



drishti

Monthly Editorial Quiz (Consolidation)

**January
2025**

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Practice Question

1. Regarding the depreciation of the rupee, consider the following statements:

1. A weaker rupee may boost India's exports.
2. A weaker currency may escalate imported edible oil prices and lead to higher food inflation.

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

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 20 of the Indian Constitution protects individuals from arbitrary and retrospective criminal legislation.
2. The Supreme Court of India ruled that a non-citizen is not entitled to get the protection of Article 21 as it uses the term 'person of Indian origin'.

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

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 entrusts various responsibilities to central and state regulators for regulation of drugs and cosmetics.
2. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) prescribes standards and measures to ensure the quality of drugs and devices in the country.
3. Drugs Controller General of India sets standards for manufacturing, sales, import, and distribution of drugs in India.

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

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

4. Regarding the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), consider the following statements:

1. It is built over the IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) infrastructure and allows users to instantly transfer money between any two parties' bank accounts.

2. It allows the merging of several banking features, seamless fund routing, and merchant payments into one mobile application.

3. It is exclusively intended for use within India due to security concerns.

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

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

5. Regarding Capital expenditure, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to the funds allocated by the government for the acquisition and construction of physical assets such as infrastructure, buildings, machinery, and equipment.

2. It is considered to be productive and growth-enhancing as it adds to the productive capacity of the economy and generates income and employment in the future.

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

6. Regarding the National Statistical Office, consider the following statements:

1. It was formed in 2019 by merging the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

2. Y. H. Malegam Committee first suggested the establishment of NSO as the nodal body for all core statistical activities.

3. It currently works under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

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

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

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Note:

7. Regarding the H-1B visa program, consider the following statements:
1. It allows American employers to hire immigrant workers in occupations that require “a high level of skill” and “at least a bachelor’s degree”.
 2. An H-1B visa can be issued for a maximum of six years at a stretch, after which the visa holder has to leave the US for a period of at least 12 months before returning.

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
8. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** The farm sector employs more than forty percent of the country’s workforce.
- Statement-II:** In the PM-KISAN scheme, about 10 crore farmers are given Rs 6,000 per annum to meet their immediate working capital requirements.
- 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
9. Regarding Georgia, consider the following statements:
1. It is a country in the Caucasus region, bordered to the west by the Black Sea.
 2. Georgia shares its borders with Russia, Iran, and Turkmenistan.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 Only
 - B. 2 Only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2
10. The Montreal Protocol is best described as:
- A. A global treaty aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - B. A global agreement to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

- C. A United Nations resolution to promote sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- D. A framework agreement for conservation of biodiversity in polar regions.

11. Regarding the SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment), consider the following statements:

1. It is a technology demonstrator mission developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to showcase in-space docking technology.
2. It will use the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle’s (PSLV) fourth stage, POEM-4(PSLV Orbital Experimental Module)-4, to host payloads from institutions and startups for experiments in microgravity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. Regarding Space docking, consider the following statements:

1. It is the intricate process of maneuvering two fast-moving spacecraft into the same orbit, bringing them closer, and joining them to form a single unit.
2. The International Space Station (ISS) was built using Space docking with various modules launched separately and docked in space.

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

13. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) suggests accounting and auditing standards for companies, which need approval from the Central Government.

Statement II: National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) is a constitutional body under Article 149 of the constitution of India.

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

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- 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
14. Regarding the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), consider the following statements:
1. The CPTPP is a Free trade agreement (FTA) signed by the 11 countries in 2018.
 2. Recently India has become the 12th member to join the trade bloc.
 3. CPTPP removes 99% of tariffs on goods and services and the member countries have agreed to cut down on wildlife trafficking.
- How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?
- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None
15. Regarding exchange rate, consider the following statements:
1. The price of one currency in terms of the other is known as the exchange rate.
 2. A currency's exchange rate vis-a-vis another currency reflects the relative demand among the holders of the two currencies.
 3. The Ministry of Finance tabulates the rupee's Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) in relation to the currencies of 36 trading partner countries.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None
16. Human Development Index (HDI) is released by which of the following?
- A. World Bank
- B. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- D. World Economic Forum (WEF)
17. Regarding the Delimitation, consider the following statements:
1. Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
 2. Under Article 170, states are also divided into territorial constituencies as per the Delimitation Act after every census.
 3. The 87th Amendment Act of 2003 provided for the delimitation of constituencies based on the 2011 census, not the 2001 census.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None
18. Regarding the Minimum Support Price (MSP), consider the following statements:
1. MSP is the guaranteed amount paid to farmers when the government buys their produce.
 2. The MSP is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to growers for their produce and encouraging Crop Diversification.
 3. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Minister of Finance takes the final decision on the level of MSPs.
- How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?
- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None
19. Regarding the Adjournment Motion, consider the following statements:
1. It is moved to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and must be of immediate concern, with the Speaker's consent.
 2. This motion is available in the Rajya Sabha but not in the Lok Sabha.
 3. The passage of an adjournment motion requires the government to resign.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

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Note:

20. Regarding the National Green Tribunal, consider the following statements:

1. Its primary focus is to facilitate the swift and efficient resolution of cases related to environmental protection, conservation of forests, and preservation of natural resources.
2. Apart from original jurisdiction on the filing of an application, NGT also has appellate jurisdiction to hear appeals as a Court (Tribunal).
3. The Tribunal is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of 'natural justice'.

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

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

21. Regarding the World Health Organization (WHO), consider the following statements:

1. It is an inter-governmental organization and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health.
2. Post independence India became a party to the WHO.
3. With a coordinated effort by the Indian government with the World Health Organization (WHO), smallpox was eradicated in 1977.

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

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

22. Regarding the NITI Aayog, consider the following statements:

1. In 2015, NITI Aayog replaced the Planning Commission to promote a "bottom-up" approach and cooperative federalism for better governance with less government.
2. Unlike the planning commission, it has the power to allocate funds.

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

23. Regarding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 29 (COP29), consider the following statements:

1. The New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) aims to triple climate finance for developing countries to USD 300 billion per year by 2035.
2. It reinforced the importance of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in addressing climate change.
3. India along with 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

24. Consider the following statements:

1. Kelkar Committee (2002)
2. Raja J. Chelliah Committee (1991)
3. T. R. Rustagi Committee (2011)

Which of the following fields best matches the above description?

- A. Tax Reforms in India
- B. Banking Sector Reforms
- C. Poverty Alleviation Programs
- D. Environmental Policy and Legislation

25. Regarding the Indian Extradition Act, 1962, consider the following statements:

1. It applies the principle of dual criminality which means that the offence sought to be an offence in the national laws of requesting as well as requested country.
2. The Consular, Passport, and Visa Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, administers it and processes incoming and outgoing Extradition Requests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Note:

26. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 ensures livelihood security by providing rural households with alternative income sources when better job opportunities are unavailable.

Statement-II: MGNREGA is a demand-based wage employment scheme that provides at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to each family per fiscal year to improve the livelihood security of families in rural areas of the country.

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

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

27. Consider the following:

- 1. Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990)
- 2. Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998)
- 3. Tankha Committee (2010)

Which of the following fields best matches the above description?

- A. Electoral Reforms
- B. Educational Reforms
- C. Public Sector Reforms
- D. Judicial Reforms

28. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The government has implemented the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as part of the Right to Education (RTE) Act for the primary level (6-14 years).
- 2. The government has extended the SSA to secondary education (age group 14-18), through the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.
- 3. Higher education is addressed by the government through the Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) to meet the requirements of higher education.

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

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

29. Regarding the Gulf Region, consider the following statements:

- 1. It refers to the area surrounding the Persian Gulf, which is a marginal sea of the Indian Ocean located between the Arabian Peninsula and southwestern Iran.
- 2. The Gulf is a hotspot for geopolitical tensions, including disputes between the United States and Iran, the Saudi-Iran rivalry, and the Yemeni Civil War.

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. Regarding the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is fully funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- 2. The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs that have notified Rules and Scheme under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.
- 3. The Scheme is available to all street vendors engaged in vending in rural and urban areas.

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

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

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

- 1. Unlike the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (USA).
- 2. Recently hindi has been included in the official languages along with English and French.
- 3. Unlike other organs of international organizations, the Court is not composed of representatives of governments.

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

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

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Note:

32. Regarding Botswana, consider the following statements:
1. It is a landlocked country in southern Africa.
 2. It is bordered by South Africa to the south and east, by Namibia to the west, and by Zimbabwe to the east.
 3. The massive Kalahari Desert covers more than 70 percent of it.

Which of the following countries best matches the above description?

- A. Namibia
 - B. Botswana
 - C. Zambia
 - D. Zimbabwe
33. Regarding the Goods and Services Tax (GST), consider the following statements:
1. It is a value-added tax system levied on the supply of goods and services in India.
 2. It was introduced through the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 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
34. Regarding Article 356 of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:
1. It is based on the Regulating Act of 1773.
 2. The President's Rule can be imposed on any state of India on any ground deemed fit by the President.
 3. During the President's Rule, the state government is suspended, and the central government directly administers the state through the Governor.

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

- A. Only One
 - B. Only Two
 - C. All Three
 - D. None
35. Regarding the Insolvency laws in India, consider the following statements:
1. The Indian Insolvency Act of 1848 was introduced as the first insolvency law to address domestic insolvencies.
 2. The Presidency-Towns Insolvency Act 1909 applied to Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras only.

3. The Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920 governed insolvencies in mofussil regions.

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

- A. Only One
 - B. Only Two
 - C. All Three
 - D. None
36. Consider the following:
1. Eradi Committee (2000)
 2. Mitra Committee (2001)
 3. Irani Committee (2005)

Which of the following fields best matches the above description?

- A. Educational Reforms
 - B. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Reforms
 - C. Insurance Sector Reforms
 - D. None of the above
37. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) provides scientific expertise for groundwater management, including exploration, monitoring, and water quality assessments.
- Statement-II:** Central Ground Water Authority was constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

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
38. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** Around 70% of the world's lithium reserves are concentrated in the "lithium triangle" of Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia.
- Statement-II:** Producing an Electric Vehicle (EV) is significantly more energy-intensive than manufacturing a traditional Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicle.

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

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Note:

- 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

39. Regarding the cryptocurrencies, consider the following statements:

1. In India, cryptocurrencies are now recognised as legal tender.
2. Cryptocurrencies are classified as "Virtual Digital Assets" (VDAs) under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
3. Crypto assets are now regulated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, and monitored by the Financial Intelligence Unit India.

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

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

40. Regarding the implications of an increase in Nitrate contamination in groundwater, consider the following statements:

1. Excessive nitrate contamination can cause methemoglobinemia, also known as blue baby syndrome.
2. It leads to algal blooms in lakes and ponds, harming aquatic ecosystems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. Regarding the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), 2023, consider the following statements:

1. It empowers individuals with the right to know and control their personal data.
2. It mandates that personal data can only be processed with the individual's explicit consent.
3. It establishes a Data Protection Board of India (DPBI) to oversee compliance and handle grievances.

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

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

42. Regarding the human metapneumovirus (HMPV), consider the following statements:

1. The disease is in the same family as the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).
2. Similar to Covid-19 It is a new disease which had never infected humans before.
3. Its outbreaks are concentrated during colder seasons.

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

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

43. The Global Security Initiative (GSI) is best explained as:

- A. A UN-led initiative aimed at fostering global disarmament and promoting peaceful resolutions to conflicts worldwide.
- B. A framework proposed by China to address global security challenges, emphasizing sovereignty, non-interference, and peaceful dispute resolution.
- C. An EU policy focused on creating a unified approach to counter-terrorism and cybersecurity in member states.
- D. A NATO-driven strategy to strengthen collective defense and ensure the safety of its member countries against emerging threats.

44. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an endorheic lake in the Himalayas situated at a height of about 4,350 m.
2. It is one of the world's highest brackish water lakes.
3. It formed as a tectonic lake during the collision of the Indian plate with the Eurasian plate.

Which of the following lakes best matches the above description?

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

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Note:

45. Regarding the coffee, consider the following statements:
1. With the arrival of the British in the mid-19th century commercial coffee farming fully flourished in India.
 2. Coffee in India is grown under a canopy of thick natural shade in ecologically sensitive regions of the Western and Eastern Ghats.
 3. Kerala is the largest producer accounting for about two third of the total coffee production, followed by Karnataka with the remaining share.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
B. Only Two
C. All Three
D. None
46. Regarding Sree Narayana Guru, consider the following statements:
1. He advocated for equality, education, and social upliftment, transcending caste distinctions.
 2. His core belief was expressed in the slogan "One Caste, One Religion, One God for All".
 3. He became a major proponent of Advaita Vedanta, the non-dualistic philosophy introduced by Adi Shankara.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
B. Only Two
C. All Three
D. None
47. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** Under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Regime fertilizers are provided to the farmers at the subsidized rates based on the nutrients (N, P, K & S) contained in these fertilizers.
- Statement-II:** NBS policy intends to increase the consumption of P&K fertilizers so that the optimum balance (N: P: K= 4:2:1) of NPK fertilization is achieved.
- 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
48. Regarding the Parliament, consider the following statements:
1. The summoning of Parliament is specified in Article 85 of the Constitution.
 2. The power to convene a session of Parliament is taken by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs which is formalised by the President.
 3. India has a fixed parliamentary calendar as per the provisions mentioned in Article 86 of the Constitution.
- How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?
- A. Only One
B. Only Two
C. All Three
D. None
49. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** As per Article 51 (A) (a) of the Constitution it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag, and the national anthem.
- Statement-II:** The full version of the National Anthem shall be played immediately before and after the President addresses the nation over All India Radio.
- 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
50. Regarding the collegium system, consider the following statements:
1. It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through various judgments of the Supreme Court.
 2. Articles 124 and Article 217 of the Indian Constitution deal with the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts.
 3. The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) gave an equal role to the government in judicial appointments.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
B. Only Two
C. All Three
D. None

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Note:

51. Regarding the Sacred Groves, consider the following statements:

1. They are the tracts of virgin forests that are left untouched by the local inhabitants and are protected by the local people due to their culture and religious beliefs.
2. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 allows State governments to turn private or community land into community reserves, which can include sacred groves.

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

52. Consider the following pairs:

	Initiatives	Objective
1.	iGOT Karmayogi platform	Online training portal for government officials
2.	e-Office initiative	Digitises government workflows
3.	Government e-Marketplace (GeM)	Online procurement processes

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

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

53. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The G7's discussions and pronouncements can influence the direction of global conversations on pressing issues.

Statement-II: The G7 is an informal grouping of the most developed and advanced economies of the world.

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

54. Which of the following best describes the purpose and application of the most favoured nation (MFN) principle in the context of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)?

- A. The MFN principle ensures that trading rights are granted based on a country's economic or political clout, with large trading partners having more favorable access conditions.
- B. The MFN principle requires that the best access conditions agreed upon between two countries must automatically be extended to all other participants in the trading system, regardless of their negotiating power.
- C. The MFN principle only applies to countries that have made specific commitments under the GATS, excluding countries without such commitments.
- D. The MFN principle is designed to replace a rules-based framework with a bilateral approach, focusing on individual country negotiations.

55. The "Impossible Trinity" theorem, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. The inability of a country to simultaneously achieve monetary independence, exchange rate stability, and full capital mobility.
- B. The inability of three countries to achieve economic growth simultaneously.
- C. The trade-off between inflation, unemployment, and economic growth in an economy.
- D. The trade-off between fiscal deficit, current account deficit, and external debt sustainability.

56. Consider the following statements:

1. India's General Government Debt is predominantly denominated in rupees, with external borrowings from bilateral and multilateral sources making only a minor contribution.
2. Domestically issued government bonds are mostly medium- to long-term, with an average maturity of about 12 years.
3. N.K. Singh Committee suggested using debt as the primary target for fiscal policy.

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

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

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Note:

57. Operation SAMADHAN is often seen in the news in the context of:
- A military operation targeting cross-border terrorism.
 - A government initiative to combat Left-Wing Extremism (LWE).
 - A relief operation during natural disasters.
 - A skill development program for rural youth.
58. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** India is the world's fifth-largest economy and is currently classified as a developed nation.
- Statement-II:** A developed country refers to a nation with a mature and advanced economy, characterized by high levels of industrialization, technological infrastructure, and overall societal well-being.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
59. Regarding the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, consider the following statements:
- It considers "consent" as the primary factor for processing an individual's "personal data".
 - Certain types of sensitive personal data are required to be stored and processed within India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
60. Regarding the Consumer Price Index, consider the following statements:
- It measures price changes from the perspective of a retail buyer.
 - It is released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) using 2012 as the base year.
 - The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) uses CPI data to control inflation.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Only One
 - Only Two
 - All Three
 - None
61. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** Nuclear waste is very radioactive and must be stored in secure facilities designed to prevent leaks and protect the surrounding environment from contamination.
- Statement-II:** Spent fuel refers to nuclear reactor fuel that has been irradiated during operation and must eventually be removed once it is no longer efficient for sustaining a nuclear reaction.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
62. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** Through fiscal policy, the government of a country controls the flow of tax revenues and public expenditure to navigate the economy.
- Statement-II:** Attaining rapid economic growth is one of the key goals of fiscal policy formulated by the Government of India.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
63. 'State Finances Report 2024-25' was recently released by which of the following?
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - NITI Aayog
 - Ministry of Finance
 - Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)

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Note:

64. Consider the following statements:

1. The General Agreement on Trade in Services of 1995 includes provisions for the movement of services excluding legal services.
2. The regional treaties generally allow for the cross-border movement of legal personnel only on a temporary basis and under regulatory oversight.
3. India introduced the Lawyers' Establishment Directive to encourage greater integration of India's lawyers in the International legal market.

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

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

65. Consider the following statements:

1. It is situated in the Vindhya mountain range in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh.
2. It was awarded with the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CAITS) certificate by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
3. It was designated as a Biosphere Reserve by the UNESCO.

Which of the Tiger Reserve best matches the above description?

- A. Kanha Tiger Reserve
- B. Panna Tiger Reserve
- C. Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
- D. Satpura Tiger Reserve

66. Consider the following statements:

1. The concept of inter-basin water transfer was first proposed by Sir Arthur Cotton 130 years ago.
2. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up in 1982 to survey, investigate, and prepare feasibility reports for river links under the National Perspective Plan.
3. The Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP), India's first river interlinking initiative under the 1980 National Perspective Plan, is implemented by the Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two

C. All Three

D. None

67. Consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court in *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* recognized the right to information as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a).
2. In 2019, the Supreme Court declared the Office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) as a 'public authority' under the RTI Act, 2005.
3. The Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 reduced the tenure of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) to 3 years, determined by the central government.

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

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

68. Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is best described by which of the following?

- A. A measure of the stock market's overall performance based on a selected group of shares.
- B. An economic indicator that reflects the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors.
- C. A benchmark interest rate set by central banks to guide monetary policy.
- D. A statistical measure of changes in the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services.

69. Consider the following statements:

1. Zimbabwe is the largest producer of lithium in the world.
2. South Africa holds over 90% of the world's platinum reserves and is a major producer of other platinum group metals (PGMs) like palladium and rhodium.
3. India currently sources more than half of its oil demand from Africa.

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

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

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Note:

70. Consider the following statements:
1. Article 270 of the Constitution outlines the distribution of net tax proceeds between the Union government and the States.
 2. The Finance Commission (FC), provides recommendations for the vertical distribution of funds from the central government's divisible pool of taxes.

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
71. Which of the following reasons best explains why 9th January was chosen to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)?
- A. It marks the day Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa to lead the freedom movement.
 - B. It commemorates the adoption of the Indian Constitution.
 - C. It celebrates the contributions of Non-Resident Indians to India's economy.
 - D. It marks the day India gained independence from British rule.

72. Regarding the Mpox, consider the following statements:
1. Mpox, also known as monkeypox, is a DNA virus.
 2. The virus was first identified in monkeys in 1958 but has since been found to infect humans as well.
 3. Though mpox can spread via sexual contact, it isn't considered a sexually transmitted disease.

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

- A. Only One
 - B. Only Two
 - C. All Three
 - D. None
73. Consider the following statements:
1. Primary waves are the fastest seismic waves, resembling sound waves, that travel through gases, liquids, and solids and are the first to reach the surface.
 2. Love waves are horizontal waves with sideways motion and have no vertical displacement.

3. Rayleigh waves are seismic waves that cause elliptical ground motion, spread out the most, and move vertically and horizontally in a vertical plane.

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

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

74. Consider the following statements:
1. He is known for calculating the closest approximate value of 'pi'.
 2. He was the first to explain that the moon and planets shine due to reflected sunlight.
 3. He used a place-value system in mathematics, which laid the foundation for the later formalization of the decimal system.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Aryabhatta
- B. Pythagoras
- C. Al-Khwarizmi
- D. Brahmagupta

75. Regarding the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991, consider the following statements:

1. It introduced Article 239AA, establishing Delhi's Legislative Assembly and Lieutenant Governor (L-G), with the L-G acting on the assembly's advice.
2. The 'aid and advice' clause applies only to matters under the State and Concurrent Lists, excluding public order, police, and land.

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:
- Statement-I:** The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 requires Central and State governments to conduct regular social audits of all schemes and programmes.

Statement-II: Social audits play a vital role in developing and strengthening the accountability of the government and service providers.

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Note:

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

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

77. Consider the following statements:

- In *Kedar Nath Singh v. State of Bihar* (1962), the Supreme Court distinguished between disloyalty to the government and strong criticism of its policies.
- In *Balwant Singh and Anr v. State of Punjab* (1995), the Supreme Court abolished Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

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

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

78. Consider the following statements:

- Article 5 of the Constitution defines who is a citizen of India, either by birth, by parentage, or by acquiring it after having remained a resident in India.
- Indian law requires giving up Indian nationality upon acquiring another country's citizenship, which means losing political rights in India.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

79. Consider the following statements:

- It was established under the Ministry of Water Resources, (now Ministry of Jal Shakti).
- It is the apex body for managing, exploring, monitoring, assessing, and regulating groundwater resources in India.
- It provides scientific expertise for groundwater management, including exploration, monitoring, and water quality assessments.

Which of the following bodies best matches the above description?

- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)
- National Water Development Agency (NWDA)
- National Green Tribunal (NGT)
- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

80. Regarding earthquakes, consider the following statements:

- The epicenter is the point beneath the Earth's surface where an earthquake begins.
- The hypocenter is the surface point directly above an earthquake's origin.
- Energy is released along a fault, which is a sharp break in the crustal rocks.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

81. Regarding the International Criminal Court, consider the following statements:

- It is the world's first permanent international criminal court, governed by the Rome Statute, an international treaty.
- It investigates and tries individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression.
- It is recognized as a United Nations (UN) organization, functioning as an integral part of the United Nations system and operating under its framework.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

82. Regarding the local governance, consider the following:

- The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 bars the interference by courts in the electoral matters of municipalities.
- Article 243U through the 74th Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 mandates a five-year tenure for urban local governments.

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Note:

3. In *Suresh Mahajan vs State of Madhya Pradesh, 2022* the Supreme Court ruled that delimitation cannot be a valid excuse for delaying elections.

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

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

83. Consider the following statements:

1. National Youth Day is held every year to observe his birth anniversary.
2. He introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga.
3. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called him the "maker of modern India."

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Swami Vivekananda
B. Mahatma Gandhi
C. Rabindranath Tagore
D. Bal Gangadhar Tilak

84. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The right to marry is not expressly recognized either as a fundamental or constitutional right under the Indian Constitution but as a statutory right.

Statement-II: The Supreme Court held that the right to marry a person of one's choice is a fundamental part of Article 21, citing Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the *Puttaswamy case, 2017*.

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

85. Regarding the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act), 2023, consider the following statements:

1. It empowers individuals to control their personal data, including rights to access, correction, and erasure.

2. It requires explicit consent for data processing, with clear consent forms.

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

86. Consider the following statements:

1. They have replaced the aging Mig 21 fighter planes.
2. They are designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under the Department of Defence Research and Development.
3. They are designed to carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, weapons.

Which of the following aircraft best matches the above description?

- A. Sukhoi Su-30MKI
B. Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas
C. Rafale
D. Mirage 2000

87. Regarding the Government Securities (G-Sec), consider the following statements:

1. A G-Sec is a type of debt instrument issued by the government to borrow money from the public to finance its Fiscal Deficit.
2. In India, both the Central and State Governments have the authority to issue treasury bills and bonds.
3. G-Secs are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.

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:

1. Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, and other statutes, the President of India shall be the Visitor of a central university.
2. Chancellors in central universities are titular heads, who are appointed by the President in his capacity as Visitor.

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

- A. 1 Only
B. 2 Only

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Note:

- C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

89. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a narrow stretch of land referred to as the 'Chicken Neck' due to its narrow shape.
2. It is located between Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.
3. It is the only land link between India and its northeastern states.

Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

- A. Malda Corridor
B. Siliguri Corridor
C. Khyber Pass
D. Karakoram Pass

90. Regarding the Kumbh Mela, consider the following statements:

1. The Kumbh Mela is celebrated four times over the course of 12 years.
2. Harshavardhana king of the Pushyabhuti dynasty started the organisation of the Kumbh fair at Prayagraj.
3. Akbar promoted religious tolerance and granted Naga Sadhus the honour of leading the royal entry to the Mela in 1565.

