Relationship:

- In 2024, India and Iran **renewed their strategic partnership** over Chabahar port, signing a 10-year contract that aids India's trade routes by circumventing the Strait of Hormuz, a region often impacted by Persian Gulf conflicts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Iran possesses vast oil and gas reserves, and there is potential for renewed energy trade with India, which could support India's growing energy requirements. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Although Iran has developed advanced military technology, including drones, it has **not supplied these to India.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Instead, Iran has supplied drones to Russia in the Ukraine conflict, and India may explore this potential partnership in the future.

20. (B)

Explanation:

Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP):

- The DAP shortage is attributed to poor advance planning, with stock levels much lower than recommended at the beginning of the rabi season. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Price controls have made it **economically unviable** for companies to import DAP, leading to shortages in supply. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The government has **not yet implemented a per-acre payment system** for nutrient purchases; this is suggested as a potential solution to replace the current product-specific subsidies. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

21. (A)

Explanation:

Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT):

- Dr. Richard Cash and David Nalin conducted the **first clinical trials of ORT in Bangladesh** in the 1960s, proving its effectiveness in significantly reducing the need for intravenous fluids in cholera patients.
- ORT is made using **simple ingredients** (boiled water, sugar, and salt) that can be prepared at home, contributing to its recognition as a **highly cost-effective treatment** for dehydration. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While ORT is highly effective in managing dehydration caused by cholera, it **does not eradicate** the disease itself. ORT treats symptoms of dehydration but does not prevent or cure cholera. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

22. (B)

Explanation:

India's Economic Challenges and Opportunities in Manufacturing:

- The majority of India's workforce is **still engaged in agriculture (around 45%)**, with only 11% in manufacturing and 30% in services, indicating a need to increase the manufacturing sector's share. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Regulatory challenges, such as **excessive compliance** and frequent changes, primarily impact small firms, limiting productivity and growth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Infrastructure and skill deficits in India have transformed from critical issues to manageable challenges due to recent reforms and investments. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

23. (A)

Explanation:

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

- UNRWA **offers essential services** like healthcare, education, and employment to vulnerable communities in areas such as Gaza and the West Bank. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The ban potentially **conflicts with international treaties** like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Geneva Conventions, which emphasize the protection of fundamental rights and access to resources for civilians. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Limiting access to essential services could lead to increased poverty and resentment, potentially destabilizing the region.

24. (A)

Explanation:

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY):

- **Delhi and West Bengal** have opted out of PM-JAY, claiming they have more comprehensive state health schemes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While PM-JAY has reduced out-of-pocket (OOP) expenses, it does not cover out-patient consultations, which limits its financial impact. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

25. (A)**Explanation:**

- Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- TB can practically affect any organ of the body. The most common ones are the lungs, pleura (lining around the lungs), lymph nodes, intestines, spine, and brain. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The World Health Organisation's (WHO) data shows that India registered an 18% decline in TB incidence in the past 8 years, more than double the global decline of 8%. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

26. (A)**Explanation:**

- Sanctions basically restrict or entirely scrap the economic relations between the entity applying the sanctions and the one they are being applied on. Sanctions can take the form of import or export ban, refusal to trade, freezing of assets, ban from using banking systems and currency of a country or group of countries, etc. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The imposition of sanctions does not always lead to economic collapse, as seen with Russia as its economy has not been derailed despite heavy Western sanctions, as other countries, such as India and China, continue to trade with it. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- International organisations like the United Nations, as well as groups like the European Union, can impose sanctions, not just individual countries. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

27. (B)**Explanation:**

- According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) small modular reactors (SMRs) are advanced nuclear reactors designed for enhanced safety and efficiency. Their power generation capacity typically ranges from less than 30 MWe to over 300 MWe. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The term "modular" in SMRs refers to the ability to construct SMRs in factories and transport them to the installation site as units. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- SMRs use nuclear fission to generate heat for electricity production or direct industrial applications, such as hydrogen production, chemical processing, and metal smelting. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

28. (A)**Explanation:**

- A carbon sink is a natural or artificial system that absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it releases, the process of a carbon sink absorbing carbon from the atmosphere is known as carbon sequestration. Effective carbon sinks can help reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other pollutants, including sulphur dioxide (SO₂). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Natural carbon sinks, such as the ocean, soil, and forests, absorb and store carbon dioxide, regulating the Earth's climate, lowering summer temperatures, and reducing urban heat. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

29. (C)**Explanation:**

- According to the Paris Agreement targets, the world needs to keep the rise in temperatures below 2 degree Celsius, preferably 1.5 degree Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Paris Agreement** a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP21 in 2015, decided to set a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance prior to 2025, amounting to at least USD 100 billion per year and taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

30. (B)**Explanation:**

- SRO-FT is tasked with developing baseline standards on market conduct, governance, risk management, and cyber security for its members. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- SRO-FT will act as a watchdog to monitor unethical practices and maintain the reputation of the fintech ecosystem. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- SRO-FT membership is voluntary, not mandatory, for fintechs. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

31. (C)**Explanation:**

- The 16th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP 16) to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) concluded in Cali, Colombia.
- Key Highlights of COP-16 to the CBD:
 - ◆ Operationalization of the Cali Fund to ensure equitable benefit-sharing from digital sequence information on genetic resources, with at least 50% dedicated to Indigenous Peoples and local communities' needs.
 - ◆ The CBD Parties approved a Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health to help curb zoonotic diseases, prevent non-communicable diseases, and promote sustainable ecosystems.
- Hence, option C is correct.

32. (B)**Explanation:**

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was established as a non-statutory body in 1988, and became a statutory body under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, which came into effect on 30th January 1992. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- All regulatory agencies must be brought under the purview of the respective parliamentary standing committees, as recommended by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in 2009. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

33. (B)

Explanation:**Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):**

- The ANRF aims to strengthen India's research ecosystem by funding research and innovation across various disciplines, including science, technology, and social sciences. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The ANRF supports research projects across **both public and private institutions**, not solely government ones. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- The foundation's Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) program under ANRF **encourages collaborative projects** between Indian teaching and research institutions. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

34. (A)

Explanation:**Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)****Regulations:**

- The Aadhaar Act **prohibits the sharing** of core biometric information, including fingerprints and iris scans, even in cases of identifying unknown deceased persons. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Section 33(1) of the Aadhaar Act allows limited data disclosure, but only with a court order from a judge not below the level of a High Court judge. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The Act requires a High Court order to access Aadhaar core biometric data, even for police investigations involving unidentified deceased bodies. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

35. (D)

Explanation:

- **Current UGC regulations** do not support interdisciplinary hiring, as they restrict faculty appointments to candidates with consistent subject specialization throughout their educational background. **Hence, statement I is not correct.**
 - ◆ The 2018 UGC regulations, through the Academic Performance Index(API) system, place a strong emphasis on quantifiable metrics like publications, often overlooking innovative teaching methods and industry collaboration.
- NEP 2020 advocates for **greater flexibility and autonomy** in faculty recruitment, encouraging HEIs to adopt a broader evaluation approach that values diverse contributions beyond traditional API metrics. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option D is correct because Statement-I is not correct but Statement-II is correct.

36. (B)

Explanation:**Private Sector Financing For Climate Change:**

- Developing countries are expected to require around USD 5.9 trillion in climate finance by 2030, mainly due to their continued reliance on fossil fuels for growth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Private sector climate finance has predominantly focused on **mitigation rather than adaptation**, with only 11% allocated to adaptation projects, mostly in developed countries. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The majority of private climate finance has focused on countries with lower risk profiles, leaving only 15% for low-income countries where climate financing is needed the most. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

37. (D)

Explanation:**Contractualisation in India's Employment Landscape:**

- The share of contract workers in India's formal manufacturing sector has **increased from 21.8% in 2001-02 to 40.7% in 2022-23**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Bihar has a higher share** of its industrial workforce employed as contract labour (68.6%) compared to Kerala (23.8%). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Contract workers do not receive the same job benefits and protections as regular workers, including job security, insurance, and paid leave. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

38. (B)

Explanation:**Drone Technology In India:**

- Drones are indeed being integrated into several government projects, transforming sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, disaster management, and urban planning, thereby accelerating progress and enhancing efficiency. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **'Drone Didi'** mission aims to empower women, particularly in rural areas, by training them to operate drones. This initiative creates new job opportunities and fosters entrepreneurship. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Currently, over 90% of the flight controllers used in small drones in India are **imported from China**, not indigenously manufactured. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

39. (C)

Explanation:**Free Trade Agreements (FTAs):**

- The Indian government recently decided to take a **break from negotiating FTAs** to prevent unintended concessions and to support domestic industries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's FTA negotiations with **East Asian countries** previously led to trade imbalances, with imports rising and market access benefits not materializing for India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

40. (C)

Explanation:**Supreme Court Judgment on Material Resources of the Community:**

- The judgment clarifies that not **all private resources** fall under "material resources of the community." **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The judgment **restricts the State's power**, requiring rigorous justification to take over private property for public use. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **"public trust doctrine"** was endorsed as a principle for identifying community-beneficial resources. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The public trust doctrine is a legal principle in India that **establishes the state's responsibility** to protect and preserve natural resources for the public's use.

41. (A)

Explanation:**Abraham Accords:**

- The Abraham Accords involved Israel, the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco. Egypt was not a signatory of the Accords. The UAE and Bahrain were the first to normalize relations with Israel, followed by Sudan and Morocco.
- Hence, option A is correct.

