



drishti

# Monthly Editorial Quiz (Consolidation)

**February  
2025**

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## Practice Question

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Capital Expenditure refers to the funds allocated by the government for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of physical assets such as infrastructure, buildings, machinery, and equipment.
2. Effective Capital Expenditure presented in the budget does not include the spending by the government on creating capital assets through grants-in-aid to states and other agencies.

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. It has its source in the Yamunotri Glacier on the southwestern sides of Banderpooch crests in the lower Himalayan ranges.
2. It meets the Ganges at the Sangam in Prayagraj.
3. Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, and Ken are its major tributaries.

Which of the following rivers best matches the above description?

- A. Yamuna
- B. Narmada
- C. Son
- D. Gandak

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Urea is the primary fertilizer supplying Nitrogen (N), while Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is the major fertilizer supplying Phosphorus (P) in India.
2. Ideally, the Nitrogen to Phosphorus (N:P) use ratio should be 2:1, but it has widened to nearly 4:1 in Punjab and Haryana.

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

4. Regarding the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to bring down the revenue deficit to 5% by reducing wasteful expenditure and increasing non-debt revenues.
2. The government must present annual targets and regularly update Parliament on progress, ensuring accountability.
3. The Act includes provisions for deviations from targets in case of emergencies like wars, natural disasters, or severe economic downturns.

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

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

5. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** The India-Bhutan Trade, Commerce, and Transit Agreement was signed in 1972 to establish a free trade regime and duty-free transit for Bhutanese exports to third countries.

**Statement-II:** India is Bhutan's leading trade partner, accounting for around two-thirds of Bhutan's total trade in 2022-23.

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

6. Consider the following statements:

1. In the last decade, India's healthcare spending as a percentage of GDP has consistently decreased.
2. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death and disability in India, accounting for almost one in three of all deaths.

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Note:

3. eSanjeevani is a national doctor-to-doctor telemedicine service that strives to provide an alternative to conventional physical consultations via a digital platform.

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

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

7. Regarding the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR), consider the following statements:

1. The LCR is a ratio that measures the proportion of high-quality liquid assets (HQLA) that financial institutions hold.
2. The LCR was introduced as part of the Basel III reforms following the 2008 global financial crisis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. Regarding the Securities and Exchange Board of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial body that can draft regulations, conduct inquiries, pass rulings, and impose penalties.
2. By the Securities Laws (Amendment) Act, 2014, SEBI can regulate any money pooling scheme worth Rs. 100 cr. or more and attach assets in cases of non-compliance.
3. SEBI Chairman has the authority to order "search and seizure operations".

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

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

9. Regarding the Economic Survey, consider the following statements:

1. It is prepared by the Economic Division of the Ministry of Finance under the Chief Economic Adviser's supervision.

2. The Economic Survey was first presented in 1950-51 as part of the budget and became a separate document from the Union Budget in 1964.

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. Potomac River, which was recently in the news, is located in which of the following countries?

- A. United States
- B. Canada
- C. Mexico
- D. Brazil

11. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** In India, there is no dedicated Central Law for Domestic workers.

**Statement-II:** The 2019 National Domestic Worker Policy aimed to regulate agencies and ensure workers' rights, including wages, social security, and benefits.

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

12. Regarding the minorities, consider the following statements:

1. The term minority is not defined in the Constitution.
2. Article 29 grants protection only to religious minorities.
3. The protection under Article 30 is confined only to linguistic minorities.

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:

13. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is outlined in Article 44 of the Constitution as part of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

**Statement-II:** The British established uniform criminal laws in India while avoiding standardising family laws due to their sensitive nature.

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

14. Regarding the leprosy, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a chronic infectious disease caused by a type of bacteria called "Mycobacterium leprae".
- 2. India has achieved the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem.
- 3. World Leprosy Day is observed every year on the last Sunday of January.

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

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

15. Regarding the NIPUN (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat Scheme, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was launched by the Ministry of Education and aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 3 to 9 years.
- 2. It was launched as a part of NEP (National Education Policy) 2020.
- 3. A five-tier implementation mechanism has been set up for its implementation under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.

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

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

16. Which of the following countries are part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) grouping?

- 1. Myanmar
- 2. Brunei
- 3. Bangladesh
- 4. Laos

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

17. Consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the second largest country in Africa.
- 2. It has a small coastline with the Atlantic Ocean.
- 3. It is bounded to the north by the Central African Republic and South Sudan; to the east by Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania; and to the southeast by Zambia.

Which of the following countries best matches the above description?

- A. Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- B. Angola
- C. Sudan
- D. Chad

18. Regarding the union budget 2025-26, consider the following statements:

- 1. Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana has been announced to cover 100 low agricultural productivity districts enhancing irrigation, and post-harvest storage facilities.
- 2. A 'Rural Prosperity and Resilience' programme will be launched with states to address agricultural underemployment through skilling, investment, and technology.
- 3. A 6-year mission focusing on Tur, Urad, and Masoor will be launched, ensuring climate-resilient seeds and remunerative prices.
- 4. Makhana Board in Bihar will be established to enhance the production, processing, and value addition of Makhana.

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

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

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Note:

19. Regarding the union budget 2025-26, consider the following statements:
1. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap in the insurance sector will be increased from 74% to 100% for companies that invest the entire premium in India.
  2. An Investment Friendliness Index for states will be introduced in 2025 to boost competitive cooperative federalism
  3. Public Sector Banks will create a 'Grameen Credit Score' framework enabling SHG members and rural borrowers to access formal credit facilities more efficiently.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
  - B. Only Two
  - C. All Three
  - D. None
20. Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, consider the following statements:
1. Launched in 2018, it offers a sum insured of Rs.5 lakh per family for secondary care and tertiary care.
  2. The National Health Authority (NHA), an autonomous body under the Society Registration Act, 1860, is responsible for its implementation.
  3. The Union Budget 2025-26 has announced that gig workers will now be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
  - B. Only Two
  - C. All Three
  - D. None
21. Regarding the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024, consider the following statements:
1. It is the annual flagship report of the Ministry of Education.
  2. Launched in 2005, it tracks educational trends and challenges in rural areas, evolving in coverage, focus, and frequency.
  3. Anganwadi centres are the main provider of pre-primary education, enrolling over half of the 3-4-year-olds.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
  - B. Only Two
  - C. All Three
  - D. None
22. The term Brain Drain is often seen in the news in the context of:
- A. The migration of highly skilled professionals to other countries for better opportunities.
  - B. The decline in cognitive abilities due to excessive use of digital technology.
  - C. The loss of workforce in rural areas due to urban migration.
  - D. The reduction in student enrollment in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) fields.
23. Regarding the Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), consider the following statements:
1. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are compact, flexible, and easier-to-build nuclear reactors, each generating less than 300 MW of power.
  2. SMRs are experimental, require high capital investment with uncertain profitability, and depend on high-grade uranium, necessitating less refueling.
  3. The union budget 2025-26 introduced a new 'Nuclear Energy Mission' to research Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and commission five indigenous units by 2033.
- How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?
- A. Only One
  - B. Only Two
  - C. All Three
  - D. None
24. Regarding the International Criminal Court (ICC), consider the following statements:
1. It is a court of last resort for the prosecution of serious international crimes, including genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
  2. The founding treaty of the court, the Rome Statute, was adopted in July 1998, and the court was established in 2003.
  3. Hindi is one of the six official languages of the court along with english, French, Arabic, Chinese, and Russian.
- 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:

25. Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It was initiated in 2019 with the primary objective of transforming the agricultural sector by promoting the adoption of solar energy solutions.
2. It follows a demand-driven approach, allocating capacities based on requests from different states and union territories (UTs).

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

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

1. Under Article 280 of the constitution, 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 **not** correct?

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

27. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** The government has been implementing the National Mental Health Program (NMHP) since 1982 to address the growing burden of mental disorders and the shortage of qualified professionals in the field.

**Statement-II:** The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 provides the legal framework for providing services to protect, promote and fulfill the rights of people with mental illnesses.

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

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

- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

28. The term Tatmadaw often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. The armed forces of Myanmar, including its army, navy, and air force, responsible for national defense and security.
- B. A national legislative body that governs the political landscape of a country through democratic elections and lawmaking.
- C. An international organization dedicated to providing humanitarian aid to refugees and displaced persons globally.
- D. A type of diplomatic agreement between countries that aims to regulate trade and resolve conflicts.

29. Consider the following statements:

1. The Chakravarty Committee Report recommended monetary targeting and flexible interest rates to promote price stability and economic growth.
2. The Urjit Patel Committee Report (2014) shaped inflation targeting in India and recommended a target of 4% with a band of 2%.

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 Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), consider the following statements:

1. The President appoints CEC as per the CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.
2. He has a fixed tenure of five years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
3. The CEC can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a SC judge by Parliament.

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:

31. Regarding the cess, consider the following statements:

1. Cess is a tax on tax, imposed in addition to an existing tax like excise or income tax, and the revenue is earmarked for a particular use.
2. Cesses are typically charged for a specific time period, or until the government has gathered enough funds for the designated purpose.
3. Cesses are not recognised in the Constitution.

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

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

32. Consider the following statements:

1. Civil nuclear liability laws ensure compensation for victims of nuclear incidents and define liability for the damage caused.
2. The umbrella Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) was adopted in 1997 to establish a minimum national compensation amount.
3. Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010 provides for strict and no-fault liability on the nuclear plant operator.

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

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

33. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, set up in 1988.
2. It has developed supercomputers based on massively parallel processing.
3. It will lead India's chip-design effort for AI chips in India.

Which of the following bodies best matches the above description?