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:

Statement-I: Vedanta declares that the ultimate reality, Brahman, is one and indivisible, present in every living being.

Statement-II: Swami Vivekananda's teachings were deeply rooted in Vedantic philosophy.

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

92. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression as a fundamental right for all citizens.
2. The Representation of People's Act (RPA), 1951 prevents a person convicted of the illegal use of the freedom of speech from contesting an election.
3. Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 penalises incitement to, and encouragement of untouchability through words or by signs or by visible representations, or otherwise.

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

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

93. Regarding mining, consider the following statements:

1. Rat-hole mining is an illegal and highly hazardous method of extracting coal prevalent in certain pockets of India.
2. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned rat-hole mining.
3. Under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the State Governments are empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining.

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

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

94. 'Mission Mausam', is often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Enhance India's ability to predict and respond to extreme weather events and climate change impacts
B. Promote intergovernmental collaborations on marine biodiversity conservation
C. Establish India's first underwater museum in the Indian Ocean region
D. Launch a global campaign to revive ancient maritime festivals

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Note:

95. Consider the following statements:
1. The Gini index quantifies income or consumption inequality within an economy, indicating deviation from perfect equality.
 2. A Gini index of 1 represents perfect equality, while an index of 0 implies perfect inequality.
 3. The Gini index measures the area between the Lorenz curve and a hypothetical line of absolute equality, expressed as a percentage of the maximum area under the line.

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

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

96. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: A base year is a specific reference year against which Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures for subsequent and prior years are calculated.

Statement-II: It provides a stable reference point and serves as a benchmark for measuring economic performance and allows for comparisons over time.

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

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

97. The term 'Girmitiyas' often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. A group of indentured laborers who were sent from India to work on plantations in various British colonies.
- B. A term used in environmental science to describe the migration patterns of endangered species.
- C. A specific ancient artifact discovered in the Indus Valley civilization provides insights into trade practices.
- D. A modern political movement advocating for the rights of urban migrants in Indian cities.

98. Regarding the Representation of the People Act, 1951, consider the following statements:

1. It outlines election procedures, candidate eligibility, political party registration, and disqualification criteria to ensure a fair and ethical electoral system.
2. It prevents misuse of power by requiring that rule-making is done only "after consulting the Election Commission."

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

99. Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central-Sector scheme to provide financial assistance to all land-holding farmer families across India.
2. Under it, eligible farmer families receive income support of Rs 6,000 annually, distributed in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each.
3. The responsibility to identify eligible farmer families rests with State Governments and Union Territory (UT) administrations, following the scheme's guidelines.

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

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

100. Consider the following statements:

1. It was raised in 1965, after the India-Pakistan war.
2. It has been defending Sir Creek in the Arabian Sea and the Sundarbans Delta in the Bay of Bengal with its state-of-the-art fleet of Water Crafts.
3. It contributes dedicated services to the United Nations peacekeeping Mission by sending a large contingent of its trained manpower every year.

Which of the following forces best matches the above description?

- A. Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- B. Border Security Force (BSF)
- C. Indian Navy
- D. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

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Note:

101. Consider the following statements:

1. It originates near Mount Kailash in Tibet as the Yarlung Tsangpo.
2. It is a major tributary of the Brahmaputra River.
3. It forms a horseshoe bend around Namcha Barwa Peak before entering Arunachal Pradesh.

Which of the following rivers best matches the above description?

- A. Indus
- B. Siang River
- C. Sutlej
- D. Subansiri

102. Regarding the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), consider the following statements:

1. The officeholder serves a term of five years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
2. The CAG is ineligible for any further office under the Government of India or any state after leaving office.
3. It also audits accounts of government corporations, public sector undertakings, and bodies substantially funded by the government.

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

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

103. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) aims to make clean cooking fuel available to rural and deprived households that were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels.

Statement-II: Usage of traditional cooking fuels had detrimental impacts on the health of rural women as well as on the environment.

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

104. Consider the following committees:

1. The Agricultural Prices Commission (APC), 1965
2. National Commission on Farmers (NCF), 2004
3. Shanta Kumar Committee, 2014

Which of the following areas is most closely associated with the committees mentioned above?

- A. Minimum Support Price (MSP)
- B. Rural Infrastructure Development
- C. Environmental Protection and Sustainable Agriculture
- D. Artificial Intelligence in Farming and Precision Agriculture

105. Which of the following reasons can be attributed to the weakening of the rupee?

1. Strengthening of the US dollar amid improved macroeconomic scenario in the US.
2. Spike in the US bond yields due to expectations of shallow rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve.
3. Oil price volatility due to ongoing geopolitical tensions.

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

106. The terms Surat, Nilgiri, and Vagsheer often seen in the news are related to which of the following?

- A. Indian Navy submarines and ships
- B. New species discovered in Western Ghats
- C. Renewable energy projects in Gujarat
- D. ISRO's upcoming satellite missions

107. Regarding the Lithium (Li), consider the following statements:

1. Lithium (Li), is a soft and silvery-white metal referred to as 'White gold' due to its high demand for rechargeable batteries.
2. Li-ion batteries use an intercalated lithium compound as one electrode material, compared to the metallic lithium used in a non-rechargeable lithium battery.

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

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

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Note:

108. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The right to privacy is a fundamental right, which protects the inner sphere of the individual from interference from both State and non-state actors and allows the individuals to make autonomous life choices.

Statement-II: The Supreme Court in *K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India* in 2017 described the right to Privacy as a fundamental and inalienable right and attaches to the person covering all information about that person and the choices that he/she makes.

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

109. The K-shaped economy often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. A situation where the government increases debt to finance welfare schemes, leading to a dual impact on fiscal stability.
- B. Economic recovery characterized by unequal growth, where certain sectors or income groups improve while others decline or stagnate.
- C. An economic structure focusing on equal growth for all sectors, ensuring balanced development.
- D. An economic phenomenon where trade deficits and export growth move in opposite directions, impacting national income.

110. Consider the following statements:

1. In *Shafin Jahan vs Asokan K.M.* (2020), the court held that Article 21 of the Constitution includes the right of individuals to choose their partners, whether within or outside marriage.
2. In *Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India* (2018), the court recognized the right of all individuals to physical, emotional, mental, and sexual companionship.
3. In *Kaushal Kishor vs State of Uttar Pradesh* (2023), the Supreme Court extended the interpretation of Article 21 by ruling that it could be enforced even against private entities.

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

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

111. Consider the following statements:

1. Shangri-La Dialogue serves as the “Track One” exchange forum on the security issues surrounding the Asia-Pacific region including Territorial disputes in the South China Sea.
2. Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific is the “Track Two” dialogue on security issues of Asia-Pacific.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

112. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: An Experts Advisory Committee (EAC) constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is responsible for the overall execution and monitoring of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme.

Statement-II: The Startup India initiative envisages building a robust Start-up ecosystem in the country for nurturing innovation and providing opportunities to budding entrepreneurs.

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

113. Regarding mining, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India mandates that the state government own the minerals within its boundaries.
2. The central government is mandated to own minerals within India’s exclusive economic zone (EEZ) under List I of the sixth schedule of the constitution.

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Note:

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

114. Consider the following statements:

1. It is dedicated to Lord Venkateswara, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.
2. The temple has a rich history, with significant contributions from various South Indian dynasties, including the Pallavas, Cholas, and Vijayanagara rulers.
3. It has traditional South Indian temple architecture, featuring a towering gopuram (gateway) and intricate carvings.

Which of the following temples best matches the above description?

- A. Meenakshi Temple, Madurai
- B. Tirumala Venkateswara Temple, Tirupati
- C. Brihadeeswarar Temple, Thanjavur
- D. Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam

115. Regarding the Family Courts Act of 1984, consider the following statements:

1. It is a procedural law enacted to establish special courts to decide family disputes promptly through a special procedure.
2. It confers on family courts the jurisdiction "exercisable" by the general civil courts "under any law for the time being in force" relating to specified family matters.

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

116. Which of the following best signifies when the Real Exchange Rate equals one?

- A. The currencies are at purchasing power parity (PPP), and goods cost the same in two countries when measured in the same currency.
- B. The nominal exchange rate is equal to the weighted average exchange rate of trading partners.
- C. The nominal exchange rate is equal to zero.
- D. The real and nominal exchange rates are equal.

117. Consider the following statements:

1. Destroyers are versatile ships that can lead a fleet, join a carrier task force, operate independently, or work in small groups for search and attack missions.
2. The first Indigenous destroyers, INS Delhi, INS Mysore, and INS Mumbai, were Delhi-class vessels built under Project 15 around 2000.
3. INS Surat equipped with sensors and weapons to handle threats from the surface, air, and underwater, with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes is the Navy's 13th destroyer.

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

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

118. The term 'post-truth world' often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. A scenario where public opinion is shaped more by emotions and personal beliefs than by objective facts.
- B. A period marked by the dominance of social media platforms over traditional news outlets for disseminating information.
- C. A world where the rise of advanced technology has eliminated the need for fact-based journalism.
- D. A situation where fake news is entirely eliminated through strict media regulations and fact-checking mechanisms.

119. Regarding the Graphics Processing Unit, consider the following statements:

1. GPUs are processors designed for parallel computing and are widely used in gaming, video rendering, and artificial intelligence (AI) applications.
2. Originally developed to accelerate 3D graphics rendering, GPUs have evolved to support advanced AI tasks like deep learning and neural network training.
3. GPUs are now crucial for AI research, enabling faster computations in high-performance computing (HPC) and creative production.

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

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

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Note:

120. The Minquiers and Ecrehos dispute, frequently mentioned in the news, is between which of the following countries?

- United Kingdom and France
- Germany and Netherlands
- Italy and Switzerland
- Spain and Portugal

121. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Space docking is the intricate process of maneuvering two fast-moving spacecraft into the same orbit, bringing them closer, and joining them to form a single unit.

Statement-II: Continuous docking missions keep the International Space Station (ISS) operational by delivering supplies, new crew members, and modules while facilitating the return of the older crew to Earth.

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

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

122. Regarding the Mission Mausam Initiative, consider the following statements:

- It is a government initiative aimed at enhancing the capabilities of India's weather department in weather forecasting, modelling, and dissemination.
- It will utilize advanced technologies like AI, and machine learning to improve weather models and observational systems, including the deployment of additional Doppler radars and satellites.
- The mission will explore weather modification techniques like cloud seeding to manage rainfall and mitigate extreme events such as floods and droughts.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

123. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Carbon markets are market-based mechanisms designed to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions by creating a financial incentive for individuals and organizations to reduce their carbon footprint.

Statement-II: Carbon markets operate on the principle of cap-and-trade, where a government or regulatory body sets a cap on the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions allowed within a specific jurisdiction.

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

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

124. Regarding India's trade policy, consider the following statements:

- The post-independence period was known as the 'license raj' system because this period saw limited trade openness and a heavily regulated economy.
- The 1991 liberalization Reforms triggered by a severe balance of payments crisis led to the opening up to foreign investment and adoption of market-oriented policies.
- India's Foreign Trade Policy 2023 is encouraging recognition of new towns through the "Towns of Export Excellence Scheme".

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

125. Regarding Natural farming, consider the following statements:

- Under it, organic fertilizers and manures like compost, vermin compost, and cow dung manure are used and added to farmlands from external sources.
- The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) was formulated by upscaling the Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) to promote natural farming across the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Note:

126. Regarding government initiatives, consider the following statements:

1. My Bharat portal is an initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to empower Indian youth through social mobility, educational equity, and practical skills.
2. The ASPIRE scheme by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) supports Livelihoods Business Incubation (LBI) centers to foster entrepreneurship and promote agro-industry startups.

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

127. Regarding the Leader of Opposition (LOP), consider the following statements:

1. The leader of the largest opposition party having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the Lok Sabha is recognised as the leader of the Opposition.
2. He is entitled to be a member of various selection committees responsible for appointing heads of statutory bodies.
3. The office of the leader of the opposition is mentioned in the Constitution under Article 156 of the Constitution.

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. In 1927, he started the Bahishkrit Bharat newspaper to address the cause of the depressed classes.
2. He participated in all three Round Table Conferences.
3. He was also awarded India's highest civilian honour the Bharat Ratna in 1990.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. B. R. Ambedkar
- B. Mahatma Gandhi
- C. Subhas Chandra Bose
- D. Jawaharlal Nehru

129. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) excludes inflation in services as they are not traded in the wholesale market, whereas the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and GDP deflator account for it.

Statement-II: The weights in the CPI and WPI indices remain constant until the base year is revised, whereas, in the GDP deflator, they vary based on the production levels of goods and services.

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

130. Consider the following statements:

1. It was the largest of the four ancient urban civilizations.
2. Granaries of large size were used to store grains, and there was widespread use of burnt bricks.
3. The barter system was used, as metal currency did not exist.

Which of the following civilizations best matches the above description?

- A. Mesopotamian Civilization
- B. Indus Valley Civilization
- C. Egyptian Civilization
- D. Chinese Civilization

131. Consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the eastern Mediterranean basin, bordered by Egypt to the southwest and the Mediterranean Sea to the west.
2. It is one of the most densely populated areas globally, with over 2 million residents living in a tiny area.
3. The term "open-air prison" has been widely used by academics, activists, and journalists to characterize its conditions.

Which of the following places best matches the above description?

- A. Gaza Strip
- B. West Bank
- C. Cyprus
- D. Lebanon

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Note:

132. Consider the following statements:

1. Rat-hole mining involves extracting coal from narrow horizontal seams through small pits just wide enough for a person to enter and mine.
2. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned rat-hole mining in 2014 and upheld the ban in 2015, citing its unscientific nature and worker safety concerns.

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. Regarding Subsidies under the World Trade Organization (WTO), consider the following statements:

1. Amber box subsidies are those that can distort international trade by making a country's products cheaper in comparison to those of other countries.
2. Blue Box Subsidies aim to limit production by imposing production quotas or requiring farmers to set aside part of their land.
3. The Green Box subsidies are government-funded without any price support to crops.

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

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

134. Global Capability Centers (GCCs), often seen in the news, are best described as:

- A. Offshore units of multinational companies providing specialized support services, including IT, finance, and analytics.
- B. Organizations focused on building global capacities for sustainable development and climate action.
- C. Research and innovation hubs set up by international organizations to foster regional cooperation.
- D. Independent think tanks dedicated to global economic policy and strategic planning.

135. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The system of Minimum Support Price (MSP) was introduced by the central government with the setting up of the Agricultural Prices Commission in January 1965.

Statement-II: India was facing a severe shortage of basic staples like wheat and rice, compounded by insufficient foreign exchange to import food from global markets.

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. Regarding the lunar missions, consider the following statements:

1. Flybys are missions in which the spacecraft passes near the Moon but does not get into an orbit around it.
2. Impact Mission involves the main spacecraft orbiting the Moon while one or more onboard instruments make an uncontrolled lunar landing.
3. Lander missions focus on achieving a soft landing of spacecraft on the Moon.

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

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

137. Which of the following countries share a border with Syria?

1. Turkey
2. Iraq
3. Jordan
4. Israel
5. Saudia Arabia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

138. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) was conceived in 1999 following the recommendations of the Eradi Committee.

Statement-II: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) was introduced to address the challenges of insolvency resolution in a structured and time-bound manner.

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

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

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Note:

139. Regarding the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Government is authorised to frame rules for the Act's implementation, while State Governments and Union Territories administer it with central assistance.
2. It mandates the establishment of special courts for speedy trials and SC/ST Protection Cells at the gram sabha level.
3. The Act does not cover offenses between SCs and STs nor can invoke the Act against another.

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

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

140. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Gender budgeting is a strategic tool used by governments to ensure the efficient collection and allocation of public resources according to the diverse needs and priorities of different genders.

Statement-II: Gender budgeting involves creating a separate budget exclusively for women that focuses on addressing women's specific needs through existing budgetary frameworks.

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

141. Regarding the National Green Tribunal (NGT), consider the following statements:

1. Its primary focus is to facilitate the swift and efficient resolution of cases related to environmental protection, conservation of forests, and preservation of natural resources.
2. It is headed by the Chairperson appointed by the Central government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
3. In *Municipal Corporation of Bombay vs Ankita Sinha*, 2021 the Supreme Court held that it can't take up cases suo motu.

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

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

142. Regarding the Panama Canal, consider the following statements:

1. The Panama Canal is a well-designed system with locks and elevators that help ships move between two big bodies of water.
2. The two oceans connected by the canal are not at the same elevation, with the Pacific Ocean being slightly higher than the Atlantic Ocean.
3. The water is supplied from Lake Gatun, using gravity to provide the large amounts of freshwater needed for the Panama Canal's lock system, without requiring pumps.

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

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

143. Which of the following countries are part of the BRICS grouping?

1. Egypt
2. Bangladesh
3. Myanmar
4. United Arab Emirates
5. Brazil

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

144. Consider the following statements:

1. A wilful defaulter is a borrower or guarantor who has intentionally failed to repay a loan, with an outstanding amount of Rs 25 lakh or more.
2. A large defaulter refers to a borrower with an outstanding loan balance of Rs 10 crore or more, whose account has been classified as doubtful or a loss.
3. Write-offs refer to the removal of a non-performing loan or asset from a bank's financial records, recognizing that the debt is unlikely to be recovered.

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

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

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Note:

145. Consider the following statements:

1. In the state universities, the Governor of the state is the ex-officio chancellor of the universities in that state.
2. Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, the President of India shall be the visitor of a central university.
3. Chancellors in central universities are titular heads, who are appointed by the President in his capacity as visitor.

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

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

146. Consider the following statements:

1. It will consist of Railroad, Ship-to-Rail networks, and Road transport routes.
2. It will have two corridors, The East Corridor – connecting India to the Arabian Gulf, and The Northern Corridor – connecting the Gulf to Europe.
3. It will also include an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline, and a high-speed data cable.

Which of the following corridors best matches the above description?

- A. Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor
B. India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)
C. Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)
D. Asia-Africa Growth Corridor

147. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 124 (3) (c) provides for the appointment of a distinguished jurist as Judge of Supreme Court of India.
2. The term jurist is well defined in the constitution.
3. As per the convention one-fourth of the Supreme Court strength of judges is filled with jurists.

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

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

148. Consider the following:

1. Global Risks Report
2. Global Gender Gap Report
3. Future of Jobs Report

Which of the following organizations releases the above reports?

- A. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
B. World Economic Forum (WEF)
C. International Labour Organization (ILO)
D. World Bank

149. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Cheap and machine-made imports flooded the Indian market after the Charter Act of 1813 allowing one-way free trade for the British citizens.

Statement-II: Indian products struggled to enter European markets as tariffs of nearly 80% made Indian textiles expensive and uncompetitive.

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

150. Consider the following statements:

1. Bhore Committee Report (1946) called for the integration of preventive, promotive, and curative health services and the establishment of Primary Health Centres in rural areas.
2. India being the world's most populous country, spends 10% of its GDP on healthcare.
3. Consumer Protection Act, 1986 also applies to healthcare as a service.

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

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

151. Regarding the Central Advisory Board of Education, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Advisory Board of Education was first established in 1920 and dissolved in 1923.
2. The idea that there should be a central Advisory Board of Education was first put forward by the Calcutta University Commission (1917-19).
3. The Prime Minister of India chairs the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE).

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

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

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Note:

152. Consider the following statements:

1. Higher interest rates in a country tend to attract foreign investment, increasing demand for that country's currency and strengthening its exchange rate.
2. If inflation is higher in a country compared to its trading partners, its currency weakens as its purchasing power decreases.
3. Political instability can deter foreign investment and weaken a country's currency.

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 statements:

1. Civil nuclear liability laws ensure compensation for victims of nuclear incidents and define responsibility for the resulting damage.
2. India has yet to ratify the umbrella Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) adopted in 1997 to establish a minimum national compensation amount.
3. India enacted the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) of 2010 to put in place a speedy compensation mechanism for victims of a nuclear accident.

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

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

154. Regarding the National Turmeric Board, consider the following statements:

1. It has been established to promote the cultivation, production, processing, and marketing of turmeric in India and enhance the income of turmeric farmers.
2. It is the first product dedicated boards under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
3. The Board will consist of a Chairperson appointed by the Central Government along with rotating senior representatives from three turmeric-growing states.

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

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

155. Regarding the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in January 2015 to address sex-selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.
2. The scheme now emphasizes a multi-sectoral approach, involving health, education, child development, and community awareness.
3. It is now incorporated into Mission Shakti, a holistic initiative aimed at women's safety and empowerment.

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

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

156. Regarding the Public debt, consider the following statements:

1. Public debt refers to the total amount of money that a government owes to external creditors and domestic lenders.
2. In India, public debt comprises all obligations of the Union government that are required to be settled using funds from the Consolidated Fund of India.

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. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) refers to digital systems that are secure and work together, making it easy to connect people, share information, and transfer money efficiently.

Statement-II: The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) "50 in 5" campaign set a target of getting at least 50 new countries to deploy DPI over the course of the coming five years.

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

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

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Note:

158. The Annual Groundwater Quality Report 2024 was recently released by which of the following?
- Central Ground Water Board
 - Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change
 - National Green Tribunal
 - NITI Aayog
159. Digilocker, DigiYatra, Co-Win, and Fastag are often mentioned in the news in the context of:
- Digital India initiatives
 - Space exploration technologies
 - Defense and military innovations
 - Renewable energy programs
160. Regarding the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), consider the following statements:
- It is the percentage of a bank's deposits that it must keep as cash reserves with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - Every non-scheduled co-operative bank and Local Area Bank is required to maintain the CRR either with itself or with the RBI.
 - To control inflation, the RBI increases the CRR, helping maintain inflation at manageable levels.
- How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?
- Only One
 - Only Two
 - All Three
 - None
161. Regarding the critical minerals, consider the following statements:
- The Ministry of Mines has identified Antimony, Beryllium, and Graphite among the 30 critical minerals essential for national security.
 - Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) has been established to secure domestic investments in critical minerals.
 - The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023, reclassified certain rare earth elements, removing them from the list of 'atomic minerals'.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Only One
 - Only Two
 - All Three
 - None
162. Which of the following is **not** a feature of an oligarchy form of government?
- Power rests with a small group of people.
 - Public has significant influence on political decisions.
 - Concentration of wealth among a select group.
 - Exclusivity in access to governing power.
163. Regarding the Indus Waters Treaty, consider the following statements:
- It prescribes how water from the six rivers of the Indus River System would be shared between India and Pakistan.
 - Under the Indus Waters Treaty, both countries must set up a Permanent Indus Commission, mandated to meet annually.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
164. Consider the following statements:
- It is Uttar Pradesh's only national park.
 - It is the only place on the planet inhabited by five deer species.
 - It is also home to the Bengal tiger and the endangered Indian one-horned rhinoceros.
- Which of the following national parks best matches the above description?
- Dudhwa National Park
 - Jim Corbett National Park
 - Rajaji National Park
 - Valmiki National Park
165. Regarding the Shrimp Farming, consider the following statements:
- Andhra Pradesh is the largest shrimp producer state in India which accounts for 70% of India's shrimp output.
 - All shrimp units in India are registered with MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority) and FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India).
 - In India, Shrimp units do not follow a HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) based food safety management system.
- How many of the statements given above are **not** correct?
- Only One
 - Only Two
 - All Three
 - None

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Note:

166. Regarding citizenship, consider the following statements:

1. From the time of the Motilal Nehru Committee (1928), the Indian leadership favored the concept of jus soli.
2. Citizenship is listed in the Union List under the Constitution and thus is under the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament.
3. The Constitution does not define the term 'citizen' but details of various categories of persons who are entitled to citizenship are given in Part 2.

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

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

167. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) licenses clinical psychologists in therapeutic or clinical settings but does not regulate counseling psychology.

Statement-II: The National Medical Commission (NMC) sets ethical guidelines for all medical professionals, while the Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS) offers specialized guidelines for psychiatric practice.

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

168. Consider the following statements:

1. He was inspired by the teachings of Ramakrishna Paramhansa and Swami Vivekananda.
2. He passed the Indian Civil Service exam in 1920 but resigned in 1921 to join the Indian freedom struggle.
3. In 1938, he was elected Congress president at the Haripura session.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Subhas Chandra Bose
B. Jawaharlal Nehru
C. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
D. C. Rajagopalachari

169. Regarding the World Health Organization (WHO), consider the following statements:

1. Established in 1948 it is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. World Health Assembly (WHA) is the highest decision-making body of WHO and comprises only the top five donor states.
3. The United States is a founding member of WHO, and is also its biggest financial backer, contributing around one-fifth of its overall funding.

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

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

170. The Global Tuberculosis Report 2024, was recently released by which of the following?

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

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

1. It is an autonomous statutory authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
2. January 25 marks the anniversary of the establishment of the ECI and is observed as National Voters Day.
3. Originally the commission had only one election commissioner but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it was made a multi-member body.

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

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

172. Consider the following:

1. Alagh Committee (1979)
2. Lakdawala Committee (1993)
3. Tendulkar Committee (2009)

Which of the following fields is most closely associated with the above-mentioned committees?

- A. Poverty Estimation in India
B. Agricultural Reforms
C. Electoral Reforms
D. Environmental Protection

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Note:

173. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: A Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) is supported by the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) to enhance collective bargaining, achieve economies of scale, and improve farmers' income and market access.