42. (C)

Explanation:**Olympics:**

- If India hosts the Olympics, it will not just be about sports, but also a **chance to showcase its economic growth**, soft power, and leadership ambitions as the country aims to become developed by 2047.
- Hence, option C is correct.

43. (B)

Explanation:**Supreme Court judgment in Case of Private Property:**

- The Supreme Court's judgment sought to clarify the balance between **private property rights and state power**, particularly in how state intervention should be approached under the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Supreme Court did not rule that private property is always considered a "material resource of the community." Instead, it clarified that whether private property is a "material resource of the community" **depends on specific contexts** and varies from case to case. The Court rejected the previous interpretation that automatically included private property under this category. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The judgment recognizes that the state has a **responsibility to promote a fairer distribution of resources**, but it emphasizes that this must be done within the boundaries of private property rights, ensuring fairness and economic outcomes for all. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

44. (A)

Explanation:

- A recent **World Bank report** titled "World Development Report 2024: The Middle Income Trap" has highlighted significant challenges faced by over 100 countries, including India, in achieving high-income status in the coming decades.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

45. (D)

Explanation:**Educational Loans:**

- Over 90% of education loans in India are used for studying abroad, not for premier institutes within the country. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The PM Vidyalaxmi scheme offers full interest subvention during the moratorium period for students with family incomes up to Rs. 4.5 lakh and a 3% interest subsidy for students with family incomes up to Rs. 8 lakh. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- While the scheme addresses financial barriers by providing credit access, it does not address the issue of the **shortage of quality educational institutions** in India, which remains a significant concern. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

46. (A)

Explanation:**Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**

- The Reserve Bank of India was established in 1935 and has evolved over the years, now balancing both financial stability and price stability responsibilities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The RBI's inflation targeting framework, introduced with the 2016 amendment to the RBI Act, allows flexibility to consider economic growth objectives alongside inflation control. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

47. (A)

Explanation:**India's Progress in Managing Tuberculosis (TB):**

- The **World Health Organisation's (WHO)** latest report on the **global tuberculosis burden** acknowledges the progress made by the India in closing the gap between detected and undiagnosed cases in the past eight years.
- India registered an 18% decline in TB incidence, which is more than **double the global decline**, but not a 50% decline. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Despite progress, India faces challenges such as under-nutrition, insufficient awareness, and inadequate medical facilities, which hinder the full eradication of TB by 2025. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The WHO report suggests that there is **still a need to expand** the health insurance program to cover TB patients, especially those with more virulent forms. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

48. (B)

Explanation:**Indus Waters Treaty (IWT):**

- The IWT grants India proprietary rights over the eastern rivers (Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas) and Pakistan rights over the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The principle of **"equitable and reasonable utilisation" (ERU)** in international water law could help address unforeseen issues like climate change affecting the Indus Basin's water flow. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

49. (B)

Explanation:**Challenges and Reforms in India's Policy Making:**

- Resistance to change and entrenched **traditional practices** are highlighted as significant challenges in India's policymaking process, which often causes delays and impacts policy effectiveness. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Although the Constitution mandates **collective ministerial responsibility**, there is no standardised procedure to resolve interministerial disagreements, often resulting in independent compromises by ministries. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The adoption of digital technologies and AI in policymaking has been recognized for its potential to increase efficiency, enable data-driven decision-making, and enhance transparency, as shown by initiatives like Digital India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

50. (C)

Explanation:

- **India's Viksit Bharat@2047 vision** aims for economic transformation by enhancing the country's economic status and improving per capita income for equitable growth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP)** focuses on creating industrial cities with smart infrastructure to transform India into a global manufacturing hub. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The NICDP promotes partnerships between large businesses and MSMEs, fostering innovation through industrial parks and research collaborations.

51. (A)

Explanation:**India Ageing Report 2023:**

- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai recently released the India Ageing Report 2023, which reports that India's elderly population (above 60 years) will **double to over 20%** of its total population by 2050.
- Hence, option A is correct.

52. (B)

Explanation:**Reserve Bank of India's Climate Risk Information System (RB-CRIS):**

- RB-CRIS is designed to offer **standardised climate data** to aid banks and financial institutions in incorporating climate risk assessments into their overall risk management and regulatory compliance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- One of the primary benefits of RB-CRIS is that it enables banks to **perform scenario analysis and stress testing**, helping them understand the potential impacts of climate change on their portfolios, capital adequacy, and overall financial stability. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While RB-CRIS supports the assessment of climate risk, it **does not primarily aim to enforce reduced lending** to all

carbon-intensive industries. Instead, it supports a **balanced approach** to climate risk management and encourages a "just transition" for sectors reliant on carbon-intensive industries, with policymakers advised to develop supportive strategies. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

53. (D)

Explanation:**Climate Finance and COP29:**

- The 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 29) will convene in November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.
 - ◆ COP29 aims to **secure improved climate financing** for the Global South, emphasizing cooperation rather than adversarial negotiations between the Global North and South. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **cost of capital** for climate-related projects is higher in developing countries, making it challenging for the Global South to access affordable finance. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Global South countries are encouraged to **enhance investment attractiveness** by offering tax breaks, revenue-sharing mechanisms, and demand aggregation for capital-intensive green sectors. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

54. (A)

Explanation:**Regional Inequality and Economic Development:**

- Despite the objective of balanced development, regional disparities in India have increased, with Bihar experiencing some of the **lowest economic indicators**, drawing comparisons to sub-Saharan states. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Bihar's economic issues are compounded by **high population growth**, low female workforce participation, and low access to quality education, affecting its overall development.
- Policies like the **Freight Equalization Scheme and the Green Revolution** contributed to regional disparities, favoring some states like Punjab and Haryana over eastern states like Bihar. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

55. (B)

Explanation:**Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Stance:**

- The RBI has kept interest rates high to **manage non-food, non-fuel inflation**, as higher interest rates discourage rapid lending and new money creation, thus controlling inflation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Lowering the repo rate could **reduce deposit interest rates**, which may encourage households to move deposits to stocks, increasing short-term deposits and worsening banks' asset-liability mismatch. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Stock market trends **can influence RBI's decisions indirectly**, as prolonged declines could reduce household interest in stocks, potentially allowing the RBI to cut rates without destabilizing banks. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

56. (C)

Explanation:

SC judgment on the UP Madarsa Act, 2004:

- It held that the **doctrine of Basic Structure** should be invoked to examine the validity of a constitutional amendment, not an ordinary piece of legislation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In testing an ordinary law, courts should look just at **legislative competence** and consistency with fundamental rights. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It went on to hold that the right to manage its affairs given to a religious body is a fundamental right that cannot be abridged by any legislation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

57. (A)

Explanation:

Musi River:

- The Musi River flows through Hyderabad, Telangana, and is central to the city's geography and urban planning. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Musi River is a tributary of the Krishna River. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Musi River originates in the Ananthagiri Hills in Telangana, not Maharashtra, and flows eastward through Hyderabad before joining the Krishna River. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

58. (D)

Explanation:

- The original BRICS group included Brazil, Russia, India, and China, and South Africa joined in 2011, making it BRICS. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The BRICS group expanded with five new members, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Ethiopia and Iran. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

59. (B)

Explanation:

Global Cooling Efforts:

- The **Wilmington Declaration**, issued by the Quad nations (Australia, India, Japan, and the United States), emphasizes high-efficiency cooling systems as part of their commitment to sustainable energy solutions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India has committed to **reducing Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)** by 85% by 2047 as part of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Global Cooling Pledge, introduced at 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, is **non-binding**, aiming to reduce cooling emissions by 68% by 2050. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

60. (A)

Explanation:

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):

- The RCEP agreement includes the **10 ASEAN countries** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar,

the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and their five main Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners: China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The primary goal of RCEP is to **create a more open and efficient** environment for trade and investment between member nations, primarily through the **reduction of tariffs** and by improving market access for goods and services across borders. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- RCEP is currently the **largest FTA globally** in terms of combined GDP, total population, and export value of its member countries. With a combined GDP of around USD 26 trillion, a population of approximately 2.27 billion, and exports valued at USD 5.2 trillion, it represents a significant share of the world's economy. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

61. (B)

Explanation:

Public Distribution System (PDS):

- Currently, about 57% of India's population is covered under the PDS, which raises questions regarding whether such extensive coverage is necessary or if it should be more targeted toward the most impoverished population. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Around 28% of the rice and wheat intended for distribution through the PDS **does not reach** the intended beneficiaries, causing annual losses estimated at Rs. 69,108 crore. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While PoS machines have reduced leakages in the PDS from 46% to 28%, they have not completely eliminated these losses, indicating a need for further reform in the system. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

62. (C)

Explanation:

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in India:

- The inefficiencies in India's judicial system, including delays in dispute resolution, contribute to a decline in FDI as they create an uncertain environment for investors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Despite the introduction of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 the delays and procedural challenges in India's commercial courts have deterred foreign investors, because of delays and the frequent granting of temporary court orders. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Developing arbitration hubs, such as the one planned at GIFT City, **could enhance India's appeal** as an ADR destination by providing efficient and cost-effective services, reducing reliance on foreign arbitration centers. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

63. (C)

Explanation:

Care-Focused Economy:

- A care-centered economy would **prioritize adequate compensation** and social protections for care workers,

acknowledging the critical role that ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, and domestic carers play in supporting public health and social wellbeing. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- Care-centered economic reforms **emphasize the need for robust public support systems**, such as social pensions for the elderly and improved childcare infrastructure. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- A care-centered approach also includes cultural and educational shifts. By promoting empathy and caregiving skills as valued aspects of personal development, especially among men, **it encourages a more holistic view of success** that goes beyond economic competition and includes interpersonal connections and emotional support. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