- A. National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- B. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

C. Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC)

D. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras

34. Regarding the Aadhar, consider the following statements:

1. It is a 12-digit individual identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on behalf of the Government of India.
2. It serves as proof of identity, citizenship, and address, anywhere in India.
3. Foreign nationals cannot be issued Aadhar cards.

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

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

35. The term Eurozone, which is often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A political union of European countries with a shared government.
- B. A group of European countries that use the euro as their official currency.
- C. A free trade zone between European countries with no economic policies.
- D. A region where European countries adopt different currencies for trade.

36. Consider the following statements:

1. The Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) is a ratio that measures the proportion of high-quality liquid assets (HQLA) that financial institutions hold.
2. The Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) of 18.00% is the required minimum percentage of deposits that a commercial bank must keep in liquid assets like cash, gold, or securities.
3. Under the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), commercial banks have to hold a certain minimum amount of deposit (NDTL) as reserves with the central bank.

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:

37. Consider the following statements:

1. It is situated in the eastern Mediterranean basin, sharing borders with Egypt in the southwest and Israel to the north and east.
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 condition.

Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

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

38. Regarding the Yamuna River, consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the major tributaries of the Ganges in Northern India.
2. It has its source in the Yamunotri Glacier on the southwestern sides of Banderpooch crests in the lower Himalayan ranges.
3. Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, and Ken are its major tributaries.

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

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

39. Consider the following statements:

1. It was called the 'Jewel of India' by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
2. It is known as 'Kangleipak' or 'Sanaleipak' (golden land) to its inhabitants.
3. It is bounded by Nagaland in the north, Assam in the west, Mizoram in the south-west, and Myanmar in the east and south-east.

Which of the following states best matches the above description?

- A. Manipur
- B. Jammu Kashmir
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

40. Consider the following statements:

1. Governed by the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, the central government has exclusive authority over nuclear energy.
2. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) is responsible for overseeing safety standards and compliance within the nuclear industry in India
3. India is a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as it adheres to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards under the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement.

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

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

41. The terms Nakba, Six-Day War, and the two-state solution, are often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. The Syrian Civil War
- B. The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- C. The Gulf War
- D. The Arab Spring

42. Regarding the United States Agency For International Development (USAID), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 1961 as an independent agency under the Foreign Assistance Act, 1961 designed to provide global humanitarian and development aid.
2. It has maintained a strong presence in India since the 1960s, supporting initiatives in education, immunisation, HIV/TB prevention, polio eradication, and child health.

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

43. Consider the following statements:

1. Indian coal historically has high ash content and low calorific value compared to imported coal.
2. Indian coal generally has a lower sulphur content than other coal.
3. Coal washing is a pre-combustion process that improves coal quality by removing impurities like ash and sulfur to reduce emissions.

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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

44. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** Food makes up 46% of Consumer Price Index (CPI) Headline Inflation in developing countries, thus controlling food prices is key to managing overall inflation.

**Statement-II:** The Economic Survey 2023-24 suggested excluding food inflation from India's inflation targeting framework.

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

45. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** India holds the top position in global shipbuilding, with a share exceeding 50%, followed by China.

**Statement-II:** Shipbuilding is an integral part of India's Blue Economy, which includes fisheries, port development, and marine tourism.

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

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

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

1. It is a system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

2. It lets users or merchants request money from others by sending a simple message through their bank app.

3. UPI is intended for exclusive use within India.

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:

1. Article 153 of the Constitution of India mandates a Governor for each State, with the provision allowing the same person to serve as Governor for multiple States.

2. The executive authority of the State is vested in the Governor and may be exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him.

3. The origins of the governor's role as chancellor of universities can be traced to Wood's Despatch of 1854.

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

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

48. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** A living will (Advance Medical Directive) allows patients to document their treatment wishes, ensuring dignity in end-of-life decisions.

**Statement-II:** The *Common Cause v. Union of India, 2018* recognised the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and legalised the use of advance medical directives or 'living wills'.

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:

49. What is the likely impact of the monetary policy committee reducing the benchmark repo rate?
1. It may lower borrowing costs and stimulate economic growth.
  2. It may put downward pressure on the rupee.
  3. A repo rate cut will immediately bring down inflation.
- 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
50. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** The Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) declined around 1800 BCE but the actual reasons behind its demise are still debated.
- Statement-II:** In later cultures, various elements of the IVC are found which suggests that civilization did not disappear suddenly due to an invasion.
- 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
51. Consider the following statements:
1. They are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada.
  2. They are found in warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans.
  3. They are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Which of the following species best matches the above description?
- A. Olive Ridley Turtle
  - B. Dugong
  - C. Blue Whale
  - D. Manta Ray
52. Regarding the Constitutional Morality, consider the following statements:
1. It signifies adherence to constitutional norms, embracing sovereignty, social justice, and equality beyond mere textual interpretation in a democracy.
  2. It is explicitly mentioned in Part III of the Indian Constitution.
  3. The Supreme Court likened constitutional morality to a "second basic structure doctrine," highlighting its significance in restraining arbitrary power.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
  - B. Only Two
  - C. Only Three
  - D. All Four
53. NIPUN Bharat, often seen in the news, is best described as:
- A. A national initiative to promote financial literacy among rural women.
  - B. A government program aimed at enhancing foundational literacy and numeracy skills in children.
  - C. A digital platform for skill development in the manufacturing sector.
  - D. A scheme focused on improving higher education infrastructure in India.
54. Consider the following statements:
1. Article 356 of the Constitution of India is based on Section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935.
  2. According to Article 356, the President's Rule can be imposed on any state of India on the grounds of the failure of the constitutional machinery.
  3. 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.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
  - B. Only Two
  - C. All Three
  - D. None
55. The term Donkey Route, often seen in news, is best described as:
- A. A traditional trade route used by merchants in Central Asia for transporting goods on donkeys.
  - B. An illegal immigration pathway used by migrants to enter foreign countries through unsafe and unofficial routes.
  - C. A military strategy involving the use of donkeys for logistics in difficult terrains.

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Note:

D. A conservation initiative aimed at protecting wild donkey populations in Africa.

56. Regarding the Indus Valley Script, consider the following statements:

1. The script was discovered in the 1920s by Sir John Marshall's team and remains undeciphered.
2. It appears on seals, terracotta tablets, and metal, featuring pictograms and animal or human motifs.
3. It is generally written right to left, longer texts and sometimes use Boustrophedon Style.

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

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

57. Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

58. Regarding the QUAD, consider the following statements:

1. The Quad is an informal diplomatic alliance between Australia, India, Japan, and the US, aimed at promoting an open, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific.
2. The QUAD Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP) focuses on green shipping corridors, clean energy cooperation, and climate information services.
3. The Quad Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has been recently signed by all four member nations.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two

C. All Three

D. None

59. Consider the following statements:

1. The World Bank assigns the world's economies to four income groups, low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high-income countries.
2. The classifications are updated each year on 1<sup>st</sup> July and are based on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in the current USD of the previous year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

60. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** Monetary Policy is different from Fiscal Policy which is managed by the Ministry of Finance and measures the spending and taxation in the Indian Economy.

**Statement-II:** Monetary Policy is formed and managed by the Reserve Bank of India to control a nation's overall money supply and achieve 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

61. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a landlocked territory in West Asia.
2. It contains a significant section of the western Dead Sea.
3. It is sandwiched between Israel and Jordan.

Which of the following territories best matches the above description?

- A. West Bank
- B. Gaza Strip
- C. Golan Heights
- D. Sinai Peninsula

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Note:

62. Regarding the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide 100 days of wage employment per financial year to adult members of rural households willing to do unskilled manual labor.
2. At least one-third of the wage seekers should be women.
3. If employment is not provided within 15 days, an unemployment allowance is given which is one-fourth of the wage rate for the first 30 days and at least half for the rest.

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

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

63. Operation Jackpot is often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. A covert operation during the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971.
- B. A counter-terrorism operation conducted by India in Jammu & Kashmir.
- C. A financial crackdown on offshore tax havens led by the European Union.
- D. A cyber intelligence initiative launched to combat online financial fraud.

64. India State of Forest Report 2023 (ISFR) was recently released by which of the following:

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

65. Consider the following:

Article	Subject
Article 355	Duty of the Union to protect States against external aggression and internal disturbance
Article 356	President's Rule in case of failure of constitutional machinery in a State
Article 365	Consequences of failure of a State to comply with directions from the Union

Article 352	Proclamation of National Emergency due to war, external aggression, or armed rebellion
-------------	--

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

66. Regarding the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982, consider the following statements:

1. It is the only international convention that stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
2. It divides marine areas into five main zones namely, Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and the High Seas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

67. The Abraham Accords, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A peace agreement between Israel and Palestinian authorities mediated by the United Nations.
- B. A series of agreements normalizing relations between Israel and several Arab nations, brokered by the United States.
- C. A defense pact between Israel and NATO to counter threats in the Middle East.
- D. An economic cooperation framework between Israel and Iran to promote regional trade.

68. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** Public debt in developing countries is rising at twice the rate of that in developed countries.