Statement-II: Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) need at least 300 members for NABSanrakshan and 500 for SFAC credit guarantee schemes, with exemptions for North-East and hilly regions.

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

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

174. Regarding the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), consider the following:

- It regulates safety compliance by establishing and enforcing standards, codes, and guidelines for nuclear facilities under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and non-DAE jurisdictions.
- It advises the Atomic Energy Commission and Department of Atomic Energy on nuclear plant siting, design, construction, and operations to minimize risks to personnel and the public.
- It reviews safety practices and submits periodic and annual reports to the Atomic Energy Commission.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

175. Regarding rare earth elements (REEs), consider the following statements:

- Rare earth elements are essential for clean energy systems, high-tech products, and electric vehicles.
- Despite sufficient global reserves, rare earth elements are unevenly distributed across the world.
- Over three decades, technological advances have created concentrated supply chains, with China dominating mining and processing.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

176. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The IFSC Fund Management Regulations, 2022, allow setting up funds for investments in India and permitted foreign jurisdictions, enabling high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) to diversify with foreign currency-denominated securities.

Statement-II: Gujarat International Finance Tec-City IFSC (GIFT IFSC) serves as a global financial and technology hub with a cost-efficient regulatory framework for HNIs and fund managers.

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

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

177. Which of the following best describes the term Equalization Levy?

- A levy imposed on goods imported into India to equalize domestic competition.
- A tax on foreign companies providing services or goods digitally in India, despite having no physical presence.
- A levy on Indian exporters to ensure equal treatment in global markets.
- A tax imposed on luxury goods consumed within India.

178. Consider the following pairs:

	Case	Judgement
1.	<i>A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras</i> (1950)	The state can deprive a person of the right to life and personal liberty based on a law.
2.	<i>Shankari Prasad v. Union of India</i> (1951)	Parliament can abridge or take away any of the Fundamental Rights by enacting a constitutional amendment act and such a law will not be void under Article 13.
3.	<i>Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd) v. Union of India</i> (2017)	Indians have a constitutionally protected fundamental right to privacy, an intrinsic part of life and liberty under Article 21.

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Note:

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

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

179. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Megaliths refer to large stone structures that were constructed either as burial sites or as commemorative sites.

Statement-II: Globally, the Iron Age followed the Bronze Age, but in India, the north remained Chalcolithic while the south, with over 3,000 sites, entered the Iron Age around the second millennium BCE.

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

180. Regarding federalism, consider the following statements:

- The Indian Constitution establishes a federal system with some unitary features.
- The Indian form of federalism is an example of a coming Together Federation.
- The *S.R. Bommai v. Union of India* Case, 1994 affirmed the principles of federalism, stating that state governments are not subordinate to the centre.

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:

- The Constitution of India does not explicitly declare capital punishment as unconstitutional.
- A convict can present a mercy petition to the President of India under Article 72 of the Constitution of India.
- The power to grant pardon is conferred upon the Governors of States under Article 161 of the Constitution of India.

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

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

182. Regarding the Citizenship, consider the following statements:

- Citizenship is listed in the Union List under the Constitution and thus is under the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament.
- Indian citizenship can be acquired through birth, descent, registration, and naturalization, as outlined in the Citizenship Act, 1955.

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

183. Regarding the cyclical slowdown, consider the following statements:

- A cyclical slowdown is a period of lean economic activity that occurs at regular intervals.
- Such slowdowns last over the short-to-medium term and are based on the changes in the business cycle.
- Addressing a cyclical slowdown requires structural policies similar to the 1991 crisis reforms.

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

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

184. The terms “DeepSeek” and “Stargate” are often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Advancements in Artificial Intelligence and Computing Infrastructure
B. Deep-Sea Exploration and Underwater Technology
C. Climate Change and Oceanic Studies
D. Advanced Military and Defense Systems

185. The Future of Jobs Report 2025 is released by which of the following?

- A. World Economic Forum (WEF)
B. World Bank
C. International Labour Organization (ILO)
D. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

186. Consider the following statements:

- Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals are a set of standards for a company’s operations that force companies to follow better governance, ethical practices, environment-friendly measures, and social responsibility.

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Note:

2. It focuses on non-financial factors as a metric for guiding investment decisions wherein increased financial returns are no longer the sole objective of investors.
3. Since the introduction of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (UNPRI) in 2006, the ESG framework has been recognised as an inextricable link to modern-day businesses.

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

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

187. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a semi-enclosed tropical basin, bounded by northeastern Africa, to the west, and the Arabian peninsula, to the east.
2. At the northern end, it separates into the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez, which is connected to the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal.
3. It is surrounded by desert or semi-desert areas, with no major freshwater inflow.

Which of the following water bodies best matches the above description?

- A. Persian Gulf B. Red Sea
C. Arabian Sea D. Gulf of Oman

188. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Microfinance Institutions are financial companies that provide small loans and other financial services to people who don't have access to banking facilities.

Statement-II: The RBI regulates MFIs under the NBFC-MFI framework (2014), which covers client protection, borrower safeguards, privacy, and credit pricing.

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

189. Consider the following statements:

1. Private labelling refers to a business strategy where the retailer sells products in their name while outsourcing them from third-party manufacturers.

2. The Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules of 2020 prohibit intermediaries from selling goods on their platform under their private label.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

190. Consider the following statements:

1. It is situated in the Deccan Peninsula Biogeographic Zone.
2. It has also been designated as a Global Network of Biospheres site since 2009
3. It has predominantly moist mixed deciduous forests with tropical semi-evergreen patches and sporadic dry deciduous forests and grasslands.

Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

- A. Similipal Tiger Reserve
B. Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
C. Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve
D. Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve

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

1. Under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934 the Central Government is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
2. The MPC is required to meet at least four times in a year.
3. Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote.

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

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

192. Regarding the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states.
2. It provides for autonomy in the administration of these areas through Autonomous District Councils (ADCs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Note:

193. Which of the following best describes the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)?

- An EU initiative to price the carbon emitted during the production of carbon-intensive goods entering the EU and encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.
- A mechanism introduced by the EU to impose tariffs on all goods imported from non-EU countries regardless of their carbon emissions.
- A trade policy designed by the EU to promote industrial production within the EU by taxing non-EU countries.
- A financial aid program by the EU to support developing countries in adopting renewable energy technologies.

194. Regarding the International Monetary Fund (IMF), consider the following statements:

- Any state, UN member or not, can join the IMF as per its Articles of Agreement and terms set by the Board of Governors.
- Member countries contribute a quota subscription upon joining the IMF based on their wealth and economic performance.
- Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) are claims on IMF member countries' currencies, exchangeable as needed.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

195. Which of the following is **not** a feature of Indian federalism?

- Division of powers between the Union and States.
- Equal representation of all states in the Rajya Sabha.
- Independent judiciary to adjudicate disputes between the Union and States.
- Written Constitution.

196. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme (NGRMP) is an initiative launched by the Government of India to address the risks posed by the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF).

Statement-II: Ground-truthing is the process of validating and verifying data collected through remote sensing or other indirect methods by comparing it with direct observations made on-site.

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

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

197. Consider the following statements:

- Quad involves broad-based cooperation between the United States, Australia, Japan, and India.
- AUKUS is an agreement under which the United States and the United Kingdom provide nuclear submarines to Australia to enhance security in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The squad is a recently formed group comprising Australia, Japan, North Korea, and the Philippines to counter Chinese aggression in the South and East China Sea.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

198. Regarding the Competition Commission of India (CCI), consider the following statements:

- It is a statutory body responsible for enforcing the Competition Act of 2002.
- It is a multi-member body consisting of a Chairperson and six members appointed by the Central Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

199. Regarding the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), consider the following statements:

- The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is outlined in Article 44 of the Constitution as part of the Directive Principles of State Policy.
- Uttar Pradesh became the first state of free India to adopt a Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Note:

200. Consider the following statements:

- Under Article 245 of the Constitution, laws made by a state legislature extend only to the territory of the state.
- The right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution.

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

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

201. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 is released by which of the following?

- A. Pratham Foundation
B. NITI Aayog
C. National Statistical Office (NSO)
D. Ministry of Education

202. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Fiscal consolidation refers to the prudent management of government finances to ensure long-term economic stability.

Statement-II: Fiscal consolidation focuses on balancing government revenue (taxes and non-tax receipts) with expenditure, aiming to minimize fiscal deficits, control public debt, and support sustainable economic growth. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

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

203. Regarding the United Nations Security Council, consider the following statements:

- The United Nations Security Council has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- The Security Council is made up of fifteen member states, consisting of five permanent members and ten non-permanent members elected for five-year terms.

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

204. Regarding the Mount Kailash, consider the following statements:

- Mount Kailash is a diamond-shaped peak made of black rock and the source of major rivers in Asia, including the Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Indus, and Karnali.
- Hindus believe Lord Shiva resides at the peak, while Jains regard it as Mount Ashtapada, where Rishabhadeva achieved liberation.

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

205. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) is a multilateral treaty aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss globally by 2030.

Statement-II: India is a megadiverse country, home to over 55,000 plant taxa and 100,000 animal species conservation which is vital for both livelihoods and ecological health.

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

206. Consider the following statements:

- He served as the first Indian member of the British parliament.
- In 1865, he co-founded the London Indian Society, and in 1866, he established the East India Association.
- He published the book Poverty and Un-British Rule in India in 1901.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Dadabhai Naoroji
B. Gopal Krishna Gokhale
C. Ramesh Chandra Dutt
D. Surendranath Banerjee

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Note:

207. The terms Chips, Transistor, Fabrication Technology, and wafer are often seen in the news in the context of:

- Semiconductor Industry
- Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering
- Renewable Energy and Solar Panels
- Nanomedicine and Drug Delivery Systems

208. Consider the following statements:

- Article 15(1) of the Indian Constitution states that the State shall not engage in discrimination against any citizen solely based on religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any combination of these factors.
- As per the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, a Gram Sabha has the authority to preserve and protect the community's culture in a Scheduled Area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

209. Regarding the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET), consider the following statements:

- It was established under Section 9C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, to accelerate mineral exploration in India.
- The NMET Fund, established for Trust activities, is funded by a 2% royalty contribution from mining leaseholders under the MMDR Act, 1957.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

210. Consider the following statements:

- 'The Law and the Lawyers' is one of his famous books.
- He established Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha to promote the Hindi language in the southern states of India.
- His death anniversary is observed as Martyrs' Day every year.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- Bhagat Singh
- Mahatma Gandhi
- C Rajagopalachari
- Subhas Chandra Bose

211. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) refers to a single set of laws governing personal matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, and succession for all citizens of India.

Statement-II: The concept of UCC is mentioned in Article 44 of the Indian Constitution as a Directive Principle of State Policy.

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

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

212. Consider the following statements:

- He founded a secret society called the Abhinav Bharat Society.
- He was the president of Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943.
- He was arrested in 1910 for his connections with the revolutionary group India House.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- Lala Har Dayal
- Vinayak Damodar Savarkar
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- Rash Behari Bose

213. Regarding defence spending, consider the following statements:

- Lending agencies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank consider defence expenditure of up to 3% of GDP to be acceptable.
- The NATO charter mandates that member nations allocate a minimum of 2% of their GDP to defence to ensure effective contribution to collective security.
- Both China and India allocate less than 2% of their GDP to defence, whereas the United States spends over 4%.

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Note:

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

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

214. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Focusing on export growth reduces reliance on imports, particularly in sectors like electronics and renewable energy components.

Statement-II: Export-driven manufacturing integrates India into global value chains, facilitating access to advanced technologies and international best practices.

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

215. Consider the following statements:

- Article 19(2) imposes reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech, including contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to an offense.
- In India, defamation can both be a civil wrong and a criminal offense, depending on the objective they seek to achieve.
- The Supreme Court has recently struck down the criminal provisions of defamation terming them as constitutionally invalid.

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

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

216. The cities Aleppo, Homs, and Hama often seen in the news are located in which of the following countries?

- A. Syria B. Iraq
C. Lebanon D. Jordan

Answers

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. (C) | 2. (A) | 3. (C) | 4. (B) | 5. (C) | 6. (A) | 7. (D) | 8. (B) | 9. (A) | 10. (B) |
| 11. (C) | 12. (D) | 13. (C) | 14. (A) | 15. (B) | 16. (B) | 17. (B) | 18. (A) | 19. (A) | 20. (C) |
| 21. (D) | 22. (A) | 23. (B) | 24. (A) | 25. (C) | 26. (A) | 27. (A) | 28. (C) | 29. (C) | 30. (B) |
| 31. (A) | 32. (B) | 33. (C) | 34. (A) | 35. (D) | 36. (B) | 37. (C) | 38. (B) | 39. (A) | 40. (C) |
| 41. (C) | 42. (B) | 43. (B) | 44. (A) | 45. (B) | 46. (C) | 47. (A) | 48. (A) | 49. (B) | 50. (C) |
| 51. (A) | 52. (C) | 53. (A) | 54. (B) | 55. (A) | 56. (D) | 57. (B) | 58. (D) | 59. (C) | 60. (C) |
| 61. (B) | 62. (A) | 63. (A) | 64. (A) | 65. (B) | 66. (C) | 67. (B) | 68. (B) | 69. (A) | 70. (C) |
| 71. (A) | 72. (D) | 73. (C) | 74. (A) | 75. (C) | 76. (A) | 77. (B) | 78. (D) | 79. (A) | 80. (B) |
| 81. (B) | 82. (C) | 83. (A) | 84. (B) | 85. (C) | 86. (B) | 87. (B) | 88. (D) | 89. (B) | 90. (C) |
| 91. (B) | 92. (C) | 93. (D) | 94. (A) | 95. (B) | 96. (A) | 97. (A) | 98. (C) | 99. (C) | 100. (B) |
| 101. (B) | 102. (A) | 103. (A) | 104. (A) | 105. (D) | 106. (A) | 107. (D) | 108. (A) | 109. (B) | 110. (C) |
| 111. (C) | 112. (A) | 113. (B) | 114. (B) | 115. (C) | 116. (A) | 117. (C) | 118. (A) | 119. (D) | 120. (A) |
| 121. (B) | 122. (C) | 123. (A) | 124. (C) | 125. (B) | 126. (D) | 127. (B) | 128. (A) | 129. (B) | 130. (B) |
| 131. (A) | 132. (C) | 133. (D) | 134. (A) | 135. (A) | 136. (C) | 137. (C) | 138. (B) | 139. (A) | 140. (C) |
| 141. (A) | 142. (C) | 143. (A) | 144. (B) | 145. (C) | 146. (B) | 147. (A) | 148. (B) | 149. (B) | 150. (A) |
| 151. (B) | 152. (C) | 153. (B) | 154. (A) | 155. (C) | 156. (D) | 157. (B) | 158. (A) | 159. (A) | 160. (D) |
| 161. (B) | 162. (B) | 163. (C) | 164. (A) | 165. (A) | 166. (C) | 167. (B) | 168. (A) | 169. (B) | 170. (B) |
| 171. (A) | 172. (A) | 173. (B) | 174. (D) | 175. (C) | 176. (B) | 177. (B) | 178. (C) | 179. (B) | 180. (B) |
| 181. (D) | 182. (C) | 183. (A) | 184. (A) | 185. (A) | 186. (C) | 187. (B) | 188. (B) | 189. (C) | 190. (A) |
| 191. (C) | 192. (C) | 193. (A) | 194. (C) | 195. (B) | 196. (B) | 197. (A) | 198. (C) | 199. (A) | 200. (D) |
| 201. (A) | 202. (A) | 203. (A) | 204. (C) | 205. (B) | 206. (A) | 207. (A) | 208. (C) | 209. (C) | 210. (B) |
| 211. (B) | 212. (B) | 213. (D) | 214. (A) | 215. (B) | 216. (A) | | | | |

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Note:

Practice Explanation

1. (C)

Exp:

Depreciation of Rupee:

- A weaker rupee should theoretically boost India's exports. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- However, in an environment of uncertainty and weak global demand, a fall in the rupee's external value may not translate into higher exports.
- A weaker currency may escalate imported edible oil prices and lead to higher food inflation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

2. (A)

Exp:

- **Article 20** of the Indian Constitution protects individuals from arbitrary and retrospective criminal legislation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In *National Human Rights Commission vs State Of Arunachal Pradesh & Anr.* (1996), the Supreme Court of India ruled that **even a non-citizen is entitled** to get the protection of Article 21 as it uses the term 'person'. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

3. (C)

Exp:

- The **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**, and Rules 1945 entrust various responsibilities to central and state regulators for regulation of drugs and cosmetics. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** Prescribes standards and measures to ensure the safety, efficacy, and quality of drugs, cosmetics, diagnostics, and devices in the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Drugs Controller General of India** is the head of the department of the CDSCO of the Government of India responsible for the approval of licences of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, and vaccines in India.
 - ◆ It also sets standards for manufacturing, sales, import, and distribution of drugs in India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

4. (B)

Exp:

Unified Payment Interface (UPI):

- 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 1 is correct.**

- UPI allows the merging of several banking features, seamless fund routing, and merchant payments into one mobile application. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is not exclusively restricted to India. Several international collaborations allow its usage abroad. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The countries that accept UPI payments are France, UAE, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Bhutan, and Nepal.

5. (C)

Exp:

Capital Expenditure:

- It refers to the **funds allocated by the government** for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of physical assets such as infrastructure, buildings, machinery, and equipment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is considered to be **productive and growth-enhancing** as it adds to the productive capacity of the economy and generates income and employment in the future. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

6. (A)

Exp:

National Statistical Office:

- It was formed in 2019 by merging the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- C. Rangarajan Committee first suggested the establishment of NSO as the nodal body for all core statistical activities. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **Y.H. Malegam Committee**, established by the Reserve Bank of India in February 2018, was tasked with addressing rising fraud incidents, audit effectiveness, and bad loan classification.
- It currently works under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

7. (D)

Exp:

H-1B Visa Program:

- It allows American employers to **hire immigrant workers** in occupations that require "a high level of skill" and "at least a bachelor's degree", according to the US Department of Labour. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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Note:

- An H-1B visa can be **issued for a maximum of six years** at a stretch, after which the visa holder has to either leave the US for a period of at least 12 months before returning or apply for and receive permanent residence ("Green Card"). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

8. (B)

Exp:

- The farm sector employs more than forty percent of the country's workforce. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- In the **PM-KISAN scheme**, about 10 crore farmers are given Rs 6,000 per annum to meet their immediate working capital requirements. **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.

9. (A)

Exp:

Georgia:

- It is a country in the **Caucasus region**, bordered to the west by the Black Sea. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Georgia is located in the Caucasus region at the **intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia**. It is bordered to the west by the Black Sea, to the north and east by Russia, to the south by Turkey and Armenia, and to the southeast by Azerbaijan. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

10. (B)

Exp:

Montreal Protocol:

- The Montreal Protocol, adopted in 1987, is an international treaty designed to **phase out the production and consumption** of substances that deplete the ozone layer, such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons. It is widely regarded as one of the most successful environmental agreements to date.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

11. (C)

Exp:

SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment):

- It is a technology demonstrator mission developed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** to showcase in-space docking technology. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- SpaDeX's primary goal is to **develop docking technologies** for two small spacecraft, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), in low Earth orbit.
 - ◆ SpaDeX will use the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle's (PSLV) **fourth stage**, POEM (PSLV Orbital Experimental Module)-4, to carry 24 payloads from academic institutions and startups. These experiments will

leverage the **microgravity environment** in orbit. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

12. (D)

Exp:

Space Docking:

- Space docking is the intricate process of **maneuvering two fast-moving spacecraft** into the same orbit, bringing them closer, and joining them to form a single unit. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This capability is pivotal for assembling large structures or transferring equipment, crew, or supplies in space.
- For instance, the **International Space Station (ISS)** was built using Space docking with various modules launched separately and docked in space. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Continuous docking missions keep the ISS operational by delivering supplies, new crew members, and modules while facilitating the return of the older crew to Earth.

13. (C)

Exp:

National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA):

- As per Sub Section (2) of Section 132 of the Companies Act, 2013, the duties of the NFRA are to:
 - ◆ Recommend **accounting and auditing policies** and standards to be adopted by companies for approval by the Central Government. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ Monitor and enforce compliance with accounting standards and auditing standards;
 - ◆ Oversee the quality of service of the professions associated with ensuring compliance with such standards and suggest measures for improvement in the quality of service;
 - ◆ Perform such other functions and duties as may be necessary or incidental to the aforesaid functions and duties.
- The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) was constituted in 2018 by the Government of India under Sub Section (1) of section 132 of the **Companies Act, 2013**. **Hence, statement II is not correct.**
- Hence, option C is correct because statement I is correct but statement-II is incorrect.

14. (A)

Exp:

Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP):

- The CPTPP is a Free trade agreement (FTA) between Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia,

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Note:

Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore, and Vietnam. The CPTPP was signed by the 11 countries on 8 March 2018 in Santiago, Chile. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- India is **not a part** of CPTPP. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- CPTPP removes 99% of tariffs on goods and services and the member countries have agreed to cut down on wildlife trafficking. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

15. (B)

Exp:

Exchange Rate:

- The price of one currency in terms of the other is known as the exchange rate. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A currency's exchange rate vis-a-vis another currency reflects the relative demand among the holders of the two currencies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Reserve Bank of India** tabulates the rupee's Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) in relation to the currencies of 36 trading partner countries. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

16. (B)

Exp:

- According to the 2023-24 Human Development Report (HDR), titled 'Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarised World,' **India ranks 134 on the global Human Development Index (HDI)**. Switzerland has been ranked number one.
 - ◆ The report has been released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

17. (B)

Exp:

- Under **Article 82**, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under **Article 170**, states are also divided into territorial constituencies as per the Delimitation Act after every census. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **87th Amendment Act of 2003** provided for the delimitation of constituencies based on the 2001 census, not the 1991 census. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

18. (A)

Exp:

Minimum Support Price (MSP):

- MSP is the guaranteed amount paid to farmers when the government buys their produce. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The MSP is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to growers for their produce and encouraging Crop Diversification. **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.
 - ◆ CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It came into existence in January 1965.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by the Prime Minister of India takes the final decision (approve) on the level of MSPs. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

19. (A)

Exp:

Adjournment Motion:

- An Adjournment Motion is moved to discuss a **definite matter of urgent public importance** and must be of immediate concern, with the Speaker's consent. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.
- As it interrupts the normal business of the House, it is regarded as an extraordinary device.
- This motion is available in the Lok Sabha but not in the Rajya Sabha. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is important to note that the passage of an adjournment motion **does not require the government to resign**, but it is considered a strong censure of the government. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

20. (C)

Exp:

National Green Tribunal (NGT):

- The NGT was established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- Its primary focus is to facilitate the swift and efficient resolution of cases related to **environmental protection**, conservation of forests, and preservation of natural resources. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Tribunal is headed by the Chairperson (appointed by the Central govt in consultation with the CJI) who sits in the Principal Bench and has at least 10-20 judicial members and expert members.
- The Tribunal's jurisdiction extends to enforcing environmental rights, granting relief and compensation for damages to individuals and property, and addressing matters associated with environmental protection and conservation.

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Note:

- Apart from original jurisdiction on the filing of an application, NGT also has **appellate jurisdiction** to hear appeals as a Court (Tribunal). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Tribunal is **not bound by the procedure** laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 but shall be guided by principles of 'natural justice'. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

21. (D)

Exp:

World Health Organization (WHO):

- It is an **inter-governmental organization** and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India became a party to the WHO on 12 January 1948. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- With a coordinated effort by the Indian government with the World Health Organization (WHO), smallpox was eradicated in 1977. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

22. (A)

Exp:

NITI Aayog:

- In 2015, NITI Aayog replaced the Planning Commission to promote a "bottom-up" approach and cooperative federalism for better governance with less government. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It **does not have powers** to allocate funds, which are vested in the Finance Minister. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Key Objectives:**
 - ◆ To foster cooperative federalism through **structured support initiatives** and mechanisms with the States continuously, recognizing that strong States make a strong nation.
 - ◆ To develop **mechanisms to formulate credible plans** at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.
 - ◆ To ensure, in areas that are specifically referred to it, that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.
 - ◆ To pay special attention to the sections of our society that may be at risk of not benefitting adequately from economic progress.

23. (B)

Exp:

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 29 (COP29):

- The New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) aims to **triple climate finance for developing**

countries to USD 300 billion per year by 2035 from the previous goal of USD 100, with developed countries taking the lead. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- COP29 reinforced the **importance of Indigenous Peoples** and local communities in addressing climate change. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Over 30 countries, including the US, Germany, UK, and UAE, endorsed the COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste (**India is not a signatory**). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The declaration **targets the waste sector's methane emissions**, which contribute to 20% of global methane emissions. It focuses on five priority areas: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), regulation, data, finance, and partnerships.
 - ◆ Countries are encouraged to include sectoral targets for reducing methane emissions from organic waste in their NDCs.
 - ◆ This builds on the Global Methane Pledge (India is not a signatory) to reduce global methane emissions by 30% by 2030, addressing methane from agriculture, waste, and fossil fuels.