64. (A)

Explanation:

Stability of Indian Rupee:

- The recent stability of the rupee is not due to natural market forces but rather because of the **RBI's deliberate interventions** to control its appreciation and depreciation. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Since late 2022, the RBI has **actively intervened in the foreign exchange market** to prevent both appreciation and depreciation of the rupee, effectively stabilizing it. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The lack of transparency in the RBI's intervention strategy **leads to uncertainty among private sector participants**, who cannot predict when and how the central bank will act, creating confusion in the foreign exchange market. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

65. (A)

Explanation:

Supreme Court Ruling on Minority Institution:

- The main criteria for identifying an institution's minority character include who **founded it**, the **institution's purpose** to promote specific minority interests, and its administrative structure. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The ruling did not state that universities established through legislation automatically lose their minority character. Rather, the court affirmed that a **legislative act alone does not strip** an institution of its minority status. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

66. (A)

Explanation:

State's Borrowing Powers in India:

- **Article 293** gives State governments the power to borrow, with the requirement of central consent if past loans from the Centre are still outstanding. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Section 163(4) of the Government of India Act, 1935, was not adopted into the Indian Constitution; this clause was left out post-Independence. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

67. (B)

Explanation:

India's Carbon Credit Mechanism:

- India's carbon credit market aligns with its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement and seeks to balance economic goals with environmental objectives. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Ensuring the integrity of carbon credits by preventing greenwashing and verifying additionality is essential for a credible carbon market. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Article 6 of the Paris Agreement includes compliance mechanisms to ensure countries can use internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) without risking double counting or compromising environmental integrity. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

68. (C)

Explanation:

- The demographic dividend refers to the **economic growth advantage** that arises when a large portion of the population is in the working-age group. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** is declining faster than anticipated, with most states now below the replacement-level fertility rate. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Shifting the workforce from **low-productivity sectors** like agriculture to manufacturing and services has been a proven path for economic growth historically. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

69. (C)

Explanation:

Climate Action:

- COP29 includes **efforts to expand** the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP27, aiming to provide financial support for vulnerable nations facing severe climate impacts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The US and EU have proposed that **emerging economies with high emissions**, like China and India, contribute financially to climate goals, challenging traditional distinctions between developed and developing nations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India's focus on **domestic climate action** includes reducing fossil fuel dependency, enhancing energy security, and aligning with its long-term sustainability objectives. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

70. (B)

Explanation:

Nuclear Energy Policy In India:

- **India's Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLND Act), 2010** has limited foreign suppliers' interest due to liability concerns. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The policy framework in India aims to place decision-making about nuclear reactor purchases primarily in the hands of **private sector firms**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The state's role is envisioned as **one of regulation**, focusing on safety, security, and addressing market failures, rather than directly controlling privately-owned nuclear reactors. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

71. (B)

Explanation:

Supreme Court's Ruling on Arbitration Clauses For Public-Sector Undertakings (PSUs):

- The Supreme Court ruled that PSUs can no longer unilaterally appoint arbitrators for disputes with private contractors, as this violates **Article 14** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The ruling applies prospectively, not retrospectively, meaning it will affect **future contracts** rather than existing ones. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The judgment is expected to **encourage PSUs** to move towards institutional arbitration processes, promoting a fairer arbitration environment. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

72. (D)

Explanation:

H5N1 Bird Flu:

- Avian influenza A(H5N1) is a **highly pathogenic virus** that primarily circulates among birds but can infect mammals. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Flu viruses are **capable of exchanging genetic material**, which raises the risk of new, potentially more dangerous variants. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

73. (D)

Explanation:

- The Dapsang Plains is vulnerable due to its flat terrain, which is suitable for mechanised warfare and offers direct access to Aksai Chin. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Control over Demchok enables India to effectively monitor Chinese activities in the Aksai Chin area. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The PLA's control over the Dapsang Plains could threaten India's position on the Siachen Glacier, especially if China and Pakistan coordinate a two-pronged attack. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

74. (C)

Explanation:

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS):

- The **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022** indeed provides a statutory mandate for the CCTS as part of India's climate strategy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement focuses on preventing double counting in emissions reductions, aligning with India's goal of integrating international carbon trading standards. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI) framework aims to improve transparency in carbon credit claims but faces challenges like transparency issues and high costs, particularly for smaller projects in India's CCTS initiatives. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

75. (C)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court in *Sukanya Shantha v. Union of India* (2024) held that segregation of prisoners based on caste for labour assignments is discriminatory and unconstitutional under Articles 14 and 15. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Supreme Court's judgment recommended amending the Model Prison Manual 2016 to provide basic amenities and dignified living conditions for all prisoners, not just certain classifications. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

76. (C)

Explanation:

- Telcos advocate for auctioning the 6 GHz spectrum for their services, ignoring the socio-economic benefits of using it for public Wi-Fi and broadband accessibility. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- PM-WANI, despite being a government-backed initiative to enhance public Wi-Fi access, has faced dismissal from telcos as "irrelevant" to India's broadband goals. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

77. (C)

Explanation:

- India's share in the global shipbuilding market is a mere 0.07%. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Ships are not included in the harmonised list of infrastructure, limiting access to financing options for shipbuilders. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The SARFAESI Act, 2002 excludes vessels, preventing banks from mortgaging ships, which reduces financing options for the sector. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

78. (B)

Explanation:

- India opted out of RCEP in 2019, even though RCEP countries collectively represent around 30% of global GDP. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The "China plus one" strategy involves countries diversifying their supply chains by establishing additional bases outside of China, not by increasing tariffs on Chinese goods. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Global events like the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict have contributed to supply chain disruptions and a rise in protectionist trade. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

79. (C)

Explanation:

- Dal Lake is located in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir, India. It is an iconic lake known for its scenic beauty, houseboats, and shikaras (traditional wooden boats).
- Dal Lake holds significant cultural and economic importance, especially for the tourism industry in Kashmir. **Hence, option C is correct.**

30. (C)

Explanation:

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016:

- Financial Creditors (FCs) are primarily financial institutions and have the right to be part of the Committee of Creditors (CoC), giving them decision-making powers in the insolvency process. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Operational Creditors (OCs) are involved in providing goods and services on credit but do not have voting rights in the CoC. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Homebuyers were initially classified as Operational Creditors (OCs) but were later reclassified as Financial Creditors (FCs) to give them representation in the insolvency process. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

31. (B)

Explanation:

- The **World Bank's 2024 report**, 'Unlocking the Power of Healthy Longevity,' does emphasize the demographic shift towards an aging population and the rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The NCDs are projected to account for **three-quarters of all deaths** in India by 2030, driven by increasing rates of diseases like cardiovascular issues, cancer, respiratory illnesses, and diabetes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

32. (C)

Explanation:

India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC):

- The IMEC aims to **reduce transit time by 40%** and costs by 30% compared to the Suez Canal route. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **conflict between Israel and Palestine**, especially since 7 October 2023, has affected the involvement of Saudi Arabia and Jordan in the IMEC, leading to delays on the corridor's western segment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

33. (D)

Explanation:

Climate Finance for Developing Countries:

- **Developed countries** committed to provide USD 100 billion annually by 2020 to assist developing nations with climate finance. However, this target was **consistently missed** until 2022, when it was first achieved with USD 116 billion. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Loss and Damage Fund (L&D Fund)** was established at COP28 to assist countries vulnerable to the **adverse effects** of climate change. Following its creation, 23 countries pledged a total of USD 700 billion, although the contribution falls short of actual requirements. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The estimated economic cost of climate-related loss and damage in developing countries is projected to increase significantly, reaching between USD 1 trillion and USD 1.8 trillion by 2050. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

34. (C)

Explanation:

India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway (IMT-TH):

- The IMT-TH will create a **direct overland route from India** to Thailand, reducing reliance on maritime routes like the Malacca Strait, where China has considerable influence. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The IMT-TH **supports India's "Act East" policy** by improving connectivity with ASEAN countries, facilitating economic integration, and enhancing trade, particularly with Thailand and Myanmar. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- By establishing this corridor, India aims to **reduce its dependence** on trade routes that involve Chinese-controlled infrastructure, allowing for more independent access to the ASEAN market. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

35. (A)

Explanation:

- **Demand-pull inflation** occurs when there is **high consumer demand** that exceeds the available supply, often resulting from increased spending during a strong economic period. This excess demand drives prices up. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Cost-Push Inflation** happens when the costs of production increase, which can include rising wages, higher costs of raw materials, or disruptions in the supply chain. These increased costs lead businesses to raise prices. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Built-in or Wage-Price Inflation is a **cyclical process** where rising wages lead to higher production costs, prompting businesses to increase prices. This price increase then leads workers to demand higher wages, creating a continuous loop of rising costs and prices. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

36. (B)

Explanation:

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in India:

- In the early years of the IBC, **creditors often faced substantial losses**, with deep haircuts taken in many cases, reflecting the high level of non-performing assets and distressed situations the regime had to address initially. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Recent cases under the IBC have shown a **trend towards improved recoveries** for creditors. Some cases have even resulted in creditors recovering more than the admitted claims due to contractual clauses or competitive bidding, indicating a shift towards a more creditor-friendly framework. **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.