**Statement-II:** India proposed a comprehensive and human-centric "Global Development Compact" for the Global South to address the rising debt of developing countries during the third Voice of Global South Summit. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

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- 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
69. Consider the following statements:
1. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, manages India's retail payment infrastructure.
  2. Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) provides a mobile-based interoperable fund transfer service, with instant payment confirmation to both the remitter and the beneficiary.
  3. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions are settled through IMPS.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None
70. Which of the following best describes the primary objective of establishing the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)?
- A. To regulate all financial services across India, including domestic banking and insurance.
- B. To promote and regulate financial services within India's offshore financial hubs, enhancing global competitiveness.
- C. To replace the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the primary financial regulator in India.
- D. To oversee only stock market operations in India, excluding other financial services.
71. Consider the following statements:
1. The Union Budget 2025 has proposed setting up a Makhana Board in Bihar to enhance the production, processing, value addition, and marketing of makhana (fox nut).
  2. In 2022, 'Mithila Makhana' received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2
72. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act) empowers the central government to block public access to information.
- Statement-II:** The Supreme Court in *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India*, (2015) upheld Section 69A's constitutionality.
- 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
73. Regarding the Paris Agreement, consider the following statements:
1. Article 6.2, allows bilateral agreements between countries to trade carbon credits based on mutually agreed terms.
  2. Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism seeks to develop a centralised, United Nations-managed carbon emissions offset and trading system.
- 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
74. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** According to the Forest Survey of India, more than 36% of the country's forest cover is prone to fire.
- Statement-II:** The Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FFPMS) is a centrally sponsored scheme that assists State governments in strengthening their forest fire prevention and management capabilities.
- 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

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Note:

- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect  
D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
75. The terms NotPetya, WannaCry, DoS, and DDoS are often seen in the news in the context of:  
A. Space exploration and satellite communication  
B. Cybersecurity threats and cyberattacks  
C. Climate change and environmental hazards  
D. Financial market trends and economic policies
76. Which of the following is **not** a feature of competitive federalism?  
A. Reduces the role of states in economic decision-making by centralizing fiscal and regulatory powers at the national level.  
B. Encourages economic efficiency by allowing states to adapt policies to local conditions, fostering growth, investment, and job creation.  
C. Promotes policy innovation as states experiment with governance models, regulations, and service delivery to attract businesses and residents.  
D. Enhances fiscal discipline by requiring states to balance revenue collection with responsible expenditure to remain competitive.
77. Regarding the budget 2025-26, consider the following statements:  
1. BharatTradeNet (BTN), a unified digital platform has been launched to streamline export documentation and integrate major players such as Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), and banks to reduce bureaucratic delays.  
2. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap in the insurance sector will be increased from 74% to 100% for companies that invest the entire premium in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only  
B. 2 Only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2
78. Consider the following statements:  
**Statement-I:** In the case of *Vihaan Kumar vs The State of Haryana*, the Supreme Court of India ruled that a law enforcement officer's failure to inform a detained person of the grounds for arrest violates the Constitution and is therefore illegal.

**Statement-II:** As per Article 22(1) of the Constitution, an arrested person must be promptly informed of the reasons for their arrest and must have the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of their choice.

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
79. Consider the following statements:  
**Statement-I:** Insolvency is a state where the liabilities of an individual or an organization exceed its assets and that entity is unable to raise enough cash to meet its obligations or debts as they become due for payment.  
**Statement-II:** The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 aims to provide a time-bound and creditor-driven process for insolvency resolution and to improve the credit culture and business environment in the country.  
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
80. Consider the following statements:  
1. Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a comprehensive indirect tax introduced through the 101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016.  
2. The GST Council is a statutory body responsible for making recommendations on issues related to the implementation of the GST in India.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
A. 1 Only  
B. 2 Only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

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Note:

81. Which of the following best describes the term Carbon markets:
- A market-based approach that creates financial incentives for reducing emissions through a cap-and-trade system.
  - A system where individuals and organizations are directly taxed based on their carbon emissions.
  - A program where a government offers financial subsidies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
  - A government-imposed rule that mandates companies to reduce their carbon emissions without any financial incentives.
82. Consider the following statements:  
**Statement-I:** The Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) was conceived to scale up domestic manufacturing capability, accompanied by higher import substitution and employment generation.  
**Statement-II:** Under the PLI scheme, Domestic and Foreign companies receive financial rewards for manufacturing in India, based on a percentage of their revenue over up to five years.
- 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
83. Which of the following is a member of the Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB-8) countries?
- Denmark
  - Finland
  - Estonia
  - Latvia
  - France
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 2 and 3 only
  - 1, 4 and 5 only
  - 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
  - 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
84. Consider the following statements:
- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are advanced nuclear reactors designed for improved safety and efficiency, with power generation capacities ranging from under 30 MWe (megawatt electrical) to over 300 MWe.
2. India does not have a law on Civil Nuclear Liability. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 Only
  - 2 Only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
85. Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025 was recently released by which of the following?
- NITI Aayog
  - Reserve Bank of India
  - National Statistical Office (NSO)
  - Indian Economic Advisory Council
86. Consider the following statements:  
**Statement-I:** Building on the Electricity Conservation Act, 2001, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, India launched the Carbon Credits Trading Scheme (CCTS) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by trading carbon credit certificates.  
**Statement-II:** The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the National Steering Committee for the Indian Carbon Market (NSCICM) are responsible for ensuring the integrity of the carbon credits through rigorous monitoring, reporting, and verification processes. 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
87. The e-Shram portal often seen in the news is best described as:
- A platform designed for organizing corporate workers in India.
  - A government initiative for registering and providing benefits to unorganised workers in India.
  - A system to monitor and track health insurance claims for organised sector workers.
  - A portal for providing skill development training to workers in the tech industry

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Note:

88. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 200 of the Indian Constitution outlines the options available to a state's Governor when a Bill passed by the State Legislature is presented for approval.
2. Article 201 deals with Bills reserved by the governor for the President's approval.

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

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

89. Regarding the Ad hoc judges, consider the following statements:

1. They are temporary judges appointed to a court, typically to address specific needs such as reducing case backlogs or filling gaps when permanent judges are unavailable.
2. Article 201 of the Indian Constitution allows the Chief Justice of a High Court, with the President's approval to appoint retired High Court judges to serve temporarily.
3. The Supreme Court first endorsed the appointment of ad-hoc judges in its 2021 ruling in the *Lok Prahari v. Union of India case, 2021*.

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

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

90. Consider the following statements:

1. Hurricane potential is the amount of heat contained in the oceans above the 26-degree Celsius threshold.
2. Hurricane potential is available and favourable in all the known cyclone genesis regions around the equator in the tropical oceans.

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

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

1. It is an artificial waterway in Panama that connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Indian Ocean.

2. It cuts across the Isthmus of Panama and is a conduit for maritime trade.

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

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

92. Global Climate Risk Index, 2025 is released by which of the following?

- A. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- B. Germanwatch
- C. World Resources Institute (WRI)
- D. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

93. Regarding the Small Modular Reactors (SRMs), consider the following statements:

1. They are advanced nuclear reactors with a power capacity of up to 300 MW(e) per unit, roughly one-third the capacity of traditional nuclear reactors.
2. Their designs incorporate enhanced safety features, reducing the risk of uncontrolled radioactive material release.
3. SMRs are designed to operate for 40-60 years with capacity factors exceeding 90%.

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

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

94. Consider the following statements:

1. Appreciation and depreciation of currency refer to changes in the value of a currency relative to other currencies in the foreign exchange market.
2. All emerging market currencies except India have lost ground against the dollar since 2013 because of the series of crises that hit the global economy during this period.

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:



95. Regarding the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), consider the following statements:

1. The Government of India established NFRA in 2018 under section 132(1) of the Companies Act, 2013, to serve as an audit regulator.
2. It consists of a chairperson and members not exceeding fifteen appointed by the Central Government.
3. Its account is not monitored by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

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

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

96. Regarding the waqf, consider the following statements:

1. It is the permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for religious, pious, or charitable purposes as recognised by Muslim law.
2. They are intended for religious and charitable purposes and are meant to be permanent.
3. They can be either public, serving charitable ends, or private, benefiting the property owner's direct descendants.

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

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

97. Consider the following statements:

1. Core inflation measures the change in prices of goods and services excluding volatile items like food and fuel.
2. Open inflation refers to a rise in price levels without any suppressive measures from the government.
3. The base effect is the distortion in a variable's growth rate caused by an unusually high or low value in the corresponding period of the previous year.

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

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

98. Regarding the President's Rule (Article 356), consider the following statements:

1. During its operation, the state executive is dismissed and the state legislature is either suspended or dissolved.
2. A maximum period of three years is prescribed for its operation.
3. Every resolution of Parliament approving its proclamation or its continuance can be passed only by a special majority.

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

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

99. Regarding the Teesta River, consider the following statements:

1. It is a tributary of the Brahmaputra flowing through India and Bangladesh.
2. It originates in the Himalayas near Chunthang, Sikkim, and flows to the south through West Bengal before entering Bangladesh.

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

100. Regarding the National Manufacturing Mission, consider the following statements:

1. The "National Manufacturing Mission" announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 aims to cover small, medium, and large industries and emphasises five focal areas for furthering Make in India.
2. It will support Clean Tech manufacturing and aims to improve domestic value addition and build the ecosystem for solar PV cells, EV batteries, and motors.

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:

101. Sagar Island often seen in the news is located in:

- A. West Bengal
- B. Odisha
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu

102. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** Under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 marital rape is not a crime but a woman can seek relief under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 for sexual abuse, humiliation, or violation of dignity.

**Statement-II:** In the *Navej Singh Johar Case, 2018* the Supreme Court partially struck down Section 377 IPC, decriminalizing consensual homosexuality.

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

103. The term Deep state often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. A covert network of elites influencing policy and undermining elected officials.
- B. A government policy that regulates deep-sea exploration and oceanic resources.
- C. A type of political campaign strategy focusing on social media engagement.
- D. A scientific theory related to the Earth's deep geological layers.