24. (A)

Exp:

- The Kelkar Committee (2002) was set up to recommend measures for direct and indirect tax reforms.
- The Raja J. Chelliah Committee (1991) laid the foundation for comprehensive tax reforms in India, focusing on rationalization of the tax structure.
- The T. R. Rustagi Committee (2011) was associated with tax policy and implementation measures.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

25. (C)

Exp:

Indian Extradition Act, 1962:

- **Extradition** is the process by which **one state, upon the request of another**, affects the return of a person for trial for a crime punishable by the laws of the requesting state and committed outside the state of refuge.
- In India, the extradition of a fugitive criminal is governed under the **Indian Extradition Act, 1962.**
- It applies the **principle of dual criminality** which means that the offence sought to be an offence in the national laws of requesting as well as requested country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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Note:

- The Consular, Passport, and Visa Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, administers it and it processes incoming and outgoing Extradition Requests. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

26. (A)

Exp:

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act(MGNREGA), 2005:

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 provides **livelihood security**, which means that rural households have alternative sources of income when better employment opportunities are unavailable. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- MGNREGA is a **demand-based wage employment scheme** that provides at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to each family per fiscal year to improve the livelihood security of families in rural areas of the country. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

27. (A)

Exp:

Electoral Reforms Committee:

- The **Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990)** focused on electoral reforms to enhance the transparency and fairness of the electoral process.
- The **Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998)** endorsed state funding of elections, seeing “full justification constitutional, legal as well as on the ground of public interest” to establish a fair playing field for parties with less money.
- The **Tankha Committee (2010)** worked on electoral issues such as proxy voting and Non-Resident Indian’s (NRIs) voting rights.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

28. (C)

Exp:

- The government has implemented the **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)** as part of the Right to Education (RTE) Act for the primary level (6-14 years). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The government has extended the SSA to secondary education (age group 14-18), through the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Higher education**, encompassing undergraduate (UG), postgraduate (PG), and MPhil/PhD levels, is addressed by the government through the **Rashtriya Uchhattar Shiksha**

Abhiyan (RUSA) to meet the requirements of higher education. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- All the above schemes have been subsumed under the umbrella scheme of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

29. (C)

Exp:

Gulf Region:

- The Gulf Region refers to the area **surrounding the Persian Gulf**, which is a marginal sea of the Indian Ocean located between the Arabian Peninsula and southwestern Iran. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It comprises countries that border the Persian Gulf including Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- The Persian Gulf is connected to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea via the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial maritime choke point for global oil transportation
- The Gulf is a **hotspot for geopolitical tensions**, including disputes between the US and Iran, the Saudi-Iran rivalry, and the Yemeni Civil War. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



30. (B)

Exp:

Prime Minister Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi):

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** i.e., fully funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs that have notified Rules and Scheme under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and

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Note:

Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- The Scheme is available to all street vendors engaged in vending in urban areas. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

31. (A)

Exp:

International Court of Justice (ICJ):

- It is the principal **judicial organ of the United Nations**, situated at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- Unlike the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (USA). Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- It settles legal disputes between States and gives advisory opinions in accordance with international law, on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- Its official languages are English and French. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- Unlike other organs of international organizations, the Court is not composed of representatives of governments. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

32. (B)

Exp:

Botswana:

- Botswana is a **landlocked country** in southern Africa.
- It is bordered by South Africa to the south and east, by Namibia to the west, and by Zimbabwe to the east. The country is smaller than the state of Texas.
- The massive **Kalahari Desert** covers more than 70 percent of Botswana, spans about 360,000 square miles (900,000 square kilometers), and touches nine African countries. The Kalahari isn't a true desert because it gets more rainfall each year than most deserts receive.
- Hence, option B is correct.



33. (C)

Exp:

Goods and Services Tax (GST):

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a **value-added (Ad valorem) tax system** that is levied on the supply of goods and services in India. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a comprehensive indirect tax that was introduced in India on 1st July 2017, through the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016**, with the slogan of 'One Nation One Tax'. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- **GST Council:**
 - ◆ The GST Council is a **constitutional body** responsible for making recommendations on issues related to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India.
 - ◆ The members of the Council include the **Union Finance Minister (Chairperson)**, and the Union Minister of State (Finance) from the Centre.
 - ◆ Each state can nominate a minister in charge of finance or taxation or any other minister as a member.

34. (A)

Exp:

Article 356:

- Article 356 of the Constitution of India is based on Section 93 of the **Government of India Act, 1935**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- According to Article 356, the President's Rule can be imposed on any state of India on the grounds of the **failure of the constitutional machinery**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ President's Rule can be imposed in **two situations**: when the President receives a report from the state's Governor or is otherwise convinced that the state government cannot function according to the Constitution (Article 356), and when a state fails to comply with directions from the Union government (Article 365).
- During the President's Rule, the state government is suspended, and the **central government directly administers** the state through the Governor. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- **Parliamentary approval is necessary** for imposing the President's Rule, and it should be approved in both Houses of Parliament within two months through a simple majority.
- Initially, the President's Rule is for six months and can be extended for up to three years with parliamentary approval every six months.

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Note:

- The **44th Amendment to the Constitution (1978)** introduced constraints on extending the President's Rule beyond one year, allowing extension only in case of a national emergency or if the Election Commission certifies the necessity due to difficulties in conducting state assembly elections.

35. (D)

Exp:

Insolvency laws in India:

- Under the British Raj, India faced significant challenges in managing financial failures and cross-border commerce.
- To address **domestic insolvencies**, the Indian Insolvency Act of 1848 was introduced as the **first** insolvency law. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This was **later replaced** by the Presidency-Towns Insolvency Act 1909, which applied to Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, governed insolvencies in **mofussil** regions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The term mofussil refers to the **rural or provincial districts** of India, or the countryside. It was originally used to describe the regions outside of the three East India Company capitals of Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras.
- The term's meaning changed over time, and it came to contrast with larger cities like Calcutta. However, the mofussil was **always connected to the cities** through the Zilla Sadar towns.
- While the above laws provided a framework for handling domestic insolvencies, they failed to address the complexities of cross-border insolvencies, leaving a critical gap in the legal system.

36. (B)

Exp:

Committees Related to Insolvency:

- Committees such as the Eradi Committee (2000), Mitra Committee (2001), and Irani Committee (2005) recommended adopting the United Nations Commission On International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency, 1997.
 - ◆ The **United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)** plays a key role in **developing that framework** in pursuit of its mandate to further the progressive harmonization and modernization of the law of international trade.
 - UNCITRAL does this by **preparing and promoting** the use and adoption of legislative and non-legislative instruments in a number of key areas of commercial law.

- **Eradi Committee (2000):** Recommended amendments to insolvency laws to streamline the corporate insolvency process.
- **Mitra Committee (2001):** Focused on reforms in insolvency laws and procedures for improving debt recovery.
- **Irani Committee (2005):** Proposed changes to insolvency laws, especially related to creditor-debtor relationships and corporate restructuring.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

37. (C)

Exp:

- The **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)** established under the Ministry of Water Resources, (now Ministry of Jal Shakti), is the **apex body for managing**, exploring, monitoring, assessing, and regulating groundwater resources in India.
 - ◆ It provides **scientific expertise** for groundwater management, including exploration, monitoring, and water quality assessments. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ It also implements schemes for artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting to augment groundwater levels.
 - ◆ It releases State and District hydrogeological reports, groundwater yearbooks, and Atlases.
- **Central Ground Water Authority** has been constituted under Section 3 (3) of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** to regulate and control the development and management of groundwater resources in the country. **Hence, statement-II is not correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.**

38. (B)

Exp:

- **Lithium and cobalt**, critical components of EV batteries, are extracted at a staggering environmental and social cost.
- Around **70% of the world's lithium reserves** are concentrated in the **"lithium triangle" of Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia**, where mining operations are water-intensive, depleting resources in already arid regions. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ The skyrocketing demand for these minerals risks triggering resource scarcity and "resource wars" as nations vie for economic power driven by fuel — whoever controls the fuel gains power.
- Producing an EV is significantly more energy-intensive than manufacturing a traditional **internal combustion engine (ICE)** vehicle. **Hence, statement-II is correct.**

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Note:

- ◆ A study by the European Federation for Transport and Environment found that EV production **generates 60% more carbon emissions** than ICE vehicles do, mainly due to battery production.
 - ◆ Manufacturing a 60 kilowatt-hour battery for a Tesla Model 3 adds 3.6-6 tonnes of CO₂ to its lifecycle emissions.
 - ◆ In addition, a typical EV consumes **six times more scarce minerals** than any ICE vehicle.
- 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.



39. (A)

Exp:

Cryptocurrencies:

- India's cryptocurrency regulations are complex and evolving.
 - ◆ While cryptocurrencies are **legal to trade and hold**, they are **not recognised** as legal tender. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - This means people can buy and sell digital assets like Bitcoin and Ethereum, but **cannot use them** for everyday transactions.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Ministry of Finance, and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) are the primary bodies overseeing crypto activities.
 - ◆ In 2018, the RBI imposed a ban on banking support for crypto transactions, but this was overturned by the Supreme Court in March 2020, restoring banking services for crypto exchanges.

- Cryptocurrencies are classified as "**Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs)**" under Section 2(47A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 covering most crypto assets except gift cards or vouchers. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ **Virtual digital assets** refer to any digital representation of value that can be digitally traded, transferred, or used for payment.
- Crypto's decentralised nature and opacity make it conducive to illicit activities like money laundering, terror financing, and tax evasion.
 - ◆ Since March 2023, crypto assets have also been brought under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002** requiring exchanges and crypto service providers to comply with anti-money laundering standards, including Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements. Enforcement is overseen by the Financial Intelligence Unit India. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

40. (C)

Exp:

Implications of an Increase in Nitrate Contamination in Groundwater:

- The **Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) report** reveals a troubling rise in groundwater contamination across India, with more districts showing excessive nitrate levels.
- **Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu** reported the largest extent of nitrate contamination, with 49%, 48% and 37% of the samples reporting numbers beyond the limit.
 - ◆ Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat have a **perennial nitrate problem**, primarily from **geological factors**, with relative levels fairly constant since 2017, the report says.
- This chemical **contaminant poses significant health risks**, particularly to young children, while also raising environmental concerns.
 - ◆ Excessive nitrate contamination, particularly for infants and young children, can cause **methemoglobinemia**, also known as "blue baby syndrome." Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - Methemoglobinemia is a **rare blood disorder** that occurs when there is too much methemoglobin in the blood, which prevents **tissues from getting enough oxygen**.
 - ◆ It leads to **algal blooms in lakes and ponds**, harming aquatic ecosystems. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

41. (C)

Exp:

Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), 2023:

- It empowers individuals with the **right to know** and control their personal data. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

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Note:

- ◆ This includes rights to access, correction, and erasure of their data, giving citizens greater control over their personal information.
- The Act mandates that personal data can only be processed with the explicit consent of the individual. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ Organisations must provide clear and specific consent forms and ensure that consent is obtained before data collection.
- Certain types of sensitive personal data are required to be stored and processed within India. This provision aims to enhance data security and facilitate easier enforcement of data protection laws.
- The Act establishes a **Data Protection Board of India (DPBI)** to oversee compliance and handle grievances. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ The Board is responsible for adjudicating disputes and imposing penalties for violations.

42. (B)

Exp:

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV):

- Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a **respiratory disease** that causes flu or cold-like symptoms but can increase risks or lead to more serious complications like bronchitis or pneumonia, particularly among the elderly, young children, and immunocompromised people.
- The disease is in the **same family as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)** and has been around since at least 2001 when it was first identified in the Netherlands. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- HMPV is **not like Covid-19**, in that it has been around for several decades and there is a level of immunity in the global population from past infections. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ Covid-19 was a new disease that had never infected humans before, driving the pandemic-level spread.
- Its outbreaks are concentrated during colder seasons. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

43. (B)

Exp:

Global Security Initiative (GSI):

- The Global Security Initiative (GSI) is a **Chinese-led framework** that focuses on cooperative security, respect for sovereignty, non-interference in domestic affairs, and peaceful resolution of international disputes.

- The initiative challenges **traditional Western-led security frameworks** and advocates for a multipolar world order.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

44. (A)

Exp:

Pangong Tso:

- Recently, a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was inaugurated on the banks of Pangong Tso at an altitude of 14,300 feet.
- **Pangong Tso:**
 - ◆ It is an **endorheic lake** in the Himalayas situated at a height of about 4,350 m (14,270 ft).
 - ◆ It is one of the **world's highest brackish water lakes.**
 - ◆ It was formed as a tectonic lake during the collision of the **Indian plate with the Eurasian plate.**
 - ◆ This event created the Himalayas and led to the lake occupying the space of the Tethys Ocean.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

45. (B)

Exp:

Coffee:

- Coffee was introduced to **India during the late 17th century;** the Dutch (who occupied much of India throughout the 17th century) helped spread the cultivation of coffee across the country, but it was with the arrival of the **British in the mid-19th century** that commercial coffee farming fully flourished. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Coffee in India is grown under a **canopy of thick natural shade** in ecologically sensitive regions of the Western and Eastern Ghats. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In India, coffee is traditionally grown in the Western Ghats spread over Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
 - ◆ **Karnataka is the largest producer** accounting for about 70% of the total coffee production, followed by Kerala at 23%. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Coffee cultivation is also expanding rapidly in the nontraditional areas of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha as well as in the North East states.

46. (C)

Exp:

Sree Narayana Guru:

- He was born on 22nd August 1856 in Chempazhanthy in Kerala. He belonged to the Ezhava caste, considered 'avarana' by the social norms of the time.

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Note:

- He advocated for **equality, education, and social upliftment**, transcending caste distinctions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- His core belief was expressed in the slogan **“One Caste, One Religion, One God for All”**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- He became a **major proponent of Advaita Vedanta**, the non-dualistic philosophy introduced by Adi Shankara. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- He founded the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP), a philanthropic society for uplifting marginalized
- **Aruvippuram Movement (1888)**: He installed a Shiva idol at Aravipuram, symbolizing resistance against social injustice, particularly the caste-based restrictions that barred lower castes from temple entry.
- He established Sivagiri Mutt in 1904.
- **Literary Contributions**: He authored several important works, including Advaita Deepika, Atmavilasam, Daiva Dasakam, and Brahmaidya Panchakam.

47. (A)

Exp:

Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Regime:

- Under the NBS regime fertilizers are provided to the farmers at **subsidized rates** based on the nutrients (N, P, K & S) contained in these fertilizers. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Also, fertilizers that are **fortified with secondary and micronutrients** such as molybdenum (Mo) and zinc are given additional subsidies.
- The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is announced by the Government on an **annual basis for each nutrient** on a per kg basis – which is determined taking into account the international and domestic prices of P&K fertilizers, Exchange Rate, inventory level in the country, etc.
- NBS policy intends to **increase the consumption** of P&K fertilizers so that the optimum balance (N:P: K= 4:2:1) of NPK fertilization is achieved. **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.

48. (A)

Exp:

Sessions of Parliament:

- The summoning of Parliament is specified in **Article 85** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The power to convene a session of Parliament rests with the Government. The decision is taken by the **Cabinet**

Committee on Parliamentary Affairs which is formalised by the President, in whose name MPs are summoned to meet for a session. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- India **does not have a fixed** parliamentary calendar. By convention (i.e. not provided by the Constitution), Parliament meets for three sessions in a year. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- ◆ **Article 86** of the Indian Constitution gives the President the right to address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together.
- ◆ The longest, Budget Session (1st session), starts towards the end of January and concludes by the end of April or the first week of May. The session has a recess so that Parliamentary Committees can discuss the budgetary proposals.
- ◆ The second session is the **three-week Monsoon Session**, which usually begins in July and finishes in August.
- ◆ **Winter Session (3rd session)**, is held from November to December.

49. (B)

Exp:

- As per **Article 51 (A) (a)** of the Constitution it shall be the **duty of every citizen of India** to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag, and the national anthem. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- **The Order Issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs:**
 - ◆ The full version of the National Anthem **shall be played** on the following occasions — during civil and military investitures; when the national salute is given in accompaniment with the National Anthem to the **President or the Governor/Lieutenant Governor** during ceremonial occasions within their respective States/ Union Territories; **during parades**; on arrival of the President at formal State functions and other **functions organised by the Government** and on his departure from such functions; immediately before and after the President addresses the **nation over All India Radio**; on arrival of the Governor/Lieutenant Governor at formal State functions within his State/Union Territory and on his departure from such functions; when the National Flag is brought on parade; when the regimental colours are presented; and for the hoisting of colours in the Navy. **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.

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Note:

50. (C)

Exp:

Collegium System:

- It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved **through judgments of the Supreme Courts (SC)**, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Articles 124 and Article 217** of the Indian Constitution deal with the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Supreme Court has already upheld the collegium system and struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) which **gave an equal role to the government** in judicial appointments by a Constitution Bench in 2015. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ A review plea against the judgement was also subsequently dismissed in 2018.

51. (A)

Exp:

Sacred Groves:

- Sacred Groves are the **tracts of virgin forests** that are left untouched by the local inhabitants and are protected by the local people due to their culture and religious beliefs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Sacred groves are **relic vegetation** of once dominant flora.
- Over 1 million sacred forests and 100,000 to 150,000 sacred groves exist across India.
- It is prominent in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand.
- **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** empowers State governments for declaration of any private or community land, as a community reserve, under which sacred groves can be declared as community reserves. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

52. (C)

Exp:

Government Initiatives:

- **iGOT Karmayogi**, an initiative launched in 2020, has become central to equipping government officials with key skills in data analytics, public administration, and digital technologies. The platform's flexible, personalized learning paths encourage continuous improvement, a vital characteristic where adaptability determines success. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- The **e-Office initiative**, which **digitizes government workflows**, is transformative, reducing paper reliance

and improving operational efficiency. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

- The **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) initiative** has played a crucial role in **transitioning procurement processes online** and streamlining government operations. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

53. (A)

Exp:

G7 Grouping:

- The G7 **originated from the Oil crisis of 1973** and the resulting financial crisis, which forced the leaders of 6 major industrial nations to convene a meeting in 1975.
 - ◆ Canada joined in 1976, leading to the formation of the G7.
 - ◆ It was known as the 'G8' for several years after the original seven were joined by Russia in 1997, but it was renamed as G7 after Russia was expelled as a member in 2014 following its annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine.
- The G7's discussions and pronouncements can **influence the direction of global conversations** on pressing issues. This can help shape international policies and priorities. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The G7 is an **informal grouping** of the most developed and advanced economies in the world. i.e. France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States, and Canada. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ It operates **outside of formal treaties** and lacks a permanent bureaucracy.
- The leaders of important international organisations like the European Union (EU), IMF, World Bank, and the United Nations are also invited.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

54. (B)

Exp:

Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Principle:

- The **most-favoured-nation (MFN) principle** is a cornerstone of the **multilateral trading system** conceived after World War II.
- It seeks to **replace the frictions and distortions** of power-based (bilateral) policies with the guarantees of a rules-based framework where trading rights do not depend on the individual participants' economic or political clout.

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Note:

- The best access conditions that have been conceded to one country **must automatically be extended** to all other participants in the system.
- This allows everybody to benefit, without additional negotiating effort, from concessions that may have been agreed between large trading partners with much negotiating leverage.
- In the context of the GATS, the MFN obligation (Article II) is **applicable to any measure that affects trade in services** in any sector falling under the Agreement, whether specific commitments have been made or not.
- Exemptions could have been sought at the time of the acceptance of the Agreement (for acceding countries: date of accession). They are **contained in country-specific lists**, and their duration must not exceed ten years in principle.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

55. (A)

Exp:

Impossible Trinity” Theorem:

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

56. (D)

Exp:

Government Debt:

- India’s **General Government Debt** is predominantly denominated in rupees, with external borrowings from bilateral and multilateral sources making only a minor contribution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Domestically issued government bonds are mostly medium-to long-term, with an average maturity of about 12 years. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- N.K. Singh Committee suggested using debt as the primary target for fiscal policy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Debt to GDP ratio of 60%** should be targeted with a 40% limit for the center and a 20% limit for the states.
 - ◆ It said that the 60% consolidated Central and State debt limit was **consistent with international best practices**, and was an essential parameter to attract a better rating from the credit rating agencies.

57. (B)

Exp:

Operation SAMADHAN:

- The **Home Minister** recently enunciated an **operational strategy ‘SAMADHAN’** to fight Left Wing Extremism.

- The elements of this strategy are S for Smart Leadership, A for Aggressive Strategy, M for Motivation and Training, A for Actionable Intelligence, D for Dashboard-based Key Result Areas and Key Performance Indicators, H for Harnessing Technology, A for Action Plan for Each Theatre and N for No access to Financing.

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

58. (D)

Exp:

- India, which is the world’s fifth largest economy with a GDP of 3.42 Lakh Crores USD, is currently classified as a **developing nation. Hence, statement I is not correct.**
- A developed country refers to a nation with a **mature and advanced economy**, characterized by high levels of industrialization, technological infrastructure, and overall societal well-being. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ The term “developed” is used to distinguish these countries from “developing” or “underdeveloped” nations, which are still in the process of economic and social growth.
- Hence, option D is correct because Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

59. (C)

Exp:

Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023:

- The DPDP Act, 2023 considers “consent” as the **primary factor for processing** an individual’s “personal data”. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ However, such consent is required to be “free, specific, informed, unconditional and unambiguous”. Moreover, the consent has to be limited to the “specific purpose” for which it is obtained.
- Certain types of sensitive personal data are required to be **stored and processed within India. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ This provision aims to enhance data security and facilitate easier enforcement of data protection laws.
- The Act establishes a **Data Protection Board of India (DPBI)** to oversee compliance and handle grievances. The Board is responsible for adjudicating disputes and imposing penalties for violations.
- Organisations are required to notify individuals and the **Data Protection Board** of any data breaches that may compromise personal information. This provision aims to ensure transparency and prompt action in the event of data leaks.

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Note:

60. (C)

Exp:

Consumer Price Index (CPI):

- It measures price changes from the perspective of a retail buyer. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) using 2012 as the base year. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) uses CPI data to control inflation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The CPI calculates the difference in the price of commodities and services such as food, medical care, education, electronics, etc, which Indian consumers buy for use.
- The CPI has several sub-groups including food and beverages, fuel and light, housing and clothing, bedding, and footwear.
- **Four types of CPI are as follows:**
 - ◆ CPI for Industrial Workers (IW).
 - ◆ CPI for Agricultural Labourer (AL).
 - ◆ CPI for Rural Labourer (RL).
 - ◆ CPI (Rural/Urban/Combined).
- Of these, the first three are compiled by the Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Fourth is compiled by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

61. (B)

Exp:

Nuclear Waste:

- Nuclear waste is **very radioactive** and must be **stored in secure facilities** designed to prevent leaks and protect the surrounding environment from contamination. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- In a fission reactor, neutrons bombard the nuclei of atoms of certain elements. When one such nucleus absorbs a neutron, it **destabilises and breaks up**, yielding some energy and the nuclei of different elements.
 - ◆ For example, when the uranium-235 (U-235) nucleus absorbs a neutron, it can fission to barium-144, krypton-89, and three neutrons. If the 'debris' (barium-144 and krypton-89) constitute elements that can't undergo fission, they become nuclear waste.
 - ◆ **Spent fuel** refers to nuclear reactor fuel that has been **irradiated during operation** and must eventually be removed once it is no longer efficient for sustaining a nuclear reaction. **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.

62. (A)

Exp:

Fiscal Policy:

- Fiscal policy is the use of government revenue collection (mainly taxes but also non-tax revenues such as divestment, and loans) and expenditure (spending) to influence the economy.
- If the government receives more revenue than it spends, it runs a surplus, while if it spends more than the tax and non-tax receipts, it runs a deficit.
- To meet additional expenditures, the government needs to borrow domestically or from overseas. Alternatively, the government may also choose to draw upon its foreign exchange reserves or print additional money.
- Through fiscal policy, the government of a country **controls the flow of tax revenues** and public expenditure to navigate the economy. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Attaining rapid economic growth is **one of the key goals of fiscal policy** formulated by the Government of India. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Fiscal policy aims to minimise the imbalance in the dispersal of income and wealth.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

63. (A)

Exp:

State Finances Report– A Study of Budgets of 2024-25:

- The **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) report**, State Finances – A Study of Budgets of 2024-25, highlighted the progress made by **state governments in fiscal consolidation**, alongside significant challenges such as high debt levels and rising subsidies.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

64. (A)

Exp:

- The General Agreement on Trade in Services of 1995 includes provisions for the movement of services, **including legal services. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Several regional agreements have established frameworks to support this, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (1994), the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Framework Agreement on Services (1995), the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union (2016), etc.

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Note:

- ◆ These treaties allow for the **cross-border movement of legal personnel** only on a temporary basis and under regulatory oversight. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The European Union (EU) introduced the **Lawyers' Establishment Directive** to encourage greater integration of the union's legal market. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- In India, only advocates enrolled under the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961, are permitted to "practice" law.
- The Supreme Court permitted **foreign lawyers to make "casual visits" to India** to provide legal advice under a "fly in and fly out" arrangement and instructed the Bar Council of India (BCI) to establish rules on this matter.
 - ◆ In 2023, the BCI introduced regulations allowing foreign lawyers to visit India and offer legal advice based on the principles of "reciprocity" and the **"fly in and fly out" model**, subject to specific conditions.