37. (B)

Explanation:

India's Approach to a Sustainable and Resilient Energy Transition:

- India is focusing on decentralized energy systems, such as **Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE)**, including rooftop solar, to address its increasing power demand and ensure energy access. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- India is emphasizing a **circular economy**, particularly in managing waste from solar energy infrastructure, to **recover valuable minerals** and strengthen critical mineral security. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Unlike the US and EU, India's approach **discourages protectionist industrial policies**. Instead, India aims to integrate itself into global supply chains for clean energy technologies, fostering collaboration and interdependence rather than focusing on self-sufficiency. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

88. (B)

Explanation:

Judgment on Demolition of Properties in India:

- The **Supreme Court** has ruled that demolishing the homes and properties of those merely accused of crimes without following **due process violates fundamental rights** and principles of natural justice. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Court has stipulated that officials who carry out unauthorized demolitions in violation of its guidelines may be **held personally accountable** for the restitution of demolished properties. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Court's directives **do not apply universally**. The Court specified that its directions would not apply to unauthorized structures located in public spaces, such as roads, streets, footpaths, and areas near railway lines. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

89. (A)

Explanation:

Issue of Delimitation in India:

- **Article 82** of the Indian Constitution mandates delimitation, or recalibration of Lok Sabha seats per State, based on population data from each Census. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **Finance Commission** is established under **Article 280** of the Constitution of India.
- If delimitation proceeds, it could lead to a **reduction in the number of seats** for non-Hindi-speaking States that have successfully controlled population growth, while increasing representation for States with higher population growth rates. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

90. (C)

Explanation:

Cardiovascular Kidney Metabolic (CKM) Syndrome:

- CKM syndrome is a **complex health condition** that arises from lifestyle factors and the impact of globalisation, making it a growing global health concern. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- CKM syndrome typically starts with a **gradual increase in body weight** and waist circumference, leading to obesity, which triggers a series of metabolic and health issues. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- CKM syndrome **primarily affects major organs** such as the heart, kidneys, liver, and blood vessels, significantly increasing the risk of premature death in those who develop it. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

91. (B)

Explanation:

Foreign Investment in India:

- India's domestic savings are indeed insufficient to finance its growth entirely, so it relies on foreign capital imports in various forms to bridge the gap. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is preferred over Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) because **FDI generally brings in long-term capital**, technology, and management practices, which have a broader and more stable impact on the economy. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- FPIs exceeding a 10% stake in an Indian company do not automatically get reclassified as FDI. According to the new guidelines, **reclassification requires government approval** and the concurrence of the investee company, along with adherence to other regulatory conditions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

92. (C)

Explanation:

Recent Measures for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):

- The government has set an **increased lending target for MSMEs** in the current financial year, with plans to further raise this target in subsequent years to support MSME growth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The government has set a lending target of Rs. 5.75 trillion for MSMEs in 2024-25, with a gradual increase to Rs. 6.21 trillion and Rs. 7 trillion for the following two years.
- A new Rs. 100 crore **credit guarantee scheme** is expected to provide MSMEs with collateral-free and guarantor-free loans to boost their manufacturing and export capabilities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **non-performing assets (NPAs) on Mudra loans** for public-sector banks (PSBs) have improved over recent years, reflecting better loan repayment performance in this segment. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The non-performing assets (NPAs) on Mudra loans for public-sector banks (PSBs) increased from 4.89 percent in 2019-20 to 3.4 percent in 2023-24.

93. (D)

Explanation:

Federalism:

- The **GST Council** is an example of cooperative federalism, where **both the Union and the states agreed** to implement a unified tax system. To ensure state participation, the Union provided compensation to cover potential revenue losses, promoting cooperation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Competitive federalism**, where states compete for resources and investments, can lead to efficiency gains. However, to ensure fairness, there must be **rules of engagement**, systems for managing competition, and mechanisms for conflict resolution to prevent disparities and promote stable federal relationships. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

94. (B)

Explanation:**Indian Aviation Industry:**

- The “**open skies policy**” introduced in 1990 allowed the **entry of many airlines in India**, but a large number of these eventually ceased operations or merged due to challenges such as high operational costs and competition. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indian aviation industry, despite growth in market size and dominance by IndiGo and Tata group airlines, **faces significant financial challenges**, including high debt levels, primarily due to aircraft lease liabilities and ongoing losses. The industry’s financial outlook remains precarious. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- IndiGo, which launched in 2006, has grown to dominate the Indian market, with over 63% of market share. It has also placed large orders for new aircraft, indicating its plans for continued expansion. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

95. (A)

Explanation:**Carbon Markets and Emission Reduction:**

- The Indian carbon market is designed as a **carbon-credit trading system** with progressively tighter emission targets for industries, taking into account factors such as their current emission profiles and technology. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indian carbon market is not meant to entirely replace the ‘Perform, Achieve and Trade’ (PAT) scheme. Instead, **it aims to build upon the foundational elements** of PAT, especially for industries familiar with the scheme’s accountability measures and trading provisions. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Floor and forbearance prices are proposed in the Indian carbon market to **maintain a minimum credit value** and set a penalty limit. This structure is intended to encourage companies to invest in decarbonization efforts rather than absorbing penalties as part of regular business costs. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

96. (D)

Explanation:

- Although **rural wage growth saw** a modest improvement last year, non-agricultural wages have **declined by 1% per annum** over the past five years, indicating that **wages have not consistently risen** over the last decade. This slow growth is insufficient to address the broader economic challenges faced by the rural sector. **Hence, statement I is not correct.**
- **Structural changes**, such as higher government spending on the rural economy and prioritising income growth for lower-income groups, are seen as essential to addressing long-term economic distress. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option D is correct because statement I is not correct but statement II is correct.

97. (C)

Explanation:**Gulf of Guinea (GoG):**

- The Gulf of Guinea is located at the junction of the Prime Meridian and the Equator, as mentioned in the passage. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Gulf of Guinea is one of the **world’s most dangerous gulfs** due to widespread piracy. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Volta and Niger rivers drain into the Gulf of Guinea. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The Gulf of Guinea accounts for over 35% of the world’s petroleum reserves. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**

98. (B)

Explanation:

- As per the **Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)** over half of children aged 14-18 struggle with basic arithmetic, such as dividing a three-digit number by a single digit. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- India’s youth represent a **significant global demographic advantage**, with an average age of 29, compared to 19 in Africa and over 44 in countries like Japan and Germany. **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.

99. (A)

Explanation:**Municipal Finances:**

- As per the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) analysis** of municipal finance, the share of own-source revenue (taxes and usage charges for services such as parking, and waste collection) in municipal finances has **shrunk** between 2016-17 and 2023-24 (budget estimates). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Dynamic pricing** for services like parking is considered a short-term solution, whereas the long-term solution lies in **fiscal decentralization** and revenue devolution to municipal bodies. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

100. (B)

Explanation:**Microfinance Lending in India:**

- Banks have increased lending to the micro-finance sector due to factors such as **reduced corporate credit demand**, rising retail credit demand, priority-sector lending targets, and the aim to expand credit access at the last-mile level. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The RBI has issued an **informal advisory to lenders**, recommending that they not extend new loans to micro-finance borrowers until previous loans are cleared, aiming to address the rising defaults in the sector. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While there is concern about rising defaults in the micro-finance sector, it is currently **not considered a systemic risk** to the overall banking sector or economy, although caution is urged to avoid potential future risks. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

101. (A)**Explanation:**

- The **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** on climate finance is expected to be decided before 2025 as mandated by the Paris Agreement. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Developing countries**, including India, have proposed commitments of USD 1-2 trillion under the NCQG to address climate needs. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Accessing climate finance** through debt instruments is not considered viable for developing countries as it could **exacerbate their fiscal** and economic vulnerabilities. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

102. (A)**Explanation:****Statutory Regulatory Authorities (SRAs):**

- Statutory Regulatory Authorities (SRAs), such as the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), have the power to **create and enforce binding regulations** in their respective domains. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This authority allows SRAs to respond quickly to domain-specific issues, but it operates without requiring direct, explicit approval from Parliament for each regulation.
- While the **legislative framework requires SRAs' regulations** to be presented before Parliament, they are not consistently reviewed by parliamentary committees on subordinate legislation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ A review of the period from 1999 to 2022 shows that only a handful of regulations from SRAs were examined by the Rajya Sabha's committee on subordinate legislation. Therefore, this scrutiny is not reliably enforced, leading to potential gaps in democratic and federal oversight.