104. Consider the following statements:

1. Cooperative banks are financial institutions that are owned and operated by their members, who are also the bank's customers.
2. In India, they are registered under the Cooperative Societies Act of the State concerned or the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.
3. The Ministry of Finance directly regulates the banking functions of Urban Cooperative Banks under the provisions of Sections 22 and 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

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

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

105. Consider the following:

Type	Process
<b>Biomining</b>	Extracting metals using microorganisms like bacteria or fungi.
<b>Electrokinetic Technology</b>	Eco-friendly method for extracting rare earth elements using electrical forces.
<b>Rat-hole Mining</b>	Hazardous, labor-intensive coal mining method using narrow tunnels.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

106. The terms Mission 500, COMPACT, and TRUST are often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. India and the United States
- B. India and the United Kingdom
- C. India and Israel
- D. India and China

107. Regarding the depreciation of currency, consider the following statements:

1. Currency Depreciation is a fall in the value of a currency in a floating exchange rate system.
2. A depreciation occurs when a country's central bank makes a conscious decision to lower its exchange rate in a fixed or semi-fixed exchange rate.
3. Currency depreciation encourages a country's export activity as its products and services become cheaper to buy.

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:

108. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** Under Indian law, content is deemed obscene if it is “indecent” or appeals to “sexual interest,” with penalties varying under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.

**Statement-II:** Indian courts have replaced the outdated Hicklin test, which judged obscenity based on the most impressionable audience, with the “community standards” test, which evaluates a work in its entirety. 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

109. Regarding Nuclear power, consider the following statements:

- Nuclear power contributes to grid stability while contributing to deep decarbonisation.
- Unlike other energy sources, it provides a high-capacity factor, operates independently of weather conditions, and requires significantly less land.
- Nuclear plants have a long operational life and lower lifecycle emissions, making them key for India’s energy transition.
- The Union Budget 2025-26 announced the launch of a Nuclear Energy Mission, which is focused on research and development (R&D) of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- Only Three
- All Four

110. Which of the following is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)?

- Slovakia
- Türkiye
- Finland
- Sweden

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 2 only
- 1 and 4 only
- 2, 3, and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

111. Consider the following:

Revolution	Country
Rose Revolution (2003)	Nepal
Orange Revolution (2004)	Ukraine
Tulip Revolution (2005)	Kyrgyzstan

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

112. Regarding India’s updated Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), consider the following statements:

- India has committed to reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from the 2005 level.
- India aims to achieve about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

113. Regarding the Securities Transaction Tax (STT), consider the following statements:

- Introduced in 2004, STT is charged on transactions involving listed securities on stock exchanges and on redeemed equity mutual fund units.
- It is a significant portion of the Union government’s income tax, ranking as the second-largest revenue source after Goods and Services Tax (GST).

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:

114. The Digital Energy Grid (DEG) often seen in the news is best described as:

- A system that assigns unique identities to energy-producing entities, uses standard data formats, and ensures data portability and tamper-evidence to create a network of networks.
- A decentralized platform for energy trading, relying on cryptocurrency for transactions between power producers and consumers.
- A physical grid infrastructure that connects various energy sources without the need for digital monitoring or data exchange.
- A government-controlled system that eliminates private energy providers and centralizes all energy production and distribution.

115. Consider the following statements:

- Indian Famine Commission (1901) led to the enactment of the first Cooperative Credit Societies Act in 1904.
- The 97<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011 established the right to form cooperative societies as a fundamental right under Article 19.
- Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2022 introduced the Co-operative Election Authority to oversee board elections in multi-state co-operative societies.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

116. Consider the following statements:

- The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners(EC) can be removed only in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court Judge.
- CEC and ECs receive a SC judge's salary and serve for six years or until age 65, whichever is earlier.
- CEC and ECs cannot be reappointed, and if an EC becomes CEC, their total tenure must not exceed six years.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

117. The locations Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Lyptsy often seen in the news are located in which of the following countries?

- Russia
- Ukraine
- Belarus
- Poland

118. Consider the following statements:

- Article 355 mandates the Central government to ensure that every state functions as per the Constitution.
- If a state government fails to function as per the constitution, the Centre can intervene under Article 356 by imposing the President's Rule.
- Article 365 mandates that if a state fails to comply with the Centre's directions, the President can declare that its government cannot function constitutionally.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

119. Consider the following statements:

- Horticulture is the branch of agriculture concerned with intensively cultured plants directly used by humans for food, medicinal purposes, and aesthetic gratification.
- India is the largest producer of horticultural produce, producing more than half of the global fruit and vegetable production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

120. Fiscal Health Index 2025 was released by which of the following?

- Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- NITI Aayog
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

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Note:

121. Consider the following statements:

1. A tectonic plate is a massive, irregularly shaped slab of solid rock, generally composed of both continental and oceanic plates.
2. The tectonic plates are not fixed but constantly move horizontally over the asthenosphere as rigid units.
3. Oceanic plates are composed of denser basaltic rocks and are subducted beneath continental plates at convergent boundaries.

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

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

122. Regarding the Samagra Shiksha scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an integrated scheme for school education extending from pre-school to class XII to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.
2. It subsumes the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE).
3. The main emphasis of the Scheme is on improving the quality of school education by focusing on the two T's – Teacher and Technology.

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

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

123. Regarding the Farmers Producer Organisation, consider the following statements:

1. FPO is a farmer-based producer organization, and the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) supports its promotion.
2. FPOs can only be registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

124. The Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) is best described as:

- A. A global network of financial institutions focused on promoting sustainable energy practices.
- B. A network of central banks dedicated to integrating climate risks into financial stability policies.
- C. A coalition of governments working on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through market regulations.
- D. An initiative by private corporations to support the development of green financial products.

125. Regarding the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), consider the following statements:

1. It serves as a deposit insurance and credit guarantee for banks in India.
2. It is a fully owned subsidiary of and is governed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

126. Which of the following is not a key feature of the Reserve Currency?

1. Easily convertible to other currencies
2. Stable value over time
3. Exclusive use in domestic transactions
4. Widely accepted in international trade

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

127. Consider the following statements:

1. Fiscal consolidation refers to the prudent management of government finances to ensure long-term economic stability.
2. Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 aimed to establish financial consolidation in the government to reduce fiscal deficits and promote fiscal responsibility.
3. The N.K. Singh Committee, 2016 recommended the creation of an autonomous Fiscal Council with independent members to oversee fiscal policy.

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Note:

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. The National Communication (NC) is a detailed report submitted every ten years, while the Biennial Update Report (BUR) is a shorter update submitted every two years.
2. The 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC decided that a biennial update report (BUR) would be submitted every two years.
3. National Communication (NC) reports were mandated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992.

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

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

129. Operation Green, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A scheme to stabilize the prices of agricultural produce and boost farmers' income.
- B. A government initiative to promote digital payments in urban areas.
- C. A program aimed at increasing renewable energy sources across the country.
- D. A project focused on improving healthcare infrastructure in rural regions.

130. Which of the following countries are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Qatar
3. Kuwait
4. Iran

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

131. Regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), consider the following statements:

1. The Washington Treaty, signed on April 4, 1949, officially laid the foundations for the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
2. The Washington Treaty derives its authority from Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which reaffirms the inherent right of independent states to individual or collective defence.
3. A "NATO decision" is the expression of the collective will of all 32 member countries since all decisions are taken by consensus.

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

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

132. Regarding the Governor, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution provides that the Governor can exercise his executive powers only on the advice of the Council of Ministers under Article 154.
2. Article 200 of the Indian Constitution outlines the process for a Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State to be presented to the Governor for assent.
3. Article 201 states that when a Bill is reserved for the consideration of the President, the President may assent to or withhold assent to the Bill.

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

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

133. Regarding the Design Law Treaty (DLT), consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to harmonize the procedural frameworks for industrial design protection, improving the efficiency and accessibility of registration processes across multiple jurisdictions.
2. India is not a signatory to this treaty.

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:

134. Regarding the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), consider the following statements:

1. The Eradi Committee (2000) headed by Justice V. Balakrishna Eradi first recommended the constitution of an NCLT.
2. It was set up under the Companies Act, 1956.
3. The NCLT is a crucial forum for initiating and overseeing the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

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

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

135. Consider the following statements:

1. Manipur is bounded by Nagaland in the north, Assam in the west, and Mizoram in the south.
2. Manipur achieved its statehood in the year 1972.
3. The first free Indian tricolor flag was hoisted on Indian soil at Moirang in Manipur on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1944 by Mahatma Gandhi.

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

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

136. Consider the following statements:

1. Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) serves as a deposit insurance and credit guarantee for banks in India.
2. DICGC is fully owned and governed by the Indian Banks' Association.
3. A depositor is currently entitled to a maximum insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per account, known as 'deposit insurance'.

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

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

137. Regarding the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory organisation constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
2. It is also entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
3. Water quality monitoring is not within the scope of CPCB's functions.

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

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

138. The term Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. PVTGs are the most vulnerable tribal groups in India, identified for special protection and development efforts.
- B. PVTGs are tribal groups that have achieved significant economic progress and integration into mainstream society.
- C. PVTGs are groups that were initially considered to be extinct but were rediscovered in the 1990s.
- D. PVTGs are tribal groups that only reside in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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

1. It is a diamond-shaped peak made of black rock and the source of major rivers in Asia, including the Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Indus, and Karnali.
2. Though lower in height than Mount Everest (8,849 meters), it remains unclimbed as its ascent is prohibited due to its sacred significance.

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

140. Consider the following statements:

1. Freedom of expression under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution is unlimited and cannot be restricted under any circumstances.

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Note:

2. In *Navtej Singh Johar vs. Union of India, 2018* the Supreme Court held that constitutional morality takes precedence over public morality, emphasizing justice over social norms.

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

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

141. Consider the following statements:

- Article 120 deals with the language to be used in Parliament.
- Article 346 specifies the official language for communication between states and between states and the Union.
- Article 350A directs States to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups.