65. (B)

Exp:

Panna Tiger Reserve:

- The Panna tiger reserve is situated in the **Vindhya mountain range** in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Ken River** (a tributary of the Yamuna River) **flows through** the reserve.
- The region is also famous for **Panna diamond mining**.
- Ken-Betwa River interlinking project will be located within the tiger reserve.
- In July 2021, Panna Tiger Reserve was awarded the **Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CAITS) certificate** by the National Tiger Conservation Authority for meeting the established international standards for tiger conservation and management.
- This national park was declared a **Project Tiger Reserve** in the year 1994 by the Central Government.
- **UNESCO** designated the Panna Tiger Reserve as a **Biosphere Reserve** in August 2011.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

66. (C)

Exp:

- The concept of inter-basin water transfer was first proposed by Sir Arthur Cotton 130 years ago. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up in 1982 to survey, investigate, and prepare feasibility reports for river links under the National Perspective Plan. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP), India's first river interlinking initiative under the 1980 National Perspective Plan, is implemented by the Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**
- ◆ It aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa River in Uttar Pradesh, both of which are tributaries of the Yamuna.



67. (B)

Exp:

Right to Information Act, 2005:

- In the case of the State of U.P. v. Raj Narain (1975), the Supreme Court recognized the right to information as part of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In 2019, the Supreme Court held that the Office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is a 'public authority' under the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 changed the tenure of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) to a 3-year term set by the central government, replacing the previous 5-year term. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

68. (B)

Exp:

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI):

- It is a **survey-based measure** that asks the respondents about changes in their perception about key business variables as compared with the previous month.

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Note:

- The purpose of the PMI is to provide **information about current and future business** conditions to company decision-makers, analysts, and investors.
- It is an economic indicator that reflects the **prevailing direction of economic trends** in the manufacturing and service sectors.
- It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is also constructed.
- The PMI is a number from 0 to 100.
- A print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.
- A reading of 50 indicates no change.
- If the PMI of the previous month is higher than the PMI of the current month, it **represents that the economy is contracting**.
- It is usually **released at the start of every month**.
 - ◆ It is, therefore, considered a good leading indicator of economic activity.
- PMI is compiled by IHS Markit for **more than 40 economies worldwide**.
 - ◆ IHS Markit is a global leader in information, analytics, and solutions for the major industries and markets that drive economies worldwide.
 - ◆ IHS Markit is part of S&P Global.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

69. (A)

Exp:

- **Zimbabwe** is the sixth-largest producer of lithium. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Australia is the world's largest producer of lithium**, with an estimated 86,000 metric tons of production in 2023.
- **South Africa** holds over 90% of the world's platinum reserves and is a major producer of other platinum group metals (PGMs) like palladium and rhodium. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ These metals are essential for catalytic converters and fuel cells.
 - ◆ With India pushing for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, securing PGM supplies from Africa is crucial.
- India currently sources about 15% of its oil demand (approximately 34 million tonnes) from Africa. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Countries like Nigeria and Angola are key oil suppliers to India.

70. (C)

Exp:

- **Financial devolution** refers to the transfer of financial resources and decision-making powers from the central government to the states.
- **Article 270** of the Constitution outlines the distribution of net tax proceeds between the Union government and the States. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Finance Commission (FC)**, constituted every five years, provides recommendations for the vertical distribution of funds from the central government's divisible pool of taxes (excluding cess and surcharge). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

71. (A)

Exp:

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD):

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) has been celebrated on **9th January every year since 2003** to honor the Indian diaspora and the contribution of the **overseas Indian community** to the country's development.
- 9th January was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that **Mahatma Gandhi**, the greatest Pravasi, **returned to India from South Africa**, and led India's freedom struggle.
- Since 2015, its format has been revised to celebrate the PBD **once every two years** and to hold theme-based PBD Conferences during the intervening period.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

72. (D)

Exp:

Mpox:

- Mpox, also known as monkeypox, is a DNA virus. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It belongs to the **family Poxviridae**, which consists of large, double-stranded DNA viruses.
- The virus was **first identified in monkeys in 1958** but has since been found to infect humans as well. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Mpox is primarily transmitted to humans from animals, particularly rodents and primates, through direct contact or through contaminated objects.
 - ◆ Though mpox can spread via sexual contact, it isn't considered a sexually transmitted disease. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Mpox infection in humans typically presents with **fever, headache, muscle aches**, and a characteristic rash that progresses from macules to papules to vesicles and pustules.

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Note:

73. (C)

Exp:

- **Primary waves** are the fastest seismic waves, resembling sound waves, that travel **through gases, liquids, and solids** and are the first to reach the surface. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Love waves** are horizontal waves with sideways motion, faster than Rayleigh waves, and have **no vertical displacement.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Rayleigh waves** are seismic waves that cause elliptical ground motion, spread out the most, and move vertically and horizontally in a vertical plane. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

74. (A)

Exp:

Aryabhata:

- **Aryabhata (476–550 CE)** was the first of the **major mathematician-astronomers** from the classical age of Indian mathematics and Indian astronomy.
- His works include the *Aryabhatya* (499 CE) and the **Arya-siddhanta.**
- He is known for calculating the **closest approximate value of 'pi'.**
- He was the first to explain that the moon and planets shine due to reflected sunlight.
- He used a **place-value system in mathematics**, which laid the foundation for the later formalization of the decimal system.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

75. (C)

Exp:

69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991:

- Delhi was initially a **Union Territory listed in Schedule 1** of the Constitution. However, it was renamed the **"National Capital Territory" under Article 239AA**, which was added through the Constitution (69th Amendment) Act, 1991.
 - ◆ The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991 to the Indian Constitution added **Article 239AA**, making Delhi a Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly and an L-G administering it with the assembly's aid and advice. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The 'aid and advice' clause applies only to matters under the State and Concurrent Lists, excluding public order, police, and land. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

76. (A)

Exp:

Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016:

- **Section 48** of the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016** mandates the Central and State governments to **regularly undertake social audits** of all general schemes and programmes to ensure they do not have an adverse impact on the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- **Social audits** play a vital role in developing and strengthening the accountability of the government and service providers. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ For example, regular social audits of schemes providing **assistance technologies to persons with disabilities** can assess the bottlenecks in the delivery of services, identify the changing needs of individuals, and provide better devices
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

77. (B)

Exp:

- In *Kedar Nath Singh v. State of Bihar* (1962), the Court had differentiated 'disloyalty towards the government' from 'strongly worded criticism of the government and its policies'. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In 2022, before the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was enacted, the Supreme Court had suspended pending criminal trials and court proceedings under **Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)** until the government reconsidered the law. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ In *Balwant Singh and Anr v. State of Punjab* (1995), the Court clarified that **casual sloganeering is not sedition** unless there is a direct link between the act and its harmful consequences.
- This was followed by a verbal proclamation by the Union Home Minister that 'sedition' would be repealed as an offence.
- Section 152 of the BNS **criminalises any act exciting secession**, armed rebellion, and subversive activities.
- It also **criminalises acts encouraging feelings** of separatism or endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India.
 - ◆ The Rajasthan High Court, in *Tejender Pal Singh v. State of Rajasthan* (2024), cautioned against using Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) as a tool to stifle legitimate dissent.

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Note:

78. (D)

Exp:

- **Article 5** of the Constitution defines who is a citizen of India, either by birth, by parentage, or by acquiring it after having remained a resident in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Indian law** requires giving up Indian nationality upon acquiring another country's citizenship, which means **losing political rights** in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

79. (A)

Exp:

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB):

- The CGWB, established under the Ministry of Water Resources, (now Ministry of Jal Shakti), is the **apex body for managing**, exploring, monitoring, assessing, and regulating groundwater resources in India.
- Established in 1970, CGWB was initially formed by renaming the Exploratory Tube Wells Organization and was later merged with the Ground Water Wing of the Geological Survey of India in 1972.
- CGWB provides **scientific expertise for groundwater management**, including exploration, monitoring, and water quality assessments.
- It also **implements schemes for artificial recharge** and rainwater harvesting to augment groundwater levels.
- CGWB releases State and District hydrogeological reports, groundwater yearbooks, and Atlases.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

80. (B)

Exp:

Earthquake:

- An earthquake is the shaking of the earth. It is a natural event. It is caused by **release of energy, which generates waves** that travel in all directions.
- The **hypocenter** is the point beneath the Earth's surface where an earthquake begins. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **epicenter is the surface** point directly above an earthquake's origin. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Fault Zones:**
 - ◆ Energy is **released along a fault**, which is a sharp break in the crustal rocks. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Rocks along a fault tend to move in opposite directions. As the overlying rock strata presses them, the friction locks them together.

- ◆ However, their tendency to move apart at some point of time overcomes the friction. As a result, the blocks get deformed and eventually, they slide past one another abruptly.
- ◆ This causes earthquakes in the form of a release of energy, and the **energy waves travel in all directions.**

81. (B)

Exp:

International Criminal Court (ICC):

- It is the world's **first permanent international criminal court**, governed by the Rome Statute, an international treaty. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It investigates and tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community namely genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ICC is not a United Nations (UN) organisation but it has a cooperation agreement with the United Nations (UN). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

82. (C)

Exp:

Local Governance:

- The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 bars the interference by courts in the electoral matters of municipalities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Article 243ZG** of the Indian Constitution prevents courts from interfering in electoral matters.
 - It states that no court can question the validity of any law relating to the allotment of seats to constituencies or the delimitation of constituencies.
 - It also states that no election to a municipality can be questioned except by an election petition presented to the authority as provided by the law made by the State Legislature.
- **Article 243U** through the 74th Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 mandates a **five-year tenure** for urban local governments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In **Suresh Mahajan vs State of Madhya Pradesh**, 2022 the Supreme Court ruled that ward delimitation **cannot be a valid excuse** for delaying elections, and the State Election Commission must ensure elections are held on time to install a new body before the outgoing one's term ends. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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Note:

83. (A)

Exp:

Swami Vivekananda:

- He was born as Narendranath Datta on 12th January 1863.
- National Youth Day is held every year to observe the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- In 1893, upon the request of Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State, he took the name 'Vivekananda.'
- He introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of **Vedanta and Yoga**.
 - ◆ He preached '**neo-Vedanta**', an interpretation of **Hinduism** through a Western lens, and believed in combining spirituality with material progress.
 - ◆ He laid the greatest emphasis on education for the regeneration of our motherland. Advocated a man-making character-building education.
- He is best known for his speech at the **World Parliament of Religion in Chicago in 1893**.
 - ◆ He spelt out the **four pathways** of attaining moksha from worldly pleasure and attachment in his books - Raja-yoga, Karma-yoga, Jnana-yoga, and Bhakti-yoga.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called Vivekananda the "**maker of modern India**."
- He was the chief disciple of the 19th-century mystic **Ramakrishna Paramhansa** and established the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897.
- In 1899, he established the Belur Math, which became his permanent abode.
 - ◆ He died at Belur Math in 1902. Belur Math, located in West Bengal, is the headquarters of Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

84. (B)

Exp:

Right to Marry:

- The right to marry is **not expressly recognized** either as a fundamental or constitutional right under the Indian Constitution but as a statutory right. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Though marriage is regulated through various statutory enactments, its recognition as a fundamental right has only developed through judicial decisions of India's Supreme Court.
 - ◆ Such declaration of law is binding on all courts throughout India under Article 141 of the Constitution.

➤ **Marriage as a Fundamental Right (*Shafin Jahan v. Asokan K.M. and others 2018*):**

- ◆ While referring to **Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and the ***Puttaswamy case, 2017*** the SC held that the right to marry a person of one's choice is integral to Article 21 of the Constitution. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

- **Article 16 (2)** in the Indian constitution provides that there cannot be any discrimination on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence, or any of them.

➤ **LGBTQ Community Entitled to all Constitutional Rights (*Navjet Singh Johar and others v. Union of India 2018*):**

- ◆ The SC held that members of the LGBTQ community "are entitled, as all other citizens, to the full range of constitutional rights including the liberties protected by the Constitution" and are entitled to equal citizenship and "equal protection of the law".

➤ 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.

85. (C)

Exp:

Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act), 2023:

- It **empowers individuals** to control their personal data, including rights to access, correction, and erasure. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It requires explicit consent for data processing, with clear consent forms. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Sensitive data must be stored and processed within India for security and enforcement.
- Establishes the Data Protection Board of India (DPBI) for compliance and grievance handling.
- Organisations must notify individuals and the DPBI of data breaches.
- Strict penalties for non-compliance to enforce data protection standards.

86. (B)

Exp:

Features of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas:

- The **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme** was started by the Government of India in 1984 when they established the **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** to manage the LCA programme.
- It replaced the aging Mig 21 fighter planes.

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Note:

- Designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under the Department of Defence Research and Development.
- Manufactured by State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- **Features:**
 - ◆ The lightest, smallest, and tailless multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft in its class.
 - ◆ Designed to carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, weapons.
 - ◆ Air-to-air refueling capability.
 - ◆ Maximum payload capacity of 4000 kg.
 - ◆ It can attain the maximum speed of Mach 1.8.
 - ◆ The range of the aircraft is 3,000km
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

87. (B)

Exp:

Government Securities (G-Sec):

- A G-Sec is a **tradable instrument** issued by the Central Government or the State Governments.
- A G-Sec is a type of debt instrument **issued by the government** to borrow money from the public to finance its Fiscal Deficit. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ A debt instrument is a financial instrument that represents a contractual obligation by the issuer to pay the holder a fixed amount of money, known as principal or face value, on a specified date.
- It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation.
- Such securities are short-term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year- presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91-day, 182 days, and 364 days) or long-term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).
- In India, the **Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities** while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the **State Development Loans (SDLs)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Gilt-edged securities** are high-grade investment bonds offered by governments and large corporations as a means of borrowing funds.

88. (D)

Exp:

- The **President of India** is the Visitor of a central university under the Central Universities Act, 2009. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Visitor has the power to authorize inspections of academic and non-academic aspects of the university.
- Chancellors in central universities are titular heads, who are appointed by the President in his capacity as Visitor. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

89. (B)

Exp:

Siliguri Corridor:

- The Siliguri Corridor is a narrow stretch of land, approximately 60 km long and 17–22 km wide. It is referred to as the **'Chicken Neck' due to its narrow shape.**
- Located between Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh, it is the **only land link** between India and its northeastern states.
- It plays a **vital role in military logistics**, offering key routes for road and railway networks that facilitate the movement of armed forces.
- Non-access to the Siliguri Corridor would isolate India's northeastern region, severing supply lines and reinforcements.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

90. (C)

Exp:

Kumbh Mela:

- The Kumbh Mela is **celebrated four times** over the course of 12 years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- At Haridwar and Prayagraj, Ardh-Kumbh Mela is held every 6th year.
- The Maha Kumbh Mela is celebrated at Prayag after 144 years (after 12 'Purna Kumbh Melas').
- **Maagh Kumbh is celebrated every year** in the month of Maagh (Jan-Feb) in Prayagraj.
- The Maha Kumbh Mela, transcribed by **Adi Shankaracharya**, originates from the Puranas, describing gods and demons battling for the sacred pitcher of Amrit, with Lord Vishnu (as Mohini) securing it from demons.
- During the **Maurya and Gupta periods** (4th century BCE to 6th century CE), the Kumbh Mela began as **smaller gatherings of pilgrims** from across the Indian subcontinent.
 - ◆ Its significance increased with the **rise of Hinduism**, particularly under rulers like the Guptas who elevated its status.

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Note:

- **Harshavardhana king** of the Pushyabhuti dynasty started the organisation of the Kumbh fair at Prayagraj. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Supported by royal dynasties like the Chola and Vijayanagar empires, Delhi Sultanate, and Mughals.
- **Akbar promoted religious tolerance** and granted Naga Sadhus the honour of leading the royal entry to the Mela in 1565. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- British administrators, fascinated by the Kumbh Mela's scale and diversity, observed and documented the festival.
 - ◆ In the 19th century, James Prinsep chronicled its ritualistic practices and socio-religious dynamics.
- The Kumbh Mela symbolises national unity and India's cultural heritage, **recognized by UNESCO in 2017** as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity for its enduring ancient traditions.

91. (B)

Exp:

Swami Vivekananda:

- Vedanta declares that the ultimate reality, **Brahman, is one and indivisible**, present in every living being. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ This profound understanding obliterates walls of separation between individuals, nations, and even humanity and nature.
- **Swami Vivekananda's teachings were** deeply rooted in Vedantic philosophy, and transcend the barriers of time and geography. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ He believed India's greatest **strength lay in the principles of Vedanta**, which proclaim the **interconnectedness of all beings** and the divinity inherent in each individual.
- For Swami Vivekananda, India was not merely a nation of ancient glory; it was the spiritual heart of the world, **destined to lead humanity by sharing** its wealth of wisdom.
- His vision was not about dominance or pride but a **profound responsibility to uplift humanity.**
- 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.

92. (C)

Exp:

- **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Indian Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression as a fundamental right for all citizens. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Section 8 of the Representation of People's Act (RPA), 1951** prevents a person convicted of the illegal use of the

freedom of speech from contesting an election. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955** penalises incitement to, and encouragement of untouchability through words, either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

93. (D)

Exp:

Mining:

- **Rat-hole mining** is an illegal and highly hazardous method of extracting coal prevalent in certain pockets of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** banned rat-hole mining. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- As per **Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**, the State Governments are empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals." **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

94. (A)

Exp:

Mission Mausam:

- The Union cabinet has approved '**Mission Mausam**' with an outlay of Rs 2,000 crore over the next two years to **enhance India's ability to predict and respond to extreme weather events** and the impacts of climate change.
 - ◆ **Focus Areas:** It includes accuracy, modelling, radars, satellites, and accurate agromet forecasts.
 - It will **help equip stakeholders, including citizens**, to better manage extreme weather events and climate change impacts, enhancing community resilience.
 - ◆ **Components of the Mission:**
 - Deployment of next-generation radars and satellite systems with advanced sensors
 - Development of enhanced Earth system models
 - A GIS-based automated decision support system for real-time data sharing
 - ◆ **Implementation and Support:** The mission will be implemented by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, and the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting – three key institutions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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Note:

95. (B)

Exp:

Gini Index:

- The Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income or consumption among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Gini index **measures the area between the Lorenz curve and a hypothetical line of absolute equality**, expressed as a percentage of the maximum area under the line. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

96. (A)

Exp:

Base Year:

- A base year is a specific reference year against which **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** figures for subsequent and prior years are calculated. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- It provides a **stable reference point** and serves as a benchmark for measuring economic performance and allows for comparisons over time. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ By pegging GDP figures to a specific year, analysts can accurately interpret trends and shifts in economic performance.
- The base year should be a normal year i.e., it must not experience any abnormal incidents such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, pandemics, etc. Also, it should not be too distant in the past.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

97. (A)

Exp:

Girmitiyas:

- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)**, observed biennially on 9th January, is a noteworthy event that celebrates the contributions of the Indian diaspora to their homeland.
- The 18th PBD Convention was organized by Odisha from 8th to 10th January 2025, with the theme **'Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat' (Developed India)**.
 - ◆ The Prime Minister during the PBD event highlighted the **significance of Girmitiyas (indentured laborers from pre-independent India)** who were sent to countries like Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad and Tobago, and others.

- ◆ It was also suggested that a **comprehensive database** of the Girmitiyas be created.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

98. (C)

Exp:

Representation of the People Act, 1951:

- It **outlines election procedures**, candidate eligibility, political party registration, and disqualification criteria to ensure a fair and ethical electoral system. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It prevents misuse of power by requiring that rule-making is done only **"after consulting the Election Commission."** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

99. (C)

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN):

- It is a **Central-Sector scheme** to provide financial assistance to all land-holding farmer families across India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under it, eligible farmer families receive income support of Rs 6,000 annually, **distributed in three equal installments** of Rs 2,000 each. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The responsibility to identify eligible farmer families **rests with State Governments** and Union Territory (UT) administrations, following the scheme's guidelines. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

100. (B)

Exp:

Border Security Force (BSF):

- The BSF was **raised in 1965**, after the India-Pakistan war.
- It is **one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces** of the Union of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Other Central Armed Police Forces are: Assam Rifles (AR), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), National Security Guards (NSG), and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- The 2.65-lakh force is deployed along the **Pakistan and Bangladesh borders**.
- It is deployed on the Indo-Pakistan International Border, Indo-Bangladesh International Border, and Line of Control (LoC) along with the Indian Army and in Anti-Naxal Operations.
- BSF has been defending **Sir Creek in the Arabian Sea** and the Sundarbans Delta in the Bay of Bengal with its state-of-the-art fleet of Water Crafts.

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Note:

- It contributes dedicated services to the **United Nations peacekeeping Mission** by sending a large contingent of its trained manpower every year.

➤ Hence, option B is correct.

101. (B)

Exp:

Siang River:

- Recently, India raised concerns over China's approval of the world's largest hydroelectric dam on the Brahmaputra, spurring the planning of **India's Siang Upper Multipurpose Project**.
- It is located in the Upper Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh, near the **Siang River (a major tributary of the Brahmaputra River)**.
- The Siang River, **originating near Mount Kailash** in Tibet as the Yarlung Tsangpo flows eastward for over 1,000 km.
- It forms a **horseshoe bend around Namcha Barwa Peak** before entering Arunachal Pradesh.
- In Assam, it merges with the Dibang and Lohit rivers to become the Brahmaputra.
- Hence, option B is correct.

102. (A)

Exp:

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG):

- The CAG of India, as per Article 148 of the Constitution, heads the Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA-AD). He/she is responsible for safeguarding the public purse and overseeing the financial system at both the central and state levels.
- CAG of India is governed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971, with significant amendments in 1976, 1984, and 1987.
- The CAG of India is appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
 - ◆ The officeholder serves a **term of six years or until the age of 65**, whichever is earlier. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The CAG can **only be removed by the President** following a constitutional procedure, not at the President's pleasure.
- The CAG is **ineligible for any further office** under the Government of India or any state after leaving office. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The CAG audits the accounts related to the expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India and state funds.
 - ◆ It also audits accounts of government corporations, public sector undertakings, and bodies substantially funded by the government. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

103. (A)

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' (PMUY):

- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG)**, introduced the '**Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' (PMUY)** as a flagship scheme with the objective of making clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to rural and deprived households that were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes, etc. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
- Usage of traditional cooking fuels had **detrimental impacts on the health** of rural women as well as on the environment. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
- **Objectives:**
 - ◆ Empowering women and protecting their health.
 - ◆ Reducing the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel.
 - ◆ Preventing young children from a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution by burning fossil fuel.
- **Features:**
 - ◆ The scheme provides financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households.
 - ◆ Along with a deposit-free LPG connection, Ujjwala 2.0 will provide the first refill and a hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries.

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

104. (A)

Exp:

Committees on Minimum Support Price (MSP):

- The **Agricultural Prices Commission (APC)** was established in 1965 to **recommend MSPs for agricultural commodities** and was later renamed the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACPC), which now suggests MSPs for 23 crops including wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds, and cotton.
- The **National Commission on Farmers (NCF)** was formed in 2004 under M.S. Swaminathan to address farmers' issues and recommend policies for their welfare, including a **proposal to set MSPs at a minimum of 50% profit** over production costs.
- The **Shanta Kumar Committee set up in 2014**, reviewed the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and recommended shifting from price-based to income-based support for farmers.
- Hence, option A is correct.

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Note:

105. (D)

Exp:

Weakening of the Rupee:

- The main reason for the weakening rupee is the **strengthening of the US dollar, which is** accompanied by an improved macroeconomic scenario in the US. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A spike in the US bond yields due to **expectations of shallow rate** cuts by the US Federal Reserve. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ High US yields made the **US attractive to investors** relative to emerging markets like India.
- **Spike in the US bond yields** due to expectations of shallow rate cuts by the US Fed.
- Uncertainty regarding the new US government policies has also contributed to the rupee's fall.
- **Oil price volatility** due to ongoing geopolitical tensions (Russia-Ukraine war, Middle East crisis, Red Sea shipping issues, and substantial Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) outflows in equity markets have also contributed to the rupee slide. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Despite the slide, the rupee has remained among the world's most stable currencies.
- The **stability in the first half of 2024** was attributed to capital inflows driven by the **inclusion of Indian bonds in global bond indices**, which cushioned the rupee against greater volatility.

106. (A)

Exp:

- The Prime Minister recently presided over the commissioning of key assets into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyards in Mumbai, including the **guided missile destroyer Surat**, the **stealth frigate Nilgiri**, and the **diesel-electric submarine Vagsheer**.
 - ◆ INS Nilgiri is the **lead ship of Project 17A frigates**, INS Vaghsheer is the sixth and final submarine of **Project 75 Kalvari class**, and INS Surat is the fourth and final ship of **Project 15B destroyers**.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

107. (D)

Exp:

Lithium (Li):

- Lithium (Li) is a **soft, silvery-white metal, also known** as 'White gold' due to its high demand for rechargeable batteries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Li-ion batteries use an intercalated (Intercalation is the **reversible inclusion or insertion of a molecule** into materials with layered structures) lithium compound as one electrode material, compared to the **metallic lithium** used in a non-rechargeable lithium battery. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ The battery consists of an **electrolyte, which allows for ionic movement**, and the two electrodes are the constituent components of a lithium-ion battery cell.