103. (D)**Explanation:****Emerging market economies (EMEs):**

- EMEs, according to the **World Economic Outlook**, have surpassed advanced economies in global GDP share based on purchasing power parity (PPP), accounting for 58% in 2023. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- EMEs face challenges such as **balancing sustainability with growth** and maintaining shared prosperity despite industrialization. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Technological leapfrogging, such as mobile banking in India and digital platforms in Southeast Asia, demonstrates EMEs' ability to bypass traditional growth constraints, especially in fintech and service sectors. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

104. (B)**Explanation:**

- **Bhagwan Birsa Munda** was a key leader who led the Munda Rebellion (Ulgulan) against British exploitation and for the rights of tribal communities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indian government declared Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary (November 15) as "**Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**" to recognize the contributions of tribal freedom fighters. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan** aims to improve social infrastructure in tribal villages, not just education, and it is not limited to urban areas. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

105. (D)**Explanation:****Asian Elephants:**

- India is home to about 60% of the world's Asian elephant population, with an estimated 27,312 individuals as per the 2017 census and 138 identified elephant corridors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Elephants have a gestation period of about 22 months, the **longest** of any land animal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Asian elephants (Indian) are classified as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

106. (B)**Explanation:****Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR):**

- It is located in the **Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh** and is spread over the Vindhya hills. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is known for the Royal Bengal Tigers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India and the world. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

107. (B)**Explanation:****Insurance:**

- Insurance penetration in India is **heavily skewed towards life insurance** which forms 76% of total premiums compared to non-life insurance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indian insurance sector faces significant issues related to consumer trust, with adversarial claims processes making the system challenging for policyholders. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While reforms in claims processes have been suggested, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has not yet mandated a **system of "full settlement"** within a **stipulated period** for health insurance claims. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

108. (A)**Explanation:****Taxation:**

- Recent policies have shifted the **tax burden more towards individuals**, making personal income tax the largest source of tax revenue in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Personal income tax now contributes 19% of government receipts in the Financial Year 2024-2025, **surpassing corporate tax contributions.**
- A lower corporate tax rate has **not led to the expected surge** in corporate investments, as these are influenced more by aggregate demand than tax rates. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

109. (C)**Explanation:****Earth Observation Satellite (EOS):**

- EOS data is utilized for **diverse applications**, including agriculture (e.g., monitoring crop health), natural resource management, and urban planning. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's EOS initiatives actively involve over 200 startups, emphasizing collaboration between governmental and private entities to enhance the space ecosystem. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

110. (C)**Explanation:****Copper:**

- India is a **net importer** of refined copper, which is critical for the production of electric vehicles and green energy infrastructure. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Copper smelting produces sulphuric acid as a by-product, which is used in various industries, including fertilizer and battery production. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

111. (B)**Explanation:****Satellite Communication:**

- Satellite services and terrestrial networks are **generally complementary**, as satellite services are often used in areas where terrestrial networks are unavailable. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Satellite services do not require auction-based spectrum allocation because their **operational dynamics** and use cases **differ significantly** from terrestrial networks. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Satellite services **face technical challenges** such as signal reception issues at high frequencies and the need for complex terminals, making them less efficient for mobile handset connectivity compared to terrestrial networks. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

112. (A)**Explanation:****Cryptocurrencies:**

- Cryptocurrencies are **legal to trade and hold in India**, but they are not recognised as legal tender, meaning they cannot be used for everyday transactions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has historically **opposed cryptocurrencies**, including imposing a ban on banking support for crypto transactions in 2018, which was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2020. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, 2023** supported a **regulatory framework for managing crypto-asset risks**, aligned with recommendations by the **Financial Stability Board (FSB)**, rather than a blanket ban. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

113. (B)**Explanation:****Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958:**

- The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 provides sweeping powers to the Armed Forces. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Jeevan Reddy Commission** recommended that AFSPA be repealed and appropriate provisions be inserted in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC)** recommended repealing the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) of 1958. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

114. (C)**Explanation:**

- The **Indian Ocean Brown Cloud**, identified by the INDOEX study, was primarily caused by biomass and fossil fuel burning. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Twenty-five years ago, over 200 scientists from the US, Europe, the Maldives, and India studied a thick haze over the Indian Ocean, discovering a giant brown cloud that formed over the region each year from October to February.
- Biomass burning, such as **agricultural residue** and household fuel use, accounts for 55% of India's PM2.5 emissions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

115. (A)**Explanation:**

- **Article 356** allows the President to act if satisfied that the state government cannot function as per constitutional provisions, even without a Governor's report. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Article 355** obliges the Union government to **assist states in maintaining** constitutional governance and addressing internal disturbances.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, during the Constituent Assembly debates, explained the necessity of Article 356 to address a breakdown in constitutional machinery. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

116. (C)**Explanation:**

- The **IndiaAI programme** includes the **IndiaDatasets Programme**, which focuses on government-led AI models with safeguards against misuse through data protection legislation. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- GovAI **does not aim to centralize governance** on a single AI platform but rather envisions an **ecosystem of AI applications** and models to enhance governance across multiple domains. **Hence, statement II is not correct.**
- Hence, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is not correct.

117. (B)**Explanation:****Diabetes:**

- Diabetes occurs when the pancreas either **does not produce enough insulin** or the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Type 1** diabetes typically develops in childhood but can occur at any age, while Type 2 diabetes is commonly seen in adults over 45. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- There are **no known prevention methods** for Type 1 diabetes, whereas Type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed by maintaining a healthy lifestyle. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

118. (B)**Explanation:**

- The **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013** covers **67% of India's population**, with 75% coverage in rural areas and 50% in urban areas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Shanta Kumar Committee (2015)** estimated public distribution system (PDS) leakage at 46% based on 2011-12 data. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Cash transfers** for food subsidies are seen as a more efficient and manageable alternative, as highlighted in the discussion. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

119. (A)**Explanation:**

- Imported inflation can **increase due to tariff impositions**, stimulus measures, and a strong dollar, as highlighted by global factors such as policies by countries like the US and China. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While vegetables like tomatoes and onions are not covered under MSPs, their inflation is attributed to weather patterns, delayed monsoons, and supply-demand imbalances, not the absence of MSPs. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Core inflation is primarily influenced by manufacturers' ability to pass on higher input costs to consumers. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

120. (D)**Explanation:****Inverted Duty Structure (IDS):**

- IDS occurs when the import duty on raw materials and intermediate goods is higher than that on finished products, not lower. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Schemes like Advance Authorization and RoDTEP provide relief **primarily for exporters and do not adequately address** the disparity faced by domestic-oriented manufacturers. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

121. (B)**Explanation:****India-Nigeria Relations:**

- The Indian Prime Minister became the **second** foreign dignitary to receive **Nigeria's prestigious award**, 'Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger.' **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- Nigeria has a significant Indian diaspora of over 60,000 people, making it the largest Indian community in West Africa. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Nigeria is among **Africa's top economies** in terms of GDP and is a BRICS partner country. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

122. (D)**Explanation:****India's G20 Presidency:**

- India's G20 presidency included the **African Union** as a permanent member, enhancing the inclusiveness of the forum. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The presidency focused on **integrating human-centric globalisation** and digital public infrastructure into global governance discussions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

123. (C)**Explanation:****India's Account Aggregator System:**

- It is a **consent-based data-sharing system** designed to manage personal financial data securely. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The system ensures that **entities processing data** cannot retain it longer than necessary or use it for purposes beyond what was consented to. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The system incorporates **privacy principles** such as purpose limitation, retention restrictions, and informed consent into its design.
- The framework **aligns with globally** accepted privacy principles by embedding regulatory safeguards directly into its design. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

124. (C)**Explanation:****Hypersonic Missile Technology:**

- Hypersonic missiles are characterized by their speed (greater than Mach 5), manoeuvrability, and precision, making them challenging to detect and intercept. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's hypersonic missile, as per DRDO, has a **range exceeding 1,500 km**, marking significant progress in its defense technology. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Russia, China, and the US have **already developed** and deployed hypersonic weapons, such as Russia's Kinzhal and Zircon, and the US Army's Dark Eagle. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

125. (D)**Explanation:****India's Economic Goals:**

- The vision of '**Viksit Bharat**' focuses on a USD 30 trillion economy through manufacturing, farm modernization, sustainability, and women-led growth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Localization of Printed Circuit Board Assemblies (PCBAs) has been identified as a critical step in boosting India's electronic manufacturing capabilities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

126. (B)**Explanation:****India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):**

- India aims to attract USD 100 billion annually in FDI, focusing on sectors like semiconductors, clean energy, and electric vehicles. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **judicial infrastructure in India**, including delays and high litigation costs, has been identified as a major deterrent for foreign investors. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The government's revised bilateral investment treaties **require foreign investors to exhaust domestic remedies** before approaching international arbitration. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

127. (B)**Explanation:**

- The **European Union (EU)** has pioneered global regulations for Big Tech with frameworks like the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While the GDPR is a landmark regulation, enforcement has been patchy, with criticisms of delays in imposing penalties and mandating corporate behavioural changes. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **"revolving door" phenomenon**, where former industry executives join regulatory bodies, poses unique challenges in the context of technology platforms. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

128. (A)**Explanation:**

- Despite initiatives like **Make in India**, the share of manufacturing in GVA declined from 16-17% in earlier years to 14-15% in recent years. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Private sector investment constitutes 71% of total manufacturing investment, with the public sector contributing only 7%. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Financial market reforms** such as opening up banking, mutual funds, and fintech, along with digital infrastructure expansion, have driven private corporate growth. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

129. (C)**Explanation:****Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):**

- The CBAM ensures that imported goods in the European Union (EU) are subject to the **same carbon emission costs** as EU-produced goods. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Exporters to the EU will need to provide data on emissions and purchase certificates to offset these emissions starting from 1 January 2026. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Iron and steel account for 76.83% of India's CBAM-affected exports, followed by aluminum, cement, and fertilizers. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

130. (D)**Explanation:**

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) serves as the regulatory authority for insolvency proceedings in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Insolvency proceedings for companies are adjudicated by the National Companies Law Tribunal (NCLT). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs)** handle insolvency proceedings for individuals. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

131. (A)**Explanation:****Advantages of Hypersonic Missiles:**

- Hypersonic missiles travel faster than supersonic jets, making them difficult to intercept. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The kinetic energy of a missile travelling at hypersonic speeds causes devastating damage upon impact. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The kinetic energy from travelling at Mach 6 or higher results in **massive impact damage.**
- Hypersonic missiles **do not carry** their own oxygen; they use atmospheric oxygen, which is rammed into the engine. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

132. (C)**Explanation:**

- The suspension of **derivatives trading** in agricultural commodities was implemented to address food inflation and volatility in spot prices. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Futures markets** help farmers hedge against price risks by assuring them of a fixed value for their produce. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

133. (B)**Explanation:**

- India has committed to achieving a **45% reduction in carbon intensity** and a reduction of 1 billion tons in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Establishing stringent energy performance standards can protect domestic businesses from the adverse effects of low-quality imports. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

134. (B)**Explanation:**

- Renewables are becoming the **dominant energy source**, with investment surpassing that in fossil fuels and meeting a large share of future energy demand. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Developing countries and low-income households are **more vulnerable to climate impacts** and green transition policies, as they lack the resources to adapt as effectively as developed economies. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The European Union has successfully decoupled economic growth from **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**, reducing emissions by more than one-third since 1990 while growing its economy by 68%. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

135. (B)

Explanation:

Indian Space Sector:

- The Rs 1,000 crore venture capital fund for India's space sector aims to **support Indian startups** in the space sector by providing financial assistance for innovation and scaling operations. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- **IN-SPACE** (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre) is responsible for overseeing and promoting private sector participation in space activities. **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.