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

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

142. Which of the following countries does Poland border?

- Germany
- Czech Republic
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

- They specify registration, reporting, and certification requirements for manufacturers but exempt importers.
- They mandate certification for biodegradable and compostable plastics and require reporting of pre-consumer plastic waste.

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

144. Regarding initiatives related to the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in Budget 2025-26, consider the following statements:

- The 2025 budget launches MSME credit cards, offering Rs 5 lakh credit for micro-enterprises on the Udyam portal, with 10 lakh cards to be issued in the first year.
- A new Fund of Funds with Rs 10,000 crore will be established to expand support for startups.
- The National Manufacturing Mission (NMM) aims to support Make in India by focusing on clean tech manufacturing.

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

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

145. Consider the following statements regarding the Yamuna River:

- Lakhwar-Vyasi Dam is situated at Yamuna River.
- Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, and Ken are all tributaries of the Yamuna River.
- In 2021, the Central Government formulated a plan to restore the river to drinking water standards by February 2025.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

146. Consider the following statements regarding the Economic Survey 2024-25:

- It has been estimated that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow more than 6% in FY26 (2025-26).
- The services sector is estimated as the fastest-growing sector in FY25, driven by IT, finance, and hospitality.

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Note:



3. Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) increased to a 12-year high in 2024.

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

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

147. With reference to the Union Budget, 2025-26, consider the following statements:

1. A six-year Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses was announced which will focus on ensuring self-sufficiency in domestic production.
2. The loan limit under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) has been raised from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme.
3. A five-year Mission for Cotton Productivity was launched to enhance scientific farming techniques and technological interventions for improved yields.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

148. Consider the following statements regarding 'Minimum Support Price (MSP)':

1. MSP is based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
2. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister of India, takes the final decision to approve the level of MSPs.
3. The 22 MSP-mandated crops include 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and 2 other commercial crops.

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

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

149. Consider the following statements about 'Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)':

1. GBS is a serious autoimmune disorder that affects the peripheral nervous system.
2. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), GBS is typically preceded by only a viral infection.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

150. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** The Constituent Assembly designated Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union of India in 1949.

**Statement-II:** The Munshi-Ayyangar formula, a compromise between K M Munshi and N Gopalaswamy Ayyangar, resulted in Article 343 of the Constitution adopting Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union.

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.

151. With reference to the National Education Policy, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The current 10+2 system is to be replaced by a new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.
2. It Introduced PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) for competency-based and holistic assessments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

152. Consider the following reformists/leaders:

1. E.V. Ramasami Naicker
2. T.K. Madhavan
3. K.P. Kesava Menon
4. K. Kelappan

How many of the above is/are associated with Vaikom Satyagraha, recognized as the first organized movement for the rights of the 'untouchable' communities in India in April 1924?

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Note:

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

153. With reference to the G7, consider the following statements:

1. Members of G7 have decided to promote G7 PGII (Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment) initiatives during the 50<sup>th</sup> G7 Summit.
2. India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is an initiative taken during the G7 Summit held in Italy.
3. The G7 expressed opposition to the Lobito Corridor in Central Africa, the Luzon Corridor, and the Middle Corridor.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

154. Consider the following pairs regarding Educational Commissions/Committee:

	Educational Commissions/ Committee	Year of Establishment
1.	Kothari Commission	1990
2.	National Knowledge Commission	2005
3.	Radhakrishnan Commission	1948
4.	Ramamurti Review Committee	1964

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

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

155. Consider the following statements regarding Ethylene Glycol and Diethylene Glycol:

1. Ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol are toxic alcohols with a slightly sweet taste.
2. Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are adulterants illegally used as cheaper solvent alternatives in liquid drugs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

156. Consider the following statements regarding the 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

1. It lists the official languages of the Republic of India.
2. Under this Schedule, out of 22 languages, 6 have been granted 'Classical' status.
3. Pali, listed under the eighth schedule, has been classified as a classical language.
4. All the Classical Languages are listed in this Schedule.

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

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

157. Consider the following statements:

1. Makhana is a significant agricultural product of Bihar, accounting for more than 80% of the world's production.
2. The creation of the Makhana Board has been announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.
3. Mithila Makhana received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2022.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

158. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Union Budget 2025-26':

1. The MSME Credit Guarantee Scheme has been expanded, offering additional credit support of ₹1.5 lakh crore over five years.
2. Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) will be set up in government schools over five years, fostering STEM learning and innovation.

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

159. Consider the following statements regarding 'National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)':

1. It prepares district level credit plans to guide the banking industry.
2. It supervises Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to develop sound banking practices and integrate them to the CBS (Core Banking Solution) platform.

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Note:

3. NABARD's Climate Strategy 2030 document is targeted to support India's green financing needs.

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

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

160. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO):

1. CDSCO is India's National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for the medical devices industry, governed by the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945.
2. CDSCO is solely responsible for granting licenses for specialized critical drugs in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

161. Consider the following statements with respect to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:

1. It was enacted in consequence to India's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992.
2. The Act recognises that both girls and boys can be victims of sexual abuse and that such abuse is a crime regardless of the gender of the victim.
3. The minimum punishment for penetrative sexual assault in POCSO is 10 years if the victim is below 16 years of age.

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

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

162. Which one of the following countries does not share a border with Belarus?

- A. Lithuania
- B. Estonia
- C. Poland
- D. Russia

163. With reference to the marginal propensity to consumption (MPC), consider the following statements:

1. MPC suggests that the individual has a propensity to consume more with an additional rise in income.

2. MPC is also a key determinant of the multiplier effect which is the impact of increased investment or government spending that results in increase in GDP.

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

164. Consider the following statements regarding Aralam Farm and Wildlife Sanctuary:

1. The Aralam Farm and Wildlife Sanctuary is an evergreen and deciduous forest area.
2. It is situated on the slope of the Eastern Ghats.
3. The sanctuary is home to a wide array of flora and fauna and is the only wildlife sanctuary in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh.

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

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

165. With reference to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), consider the following statements:

1. India and the EFTA agreed to exclude the most sensitive agricultural products and gold imports from the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).
2. India is the EFTA's 5th-largest trading partner after the European Union, the United States, Britain and China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

166. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** The Supreme Court, in the landmark Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India case, 2020 reiterated that internet shutdowns violate fundamental rights to freedom of expression.

**Statement-II:** The Court also held that the freedom of trade and commerce through the internet is not protected under Article 19.

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.

167. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), consider the following statements:

1. The benefits of the PMMVY are limited to one child per family, with an extension to the second child only if it is a girl.
2. Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) in government jobs or receiving similar benefits are ineligible for PMMVY.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

168. Consider the following statements

1. In 2020, the central government postponed the target of achieving 20% ethanol blending in petrol from 2025 to 2030.
2. As of 2022, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana and Punjab have the highest number of ethanol factories in the country.
3. According to Central government pollution norms, all ethanol production plants and distilleries are classified under the 'red category,' indicating a high pollution level.

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

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

169. With reference to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), consider the following statements:

1. IPCC was set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to assess the science related to climate change.
2. Since its inception, the IPCC has completed six assessment cycles with 2023 marking the beginning of its seventh cycle (AR7).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

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

170. Consider the following statements:

1. High Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU) is uranium enriched between 25% and 50%, required for many advanced nuclear reactor designs.
2. HALEU is currently produced at scale only in Russia and China, with limited production in the US.

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

171. With reference to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consider the following statements:

1. Under the amended RBI Act, 1934, the central government is empowered to constitute the MPC to determine the policy interest rate.
2. MPC shall consist of the RBI Governor, the Deputy Governor, an officer of the Bank and three persons to be appointed by the central government.
3. The decisions of the MPC shall be binding on the bank, except under specific conditions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

172. Which of the following statements is **not** correct about Thorium?

- A. It is commonly found in igneous rocks and heavy mineral sands.
- B. Thorium is rarer than uranium in the Earth's crust.
- C. The only naturally occurring isotope of thorium is thorium-232, which is fissionable in nature.
- D. India has a limited resource of uranium but a large resource of thorium.

173. Consider the following statements regarding Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS):

1. PACS serve as the last link in a three-tier cooperative credit structure headed by the State Cooperative Banks (SCB).
2. PACS provide short-term, and long-term agricultural loans to the farmers for the various agricultural and farming activities.

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Note:

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

174. With reference to the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), consider the following statements;

1. It is governed by the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, and is administered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
2. The defence sector is one of the permitted sectors for FDI under both the automatic and government routes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

175. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI)':

1. The 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 gave constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and established two tiers of PRIs.
2. The Ashok Mehta Committee in 1977 recommended a two-tier Panchayat Raj institutional structure consisting of Zilla Parishad and Mandal Panchayat.
3. Article 243H of the Constitution of India gives state legislatures the power to provide Panchayats with the authority and powers to function as self-government institutions.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

176. With reference to the Delimitation of constituencies, consider the following statements:

1. Delimitation means the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies.
2. The Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
3. The 84<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003 provided for the delimitation of constituencies on the basis of 2001 census and not 1991 census.

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

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

177. Consider the following statements regarding 'Study in India (SII) scheme':

1. The SII scheme was launched in 2018 to attract foreign students by offering scholarships and fee waiver schemes.
2. Indian universities are encouraged to set up offshore campuses to enhance India's global education footprint.
3. The main emphasis of the Scheme is on improving the quality of education by focussing on the two T's i.e., Teacher and Technology.