- ◆ Lithium ions move from the negative electrode to the positive electrode during discharge and back when charging.

108. (A)

Exp:

Right to Privacy:

- The right to privacy is a **fundamental right**, which protects the inner sphere of the individual from **interference from both State and non-state actors** and allows the individuals to make autonomous life choices. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The Supreme Court described privacy and its importance in the landmark decision of **K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India** in 2017 that the right to Privacy is a **fundamental and inalienable right** and attaches to the person covering all information about that person and the choices that he/she makes. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ The right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under **Article 21**.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

109. (B)

Exp:

K-Shaped Economy:

- A 'K-shaped' economy refers to a **divergent economic recovery** where parts of the economy (like tech and finance sectors) thrive, while others (like hospitality or lower-income groups) struggle, forming the **diverging arms of the "K."**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

110. (C)

Exp:

Important Judgements:

- Under the constitutional scheme, **fundamental rights enshrined in Part III** of the Constitution are **ordinarily enforceable against the State** and its instrumentalities, not against non-state actors.

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Note:

- ◆ This is because constitutional rights are generally thought to apply “vertically” (i.e., against the State) and not “horizontally” (i.e., between private individuals or entities).
- In *Shafin Jahan vs Asokan K.M.* (2020), the court held that Article 21 of the Constitution includes the right of individuals to choose their partners ‘whether within or outside marriage’. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In *Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India* (2018), the court recognised the **right of all individuals** to physical, emotional, mental, and sexual companionship. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- However, the Constitution contains three express provisions which **depart from the traditional “vertical” model of rights:**
 - ◆ **Article 15(2)** stipulates that no citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them, be prevented from accessing shops, public restaurants, **hotels, and places of public entertainment** or using wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads, and places of public resort funded by the State or dedicated to public use.
 - ◆ **Article 17** forbids the practice of untouchability.
 - ◆ **Article 23** prohibits human trafficking and forced labour.
- In *Kaushal Kishor vs State of Uttar Pradesh* (2023), the Supreme Court travelled beyond this schema of horizontal rights by holding that the **right under Article 21 could be enforced** even against private parties. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

111. (C)

Exp:

- **Shangri-La Dialogue** serves as the “**Track One**” exchange forum on the security issues surrounding the **Asia-Pacific region** including Territorial disputes in the **South China Sea**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific is the “**Track Two**” dialogue on security issues of Asia-Pacific. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

112. (A)

Exp:

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme:

- The flagship schemes under the **Startup India initiative** namely, Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)**, and Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) extend support to startups at various stages of their business cycle.
 - ◆ The scheme was announced at the Startup India International Summit on 16th January 2021.

- ◆ An **Experts Advisory Committee (EAC)** constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is **responsible for the overall execution** and monitoring of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- ◆ The EAC will evaluate and select incubators for allotment of Seed Funds, monitor progress, and take all necessary measures for efficient utilization of funds towards the fulfillment of objectives of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme.
- The Startup India initiative envisages **building a robust Start-up ecosystem** in the country for nurturing innovation and providing opportunities to budding entrepreneurs. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ Seed Funding is an early stage of investment in a start-up or a new business idea.
 - ◆ The goal of seed funding is to help the company reach a point where it can secure additional rounds of funding or generate revenue to become self-sustaining.
- **Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

113. (B)

Exp:

Mining:

- The entry at serial No. 23 of List II (**State List**) to the Constitution of India mandates the state government to own the minerals located within their boundaries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The entry at serial No. 54 of List I (Central List) of the **seventh schedule of the constitution** mandates the central government to own the minerals within the exclusive economic zone of India (EEZ). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ In pursuance of this, the **Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957** was framed.
- **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** regulates mineral exploration and extraction of deep seabed minerals in the **international seabed area** that are beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

114. (B)

Exp:

Tirumala Venkateswara (Tirupati Balaji) Temple:

- It is situated in Tirumala, Andhra Pradesh, on Venkata Hill, one of the **seven hills (Saptagiri)** of the Tirumala Hills.
- It is dedicated to **Lord Venkateswara**, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

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- The temple has a rich history, with significant contributions from various South Indian dynasties, including the Pallavas, Cholas, and Vijayanagara rulers.
- It has traditional South **Indian temple architecture**, featuring a towering gopuram (gateway) and intricate carvings.
- A notable practice at the temple is the donation of hair by devotees as an offering.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

115. (C)

Exp:

Family Courts Act of 1984:

- The Family Courts Act of 1984 is essentially a procedural law, which was enacted to **establish special courts** to decide family disputes promptly through a special procedure. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Section 7 of the Family Courts Act of 1984** confers on family courts the jurisdiction “exercisable” by the **general civil courts** “under any law for the time being in force” relating to specified family matters. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Among such matters (mentioned in an explanation appended to the section) are the nullity of marriage, restitution of conjugal rights, judicial separation, and dissolution of marriage.

116. (A)

Exp:

Real Exchange Rate Equals One:

- When the Real Exchange Rate equals 1, the **Nominal Exchange Rate matches the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)** exchange rate, indicating that the currencies are at parity.
- In this scenario, **goods have the same cost** in both countries when expressed in a common currency.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

117. (C)

Exp:

Destroyers:

- Destroyers are **versatile ships** that can lead a fleet, join a carrier task force, operate independently, or work in small groups for search and attack missions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **first indigenous destroyers**, INS Delhi, INS Mysore, and INS Mumbai, were Delhi-class vessels built under Project 15 around the year 2000. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **INS Surat** will be the **Navy’s 13th destroyer**, equipped with sensors and weapons to handle threats from the surface, air, and underwater, with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

118. (A)

Exp:

Post-Truth World:

- The term “post-truth world” refers to a state **where emotional appeals and personal beliefs** have a greater influence on public opinion than factual accuracy or evidence.
 - ◆ This phenomenon is often associated with **misinformation and the spread of fake news.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

119. (D)

Exp:

Graphics Processing Unit (GPUs):

- GPUs are processors designed for **parallel computing** and are widely used in gaming, video rendering, and artificial intelligence (AI) applications. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Originally developed to accelerate 3D graphics rendering, GPUs have evolved to **support advanced AI tasks** like deep learning and neural network training. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- GPUs are now **crucial for AI research**, enabling faster computations in high-performance computing (HPC) and creative production. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

120. (A)

Exp:

The Minquiers and Ecrehos Dispute:

- The Minquiers and Ecrehos dispute is between **France and the United Kingdom.**
- The Minquiers and Ecrehos are two groups of islets situated between the **British island of Jersey and the coast of France.** Under a Special Agreement between France and the United Kingdom, the International Court of Justice was asked to determine which of the Parties had produced the more convincing proof of title to these groups of islets.
 - ◆ The **International Court of Justice** emphasized that effective administrative control and sovereignty are essential to establishing ownership of contested territories.
 - ◆ International law does not accept territorial claims based solely on maps, as seen in several key rulings.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

121. (B)

Exp:

Space Docking:

- Space docking is the intricate process of **maneuvering two fast-moving spacecraft** into the same orbit, bringing them closer, and joining them to form a single unit. **Hence, statement-1 is correct.**

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Note:

- ◆ This capability is pivotal for assembling large structures or transferring equipment, crew, or supplies in space.
- The **International Space Station (ISS)** was built using this technique, with various modules launched separately and docked in space.
- Continuous docking missions **keep the ISS operational by delivering supplies**, new crew members, and modules while facilitating the return of the older crew to Earth. **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.

122. (C)**Exp:****Mission Mausam Initiative:**

- Mission Mausam is a government initiative aimed at **enhancing the capabilities of India's weather department** in weather forecasting, modelling, and dissemination. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The mission will have an allocation of Rs 2,000 crore for its first two years of implementation.
- **Objectives:**
 - ◆ The mission **seeks to improve the accuracy of short to medium-range weather forecasts by 5-10%**, enhance the air quality prediction in major metro cities by up to 10%, and extend predictions to the panchayat level with a lead time of 10-15 days.
 - Currently, the IMD's accuracy for extreme events like heat waves is approximately 98%, while heavy rainfall forecasts stand at around 80%.
 - ◆ It will **utilize advanced technologies** like AI, machine learning, and high-performance computing to improve weather models and observational systems, including the deployment of **additional Doppler radars and satellites**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The mission will **explore weather modification techniques** like cloud seeding to manage rainfall and mitigate extreme events such as floods and droughts. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ A **cloud chamber will be set up** at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, to study cloud dynamics and improve weather management through cloud seeding experiments.
- **Mission Mausam will be executed in 2 phases over 5 years:**
 - ◆ **Phase One (2025 - March 2026):** Focus on expanding the observational network by adding around 70 Doppler

radars, high-performance computers, wind profilers, and radiometers.

- ◆ **Phase Two (2026 onwards):** Further enhancement of observational capabilities through the introduction of satellites and aircraft.

123. (A)**Exp:****Carbon Markets:**

- Carbon markets are **market-based mechanisms** designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by creating a financial incentive for individuals and organizations to reduce their carbon footprint. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Carbon markets **operate on the principle of cap-and-trade**, where a government or regulatory body sets a cap on the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions allowed within a specific jurisdiction. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **Types of Carbon Markets:**
 - ◆ **Compliance Markets** are mandatory, requiring regulated entities to purchase carbon credits to offset their emissions. Often, these entities are large industrial polluters.
 - ◆ **Voluntary markets** are voluntary, allowing individuals, businesses, and organizations to purchase carbon credits to offset their emissions beyond regulatory requirements.
- India is a **significant exporter of carbon credits** into the decentralized voluntary market, with its credits worth between USD 200-300 billion per year and accounting for 17% of the global supply in 2022.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

124. (C)**Exp:****India's Trade Policy:**

- The post-independence period was known as the **'license raj' system** because this period saw limited trade openness and a heavily regulated economy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **1991 liberalization Reforms** triggered by a severe balance of payments crisis led to the opening up to foreign investment and adoption of market-oriented policies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **India's Foreign Trade Policy 2023** is encouraging recognition of new towns through the "Towns of Export Excellence Scheme". **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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Note:

125. (B)

Exp:

Natural Farming:

- **Natural farming** is an agricultural practice that emphasises **minimal intervention** and the use of natural resources to cultivate crops.
 - ◆ In natural farming, **neither chemical nor organic fertilizers** are added to the soil. No external nutrient sources are added to the soil. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It seeks to **enhance soil health, biodiversity**, and ecosystem balance without relying on synthetic fertilisers, pesticides, or herbicides.
- It is largely based on **on-farm biomass recycling** with major stress on biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations; maintaining soil aeration, and exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs.
- The **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)** has been formulated by upscaling the Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) to promote natural farming across the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ NMNF covers a 7.5 lakh hectare area by developing 15,000 clusters. The farmers willing to implement natural farming on their **fields will be registered as cluster members**, each cluster shall comprise 50 farmers or more with 50-hectare land.

126. (D)

Exp:

- My **Bharat portal** is an initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to empower Indian youth through social mobility, educational equity, and practical skills. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **ASPIRE scheme** by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) supports **Livelihoods Business Incubation (LBI)** centers to foster entrepreneurship and promote agro-industry startups. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The scheme focuses on various goals, including job creation, reducing unemployment, promoting an entrepreneurial culture, and facilitating grassroots economic development at the district level by setting up LBIs.
 - ◆ Moreover, it aims to encourage innovative business solutions to address unmet social needs and enhance the competitiveness of the MSME sector through innovation.

127. (B)

Exp:

Leader of the Opposition (LOP):

- The leader of the **largest opposition party** having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the Lok Sabha is recognised as the leader of the Opposition. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- He will be a **member of crucial committees** such as Public Accounts (Chairman), Public Undertakings, and Estimates and also a member of several Joint Parliamentary Committees.
- He is **entitled to be a member of various selection committees** responsible for appointing heads of statutory bodies like the Central Vigilance Commission, the Central Information Commission, the CBI, the NHRC, and the Lokpal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- He provides **constructive criticism of the government policies** and provides an alternative government.
- The leader of Opposition in both Houses was accorded statutory recognition under the **Salaries and Allowances of Leader of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977**, and is entitled to the salary, allowances, and other facilities equivalent to that of a cabinet minister.
- The office of the leader of the opposition is **not mentioned** in the Constitution. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Article 156** of the Constitution of India outlines the term of office for a state's Governor.

128. (A)

Exp:

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar:

- Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was a **prominent Indian jurist, economist**, social reformer, and politician.
- He was born on April 14, 1891, in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.
- In 1924, he started an **Association for the welfare of the depressed classes**, and in 1927, he started the Bahishkrit Bharat newspaper to address the cause of the depressed classes.
- He also led the **Mahad Satyagraha** in March 1927.
- He participated in all three Round Table Conferences.
- In 1932, Dr. Ambedkar **signed the Poona pact** with Mahatma Gandhi, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).
- In 1936, he formed the **Independent Labour Party** to safeguard the interests of the depressed classes.
- He was also awarded India's highest civilian honour the **Bharat Ratna in 1990.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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Note:

129. (B)

Exp:

- The **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** excludes inflation in services as they are not traded in the wholesale market, whereas the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** and GDP deflator account for it. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ The **Wholesale Price Index** measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.
 - ◆ **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** captures changes in price levels at the consumer level.
 - ◆ The **GDP deflator** is a measure of inflation in an economy. It's calculated by dividing nominal GDP by real GDP and multiplying by 100.
- The weights in the CPI and WPI indices **remain constant** until the base year is revised, whereas, in the GDP deflator, they vary based on the production levels of goods and services. **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.

130. (B)

Exp:

Indus Valley Civilization:

- 20th September 2024, marked **100 years since the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilization**, which was announced by archaeologist Sir John Marshall on 20th September 1924.
 - ◆ This civilization **spans over 2,000 sites** across 1.5 million sq. km in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and is famous for its advanced urban planning and architecture.
- The Harappan Civilization, also known as the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC), flourished around 2500 BCE **along the Indus River**.
 - ◆ It was the **largest of the four ancient urban civilizations** alongside Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China.
- The IVC is classified as a **Bronze-age civilization** due to the discovery of numerous artefacts made from copper-based alloys.
- Daya Ram Sahni first excavated Harappa in 1921-22, and Rakhil Das Banerji began excavating Mohenjo-daro in 1922.
- Sir John Marshall, DG of ASI, was responsible for the excavations that led to the discovery of the Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro sites of IVC.
- The Harappan culture was notable for its **advanced town planning** with cities designed in a grid-like layout.

- **Granaries of large size** were used to store grains, and there was widespread use of burnt bricks, which is different compared to the dried bricks used in contemporary Egyptian structures.
- Harappan villages, primarily located near floodplains, were highly productive, yielding crops such as wheat, barley, peas, sesame, lentils, chickpeas, rai, and mustard.
- Trade played a vital role in Harappan life, evident from the **widespread use of seals**, a uniform script, and standardised weights and measures.
- Major trade items included stone, metal, and shell.
- The **barter system** was used, as metal currency did not exist.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

131. (A)

Exp:

Gaza Strip:

- The Gaza Strip is situated in the **eastern Mediterranean basin**, sharing borders with Egypt in the southwest and Israel to the north and east. To the west, it is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea.
- It is one of the **most densely populated areas globally**, with over 2 million residents living in a tiny area.
- The term **"open-air prison"** has been widely used by academics, activists, and journalists to characterize the conditions in Gaza.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

132. (C)

Exp:

Rat-Hole Mining:

- Rat-hole mining involves **extracting coal from narrow horizontal seams** through small pits just wide enough for a person to enter and mine. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** banned rat-hole mining in 2014 and upheld the ban in 2015, citing its unscientific nature and worker safety concerns. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

133. (D)

Exp:

Subsidies under World Trade Organization (WTO):

- **Amber Box:** Amber box subsidies are those that can **distort international trade** by making a country's products cheaper in comparison to those of other countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Examples: Subsidies for inputs such as fertilisers, seeds, electricity, irrigation, and Minimum Support Price (MSP).

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- **Blue box:** It is the “amber box with conditions” designed to reduce distortion.
 - ◆ Any support that would normally be in the amber box is placed in the blue box if it requires farmers to limit production.
 - ◆ These subsidies aim to limit production by **imposing production quotas** or requiring farmers to set aside part of their land. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Green Box:** Green Box is a **domestic support measure** that doesn't cause trade distortion or at most cause minimal distortion.
 - ◆ The Green Box subsidies are **government-funded** without any price support to crops. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ They also include environmental protection and regional development programmes.

134. (A)

Exp:

Global Capability Centers (GCCs):

- Global capability centres (GCCs) **represent offshore establishments** set up by companies to deliver a **range of services to their parent entities.**
- Operating as internal entities within the global corporate framework, these centres offer specialised capabilities including IT services, research and development, customer support, and various other business functions.
- GCCs play a **crucial role in capitalising on cost efficiencies**, tapping into talent reservoirs, and fostering collaboration between parent enterprises and their offshore counterparts.
- Special Economic Zones (SEZs) can provide a fertile ground for GCCs to flourish by offering several advantages like tax breaks, simplified regulations and streamlined bureaucracy.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

135. (A)

Exp:

Minimum Support Price (MSP):

- The system of MSP was introduced by the Central government with the setting up of the Agricultural Prices Commission in January 1965. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- MSP is the **guaranteed amount paid** to farmers when the government buys their produce.
- MSP is based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, which considers various factors such as cost of production, demand and supply, market price trends, inter-crop price parity, etc.

- ◆ CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It came into existence in January 1965.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister of India takes the final decision (approval) on the level of MSPs.
- The **MSP is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices** to growers for their produce and encouraging Crop Diversification.
- India was facing a severe shortage of basic staples like wheat and rice in the mid-1960s, relying on imports of 10 million tonnes of wheat under Public Law 480 from the USA due to insufficient foreign exchange for global market purchases. **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.

136. (C)

Exp:

Lunar Missions:

- **Flybys** are missions in which the spacecraft passes **near the Moon** but does not get into an orbit around it. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ These were either designed to **study the Moon from a distance** or were on their way to some other planetary body or deep space exploration and happened to pass by the celestial body.
 - ◆ Some early examples of flyby missions were Pioneer 3 and 4 by the United States and Luna 3 of the then USSR.
- **Orbiters:** These were spacecraft that were **designed to get into a lunar orbit and carry out prolonged studies** of the Moon's surface and atmosphere.
 - ◆ **India's Chandrayaan-1** was an Orbiter, as were 46 other Moon missions from various countries. Orbiter missions are the most common way to study a planetary body.
- **Impact Mission** is an extension of Orbiter missions. While the main spacecraft keeps going around the Moon, one or more instruments on board make an uncontrolled landing on the lunar surface. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ They get destroyed after the impact, but still send some useful information about the Moon while on their way.
- **Lander** missions involve the **soft landing** of the spacecraft on the Moon. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ These are more complicated than the Orbiter missions.
 - ◆ The first 11 attempted lander missions had all ended in failure. The first landing on the moon was accomplished

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on January 31, 1966, by the Luna 9 spacecraft of the then USSR. It also relayed the first picture from the Moon's surface.

137. (C)

Exp:

- Recently, **Syrian rebels**, led by the Islamist militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), took over the capital Damascus, which **ended the rule of Bashar al-Assad** as president of Syria.
- Syria is bordered by **Turkey to the north**, Iraq to the east and southeast, Jordan to the south, and Israel and Lebanon to the southwest.



- Hence, option C is correct.

138. (B)

Exp:

- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** was conceived in 1999 following the recommendations of the **Eradi Committee**. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
 - ◆ The Eradi Committee on Law **Relating to Insolvency** and Winding up of Companies submitted its report to the Government in 2000.
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)** was introduced to address the challenges of insolvency resolution in a structured and time-bound manner. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
 - ◆ IBC, 2016 provides a framework for **resolving the bankruptcy and insolvency** of companies, individuals, and partnerships in a time-bound manner.
 - Insolvency is a state where the liabilities of an individual or an organisation **exceed its assets and that entity** is unable to raise enough cash to meet its obligations or debts as they become due for payment.
 - **Bankruptcy** is when a person or company is **legally declared** incapable of paying their due and payable bills.
 - ◆ The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2021** modified the 2016 Code to offer a more efficient insolvency resolution framework for

MSMEs, **ensuring quicker, cost-effective**, and value-maximising outcomes for all stakeholders.

- 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.**

139. (A)

Exp:

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:

- The SCs and the STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, also known as the SC/ST Act 1989, was enacted to **safeguard the members of SCs and STs** from caste-based discrimination and violence.
- Rooted in **Articles 15 and 17** of the Indian Constitution, the Act aims to protect these marginalised communities and address the **inadequacies of previous laws**.
- The Act builds on the **Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955**, and the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, which were established to abolish untouchability and discrimination based on caste.
- The **Central Government is authorised to frame rules** for the Act's implementation, while State Governments and Union Territories administer it with central assistance. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Act mandates the establishment of special courts for speedy trial and **SC/ST Protection Cells** at the **state level**, led by senior police officers, to oversee the

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implementation of the Act. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ Investigations into offenses under the Act must be conducted by officers not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and must be completed within a stipulated time frame.
- The **Act does not cover offenses** between SCs and STs nor can invoke the Act against another. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

140. (C)

Exp:

Gender Budgeting:

- Gender budgeting is a **strategic tool used by governments** to ensure the efficient collection and allocation of public resources according to the diverse needs and priorities of different genders. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Gender budgeting **does not involve creating** a separate budget exclusively for women but focuses on addressing women's specific needs through existing budgetary frameworks. **Hence, statement II is not correct.**
- India ratified the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979)** in 1993, signalling its commitment to gender equality.
 - ◆ This commitment led to the introduction of the **first Gender Budget Statement in the Indian Budget of 2005-2006**. Since then, the government has consistently released the Gender Budget Statement alongside the Union Budget.
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)** acts as the central nodal agency for gender budgeting, and the Ministry of Finance has mandated the establishment of Gender Budget Cells in all central ministries and departments to support this process.
- Gender budgeting falls under the **Samarthya sub-scheme of Mission Shakti**, an initiative by the MWCD aimed at empowering women.
- **Hence, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.**

141. (A)

Exp:

National Green Tribunal:

- The NGT was established in 2010 under the **National Green Tribunal Act 2010**.
- Its primary focus is to **facilitate the swift and efficient resolution** of cases related to environmental protection, conservation of forests, and preservation of natural resources. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Tribunal is **headed by the Chairperson** (appointed by the Central government in consultation with the CJI) who sits in the Principal Bench and has at least 10-20 judicial members and expert members. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The Tribunal's jurisdiction extends to **enforcing environmental rights**, granting relief and compensation for damages to individuals and property, and addressing matters associated with environmental protection and conservation.

- Apart from original jurisdiction on the filing of an application, **NGT also has appellate jurisdiction** to hear appeals as a Court (Tribunal).

- In another landmark case, **Municipal Corporation of Bombay vs Ankita Sinha**, 2021 the Supreme Court affirmed that the NGT can take up cases suo motu. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

142. (C)

Exp:

Panama Canal:

- Completed in 1914, the Panama Canal is one of the two most **strategically important artificial waterways** in the world, **alongside the Suez Canal**.

- ◆ For ships traveling between the east and west coasts of the United States, the **canal reduces the journey** by 8,000 nautical miles, avoiding the dangerous passage around Cape Horn.

- The Panama Canal is more than just a channel of water that links two larger bodies; it is a complex, highly engineered-system that **incorporates locks and elevators** to transport ships from one end to the other. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- This design is necessary because the two oceans connected by the canal are **not at the same elevation**, with the Pacific Ocean being slightly higher than the Atlantic ocean. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The Panama Canal needs massive amounts of fresh water to facilitate the passage of ships using this system of locks. Most of this water is supplied from **Lake Gatun** using the force of gravity (no pumps are needed). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- The Port of Panama plays a **vital role as an international hub for the global movement** of goods. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the primary exports included silver, slaves, and textiles.

- ◆ Today, the **focus has shifted to oil, vehicles, and industrial products**. Central to this trade connectivity is the Panama Canal, which connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the narrow Isthmus of Panama.

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Note:



143. (A)

Exp:

BRICS Grouping:

- BRICS is an **intergovernmental informal grouping** of 10 emerging economies of the world.
- The first BRIC Summit was held in Russia in 2009.
- BRICS stands for the original founding members, Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with South Africa joining in 2010.
 - ◆ In 2024, **Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, and Ethiopia** also became members.
 - ◆ **Saudi Arabia is yet to formalise** its BRICS membership.
 - ◆ Argentina was initially expected to join the group in 2024 but later decided against it.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

144. (B)

Exp:

- A **wilful defaulter** is a borrower or guarantor who has intentionally failed to repay a loan, with an outstanding amount of Rs 25 lakh or more. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A **large defaulter** refers to a borrower with an outstanding loan balance of Rs 1 crore or more, whose account has been classified as doubtful or a loss. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Write-offs** refer to the **removal of a non-performing loan** or asset from a bank's financial records, recognizing that the debt is unlikely to be recovered. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ This process does not relieve the borrower of the responsibility to repay the debt but **acknowledges the improbability of recovery.**

145. (C)

Exp:

- In the state universities, the Governor of the state is the ex-officio chancellor of the universities in that state. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, the President of India shall be the visitor of a central university. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- With their role limited to presiding over convocations, Chancellors in central universities are titular heads, who are appointed by the President in his capacity as visitor. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The Vice-Chancellor is appointed by the Visitor from panels of names picked by search and selection committees formed by the Union government.
- A visitor is empowered to call for a set of fresh names in case of dissatisfaction with the given panel.
- The Act adds that the President, as a Visitor, shall have the right to authorize inspections of academic and non-academic aspects of the universities and to institute inquiries.
- According to Article 254(1), if any provision of a state law is repugnant to a provision in a law made by the Parliament, which the Parliament is competent to enact, or with any existing law regarding any matter in the Concurrent List, then the Parliamentary law would prevail over the State law.