136. (C)

Explanation:

Labour Force Participation in India:

- The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** includes employed individuals and those actively seeking employment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) has seen **significant growth in rural areas** compared to urban areas in recent years. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ FLFPR has increased significantly in rural areas, rising from 24.6% in 2017 to 41.5% in 2023, but urban growth has been relatively slow.
- The economic burden of unpaid household care work disproportionately affects women, contributing to the low FLFPR, especially in urban areas. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

137. (C)

Explanation:

Prison Reforms:

- The **Mulla Committee report, 1983** recommended extensive measures to improve prison conditions and administration. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ In the *Rama Murthy vs State of Karnataka case*, 1996 the Supreme Court of India directed the government to **address key issues** such as overcrowding, trial delays, torture, and neglect in prisons, in line with the Mulla Committee recommendations.
- In *Upendra Baxi vs State of U.P.* (1983), the Court affirmed that prisoners have the right to live in humane conditions with dignity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Nelson Mandela Rules (2015)** require prison administrations to make reasonable accommodations and adjustments for prisoners with disabilities. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** prohibits torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment for persons with disabilities.

138. (D)

Explanation:

National Clean Air Programme:

- It was launched by the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** in January 2019. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the **first-ever effort in the country** to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The NCAP's goal is to **reduce average Particulate Matter (PM)** concentrations by 40% by 2026 in 131 cities. Initially aimed for a 20-40% reduction by 2024, the target was later extended to 2026.

139. (D)

Explanation:

- Right to Property is no longer a Fundamental Right but rather a **Constitutional right**. **Hence, statement I is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Right to Property is currently protected under **Article 300A** of the Constitution of India.
 - It simply states that "No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law".
- The **Directive Principles of State Policy** mandate the State to undertake policies that would lead to a more egalitarian distribution of resources among the country's people. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option D is correct because statement I is incorrect and statement II is correct.

140. (A)

Explanation:

Satyendra Nath Bose:

- He was nominated for the Nobel Prize, but he never received it. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- He developed a **method to treat photons** as indistinguishable particles, laying the foundation for what would later be called Bose-Einstein Statistics. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

141. (A)

Explanation:

- The world has sought to diversify from the overwhelming concentration in one country through China+1 geo-economics. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ **China+1 geo-economics** refers to the **strategy of diversifying manufacturing** and supply chains away from heavy reliance on China.
- China dominates global manufacturing, currently accounting for 32 percent of world output.
 - ◆ China is the world's biggest trader, leading in exports and second in imports, and it is the top exporter of manufactured goods, including those from both Chinese and foreign companies. **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.

142. (D)

Explanation:

- The Green Revolution in Punjab significantly **reduced the diversity** of crops cultivated in the region. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana has become a major contributor to Delhi-NCR's air pollution in November due to changes in the kharif sowing cycle. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

143. (B)

Explanation:

- The delayed execution of large infrastructure projects in India has led to significant cost overruns and reduced project viability. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Subsidy rationalization in India is incomplete, with fertiliser and food subsidies still causing fiscal strain. **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.

144. (C)

Explanation:

India's Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):

- India submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** on 2nd October 2015.
- Article 4 of the **Paris Agreement** provides that each Party shall communicate a nationally determined contribution every five years.
- Following the aforesaid provision of the Paris Agreement India updated its first NDC submitted earlier on October 2, 2015, for the period up to 2030, as under:
 - ◆ India aims to **reduce the Emissions** Intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030, from the 2005 level. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ India aims to create an **additional carbon sink** of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

145. (A)

Explanation:

Emissions Gap Report 2024:

- Recently, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the Emissions Gap Report 2024 ahead of the COP 29 of the UNFCCC meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan.
 - ◆ The report highlighted that if countries maintain current environmental policies, **global temperatures** will likely rise by **3.1°C above pre-industrial levels.**

- ◆ **India's emissions grew by 6.1%** while overall global emissions rose by 1.3% in 2023 compared to 2022.

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

146. (B)

Explanation:

Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)

- Though India adopted a **Model BIT in 2015**, it has barely managed to sign a handful of BITs based on this model. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A typical BIT should accomplish two objectives. First, it should **balance the competing goals of investment protection** and the state's sovereign right to regulate. Second, it should contain unambiguous provisions to **reduce the discretion** of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) tribunals. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The India-UAE recently signed BIT will replace the 2014 treaty. It departs from the 2015 Model BIT on significant issues. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The India-UAE BIT came into force on 31st August 2024, **ensuring continuity of investment** protection after the expiration of the earlier Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA).

147. (C)

Explanation:

Ethical and Regulatory Challenges in AI:

- The **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** requires that user consent be freely given, specific, informed, and devoid of coercion. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023**, aims to enhance transparency, accountability, and fair competition in digital markets. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

148. (D)

Explanation:

- The **Supreme Court in Om Rathod v. Director General of Health Services and Ors.**, 2024 paved the way for a candidate with muscular dystrophy to pursue medicine. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In **Rajive Raturi v. Union of India and Ors.**, 2024 the Court directed the Centre to come up with a **set of non-negotiable accessibility norms** in all sectors within three months. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

149. (B)

Explanation:

Headline Inflation:

- Headline inflation is a measure of the total inflation within an economy, **including commodities** such as food and energy prices, which tend to be much more volatile and prone to inflationary spikes. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The headline inflation figure is reported through the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, which calculates the cost to purchase a fixed basket of goods to determine how much inflation is occurring in the broad economy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

150. (A)**Explanation:****Liquid Nano Urea:**

- It is urea in the form of a **nanoparticle**.
- It is a nutrient (liquid) to provides nitrogen to plants as an alternative to conventional urea. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Nano liquid urea was launched in June 2021 by the **Indian Farmers and Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- This fertiliser is a foliar spray, meaning it should only be used once leaves arrive on the crops. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

151. (A)**Explanation:****Intersection of Nuclear Energy and Artificial Intelligence (AI):**

- AI's energy demands are **projected to strain clean energy goals**, as highlighted by the Electric Power Institute. Thus AI's growing energy demands could significantly delay global net-zero emissions goals. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Tech companies like Microsoft and Amazon are **exploring nuclear energy** to meet the clean energy demands of AI operations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Building new nuclear plants is **extremely expensive**, with recent projects costing billions of dollars. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

152. (B)**Explanation:**

- **Process reforms are targeted**, incremental changes to existing systems, not a complete restructuring of the economic framework. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Regulatory fragmentation in labelling rules creates compliance challenges, especially for MSMEs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A fixed calendar for regulatory updates could **enhance predictability** and reduce costs for businesses. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

153. (A)**Explanation:****Tebhaga Movement (1946-47):**

- It was a **peasant resistance** that erupted in Bengal in 1946-47 under the leadership of Bangiya Pradeshek Kisan Sabha (BPKS).
- It demanded a **reduction in the jotedars' (landlords) share** in the crop harvest from half to one-third.
- In the **South 24 Parganas** district in West Bengal, Kakdwip emerged as one of the centers of the movement.
- Approximately **40% of sharecropping peasants** obtained tebhaga rights (two-third shares) willingly granted by landholders, repeal or reduction of unjust and illegal exaction.
- Hence, option A is correct.

154. (C)**Explanation:**

- **Wealth taxes** are assessed on the wealth stock or the total amount of net wealth owned by a taxpayer. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Example of a wealth tax:** Estate taxes, gift taxes, and inheritance taxes are examples of one-time or infrequently assessed wealth taxes.
- **Income taxes** are levied on the flow from the wealth stock. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

155. (A)**Explanation:****IndiaStack:**

- IndiaStack is a **set of APIs (Application programming interface)** that allows governments, businesses, startups, and developers to utilise a unique digital Infrastructure to solve India's hard problems towards presence-less, paperless, and cashless service delivery. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India, through India Stack, **became the first country** to develop all three foundational Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs), Digital identity (Aadhar), Real-time fast payment (UPI), and Account Aggregator built on the Data Empowerment Protection Architecture (DEPA). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **DPI refers to blocks or platforms** such as digital identification, payment infrastructure, and data exchange solutions that help countries deliver essential services to their people, empowering citizens and improving lives by enabling digital inclusion.
 - ◆ **DEPA creates a digital framework** that allows users to share their data on their own terms through a third-party entity, who are known as a Consent Manager.