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

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

178. Consider the following statements:

1. Kumbh Mela is listed in UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
2. It is held on the banks of the Godavari (Nashik), Shipra (Ujjain), Ganges (Haridwar), and the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and Saraswati (Prayagraj).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

179. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ninth Schedule of Constitution':

1. The Ninth Schedule of the Constitution includes a list of Central and State laws that cannot be challenged in courts.
2. This schedule was added to the constitution by the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951.
3. Article 31B, along with Article 31A, was introduced to protect agrarian reform laws and abolish the Zamindari system.

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

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

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Note:

180. With reference to the Federalism, consider the following statements:

1. Federalism is a system of government in which powers are divided between two or more levels of government, such as the centre and the states.
2. The single citizenship granted by the Indian Constitution reflects India's federal characteristic of the Indian political system.

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

181. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** The Census is mandated by the Constitution in India, but there is no legal obligation for it to be conducted every ten years.

**Statement-II:** The Census of India Act, 1948 provides the legal framework for carrying out the Census however, it does not mention its timing or periodicity.

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.

182. Consider the following statements:

1. Kerogens are the lumps of organic matter and they are the primary source of hydrocarbons in the rocky underground.
2. Kerogen can be deposited from three possible sources as the remains of a lake (lacustrine), a larger marine ecosystem, or a terrestrial ecosystem.
3. Kerogen undergoes high-temperature pyrolysis, decomposing into lower-molecular-weight products like bitumen, oil, and gas.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

## Answers

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

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Note:

## Practice Explanation

1. (C)

Exp:

- **Capital Expenditure (Capex):**
  - ◆ 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.
  - ◆ The Indian government allocates capital expenditure through its **annual budget**, which is presented by the finance minister.
- **Effective Capital Expenditure:**
  - ◆ The capital expenditure presented in the budget does not **include the spending by the government** on creating capital assets through grants-in-aid to states and other agencies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ These grants are **classified as revenue expenditure** in the budget, but they also contribute to the creation of fixed assets such as roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, etc.
  - ◆ Therefore, to capture the true extent of public investment by the central government, a concept of 'effective capital expenditure' has been introduced.
  - ◆ Effective capital expenditure is defined as the sum of capital expenditure and grants for the creation of capital assets.

2. (A)

Exp:

**Yamuna River**

- The Yamuna River is one of the major tributaries of the **Ganges in Northern India.**
- It forms an integral part of the Yamuna-Ganga Plain, one of the world's most extensive alluvial plains.
- It has its source in the **Yamunotri Glacier** at an elevation of 6,387 meters on the southwestern sides of Banderpooch crests in the lower Himalayan ranges.
- It meets the Ganges at the Sangam (where Kumbh Mela is held) in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh after flowing through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Delhi.
- Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, and Ken are its major tributaries.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

3. (D)

Exp:

- **Urea is the primary fertilizer** supplying Nitrogen (N), while Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is the major fertilizer supplying Phosphorus (P) in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Before the 1992 decontrol of Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) fertilizer prices, the DAP to Urea retail price ratio was 2:1, but **ad-hoc pricing and subsidy policies** drastically reduced subsidies on P and K, distorting this ratio.
- The **Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme** was introduced in 2010 to correct inter-product distortions in retail fertilizer prices, but Urea has not been included in this policy even after 15 years.
  - ◆ As a result, the retail price of Urea has remained nearly unchanged, while the price of DAP is now almost five times that of Urea, and Muriate of Potash (MOP) costs at least six times more, leading farmers to overuse Urea.
- This price distortion has resulted in an **imbalanced use of primary nutrients** in most major states.
  - ◆ Ideally, the Nitrogen to Phosphorus (N:P) use ratio should be 2:1, but it has widened to nearly 4:1 in Punjab and Haryana. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A similar imbalance exists in the Nitrogen to Potassium (N: K) use ratio in these states.
  - ◆ Such skewed fertilizer application can negatively impact soil health, crop productivity, and long-term agricultural sustainability.

4. (A)

Exp:

**Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003:**

- In the early 2000s, India's fiscal deficit was rising to unsustainable levels, threatening economic stability. The FRBM Act, 2003 was introduced to impose limits and restore balance.
- The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 is a law aimed at ensuring that the **government maintains financial discipline** by managing its deficit and public debt responsibly.
- Enacted in 2003, the FRBM Act requires the **government to set targets for fiscal deficit**, revenue deficit, and overall debt as a percentage of GDP.

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Note:

- ◆ The goal is to keep the economy stable and ensure that future generations are not burdened by excessive debt.

➤ **Fiscal Deficit Targets:**

- ◆ The Act mandates the government to reduce its fiscal deficit to a specified percentage of GDP. For example, the target has been to limit it to 3 percent.
- ◆ It **aims to eliminate the revenue deficit** by reducing wasteful expenditure and increasing non-debt revenues. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ The government **must present annual targets** and regularly update Parliament on progress, ensuring accountability. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ The Act includes **provisions for deviations from targets** in case of emergencies like wars, natural disasters, or severe economic downturns. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**5. (B)**

**Exp:**

- The India-Bhutan Trade, Commerce, and Transit Agreement was signed in 1972 and last revised in 2016, establishing a **free trade regime and duty-free transit** for Bhutanese exports to third countries. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- India, as Bhutan's largest trading partner, contributed 73% of Bhutan's total trade in 2022-23, with bilateral trade reaching Rs. 11,178 crore. **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.

**6. (B)**

**Exp:**

**eSanjeevani:**

- From 2013 to 2021, India's healthcare spending as a percentage of GDP has decreased every year **except for 2019 and 2020**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Cardiovascular disease (CVD)** is the leading cause of death and disability in India, accounting for almost one in three of all deaths. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **eSanjeevani** is a national doctor-to-doctor telemedicine service that strives to provide an alternative to conventional physical consultations via a digital platform. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ eSanjeevani is a cohesive part of the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDM)**, and more than 45,000 ABHA IDs have been generated via the eSanjeevani application.

**7. (C)**

**Exp:**

**Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR):**

- The LCR is a ratio that measures the proportion of high-quality liquid assets (HQLA) that financial institutions hold. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **HQLA are liquid assets that can be sold immediately** or converted to cash at little or no loss of value. HQLA can also be used as collateral for borrowing purposes.
  - ◆ **HQLAs include cash, short-term bonds,** and other cash equivalents, as well as excess Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) assets, and the Facility to Avail Liquidity for Liquidity Coverage Ratio (FALLCR) (set at 15% of the bank's deposits since 1st April 2020).
- The LCR was introduced as part of the **Basel III reforms** following the 2008 global financial crisis. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Banks covered under the LCR framework must maintain a stock of HQLA to cover 30 days' net outflow under stressed conditions, with a minimum LCR of 100% since 1st January 2019.
- The LCR is a preventive measure that can be beneficial for a bank during a financial crisis.
  - ◆ The LCR may lead to banks holding more cash and issuing fewer loans, potentially slowing economic growth.

**8. (D)**

**Exp:**

**Securities and Exchange Board of India:**

- SEBI is a **quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial body** that can draft regulations, conduct inquiries, pass rulings and impose penalties. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ In April 1988 the SEBI was constituted as the **regulator of capital markets** in India under a resolution of the Government of India.
  - ◆ It attained **statutory status in 1992** when the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 became effective on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1992.
- By the **Securities Laws (Amendment) Act, 2014**, SEBI can regulate any money pooling scheme worth Rs. 100 cr. or more and attach assets in cases of non-compliance. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- SEBI Board consists of a chairman and several other full-time and part-time members.
- SEBI Chairman has the authority to order **"search and seizure operations"**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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Note:



9. (C)

Exp:

Economic Survey:

- The Economic Survey is an **annual report** presented by the government before the Union Budget to **assess India's economic condition**.
- It is prepared by the **Economic Division of the Ministry of Finance** under the Chief Economic Adviser's supervision, it is tabled in both houses of Parliament by the Union Finance Minister. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The survey assesses economic performance, highlights sectoral developments, outlines challenges, and provides an economic outlook for the coming year.
- The Economic Survey was first presented in **1950-51 as part of the budget** and became a separate document from the Union Budget in 1964, tabled a day before the budget. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

10. (A)

Exp:

Potomac River:

- It covers a watershed of 14,670 square miles, with nearly 60% forest cover, making it one of the most forested river basins in the **United States**.
- The Potomac River is the **second-largest tributary** of the Chesapeake Bay, after the Susquehanna River.
- Originates in the **Allegheny Mountains** of West Virginia and flows 380 miles to the Tidewater at Point Lookout, Maryland.
- Acts as a **natural border** between Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC.
- Major tributaries include the Anacostia, Shenandoah, and Monocacy rivers.
- Provides critical wildlife habitat and supports various fish species.



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

11. (B)

Exp:

Domestic Workers:

- According to the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, Domestic workers are those workers who perform work in or for a private household or households.
  - ◆ They provide **direct and indirect care services**, and as such are key members of the care economy.
- In India, **domestic workers are excluded from mainstream labor laws** as “workman” and “workplace” definitions do not cover household work, often seen as “unproductive” women’s labor. But there is no dedicated central law for them. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
  - ◆ Multiple attempts were made to pass a Central law to protect domestic workers, including the **Domestic Workers (Conditions of Employment) Bill of 1959** and the Domestic Workers (Regulation of Work and Social Security) Bill of 2017.
- The **2019 National Domestic Worker Policy** aimed to regulate agencies and ensure workers’ rights, including wages, social security, and benefits. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
  - ◆ However, **none of these proposed laws** were enacted.
- **Unorganised Sector Social Security Act, 2008** provided some benefits but was later replaced by the Code on Social Security, 2020, which has not been implemented.
- **Minimum Wages Act, 1948** recognizes domestic work, but only 10 states have set minimum wages for domestic workers.
- 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:

## 12. (A)

Exp:

Minority:

- The term minority is **not defined** in the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Currently, only those communities notified under section 2(c) of the **NCM (National Commission for Minorities) Act, 1992**, by the central government are regarded as minority.
  - ◆ Despite the Supreme Court's 11-judge bench judgment in the **T.M.A Pai case**, which clearly determined that linguistic and religious minorities must be identified at the state level rather than at the national level, section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act 1992 gave the Centre "unbridled power" to inform minorities.
- **Article 29** provides that any section of the citizens residing in any part of India having a distinct **language, script, or culture** of its own, shall have the right to conserve the same.
  - ◆ It grants protection to both religious minorities as well as linguistic minorities. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
    - However, the SC held that the scope of this article is not necessarily restricted to minorities only, as the use of the word '**section of citizens**' in the Article includes minorities as well as the majority.
- **As per Article 30**, all minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
  - ◆ The protection under Article 30 is **confined only to minorities** (religious or linguistic) and does not extend to any section of citizens (as under Article 29). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

## 13. (B)

Exp:

- 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 I is correct.**
  - ◆ However, its implementation is left to the discretion of the government.
- The **British established uniform criminal laws** in India while avoiding standardising family laws due to their sensitive nature. **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.