146. (B)

Exp:

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

- The proposed IMEC will consist of Railroad, Ship-to-Rail networks, and Road transport routes extending across two corridors,
 - ◆ The East Corridor – connecting India to the Arabian Gulf,
 - ◆ The Northern Corridor – connecting the Gulf to Europe.
- The IMEC corridor will also include an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline, and a high-speed data cable.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

147. (A)

Exp:

- **Article 124 (3) (c)** provides for the appointment of a distinguished jurist as Judge of Supreme Court of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Constitution is silent about who is a distinguished jurist. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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Note:

- Since the enactment of the constitution, no jurist has been able to reach the apex court. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

148. (B)

Exp:

World Economic Forum (WEF):

- **Global Risks Report** is an annual report that **explores the most severe risks** facing the world in the coming years. The report is based on insights from over 1,200 experts.
- **Global Gender Gap Report** is an annual report that **benchmarks gender parity** across four key dimensions: economic participation, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.
- **Future of Jobs Report** is an annual report that **explores how jobs and skills** will evolve. The report is based on survey data from the world's largest employers.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

149. (B)

Exp:

British Economic Policies:

- Recently, Oxfam released a striking figure from its research, revealing that the British Empire extracted USD 64.82 trillion (in today's value) from India between 1765 and 1900, with over USD 33.8 trillion benefiting the wealthiest 10%.
- Cheap and machine-made imports flooded the Indian market after the **Charter Act of 1813** allowing one-way free trade for the British citizens. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Indian products **struggled to enter European markets** as tariffs of nearly 80% made Indian textiles expensive and uncompetitive. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **After 1820, European markets were virtually** closed to Indian exports. Cheap British-made cloth flooded the Indian market.
- The newly introduced rail network helped European products to reach the remotest corners of the country. From being a net exporter, **India became a net importer.**
- 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.

150. (A)

Exp:

- **Bhore Committee Report (1946)** called for the integration of preventive, promotive, and curative health services and the establishment of Primary Health Centres in rural areas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Despite being the world's most populous country, **India spends only 1.9%** of its GDP on healthcare. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- **Consumer Protection Act, 1986** applies to healthcare as a service. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ Consumer Protection Act, 1986 **did not include the word "healthcare"** with the definition of the term "service".
- ◆ However, the Supreme Court in **Indian Medical Association vs. V.P. Santha & Ors** 1996 held that the language used in the Act was wide enough to cover the services rendered by the doctors as well.

151. (B)

Exp:

Central Advisory Board of Education:

- The Central Advisory Board of Education, the **oldest and the most important advisory body** of the Government of India in education was first established in 1920 and dissolved in 1923 as a measure of economy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ It was revived in 1935 and has been in existence ever since.
- The idea that there should be a central Advisory Board of Education was **first put forward by the Calcutta University Commission (1917-19)** which felt "that the Government of India could perform an invaluable function by defining the **general aims of educational policy**, by giving advice and assistance to local governments and to the development of educational ideas in the various provinces, and also elsewhere than in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Union Minister of Education** chairs the **Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)**. The Minister of State for Education serves as the Vice-Chairman. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

152. (C)

Exp:

Factors Affecting Exchange Rates:

- **Higher interest rates** in a country tend to **attract foreign investment**, increasing demand for that country's currency and strengthening its exchange rate. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- If **inflation is higher** in a country compared to its trading partners, its currency weakens as its purchasing power decreases. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A strong and growing economy fosters confidence in a country's currency, leading to a stronger exchange rate.

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Note:

- **Political instability can deter** foreign investment and weaken a country's currency. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The fundamental principle of **supply and demand plays a major role.** If more people want to buy a particular currency (higher demand), its exchange rate strengthens.

153. (B)

Exp:

- Laws on **civil nuclear liability** ensure that compensation is available to the victims for nuclear damage **caused by a nuclear incident or disaster** and set out who will be liable for that damage. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** serves as a depository for several international legal instruments on civil liability for nuclear damage, these include the **Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage** and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.
- The umbrella **Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC)** was adopted in 1997 to establish a minimum national compensation amount. **India has ratified** the CSC in 2016. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India enacted the **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) of 2010** to put in place a speedy compensation mechanism for victims of a nuclear accident. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The CLNDA provides for **strict and no-fault liability** on the operator of the nuclear plant, where it will be held liable for damage regardless of any fault on its part.
 - ◆ It specifies the amount the operator will have to pay in case of damage caused by an accident at Rs. 1,500 crore.
 - ◆ It also requires the **operator to cover liability** through insurance or other financial security.

154. (A)

Exp:

National Turmeric Board:

- It has been established to **promote the cultivation, production, processing, and marketing** of turmeric in India and enhance the income of turmeric farmers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Ministry of Commerce & Industry has increased its **product-dedicated boards to six**, after tea, coffee, rubber, spices, and tobacco. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **Board will consist of a Chairperson** appointed by the Central Government with representatives of the Ministry of AYUSH, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Department

of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, and Department of Commerce, along with **rotating senior representatives from three** turmeric-growing states. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

➤ **Objectives:**

- ◆ **Farmer welfare across 20 states**, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and others.
- ◆ Promoting research, new products, and value addition for domestic and international markets.
- ◆ Raising awareness about turmeric's medical benefits.

155. (C)

Exp:

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme:

- It was launched in January 2015 to **address sex-selective abortion** and the declining child sex ratio which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme now emphasises a **multi-sectoral approach**, involving health, education, child development, and community awareness. Over the past decade, BBBP has expanded its scope through collaborations between multiple ministries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The BBBP scheme is now **integrated with Mission Shakti**, a comprehensive program for women's safety and empowerment, for implementation during the **15th Finance Commission** period from 2021-2022 to 2025-2026. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

156. (D)

Exp:

Public Debt:

- Public debt refers to the total amount of money that a **government owes** to external creditors and domestic lenders. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In India, public debt comprises all obligations of the Union government that are required to be settled using funds from the **Consolidated Fund of India**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **External Debt:** This is the portion of a country's **debt owed to foreign creditors**, including foreign governments, international organisations, and private entities outside the country.
 - ◆ **Internal Debt:** This is the debt **owed to lenders within the country**, including individuals, banks, and other domestic institutions.
 - Internal debt is further categorised into **marketable and non-marketable** securities.

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Note:

157. (B)

Exp:

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) refers to **digital systems** that are secure and work together, making it easy to connect people, share information, and transfer money efficiently. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The **United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP)** "50 in 5" campaign set a target of getting at least 50 new countries to deploy DPI over the course of the coming five years. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ It's the **United Nations' lead agency** for international development. UNDP works in countries and territories around the world **to help people build better lives.**
- **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.**

158. (A)

Exp:

The Annual Groundwater Quality Report 2024:

- The **Union Minister of Jal Shakti** released the Annual Ground Water Quality Report for the entire country for the year 2024.
- The groundwater quality assessment was carried out by the **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)**, which can be used for taking suitable remedial measures and further planning by various stakeholders.
 - ◆ This report is the **first to adopt a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** for groundwater quality monitoring, ensuring uniformity in data collection, analysis, and interpretation. The use of internationally recognized methods further enhances the credibility and technical rigor of the findings.
- This report provides a **comprehensive analysis of the groundwater quality of India through background monitoring**, trend analysis, and hotspot identification. With a robust dataset derived from over 15,200 monitoring locations and focused assessments at 4,982 trend stations, the report delivers critical insights into groundwater quality variations across spatial and temporal scales.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

159. (A)

Exp:

Digital India initiatives:

- **DigiLocker** is a secure cloud-based platform under the **Digital India initiative**, enabling citizens to **store, share,**

and verify documents and certificates digitally, thereby reducing the reliance on physical documents.

- **DigiYatra** is an industry-led initiative coordinated by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, aiming to provide a **digital travel experience** for air passengers through facial recognition systems at various airport checkpoints, facilitating paperless and seamless travel.
- **Co-WIN is a digital platform** developed by the Government of India for the efficient rollout and management of **Covid-19 vaccination** across the country, including registration, appointment scheduling, and certificate generation.
- **FASTag is an electronic toll collection system** in India, operated by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), which employs **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)** technology to facilitate automatic toll payments directly from the prepaid or savings account linked to it, promoting seamless movement through toll plazas.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

160. (D)

Exp:

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)

- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is the **percentage of a bank's deposits** that it must keep as cash reserves with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It's a **key tool used by the RBI** to control the money supply in the economy.
- All banks in India (all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) (including RRBs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Payments Banks, Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs), State Co-operative Banks (StCBs), and District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs)) **have to maintain CRR with RBI.**
 - ◆ Every non-scheduled co-operative bank and Local Area Bank is required to maintain the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) either with itself or with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Banks can't lend the CRR money** to corporates or individual borrowers, banks can't use that money for investment purposes, and Banks don't earn any interest on that money.
- Since a part of the bank's deposits is with the RBI, it **ensures the security of the amount** in case of any emergencies.
- CRR helps in **keeping inflation** under control. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ If there is a threat of high inflation in the economy, **RBI increases the CRR**, so that banks need to keep more money in reserves, effectively reducing the amount of money that is available to the banks.
 - This curbs the excess flow of money in the economy.

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Note:

161. (B)

Exp:

Critical Minerals:

- The Ministry of Mines **identified 30 critical minerals** that are deemed essential for national security. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ These minerals are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, **Cobalt, Copper**, Gallium, Germanium, **Graphite**, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, **Silicon**, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, **Tungsten**, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and **Cadmium**.
 - ◆ The Ministry of Mines has increased its focus on the exploration of these minerals in the country through the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** and other agencies.
- A joint venture company namely **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)** has been incorporated with the equity contribution from three Central Public Sector Enterprises namely, National Aluminium Company Ltd, Hindustan Copper Ltd, and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd to **identify and acquire overseas mineral assets** of critical & strategic nature such as Lithium, Cobalt & others to ensure supply side assurance. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ KABIL has engagements with countries like Argentina, Australia, etc. to acquire critical & strategic minerals assets.
- Parliament passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023, **lifting restrictive classifications** on some rare earth elements that used to be considered 'atomic minerals'. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Atomic minerals refer to such minerals, which are or may be used for the **production or use of atomic energy** or research into matters connected therewith.

162. (B)

Exp:

Oligarchy Form of Government:

- Oligarchy is a form of government where power is concentrated in the **hands of a small group of individuals**.
- The ruling group may be identified by factors such as nobility, wealth, education, fame, or control over corporate, religious, political, or military institutions.
- Key characteristics include **exclusivity with barriers** to joining the ruling class, concentration of wealth within a small group, and limited political influence from citizens.

- In an oligarchy, the **general public has limited or no significant influence** on political decisions, as power is concentrated in the hands of a small, exclusive group distinguished by factors like wealth, nobility, or military control.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

163. (C)

Exp:

Indus Waters Treaty:

- Indus Waters Treaty was signed in September 1960, between India and Pakistan and was brokered by the **World Bank**.
- The treaty sets out a **mechanism for cooperation and information exchange** between the two sides on the use of the water of the Indus River and its five tributaries Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab.
- It prescribes how water from the six rivers of the Indus River System would be shared between India and Pakistan. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It allocated the three western rivers **Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum to Pakistan** for unrestricted use, barring certain non-consumptive, agricultural, and domestic uses by India and the three Eastern rivers Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej were allocated to India for unrestricted usage.
- This means that 80% of the share of water went to Pakistan while leaving the rest 20% of water for use by India.
- Under the Indus Waters Treaty, both countries must set up a **Permanent Indus Commission**, which is mandated to meet annually. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The IWT provides a **three-step dispute resolution mechanism** under which "questions" on both sides can be resolved at the Permanent Commission, or can also be taken up at the inter-government level.
- Unresolved differences between the countries on water-sharing can be addressed by the **World Bank-appointed Neutral Expert (NE)**.
 - ◆ Appeal from a Neutral Expert of WB can be referred to a Court of Arbitration set up by the World Bank.

164. (A)

Exp:

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve:

- The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is a **protected area in Uttar Pradesh** located on the India-Nepal border.
 - ◆ It stretches mainly across the Lakhimpur Kheri and Bahraich districts.
 - ◆ It is the state's **only national park**.

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Note:

- **It comprises of:**
 - ◆ **Dudhwa National Park** through which Suheli and Mohana streams flow,
 - ◆ **Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary** through which the Sharda River flows, and
 - ◆ **Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary** through which Geruwa River flows.
 - All of these rivers are **tributaries of the Ghagra River**.
- It is unique for hosting **five species of deer**, including the swamp deer (barasingha).
 - ◆ It is also **home to Bengal tigers** and the endangered Indian one-horned rhinoceros, making it ecologically significant.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

165. (A)

Exp:

Shrimp Farming:

- A **shrimp is a crustacean (a form of shellfish)** characterised by a semi-transparent body flattened from side to side and a flexible abdomen terminating in a fanlike tail.
 - ◆ Their close relatives include crabs, crayfish, and lobsters. They **occur in all oceans**, in shallow and deep water, and in freshwater lakes and streams.
- Shrimp Farming is about **raising shrimp in controlled environments** such as ponds, tanks, or raceways for human consumption.
- India is one of the world's largest shrimp exporters.
 - ◆ **Andhra Pradesh** is the largest shrimp producer state in India which accounts for **70%** of India's shrimp output. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- All shrimp units are registered with **MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority)** and FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Shrimp units follow a **HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point)** based food safety management system **as per the US Code of Federal Regulations**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Usage of **pharmacologically active substances** in aquaculture has been banned since 2002.

166. (C)

Exp:

Citizenship:

- Citizenship signifies the **relationship between the individual and the state**.

- From the time of the **Motilal Nehru Committee (1928)**, the Indian leadership favored the enlightened concept of jus soli. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ While '**jus soli**' confers citizenship on the basis of **place of birth**, '**jus sanguinis**' gives recognition to blood ties.
- Citizenship is listed in the **Union List** under the Constitution and thus is under the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Constitution does not define** the term 'citizen' but details of various categories of persons who are entitled to citizenship are given in Part 2 (Articles 5 to 11). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Unlike other provisions of the Constitution, which came into being on January 26, 1950, these articles were enforced on November 26, 1949 itself, when the Constitution was adopted.

167. (B)

Exp:

Mental Health:

- The **Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)** licenses clinical psychologists for therapeutic or clinical settings but does not regulate other psychology branches like counseling.
- In India, psychiatrists are medical doctors specialising in psychiatry and are regulated by the **National Medical Commission (NMC)**.
- Compared to psychologists, there is a more structured regulatory framework for psychiatrists, however, enforcement of ethical and professional standards varies.
 - ◆ The NMC **sets ethical guidelines** for all medical professionals, while the **Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS)** offers specialized ethical guidelines for psychiatric practice.
- Furthermore, enforcement of such guidelines **relies on multiple bodies**, such as state medical councils, hospital ethics committees, and the judiciary, leading to fragmented oversight and no standard database for digestible and digital access by the public.
- As an initial step, the **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017** has introduced mechanisms for grievance redressal, such as the **Mental Health Review Boards**, to increase accountability.
- Supplementing the same, the IPS is also working to **raise awareness of ethical guidelines among practitioners**.
- 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.

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Note:

168. (A)

Exp:

Subhas Chandra Bose:

- Born in 1897 in Cuttack (now in Odisha, then in Bengal), to Janakinath and Prabhavati Bose, Netaji was raised in a family that **valued English education and Hindu customs**.
- He was inspired by the teachings of **Ramakrishna Paramhansa** and **Swami Vivekananda**, as well as the themes of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's Ananda Math.
 - ◆ He developed a unique synthesis of Western and Indian cultures, focused on India's freedom and revival.
- SC Bose passed the **Indian Civil Service exam in 1920 but resigned in 1921 to join the Indian freedom struggle**.
- In 1921, Netaji met Mahatma Gandhi in Bombay but disagreed with his approach to independence, particularly his patience and commitment to non-violence.
- **In 1938, Netaji was elected Congress president at the Haripura session** and advocated for swaraj, and opposed an Indian federation under the Government of India Act, 1935.
- In 1939, Netaji was re-elected as Congress president in the Tripuri session, defeating Gandhi-backed Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. Gandhi saw this as a personal defeat, leading to the resignation of 12 out of 15 Working Committee members, including JL Nehru, Patel, and Rajendra Prasad.
- Bose attempted to form a new working committee but failed, leading to his resignation and replacement by Rajendra Prasad.
- Bose resigned from the chairmanship of the party on 29th April 1939 and proposed the Forward Bloc to unite the radical-left Congress members, offering an alternative leadership based on anti-imperialism and socialism after independence.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

169. (B)

Exp:

World Health Organization (WHO):

- The World Health Organization (WHO), founded in 1948, is a UN agency dedicated to promoting global health, ensuring safety, and supporting vulnerable populations for universal well-being. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **World Health Assembly (WHA)** is the WHO's highest decision-making body, consisting of representatives from **all member states**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **Secretariat implements** the policies and programs approved by the WHA.

- ◆ The Director-General leads the WHA and is supported by a senior management team.
- The WHO receives funding primarily **through two sources**:
 - ◆ **Assessed Contributions:** These are **mandatory dues** paid by member countries to maintain their membership in the organization.
 - ◆ **Voluntary Contributions:** These come from **member states** (beyond their assessed contributions) and other partners, including United Nations organizations, intergovernmental bodies, philanthropic foundations, and private sector entities.
- The United States is a founding member of WHO, and is also its biggest financial backer, contributing around 18% of its overall funding. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

170. (B)

Exp:

Global Tuberculosis Report 2024:

- According to the **World Health Organization's** Global Tuberculosis Report 2024, India continues to lead in the global TB burden (26% of cases) and is also the hub for drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) and TB deaths.
- India has achieved a **notable 17.7% decline in tuberculosis (TB) incidence** from 2015 to 2023.
 - ◆ This decline, exceeding the global average of 8.3%, underscores India's unwavering commitment to **eliminating TB by 2025**, under the **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

171. (A)

Exp:

Election Commission of India (ECI):

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an **autonomous constitutional authority** responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **January 25** marks the anniversary of the establishment of the ECI and is observed as National Voters Day. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the **President and Vice President** in the country.
- It is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.
- **Part XV (Article 324-329)** deals with elections and establishes a commission for these matters.

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Note:

- Originally the commission had **only one election commissioner** but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it was made a multi-member body. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix.
 - ◆ Presently, it consists of the **CEC and two Election Commissioners (ECs).**

172. (A)

Exp:

Poverty Estimation in India:

- **Alagh Committee (1979):** A task force constituted by the **Planning Commission under the chairmanship of YK Alagh**, constructed a poverty line for rural and urban areas based on nutritional requirements and related consumption expenditure.
 - ◆ Poverty estimates for subsequent years were to be calculated by adjusting the price level for inflation.
- **Lakdawala Committee (1993):** Task Force chaired by **DT Lakdawala**, based on the assumption that the basket of goods and services used to calculate Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) and Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) reflect the consumption patterns of the poor.
- **Tendulkar Committee (2009):** An expert group constituted by the **Planning Commission and, chaired by Suresh Tendulkar**, was constituted to review the methodology for poverty estimation.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

173. (B)

Exp:

Farmer Producer Organization (FPO):

- The government of India launched a Central Sector Scheme of "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)**" in 2020 to provide better facilities to farmers due to the economy of scale and better bargaining power of FPOs thus improving the income of the member farmers.
- A Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) is supported by the **Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)** to enhance collective bargaining, achieve economies of scale, and improve farmers' income and market access. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**
- Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) need at least 300 members for **NABSanrakshan** and 500 for **SFAC credit**

guarantee schemes, with exemptions for North-East and hilly regions. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

- ◆ **NABSanrakshan** aims to carry out credit guarantees and related activities towards sustainable and equitable agriculture and rural development.
- ◆ Government of India through the **Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**, a registered society under the **Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare**, Government of India, is promoting Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) by mobilizing the farmers and helping them in **registering as companies** and providing them with handholding support and training for their sustainability.
- ◆ SFAC has undertaken various FPO promotion programmes in the country such as through **Vegetable Initiative for Urban Cluster (VIUC)**, Mission Organic Value Chain Development (MOVCD), National Food for Security Mission (NFSM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), etc.
- 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.

174. (D)

Exp:

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB):

- The **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board** shall have powers to lay down safety standards and frame rules and regulations regarding the regulatory and safety requirements envisaged under the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962.**
- The functions of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board shall be to:
 - ◆ It regulates safety compliance by establishing and enforcing standards, codes, and guidelines for nuclear facilities under the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** and non-DAE jurisdictions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It advises the **Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)** and Department of Atomic Energy on nuclear plant siting, design, construction, and operations to minimize risks to personnel and the public. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Send reports periodically to Chairman, AEC on safety status including **observance of safety regulations** and standards and implementation of the recommendations in all DAE and non-DAE units. It will also submit an Annual Report of its activities to the Chairman, AEC. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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Note:

175. (C)

Exp:

Rare Earth Elements (REEs):

- Rare Earth Metals are a set of **seventeen metallic elements**.
 - ◆ These include the **fifteen lanthanides on the periodic table** in addition to scandium and yttrium which **show similar physical and chemical properties** to the lanthanides.
- These minerals have **unique magnetic, luminescent, and electrochemical properties**.
- These minerals are **indispensable for the production** of clean energy systems, including wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicles, as well as high-tech digital products. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While the global reserves of these minerals are adequate, their distribution is **highly uneven**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- According to estimates, the total worldwide reserves of rare earths amount to approximately 110 million metric tons. Most of these reserves are **located within China**, estimated at some 44 million metric tons.
- Technological advancements over the past three decades have led to **highly concentrated supply chains**, with China exerting significant control over mining as well as processing of several critical minerals. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ This dominance has been achieved through **strategic investments in processing technologies**, domestic production, and overseas acquisitions, particularly in Africa and South America.

176. (B)

Exp:

- The **IFSC Fund Management Regulations, 2022**, issued by the IFSC Authority, facilitate the establishment of funds that can **invest both in India** and in other approved foreign jurisdictions, enabling high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) to **diversify their portfolios** with foreign currency-denominated securities. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ The **International Financial Services Centres Authority** regulates financial products such as securities, deposits or contracts of insurance, financial services, and financial institutions that have been previously approved by any appropriate regulator such as the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), etc., in an IFSC.
- The **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City International Financial Services Centre (GIFT IFSC)** serves as a global

hub for finance and technology, providing a streamlined and cost-efficient regulatory framework for HNIs and fund managers, positioning itself as a competitor to established global financial centers like Singapore and Mauritius. **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.

177. (B)

Exp:

Equalization Levy:

- The Equalization Levy was **introduced to tax foreign companies** that have a **significant digital presence in India** and cater to local customers, even though they operate offshore and avoid domestic tax obligations. This measure aims to **create a level playing field for domestic and foreign businesses**.
- The levy affected **major US digital companies**, leading Washington to propose retaliatory import tariffs of up to **25% on several Indian products** to offset approximately USD 55 million in taxes.
- In November 2021, India and the US agreed under the **OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework's two-pillar solution** to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy, leading to the suspension of retaliatory tariffs.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

178. (C)

Exp:

Major Judgements:

- **A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras (1950):**
 - ◆ In the **A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras (1950)** case, the Supreme Court interpreted the Fundamental Rights under Part III of the Indian Constitution.
 - ◆ In this case, it held that the protection under Article 21 is **available only against arbitrary executive action** and not from arbitrary legislative action.
 - ◆ This means that the **State can deprive a person's right to life** and personal liberty based on a law. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Shankari Prasad v. Union of India (1951):**
 - ◆ In this case, the constitutional validity of the **First Amendment Act (1951)**, was challenged.
 - ◆ The Supreme Court ruled that the power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution under **Article 368** also includes the power to amend Fundamental Rights.

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Note:

- ◆ The word 'law' in Article 13 includes **only ordinary laws** and not the constitutional amendment acts (constituent laws).
- ◆ Therefore, the **Parliament can abridge or take away any** of the Fundamental Rights by enacting a constitutional amendment act and such a law will not be void under Article 13. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd) Vs Union of India (2017):**
 - ◆ In August 2017, a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court in **Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd) Vs Union of India** unanimously held that Indians have a constitutionally protected fundamental right to privacy that is an intrinsic part of life and liberty under Article 21. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
 - ◆ It held that **privacy is a natural right that inheres** in all natural persons and that the right may be restricted only by state action that passes each of the three tests:
 - First, such state action must have a **legislative mandate**;
 - Second, it must be pursuing a **legitimate state purpose**; and
 - Third, it must be **proportionate** i.e., such state action — both in its nature and extent, must be necessary in a democratic society and the action ought to be the least intrusive of the available alternatives to accomplish the ends.