156. (D)**Explanation:**

- The **Copenhagen Accord**, introduced at COP15 in 2009, established a 2°C warming limit and emphasized developed countries funding climate actions in vulnerable nations, but did not create a binding treaty. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Paris Agreement**, adopted at COP21 in 2015, aimed to limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C, and introduced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for each country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

157. (A)**Explanation:****Minimum Support Price (MSP):**

- The MSP regime was **established in 1965** by setting up the Agricultural Prices Commission (APC) as a form of market intervention to enhance national food security and protect farmers from significant decline in market prices. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- MSP is the **guaranteed amount paid** to farmers when the government buys their produce. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- MSP is based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, which considers various factors such as cost of production, demand and supply, market price trends, inter-crop price parity, etc. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It came into existence in January 1965.
- The CACP recommends MSPs for **22 mandated crops** and fair and remunerative prices (FRP) for sugarcane. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The mandated crops include 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops, and 2 other commercial crops.

158. (B)

Explanation:**India's Food Processing Industry:**

- Making deceptive claims or advertisements are punishable offence under Section-53 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The use of calcium carbide for ripening fruits has **been banned** under the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ FSSAI has instead permitted the use of "ethylene gas" as a safer alternative for fruit ripening in India, as it is a naturally occurring hormone that regulates the ripening process.
- In India's Food Processing Industry, **100% FDI is allowed under automatic route** for most food processing sectors. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

159. (A)

Explanation:**Guided Pinaka Weapon System:**

- Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully completed the Flight Tests of the Guided Pinaka Weapon System as part of Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) Validation Trials.
 - ◆ It is a **multi-barrel rocket launcher system**, designed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), a laboratory of the DRDO. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Named after Lord Shiva's bow, Pinaka is a versatile and high-precision rocket system. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The initial version of the weapon system was called Mark I, which had a **range of 40 km** while the upgraded version, or Pinaka Mark II has an extended **range of 70 to 80 km**, with plans to reach 120 km and 300 km in the future. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

160. (D)

Explanation:**India-Japan Relations:**

- **Indian warships** will soon upgrade their **antenna system** with the Japanese UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna) communication mast, following the signing of a co-development agreement between India and Japan. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The UNICORN provides an **optimal placement of individual antennas** within a single mast, instead of distributed antennas on mast tops and along the ship's upper deck. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

161. (B)

Explanation:**Local Government:**

- Local government is a **State subject** under the Seventh Schedule (List II) of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Article 243G** provides for the devolution of powers to local bodies, making them key players in delivering infrastructure and services. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Since 2002, municipal finance has stayed at just 1% of GDP. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Municipal bodies contribute 45% of urban investments, while parastatal agencies manage the remainder.
- According to the **Fifteenth Finance Commission report**, about 23% of total municipal revenue remains unspent, indicating a surplus in the municipal system that needs to be more effectively utilised.

162. (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 not 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.**
 - ◆ Article 6.2, allows bilateral agreements between countries to trade carbon credits based on mutually agreed terms.
 - ◆ Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (also known as Article 6.4) seeks to develop a centralised, United Nations-managed carbon emissions offset and trading system.
- 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 correct.**

163. (C)

Explanation:**Caribbean Community (CARICOM):**

- CARICOM is a **grouping of 21 countries**, 15 Member States, and 6 Associate Members including both island states and mainland territories like Suriname and Guyana. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- CARICOM was founded in 1973 with the signing of the **Treaty of Chaguaramas** by four founding members of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The community is made up of people from African, Indian, European, Chinese, Portuguese, and Indigenous backgrounds.
- India-CARICOM Ministerial Meetings are held regularly, with notable events occurring on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

164. (D)**Explanation:****Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):**

- It often leads to the **development of critical infrastructure**, including factories, utilities, and transportation networks. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It permits **global optimisation** of operations, including improved domestic competitiveness. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It gives access to the vast world market and de-risks the firm in slow periods in the Indian economy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

165. (C)**Explanation:****16th Conference of Parties (COP-16) to the International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):**

- Parties agreed to establish a **new permanent subsidiary body** on Article 8j that deals with preservation and maintenance of the knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous peoples. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Parties agreed to develop a new **“Strategy for Resource Mobilization”** to help secure USD 200 billion annually by 2030 to support biodiversity initiatives worldwide. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- COP-16 introduced a **new thematic action plan** to help address the inequities through capacity-building, technology transfer, and knowledge-sharing among developing countries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

166. (C)**Explanation:****Cali Fund:**

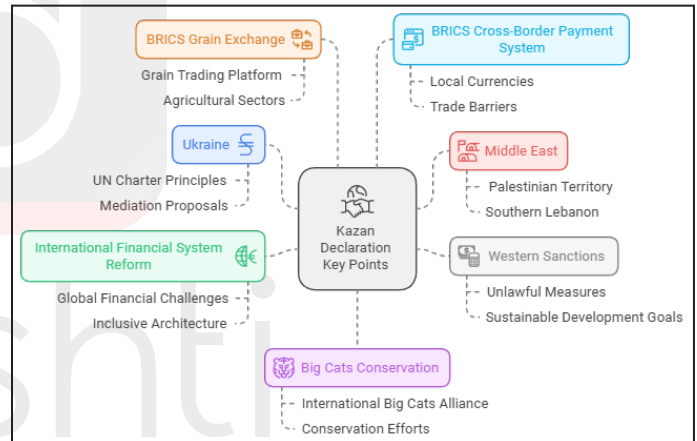
- The Cali Fund was established to **ensure fair and equitable sharing** of benefits from the use of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ DSI refers to genomic sequence data that plays a fundamental role in environmental and biological research.
- At least 50% of the Cali Fund will focus on the **self-identified needs** of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, particularly women and youth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

167. (A)**Explanation:****Tax Exemption for Catholic Priests:**

- The tax exemption for Catholic priests and nuns in India originated in the **mid-20th century** to recognise the contributions of priests and nuns to society. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Supreme Court **overturned the exemption**, rejecting preferential tax treatment based on religious practices. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Supreme Court ruled the exemption conflicted with India’s principle of secularism, emphasizing tax equality.

168. (B)**Explanation:****Kazan Declaration:**

- The **Kazan Declaration** is a document that was adopted by the **16th BRICS Summit**, held in Kazan, Russia from 22–24 October 2024.
 - ◆ The summit showcased the participation of new member countries, underscoring the increasing influence and diversity within the BRICS+ alliance.
- Hence, option B is correct.

**169. (B)****Explanation:****Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):**

- AMR happens when microbes stop responding to the drugs used against them. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The drug-resistant infections are **almost impossible** to treat and claim many more lives. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In 2015, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched the first global surveillance initiative, the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It provides a standardised process for countries to share country-level AMR data. As of February this year, 137 countries participated in GLASS.

170. (A)**Explanation:****Nigeria:**

- It is located on the **Western coast of Africa** and is often called the **“Giant of Africa.”** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It is bordered by Niger in the North, Chad and Cameroon in the East, the Gulf of Guinea in the South, and Benin in the West. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Niger River and its largest tributary, the Benue River, are principal rivers.

171. (D)

Explanation:

Guyana:

- It is located on the **northern coast of South America**, bordered by Venezuela, Brazil, and Suriname, with the Atlantic Ocean to the north. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Essequibo River is the largest river in Guyana. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Pakaraima Mountains, Kanuku Mountains, and Acarai Mountains are the major mountain ranges. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

172. (A)

Explanation:

Air Quality Life Index (AQLI)

- The AQLI is a **pollution index** that translates the effect of particulate air pollution into its impact on life expectancy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Recently, the **Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC)** released the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) 2024. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ In India, where the annual PM2.5 standard is 40 µg/m³, more than 40% of the population breathes air that exceeds the standard.

173. (C)

Explanation:

Neighbourhood First Policy:

- The concept of the Neighbourhood First Policy came into being in 2008. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This approach prioritises **enhancing connectivity**, infrastructure, development cooperation, security, and fostering greater people-to-people contacts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India's approach to engaging with its neighbouring countries is characterised by **consultation**, non-reciprocity, and a focus on achieving tangible outcomes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

174. (B)

Explanation:

Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers:

- The **Labour Bureau** under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been compiling the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) **every month**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The CPI-IW is mainly used for determining **dearness allowance (DA)** paid to central/state government employees and workers in the industrial sectors besides measuring inflation in retail prices, and fixation and revision of minimum wages in scheduled employment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

175. (A)

Explanation:

International Criminal Court (ICC):

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) **investigates and tries individuals** charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community like genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is governed by an international treaty called the **Rome Statute**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India is **not a party to the Rome Statute** along with the US and China. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

176. (C)

Explanation:

- In the **Kesavananda Bharati Case 1973**, the Supreme Court held that secularism was a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The **basic structure doctrine** posits that certain core elements of the Indian Constitution have intrinsic value and cannot be altered or removed.
- In the **Maneka Gandhi Case, 1978**, the supreme court emphasised 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.**

177. (B)

Explanation:

Preamble:

- It was adopted on 26th November 1949. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The source of authority of the Constitution lies with the people of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **42nd Amendment act, 1976** added "Socialist," "Secular," and "Integrity" to the Preamble. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

178. (B)

Explanation:

- **Article 39(c)** emphasises that the economic system ought not to result in a concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Article 44** of the Constitution of India states that the state should work to ensure that all citizens have a **uniform civil code (UCC)** throughout the country.
- In **D.S. Nakara & Others vs Union Of India (1982)**, the Court said that the basic framework of socialism in the Constitution is to provide a decent standard of life to the working people and social security from cradle to grave, reiterating the role of the welfare state in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

179. (D)

Explanation:

Cornea:

- The cornea is the thin, clear outer layer of the eye. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Infection, accidents, or congenital conditions can turn it opaque. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Corneal opacities** are the second major cause of blindness in India among those who are 50 years and older, and the primary cause in those younger. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ An estimated 1.2 million people live with corneal opacities in India and about a third can be treated with a corneal transplant. These numbers make India one of the largest populations with corneal blindness in the world.
- Most corneal blindness is **preventable** or treatable. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
 - ◆ For those eligible for treatment, corneal transplant surgery is an effective intervention.