## 14. (D)

Exp:

Leprosy:

- Leprosy, also known as **Hansen's disease**, is a chronic infectious disease caused by a type of bacteria called "Mycobacterium leprae". **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The disease affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of the upper respiratory tract, and the eyes.
  - ◆ Leprosy is known to occur at all ages ranging from early childhood to old age.
- Leprosy is a neglected tropical disease (NTD) that still occurs in more than 120 countries, with more than 200,000 new cases reported every year.
  - ◆ **Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)** are a group of infections that are most common among **marginalized communities** in the developing regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas.
    - ◆ They are caused by a variety of pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and parasitic worms
- In 2022, 182 countries reported over 1.65 lakh cases of leprosy, including 174,087 new cases.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), most countries with high rates of new leprosy cases are in the WHO African and South-East Asia Regions.
- India has achieved the **elimination of leprosy** as a public health problem as per WHO criteria of less than 1 case per 10,000 population at the National level in 2005. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **World Leprosy Day** is observed every year on the last Sunday of January. In India, it is observed on 30th January every year, coinciding with the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

## 15. (C)

Exp:

**NIPUN (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat Scheme:**

- The **Ministry of Education** has launched the NIPUN (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat Scheme. It aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 3 to 9 years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This initiative is being launched as a part of NEP (**National Education Policy**) 2020. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- This policy aims to pave the way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems in the country.
- A **five-tier implementation mechanism** has been set up at the National- State- District- Block- School level in all

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Note:

States and UTs, under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ 'Samagra Shiksha programme' was launched subsuming three existing schemes: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE).

16. (A)

Exp:

ASEAN:

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a **regional organization** that was **established to promote political and social stability** amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states.
- Member Nations include Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

17. (A)

Exp:

**Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):**

- The DRC is the **second-largest country** in Africa and the eleventh-largest in the world.
- It has a small coastline with the Atlantic Ocean.
- DRC is bounded to the north by the **Central African Republic and South Sudan**; to the east by Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania; to the southeast by Zambia; and to the southwest by Angola.
- Kinshasa, the capital of the DRC, is located on the **Congo River**, the only river to cross the equator twice in Africa.
- The official language is French, but other languages include Kituba, Lingala, Swahili, and Tshiluba.
- **Katanga Plateau** is considered to be a rich mining region, which supplies cobalt, copper, tin, radium, uranium, and diamonds.



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

18. (D)

Exp:

**Union Budget 2025-26:**

- **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana** has been announced to cover 100 low agricultural productivity districts, benefiting 1.7 crore farmers, and enhancing irrigation, and post-harvest storage facilities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A '**Rural Prosperity and Resilience**' programme will be launched with states to address agricultural underemployment through skilling, investment, and technology. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A 6-year mission focusing on Tur, Urad, and Masoor will be launched, ensuring **climate-resilient seeds** and remunerative prices. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ Central agencies, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (**NAFED**) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (**NCCF**) will be prepared to procure these 3 pulses from farmers over the next 4 years.
- **Makhana Board in Bihar** will be established to enhance the production, processing, and value addition of Makhana. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

19. (C)

Exp:

**Union Budget 2025-26:**

- The **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** cap in the insurance sector will be increased from 74% to 100% for companies that invest the entire premium in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- An **Investment Friendliness Index** for states will be introduced in 2025 to boost competitive cooperative federalism. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Public Sector Banks will create a '**Grameen Credit Score**' framework enabling SHG members and rural borrowers to access formal credit facilities more efficiently. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

20. (C)

Exp:

**Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana:**

- Launched in 2018, it offers a sum insured of Rs.5 lakh per family for secondary care and tertiary care. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is an entitlement-based scheme that targets the beneficiaries as identified by the latest **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)** data.

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Note:

- The funding for the scheme is shared – 60:40 for all states and UTs with their own legislature, 90:10 in Northeast states and Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand, and 100% Central funding for UTs without legislature.
- The **National Health Authority (NHA)** has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860 for effective implementation of PM-JAY in alliance with state governments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ The State Health Agency (SHA) is the apex body of the State Government responsible for the implementation of AB PM-JAY in the State.
- The Union Budget 2025-26 has announced that **gig workers will now be covered** under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

21. (B)

Exp:

**Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024:**

- The **NGO Pratham Foundation** released the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 on the learning outcomes of school students in rural India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ ASER is a **nationwide, citizen-led household survey** that offers an insightful snapshot of children's schooling and learning in rural India.
- Launched in 2005, ASER tracks **educational trends** and challenges in rural areas, evolving in coverage, focus, and frequency. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Anganwadi centres** are the main provider of **pre-primary education**, enrolling over half of the 3-4-year-olds, while one-third of 5-year-olds attend private schools or preschools. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

22. (A)

Exp:

**Brain Drain:**

- Brain Drain refers to the **migration of highly skilled professionals** to other countries for better opportunities.
- The term originally referred to the **migration of highly skilled professionals**, particularly in science and engineering, from India to developed countries like the US in search of better opportunities.
- While brain drain was once a major concern, today, it is less debated as India continues to produce a large number of skilled professionals, filling the gaps left by those who migrate.
- The departure of 'brains' has not significantly **harmed India's intellectual ecosystem**, as new talent emerges

to take their place. Migration no longer depletes India's skilled workforce as feared earlier.

- For top-tier talent to thrive domestically, **an enabling environment with strong governance**, research funding, and industry collaboration is necessary. The US tech boom, for example, was heavily supported by government policies.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

23. (A)

Exp:

**Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):**

- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are **compact, flexible, and easier-to-build** nuclear reactors, each generating less than 300 MW of power. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- SMRs are experimental, require high capital investment with uncertain profitability, and **depend on low-grade uranium**, necessitating frequent refueling. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The union budget 2025-26 introduced a new '**Nuclear Energy Mission**' to research Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and commission five indigenous units by 2033. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

24. (B)

Exp:

**International Criminal Court (ICC):**

- It is a court of last resort for the **prosecution of serious international crimes**, including genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It investigates and, where warranted, **tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern** to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression.
- Through international criminal justice, the ICC aims to hold those responsible for their crimes and to help prevent these crimes from happening again.
- Governed by an international treaty called '**The Rome Statute**', the ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.
  - ◆ The founding treaty of the court, the Rome Statute, was adopted in July 1998, and the court was established in 2003. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India is not a party to the Rome Statute along with the US and China.
- It has **6 official languages** including English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian, and Spanish. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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Note:

25. (C)

Exp:

**Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) scheme:**

- The PM-KUSUM is a flagship scheme initiated by the Indian government in 2019 with the primary objective of **transforming the agricultural sector** by promoting the adoption of solar energy solutions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It follows a **demand-driven approach**, allocating capacities based on requests from different states and union territories (UTs). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Through various components and financial support, PM-KUSUM envisions achieving a **significant solar power capacity** addition of 30.8 GW by March 31, 2026.
- The scheme aims to **reduce the dependence on diesel** for irrigation by encouraging the use of solar-powered pumps and other renewable energy sources.
- It also seeks to increase farmers' income by **reducing irrigation costs** through the use of solar pumps and enabling them to sell surplus solar power to the grid.

26. (A)

Exp:

**Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):**

- Under **Section 452B of the amended Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934**, the Central Government is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ **Article 280** of the Indian Constitution establishes the Finance Commission of India.
- 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.**
- RBI once in every six months, releases a Monetary Policy Report to explain the sources of inflation and the forecast of inflation for 6-18 months ahead.

27. (B)

Exp:

- The government has been implementing the **National Mental Health Program (NMHP)** since 1982 to address the growing burden of mental disorders and the shortage of qualified professionals in the field. **Hence, statement I is correct.**

- ◆ The Program was re-strategised in 2003 to include two schemes, viz. Modernisation of State Mental Hospitals and Up-gradation of Psychiatric Wings of Medical Colleges/General Hospitals.

- The **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017** provides the legal framework for providing services to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of people with mental illnesses. These are in line with the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCPRD)**. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **Mental Health Care Act 2017** guarantees every affected person access to mental healthcare and treatment from services run or funded by the government.
  - ◆ It has significantly reduced the scope for the use of **Section 224 of the BNS** and made the attempt to commit suicide punishable only as an exception.
  - ◆ The Section mandates that attempting suicide to compel or restrain a public servant from their duties is punishable by up to one year of simple imprisonment, a fine, both, or community service.
- 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.