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

179. (B)

Exp:

- **Megaliths refer** to large stone structures that were constructed either as burial sites or as commemorative sites. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- In India, archaeologists trace the majority of the megaliths to the Iron Age (1500 BC to 500 BC), though some sites precede the Iron Age, **extending up to 2000 BC.**
- Globally, the Iron Age followed the Copper-Bronze Age, but in India, while the north remained Chalcolithic, **the south, with over 3,000 sites, embraced iron**, dating to the second millennium BCE. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Megaliths are spread across the Indian subcontinent. The majority of them are found in peninsular India, concentrated in the states of Maharashtra (mainly in Vidarbha), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- 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.

180. (B)

Exp:

Federalism:

- The Indian Constitution establishes a federal system with some unitary features. It is sometimes called a **quasi-federal system**, as it contains elements of both federation and union. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Constitution specifies the distribution of legislative, administrative, and executive powers between the union government and the state governments
- **Coming Together Federation:** In this type, independent states come together to form a larger unit. Here, **states enjoy more autonomy** as compared to the holding together kind of federation. Example: USA, Australia, Switzerland.
- **Holding Together Federation:** In this type, **powers are shared between various constituent parts** to accommodate the diversity in the whole entity. Here, powers are generally tilted towards the central authority. Example: India, Spain, Belgium. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **S.R. Bommai v. Union of India Case, 1994:**
 - ◆ The judgment **provided clarity on the scope** and limitations of Article 356, emphasising its use only in extraordinary circumstances.
 - ◆ The case **affirmed the principles of federalism**, stating that state governments are not subordinate to the centre and advocating for cooperative federalism. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The judgement asserted the role of the judiciary in **scrutinising the President's actions under Article 356**, ensuring adherence to constitutional principles and preventing misuse of power.
 - ◆ It affirmed that the floor of the Assembly is the sole authority to test the government's majority, not the subjective opinion of the Governor.

181. (D)

Exp:

- The Constitution of India does not explicitly **declare capital punishment** as unconstitutional. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per the Constitutional framework in India, a mercy petition to the President is the last constitutional resort a convict can take when he is sentenced by a court of law.
 - ◆ A convict can **present a mercy petition** to the President of India under Article 72 of the Constitution of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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Note:

- Similarly, the **power to grant pardon is conferred** upon the Governors of States under Article 161 of the Constitution of India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

182. (C)

Exp:

Citizenship:

- Citizenship is listed in the **Union List under the Constitution** and thus is under the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Constitution **does not define the term 'citizen'** but details of various categories of persons who are entitled to citizenship are given in Part 2 (Articles 5 to 11).
- Unlike other provisions of the Constitution, which came into being on January 26, 1950, these articles were enforced on November 26, 1949 itself, when the Constitution was adopted.
- **Indian citizenship can be acquired** through birth, descent, registration, and naturalization, as outlined in the Citizenship Act, 1955. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

183. (A)

Exp:

➤ **Cyclical slowdown:**

- ◆ A cyclical slowdown is a **period of lean economic activity** that occurs at regular intervals. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ Such slowdowns **last over the short-to-medium term** and are based on the changes in the business cycle. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ Generally, **interim fiscal and monetary measures**, temporary recapitalisation of credit markets, and **need-based regulatory changes** are required to revive the economy. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- ◆ On the other hand **structural slowdown**, requires the government to undertake some structural policies. The best example in this regard would be the reforms that were carried out to address the crisis in 1991.
 - A structural slowdown is a **more deep-rooted phenomenon** that occurs due to a one-off shift from an existing paradigm.
 - The changes, which **last over a long term**, are driven by disruptive technologies, changing demographics, and/or changes in consumer behaviour.
 - In such a scenario, a monetary and fiscal stimulus won't be enough to revive the economy.

184. (A)

Exp:

- **DeepSeek** is a cutting-edge AI company known for developing one of the most **advanced large-language models** in the world. Their recent innovations include **reasoning models optimized for complex decision-making** through reinforcement learning techniques. DeepSeek's technology is transforming industries by pushing the boundaries of data analysis and predictive capabilities.
- **Stargate is an ambitious infrastructure project** aimed at revolutionizing artificial intelligence development in the United States. Backed by major tech players, it focuses on **building large-scale data centers** and AI-ready infrastructure. The initiative aims to drive innovation, create thousands of jobs, and bolster the nation's competitiveness in the global AI landscape.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

185. (A)

Exp:

Future of Jobs Report 2025:

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** released its '**Future of Jobs Report 2025**,' highlighting key findings and changes expected to shape the global job market by 2030.
 - ◆ The report, based on inputs from 55 economies, projected a net increase of 78 million jobs by 2030 and highlighted how technology, economic shifts, and the green transition impact jobs and skills.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

186. (C)

Exp:

Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG):

- Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals are a **set of standards for a company's operations** that force companies to follow better governance, ethical practices, environment-friendly measures, and social responsibility. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Environmental criteria consider how a company performs as a steward of nature.
 - ◆ Social criteria examine how it manages relationships with employees, suppliers, customers, and the communities where it operates.
 - ◆ Governance deals with a **company's leadership**, executive pay, audits, internal controls, and shareholder rights.
- It focuses on **non-financial factors** as a metric for guiding investment decisions wherein increased financial returns

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Note:

are no longer the sole objective of investors. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

- Since the introduction of the **United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (UNPRI) in 2006**, the ESG framework has been recognised as an inextricable link to modern-day businesses. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

187. (B)

Exp:

Red Sea:

- The Red Sea is a **semi-enclosed tropical basin**, bounded by northeastern Africa, to the west, and the Arabian peninsula, to the east.
- The elongated and narrow-shaped basin extends between the **Mediterranean Sea, to the northwest**, and the Indian Ocean, to the southeast.
- At the northern end, it separates into the **Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez**, which is connected to the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal.
- At the southern end, it is connected to the **Gulf of Aden**, and the outer Indian Ocean, via the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb.
- It is surrounded by **desert or semi-desert areas**, with no major freshwater inflow.
- Hence, **option B is correct.**

188. (B)

Exp:

Microfinance Institutions:

- MFIs are financial companies that provide **small loans** and other financial services to people who don't have access to banking facilities. Hence, **statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ The goal of microfinance is to **help low-income and unemployed people** become self-sufficient.
 - ◆ It serves as a powerful tool for financial inclusion, helping marginalised and low-income groups, especially women, to achieve social equity and empowerment.
- The RBI regulates MFIs under the **NBFC-MFI framework (2014)**, which covers client protection, borrower safeguards, privacy, and credit pricing. Hence, **statement II is correct.**
- In India, the microfinance sector has grown significantly, with 168 Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) operating across 29 States, 4 Union Territories, and 563 districts.
- These institutions serve over 3 crore clients.
- 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.

189. (C)

Exp:

- **Private labelling** refers to a business strategy where the retailer sells products in their name while outsourcing them from third-party manufacturers. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ In this case, the food delivery giants would be directly procuring food and beverages from a third-party vendor and delivering them from quick commerce dark stores.
- Presently, the **Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules of 2020** prohibit intermediaries from selling goods on their platform under their private label or through a company they have a stake in. Therefore, this practice is **not allowed in India.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

190. (A)

Exp:

Similipal Tiger Reserve:

- Similipal is situated in the Deccan Peninsula Biogeographic Zone.
- It has predominantly **moist mixed deciduous forests** with tropical semi-evergreen patches and sporadic dry deciduous forests and grasslands.
- Holds 7% of India's flowering plants and 8% of its orchid species.
- Home to 55 mammal species, 361 bird species, 62 reptile species, 21 amphibian species, and numerous insects and microfauna.
- Major species other than tigers include sambar, chital, barking deer, gaur, and mouse deer, leopards, fishing cats etc.
- Management efforts have revived mugger crocodile populations along rivers Khairi and Deo.
- It has also been designated as a **Global Network of Biospheres** site since 2009.
- Hence, **option A is correct.**

191. (C)

Exp:

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

- Under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934 the Central Government is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The MPC is required to meet at least four times in a year. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

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Note:

192. (C)

Exp:

Sixth Schedule of the Constitution:

- The Sixth Schedule was originally intended for the predominantly **tribal areas (tribal population over 90% of undivided Assam)**, which was categorised as “excluded areas” under the Government of India Act, 1935, and was under the direct control of the Governor.
- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the **administration of tribal areas** in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This special provision is provided under **Article 244(2) and Article 275(1)** of the Constitution.
- The Sixth Schedule provides for autonomy in the administration of these areas through Autonomous District Councils (ADCs). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- These councils are empowered to make laws in respect of areas under their jurisdiction, which cover the land, forest, cultivation, inheritance, indigenous customs and traditions of tribals, etc., and also to collect land revenues and certain other taxes.
- **ADCs are like miniature states** having specific powers and responsibilities with respect to all three arms of governance: Legislature, executive, and judiciary.

193. (A)

Exp:

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):

- It is the EU’s tool to put a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon-intensive goods that are entering the EU and to encourage **cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.**
- It ensures that the **carbon price for imports matches** the carbon price applied to EU-produced goods, maintaining fair competition.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

194. (C)

Exp:

International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- **Any state, whether or not a member of the UN,** may become a member of the IMF in accordance with the IMF Articles of Agreement and terms prescribed by the Board of Governors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- On joining the IMF, each member country **contributes a certain sum of money**, called a quota subscription, based on the country’s wealth and economic performance (Quota Formula). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ It is a weighted average of GDP (weight of 50 %)

- ◆ Openness (30 %),

- ◆ Economic variability (15 %),

- ◆ International reserves (5 %).

- The GDP of a member country is measured through a blend of GDP—based on market exchange rates (weight of 60 %) and on PPP exchange rates (40 %).

- **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)** represent a claim to currency held by IMF member countries for which they may be exchanged. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) are the IMF’s unit of account and not a currency.

- The currency value of the SDR is determined by summing the values in U.S. dollars, based on market exchange rates, of an SDR basket of currencies.

195. (B)

Exp:

Indian Federalism:

- India’s federalism, as outlined in the Constitution, has demonstrated remarkable resilience.
- The Constitution effectively combines federal features, such as the **division of powers, a written constitution, and an independent judiciary**, with unitary traits like a strong central authority, emergency provisions, and centrally appointed governors.
- In Indian federalism, states do not have equal representation in the Rajya Sabha. The **representation is based on the population of the states**, unlike in systems like the U.S., where each state has equal representation in the Senate.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

196. (B)

Exp:

National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme (NGRMP):

- It is an initiative launched by the Government of India to **address the risks posed by Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF).** **Hence, statement-I is correct.**
- Teams on expeditions assess the **structural stability and potential breach points** of glacial lakes, gathering relevant hydrological and geological samples and data, measuring water quality and flow rates, identifying risk zones, and making downstream communities aware.
- The objective is to **assess hazards, install automated monitoring** and early warning systems, and implement lake-lowering measures to mitigate glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) risks.

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Note:

- Lake-lowering measures are techniques used to reduce the volume of water in a glacial lake to mitigate the risk of a GLOF.
- NDMA is focussing on ground-truthing of selected 189 “high-risk” glacial lakes.
- **Ground-truthing** is the process of validating and verifying data collected through remote sensing or other indirect methods by comparing it with direct observations made on-site. **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.

197. (A)

Exp:

- Through Quad, the US has deepened its broad-based cooperation with **Australia, Japan, and India**, addressing a wide range of regional challenges. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- AUKUS reflects the US and the UK’s focused collaboration with Australia to equip it with nuclear submarines, aiming to deter potential conflicts in the Indo-Pacific. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The US has **strengthened security cooperation** with Australia, Japan, and the Philippines through Squad to counter Chinese aggression in the South and East China Sea, with Quad maintaining the most diverse and comprehensive agenda among these initiatives. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

198. (C)

Exp:

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

- It is a statutory body responsible for enforcing the Competition Act of 2002. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a multi-member body consisting of a **Chairperson and six members** appointed by the Central Government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The members are drawn from various fields, including law, economics, business administration, and public affairs.
 - ◆ The Chairperson and other Members shall be whole-time Members.
- The Commission operates through various divisions and employs a team of professionals to carry out its functions effectively.

199. (A)

Exp:

Uniform Civil Code (UCC):

- The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is outlined in **Article 44 of the Constitution** as part of the Directive Principles of State Policy, which states that the government should strive to establish a uniform civil code for all citizens across India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- However, its implementation is left to the discretion of the government.
- **Uttarakhand became the first state** of free India to adopt a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), although it isn’t the first to have one, since Goa has had it since Portuguese rule. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Earlier **Goa was the only state** in India where a UCC was in place, following the Portuguese Civil Code of 1867.

200. (D)

Exp:

- Under **Article 245** of the Constitution, laws made by a state legislature extend only to the territory of the state. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The right to privacy is protected as an **intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty** under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Supreme Court described privacy and its importance in the landmark decision of **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India** in 2017 that the right to **Privacy is fundamental and inalienable** and attaches to the person covering all information about that person and the choices that he/ she makes.

201. (A)

Exp:

Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024:

- After a prolonged decline due to learning losses during the COVID-19 pandemic, there has now been a **modest recovery in foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN)** among school students.
 - ◆ This is the key takeaway from the **14th Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)** released by the **Pratham Foundation**, a non-governmental organisation.
- The ASER is **an annual, citizen-led household survey** that aims to understand whether children in rural India are enrolled in school and whether they are learning.
- ASER has been **conducted every year since 2005** in all rural districts of India. It is the largest citizen-led survey in India.

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Note:

- ASER surveys provided representative estimates of the enrolment status of **children aged 3-16** and the basic reading and arithmetic levels of **children aged 5-16** at the national, state, and district levels.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

202. (A)

Exp:

Fiscal Consolidation:

- Fiscal consolidation refers to the **prudent management** of government finances to ensure long-term economic stability. Hence, statement I is correct.
- It focuses on **balancing government revenue** (taxes and non-tax receipts) with expenditure, aiming to minimize fiscal deficits, control public debt, and support sustainable economic growth. Hence, statement II is correct.
- **Key Features:**
 - ◆ Focus on essential, efficient, and productive areas like infrastructure, health, and education.
 - ◆ Maximize tax collection, reduce tax evasion, and broaden the tax base.
 - ◆ Limit fiscal deficits to avoid excessive borrowing.
 - ◆ Keep public debt sustainable to prevent economic crises.
 - ◆ Ensure transparency through audits and compliance with regulations.

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

203. (A)

Exp:

United Nations Security Council:

- It has primary responsibility, under the **UN Charter**, for the maintenance of international peace and security. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Security Council is made up of **fifteen member states**, consisting of five permanent members, China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States and **ten non-permanent** members elected for **two-year terms** by the General Assembly on a regional basis. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

204. (C)

Exp:

Mount Kailash:

- **Mount Kailash** (elevation 6,638 meters), is a diamond-shaped peak made of black rock and the source of **major rivers in Asia**, including the Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Indus, and Karnali. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The **Kailash Manasarovar Yatra (KMY)** is revered by Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Bon followers.

- ◆ Hindus believe Lord Shiva resides at the peak, while Jains regard it as **Mount Ashtapada**, where Rishabhadeva achieved liberation. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- **India and China** held 23rd Meeting of the Special Representatives (SRs), reaffirming the disengagement agreement at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

- ◆ The talks discussed resuming the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra (KMY), a **sacred pilgrimage to Mount Kailash and Mansarovar Lake in Tibet**, which has been suspended since 2020 due to the Covid-19 and the non-renewal of arrangements by China.

- The **Mansarovar Lake**, near Mount Kailash, is revered for its spiritual power.

- ◆ India organizes the KMY annually between June and September through the **Lipulekh Pass (since 1981)** in Uttarakhand and the **Nathu La Pass (since 2015)** in Sikkim.

205. (B)

Exp:

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF):

- It is a **multilateral treaty** aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss globally by 2030. Hence, statement I is correct.

- Adopted in December 2022 during the 15th Conference of the Parties (CoP), it supports the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and builds on achievements and lessons from the 2011–2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

- ◆ It aims to ensure that by 2030, at least **30% of degraded terrestrial**, inland water, marine, and coastal ecosystems are **effectively restored**.

- ◆ It includes 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action by 2030.

- ◆ This target refers to collective global efforts, not a mandate for each country to allocate 30% of its land and water areas.

- ◆ The framework envisions a **collective commitment to living in harmony** with nature by 2050, providing a foundational guide for current actions and policies related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

- **India's first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** was created in 1999, with updates in 2008 and 2014 to align with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

- ◆ India is a **megadiverse country**, home to over 55,000 plant taxa and 100,000 animal species conservation which is vital for both livelihoods and ecological health. Hence, statement-II is correct.

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Note:

- 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.

206. (A)

Exp:

Dadabhai Naoroji:

- He served as the **first Indian member of the British parliament**. In 1892, he won from the Central Finsbury seat as a Liberal Party candidate.
- In 1865, Naoroji co-founded the **London Indian Society**, and in 1866, he established the East India Association.
- He served as the **president of the Congress** three times in 1886 (Calcutta), 1893 (Lahore), and 1906 (Calcutta).
- Naoroji was one of the **key proponents of "Drain Theory (1867)"** which exposed the economic exploitation of India by Britain.
- He published the book **Poverty and Un-British Rule** in India in 1901.
- Naoroji advocated for a **standing committee in the British House of Commons** to address protests from Indian legislative bodies.
- He formed an **Indian parliamentary committee** in the British Parliament in 1893 to lobby for reforms in India.
- He was appointed to the **Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure in 1895**.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

207. (A)

Exp:

- **Semiconductor:** Semiconductors possess **electrical conductivity properties intermediate** between conductors and insulators, which can be modified by introducing dopants.
 - ◆ Semiconductor chips, transistors, fabrication technology, and wafers are interdependent components **essential for electronic device functionality**.
 - ◆ Transistors serve as the building blocks of semiconductor chips fabricated on wafers using specific technologies, enabling the creation of complex devices powering modern technology.
- **Semiconductor Chips:** It is a tiny electronic device made of **semiconductor material** (usually silicon or germanium) which serves as the basic building block of most electronic circuits.
- **Transistor:** Transistors are **fundamental components** of semiconductor devices that amplify or switch electronic signals and electrical power.

- **Fabrication Technology:** Fabrication technology refers to the **process of creating semiconductor devices** like chips and transistors. It involves several key steps, including wafer preparation, photolithography, etching, doping, and packaging.
- **Wafer:** A wafer (also called a slice or substrate) is a **thin slice of semiconductor material**, such as crystalline silicon, used for the fabrication of integrated circuits.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

208. (C)

Exp:

- **Article 15(1)** of the Indian Constitution states that the State shall not engage in **discrimination against any citizen** solely based on religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any combination of these factors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- According to the **Fifth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution, a Gram Sabha has the **right to uphold and safeguard the culture of the community** within a Scheduled Area, primarily through the provisions of the **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA Act)** which empowers the Gram Sabha to protect local traditions and customs of the people residing in those areas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

209. (C)

Exp:

National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET):

- It was established under Section 9C of the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**, to accelerate mineral exploration in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **NMET Fund**, established for Trust activities, is funded by a 2% royalty contribution from mining leaseholders under the MMDR Act, 1957. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- NMET has a two-tier structure:
 - ◆ The apex body is the **Governing Body**, chaired by the Minister of Mines. It holds the overall control of the Trust.
 - ◆ The **Executive Committee**, chaired by the Secretary, of the Ministry of Mines, administers and manages its activities.

210. (B)

Exp:

Mahatma Gandhi:

- He was born on 2nd October 1869 in Porbandar (Gujarat).
- He was shot dead by Nathuram Godse on 30th January 1948.
 - ◆ 30th January is observed as Martyrs' Day.

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Note:

- Mahatma Gandhi became a **prominent leader of the Indian National Congress (INC) in the early 20th century**, advocating for non-violent resistance and mass mobilization to challenge British rule.
 - ◆ The **Belgaum session in 1924** was the only Congress session that was presided over by Gandhi Ji.
- Gandhi launched the **Non-Cooperation Movement (NCM) (1920-1922)** in response to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and the repressive Rowlatt Act.
- Gandhi Ji was awarded the **Kaisar-i-Hind** gold medal in 1915 for his service in the Boer War but returned it in 1920 to protest the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- Gandhi led the **Salt March (1930)** to the Gujarati coastal town of Dandi, protesting the British salt tax. This marked the beginning of the **Civil Disobedience Movement**.
- Gandhi called for the **Quit India Movement (QIM) (1942)**, demanding an end to British rule in India.
- His slogan, **"Do or Die,"** inspired millions to participate in protests, strikes, and acts of civil disobedience, marking a significant escalation in the freedom struggle.
- On March 3, 1918, Mahatma Gandhi issued an appeal for six Tamil and Telugu youths to come forward and learn Hindi and propagate the language in the Madras Presidency. This appeal led to the formation of the Chennai-headquartered Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha.
- 'The Law and the Lawyers' is one of his famous books.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

211. (B)

Exp:

Uniform Civil Code (UCC):

- The Uniform Civil Code refers to a **single set of laws** governing personal matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, and succession for all citizens of India. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**
- The concept of UCC is **mentioned in Article 44** of the Indian Constitution as a Directive Principle of State Policy, which states that the state shall endeavor to secure a uniform civil code for citizens throughout the territory of India. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ However, this is **not a legally enforceable right** but a guiding principle for the state.
- 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.

212. (B)

Exp:

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar:

- He was born on 28th May 1883 in Bhagur, a village near Nashik in Maharashtra.
- He died on 26th February 1966 due to fasting on his wish of death.
- **Related Organisations and Work:**
 - ◆ Founded a secret society called **Abhinav Bharat Society**.
 - ◆ He was the president of Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943.
 - ◆ The famous book includes **'The History of the War of Indian Independence'** and **'Hindutva: who is Hindu?'**.
- **Trial and Sentences:**
 - ◆ He was arrested in 1909 on **charges of plotting an armed revolt** against the Morley-Minto reform (Indian Councils Act 1909).
 - ◆ Arrested in 1910 for his connections with the revolutionary group India House.
 - ◆ Following the two trials, Savarkar was **convicted and sentenced to 50 years imprisonment** and transported in 1911 to the Cellular Jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (also known as Kala Pani).
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

213. (D)

Exp:

Defence Spending:

- Lending agencies such as the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the World Bank consider defence expenditure of up to 3% of GDP to be acceptable. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **NATO charter mandates** that member nations allocate a minimum of 2% of their GDP to defence to ensure effective contribution to collective security. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Both China and India** allocate less than 2% of their GDP to defence, whereas the United States spends over 4%. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

214. (A)

Exp:

- Focusing on export growth **reduces reliance on imports**, particularly in sectors like electronics and renewable energy components. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**
 - ◆ Boosting exports **not only narrows the trade deficit** but also strengthens India's foreign exchange reserves, making the economy more resilient to external shocks.

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Note:

- ◆ India's merchandise exports rose 6% to a record USD 447 billion during the financial year 2022-23, aided by healthy growth in outbound shipments of sectors such as petroleum, pharma chemicals, and marine and narrowing the trade deficit to USD 21.94 billion in December 2024.
- Export-driven manufacturing **integrates India into global value chains**, facilitating access to advanced technologies and international best practices. **Hence, statement-II is correct.**
 - ◆ This can **improve productivity and innovation**, making domestic industries globally competitive.
 - ◆ For instance, Apple and its suppliers aim to reach 32% of global iPhone manufacturing and 26% of their production value in India by 2026-27.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

215. (B)**Exp:****Defamation:**

- Defamation is the **act of communicating false statements** about a person that injure the reputation of that person when observed through the eyes of an ordinary man.
 - ◆ Any false and unprivileged statement published or spoken deliberately, intentionally, or knowingly with the intention to damage someone's reputation is defamation.
- **Article 19** of the Constitution grants freedom of speech to its citizens.
 - ◆ However, **Article 19(2)** has imposed **certain reasonable exemptions** to this freedom such as - Contempt of Court, defamation and incitement to an offense. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In India, defamation can **both be a civil wrong and a criminal offense**, depending on the objective they seek to achieve. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ A Civil Wrong sees a wrong being redressed with monetary compensation, while a criminal law seeks to punish a wrongdoer and send a message to others not to commit such acts, with a jail term.
- ◆ In a Criminal Offense, defamation has to be established **beyond reasonable doubt** but in a civil defamation suit, damages can be awarded based on probabilities.
- The Supreme Court has ruled that the **criminal provisions of defamation are constitutionally valid** and are not in conflict with the right to free speech. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The SC has also held that it is **valid to treat defamation as a public wrong** and that criminal defamation is not a disproportionate restriction on free speech, because protection of reputation is a fundamental right as well as a human right.
 - ◆ The Court **relied on the judgments of other countries** and reaffirmed the right to reputation as a part of the right to life under Article 21.
 - ◆ Using the **principle of 'balancing of fundamental rights'**, the court held that the right to freedom and speech and expression cannot be "allowed so much room that even reputation of an individual which is a constituent of Article 21 would have no entry into that area".

216. (A)**Exp:****Syria:**

- Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, and Hama are located in Syria, frequently in the news due to the **ongoing civil war, geopolitical conflicts**, and humanitarian crises.
 - ◆ Damascus is the capital, while Aleppo, Homs, and Hama are key economic and historical centers affected by the conflict.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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