180. (B)**Explanation:****Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)****Agreement:**

- It seeks to **protect marine ecosystems** and promote the sustainable use of resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Its provisions focus on **three objectives**, conserving marine biodiversity, ensuring equitable sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources, and mandating environmental impact assessments for harmful activities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India has recently signed the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement also known as the **High Seas Treaty**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

181. (D)**Explanation:**

- India launched the **Green Credit Initiative** here at UNFCCC COP28, to create a **participatory global platform** for the exchange of innovative environmental programs and instruments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Global River Cities Alliance (GRCA)** was launched at UNFCCC COP 28, led by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Global Stocktake (GST)** is a periodic review mechanism established under the Paris Agreement in 2015. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The fifth iteration of the Global Stocktake (GST) text was released at COP28 and adopted with no objection.

182. (C)**Explanation:****Natural Farming (NF):**

- **Natural Farming (NF)** is a chemical free farming that involves local livestock integrated natural farming methods, diversified crop systems, etc. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Natural Farming (NF)** follows local agro-ecological principles rooted in local knowledge, and location-specific technologies and is evolved as per the local agro-ecology. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **National Mission on 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. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

183. (A)**Explanation:****Outer Space:**

- **Outer space**, also known as space or celestial space, refers to the vast expanse beyond Earth's atmosphere and between celestial bodies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is a vacuum that exists beyond the Earth's atmosphere and extends indefinitely throughout the universe.
 - ◆ Outer space is characterized by **extremely low density** and pressure, as well as the absence of air and other atmospheric elements.
- The treaties commonly referred to as the **"five United Nations treaties on outer space"** are the Outer Space Treaty 1967, the Rescue Agreement 1968, the Liability Convention 1972, The Registration Convention 1976, and The Moon Agreement 1979.
 - ◆ India is a signatory to all five of these treaties **but has ratified only four**. India did not ratify the Moon agreement. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

184. (D)**Explanation:**

- **Indian Space Policy 2023** defines the role of private sector players and streamlines authorization processes for both government and private space activities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)** serves as a single-window agency, promoting private sector collaboration and supporting industry clusters, manufacturing hubs, and incubation centers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **New Space India Limited (NSIL)** is ISRO's commercial arm and drives high-tech collaborations, creating demand for private sector involvement through technology transfers and aggregating resources. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

185. (C)**Explanation:****Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):**

- The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) serves as a structured approach to **address air pollution** issues in the Delhi-NCR area according to the severity of the situation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The GRAP for Delhi-NCR is divided into **four stages of air quality** — Stage 1 for "poor" Air Quality Index (AQI) ranging between 201 and 300, Stage 2 for "very poor" AQI of 301-400, Stage 3 for "severe" AQI of 401-450 and Stage 4 for "severe plus" AQI more than 450. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

186. (B)**Explanation:****Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC):**

- It is an **autonomous institution** under the Ministry of Health and chaired by the Secretary of Health. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is responsible for **setting standards**, including acceptable limits of impurities and analytical methods for testing generic drugs for such impurities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

187. (A)**Explanation:**

- The **Vohra Committee Report**, submitted by N. N. Vohra in October 1993, examined the criminalization of politics, and the Nexus between Crime and Politics in India. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Dinesh Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms (1990)** was set up to examine some of the suggestions made by an inter-political party meeting convened under the chairmanship of former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh in 1990. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
 - ◆ This committee gave its recommendations on a **broad range of topics**, such as the constitution of the Election Commission, securing its independence, and appropriate management of electoral rolls, among other things.
- A few government reports have examined state funding of elections, including **Indrajit Gupta Committee** on State Funding of Elections (1998), Law Commission Report on Reform of the Electoral Laws (1999), etc. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

188. (C)**Explanation:**

- The **Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)** calculates three types of production costs for every crop, both at the state and all-India average levels. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **A2 cost covers** all paid-out costs directly incurred by the farmer in cash and kind on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, leased-in land, fuel, irrigation, etc. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **A2+FL:** Includes an estimated value of unpaid family labour with A2.
- **C2:** A comprehensive cost, which is A2+FL cost plus imputed rental value of owned land plus interest on fixed capital, rent paid for leased-in land.

189. (D)**Explanation:****Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs):**

- An NBFC is a company registered under the **Companies Act, 1956** or **Companies Act, 2013**, involved in various financial activities like lending, investing in securities, leasing, and insurance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They can **accept public deposits** for a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 60 months. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.

- They do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on themselves. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

190. (B)**Explanation:**

- **North East India** is linked with the Indian heartland through the 21 km wide Siliguri Corridor, which is commonly known as the chicken neck, created by the **Radcliffe line**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Siliguri corridor is flanked by Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Nepal. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Northeast borders **four countries**, namely, China and Bhutan on its North; Myanmar on its East; and Bangladesh on its South and West. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

191. (A)**Explanation:****Logistics Performance Index:**

- India ranks 38 out of 139 countries on **the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index Report 2023**; India's rank has improved by sixteen places from 54 in 2014.
- Hence, option A is correct.

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

- **Article 324** laid the foundation for the establishment of the Election Commission which was mandated with "superintendence, direction and control" of all elections. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Article 321** of the Constitution of India gives the power to expand the functions of the **Union Public Service Commission** and the **State Public Service Commission**.
- The Constitution, through **Article 329**, debarred even the judiciary from interfering in the election process to ensure uninterrupted elections. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

193. (B)**Explanation:**

- The National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) draws its mandate from the Citizenship Act 1955. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The NRIC aims primarily to **enhance national security** by maintaining a verified citizen registry but also offers additional benefits, such as streamlining identity verification, reducing identity fraud and duplication, and enabling targeted welfare programmes that ensure benefits reach only eligible recipients. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Subrahmanyam Committee** highlighted the need for a robust database that includes both citizens and non-citizens. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **Rekhi Committee** was a committee formed by the Government of India in 1992 to reform the country's **indirect tax system**.

194. (C)**Explanation:****Forest Fires:**

- **National Action Plan for Forest Fires (NAPFF)** was started in 2018 to reduce forest fires by informing, enabling, and empowering **forest fringe communities** and incentivizing them to collaborate with state forest departments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FPM)** is the only government-sponsored programme dedicated to assisting states in dealing with forest fires. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

195. (D)**Explanation:****Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY):**

- The objective of the Scheme is to reduce poverty in the Scheduled Caste (SC) communities by **generation of additional employment** opportunities through skill development, income-generating schemes, and other initiatives. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Scheduled Castes persons **living below the poverty lines** are eligible for benefits under the various Income Generating Schemes and Skill Development Programmes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In the case of **Infrastructure Development**, the villages having 50% or more SC population are eligible for grants under the Scheme. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

196. Ans: (A)**Explanation:****Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER):**

- The real effective exchange rate (REER) is the **weighted average** of a country's currency in relation to an index or basket of other major currencies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The weights are determined by **comparing the relative trade balance** of a country's currency against that of each country in the index. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- An increase in a nation's REER is an indication that its exports are **becoming more expensive** and its imports are becoming cheaper, reducing its trade competitiveness. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

197. (C)**Explanation:****Unified Payments Interface (UPI):**

- The UPI is a digital and real-time payment system developed by the NPCI in 2016. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- UPI is built over the **IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) infrastructure** and allows users to instantly transfer money between any two parties' bank accounts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- UPI allows the **merging of several banking features**, seamless fund routing, and merchant payments into one mobile application.
- The countries that accept UPI payments are France, UAE, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Bhutan, and Nepal.

198. (B)**Explanation:****Water on Earth:**

- Accounting for over **70% of the earth's surface**, the world's stock of water has been estimated at over 1.4 billion cubic kilometers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Of the total water on Earth, **only 2.5% is freshwater**, with 69% locked in polar ice caps and glaciers, and 30% as groundwater. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Only 1% is available as surface water**, mostly as ground ice or permafrost, and in lakes, marshes, rivers, living creatures, and as water vapour in the atmosphere. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

199. (D)**Explanation:****Judgments:**

- In the **SP Gupta Case (First Judges Case)**, 1982 the Supreme Court labelled a constitutional breach as a **severe violation of constitutional morality**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In the **Naz Foundation v. Government of NCT of Delhi**, 2009 the high court emphasized that "constitutional morality" should prevail over societal perceptions of morality, upholding individual rights. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

200. (B)**Explanation:****Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS):**

- ICDS is a **flagship program** of the Government of India that aims to improve the health, nutrition, and education of children in the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The program was launched in 1975 and is one of the largest programs of its kind in the world. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ICDS is implemented through a network of **Anganwadi centers (AWCs)** across the country. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ AWCs are **community-based centers** that provide services to children and mothers.
 - ◆ Each AWC is managed by a worker and a helper who are responsible for delivering the services.