28. (A)

Exp:

**Tatmadaw:**

- The term Tatmadaw refers to **Myanmar's military**, which has played a dominant role in the country's politics and governance.
- It is formally known as the **Myanmar Armed Forces** and includes the army, navy, and air force.
- The Tatmadaw has been involved in several coups throughout Myanmar's history, the most recent being in 2021 when they overthrew the democratically elected government of the National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Aung San Suu Kyi.
- Since then, the Tatmadaw has been engaged in violent efforts to suppress resistance and maintain control, resulting in widespread suffering and displacement across the country.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

29. (C)

Exp:

- **S. Chakravarty Committee** was set up in 1985 to review the workings of the monetary system. Its recommendations had far-reaching consequences.

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- ◆ The **Chakravarty Committee Report** recommended monetary targeting and flexible interest rates to promote price stability and economic growth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The **Urjit Patel Committee Report (2014)** shaped inflation targeting in India and recommended a target of 4% with a band of 2%. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

### 30. (B)

Exp:

#### Appointment & Tenure of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC):

- The President appoints **CEC and Election Commissioners** as per the CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They have a **fixed tenure of six years**, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The salary and conditions of service of the CEC and ECs will be equivalent to that of the Supreme Court Judge.
- They can resign anytime or can also be removed before the expiry of their term.
- The CEC can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a **Supreme Court judge by Parliament**, while ECs can only be removed on the recommendation of the CEC. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

### 31. (A)

Exp:

Cess:

- Cess is a tax on tax, **imposed in addition to an existing tax** like excise or income tax, and the revenue is earmarked for a particular use. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Cesses are typically **charged for a specific time period**, or until the government has gathered enough funds for the designated purpose. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **80<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 2000** formally amended **Article 270**, explicitly excluding cesses and surcharges from the divisible pool (revenue from cesses is not shared with states).
- Cesses are recognized in the Constitution under **Article 277 and Article 270** (which outlines the revenue-sharing framework between the Union and States). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Examples include education Cess (for financing primary education), Swachh Bharat Cess (for cleanliness initiatives), and Fuel Cess (for road development).

### 32. (D)

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. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ India ratified the CSC in 2016.
- India enacted the **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010** to put in place a speedy compensation mechanism for victims of a nuclear accident.
  - ◆ The CLNDA provides for **strict and no-fault liability** on the nuclear plant operator, where it will be held liable for damage regardless of any fault on its part. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 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.

### 33. (B)

Exp:

#### Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC):

- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is an **autonomous body** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, set up in 1988.
- It has **developed supercomputers** based on massively parallel processing.
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has partnered with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-Dac) and the **National e-Governance Division** to design the chip from the ground up.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

### 34. (A)

Exp:

Aadhar:

- Aadhaar is a **12-digit individual identification number** issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on behalf of the Government of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- The number serves as proof of identity and address, anywhere in India.
  - ◆ The Indian government has **recently emphasized that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship** or date of birth (D.O.B). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ Bombay High Court in *State of Maharashtra vs Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Case, 2022* clarified the scope and limitations of Aadhaar as an identity document. The Court stated that Aadhaar is only a proof of identity and residence, not of citizenship or date of birth.
- An Aadhaar card, which is a biometric document, stores an individual's personal information on a government database.
- An Aadhaar card can be issued to any person residing in the country for more than six months continuously, provided he/she submits one of the 18 listed identity cards and an address proof.
- **Foreign nationals** are eligible to obtain an Aadhaar card if they have been living in India for half a year. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Aadhaar number will help the residents to **avail of various services provided by banking**, mobile phone connections, and other Govt and Non-Govt services in due course.

35. (B)

Exp:

Eurozone:

- The Eurozone refers to a group of European Union (EU) countries that have adopted the euro (€) as their official currency. This monetary union is made up of 20 of the 27 EU member states, and it aims to **foster economic integration**, price stability, and easier trade between member countries.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

36. (C)

Exp:

- The **Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR)** is a ratio that measures the proportion of high-quality liquid assets (HQLA) that financial institutions hold. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)** of 18.00% is the required minimum percentage of deposits that a commercial bank must keep in liquid assets like cash, gold, or securities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Under the **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)**, commercial banks have to hold a certain minimum amount of deposit (NDTL) as reserves with the central bank. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

37. (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.**

38. (C)

Exp:

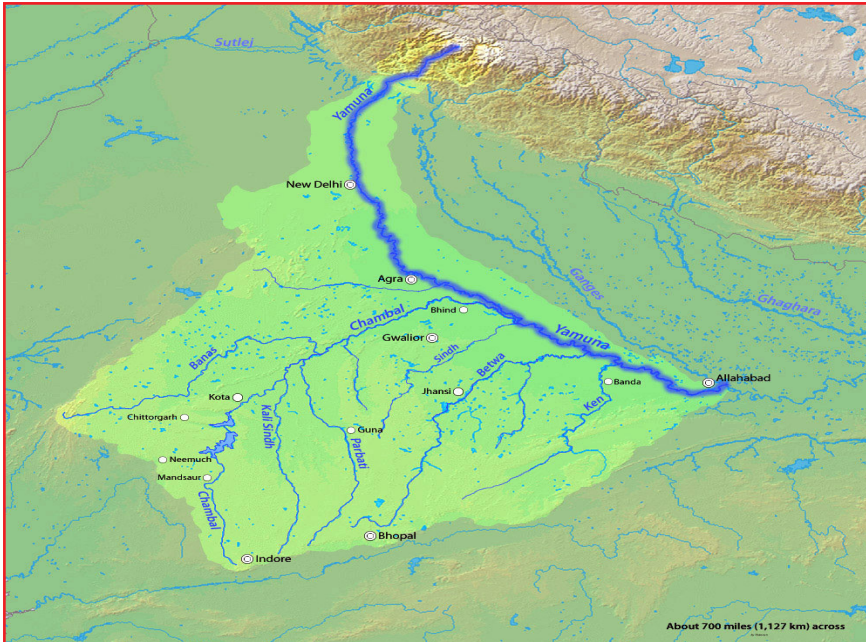
Yamuna River:

- The Yamuna River is one of the major tributaries of the Ganges in Northern India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It forms an integral part of the Yamuna-Ganga Plain, one of the world's most extensive alluvial plains.
- It has its source in the **Yamunotri Glacier** at an elevation of 6,387 meters on the southwestern sides of Banderpooch crests in the lower Himalayan ranges. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It meets the Ganges at the Sangam (where Kumbh Mela is held) in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh after flowing through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Delhi.
- Lakhwar-Vyasi Dam (Uttarakhand), Tajewala Barrage Dam (Haryana) etc are important dams.
- Chambal, Sindh, Betwa and Ken are its important tributaries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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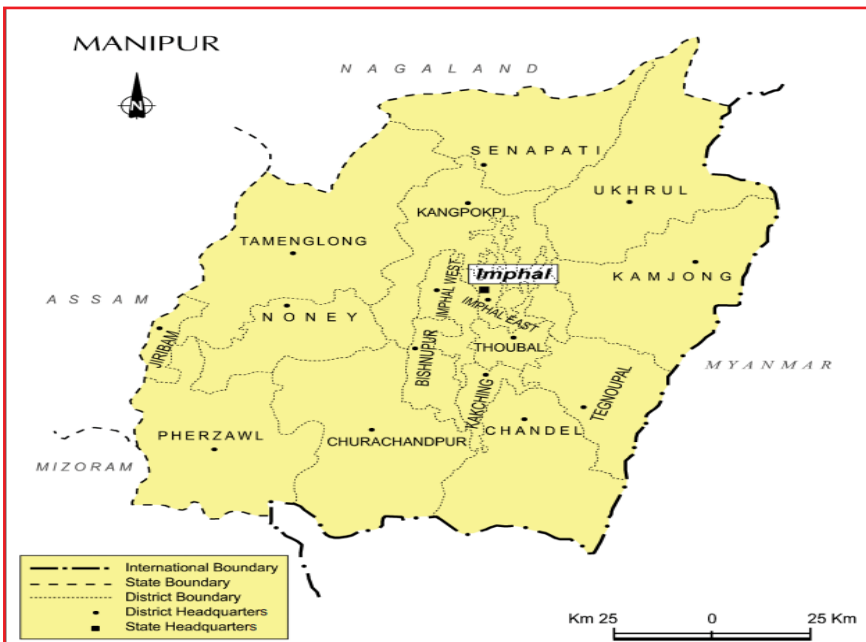


39. (A)

Exp:

Manipur:

- Manipur is a beautiful state surrounded by hill ranges and was called the 'Jewel of India' by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Known as 'Kangleipak' or 'Sanaleipak' (golden land) to its inhabitants.
- It is bounded by Nagaland in the north, Assam in the west, Mizoram in the south-west, and Myanmar in the east and south-east.
- The valley is a plateau; its height above the sea level is about 2,600 ft.
- The hills and mountains of Manipur are offshoots from the Himalayas, which form the northern boundary of India.



- Hence, option A is correct.

40. (A)

Exp:

Regulatory Landscape of the Nuclear Energy Sector in India:

- Governed by the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962**, the central government has exclusive authority over nuclear energy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** is responsible for overseeing safety standards and compliance within the nuclear industry in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 caps operator liability at ₹1,500 crore, with a government backstop.
- The India Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) provides insurance coverage for accidents.
- India adheres to IAEA safeguards under the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement but is **not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**, maintaining strategic autonomy. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

41. (B)

Exp:

- **Nakba (Catastrophe):** The Nakba refers to the **mass displacement of Palestinians** during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, when around 750,000 Palestinians became refugees. It marks the loss of their homeland with the establishment of Israel. Palestinians observe it annually as Nakba Day.
- **Six-Day War (1967):** The Six-Day War was a **conflict between Israel and its neighbours** Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, resulting in Israel's victory and the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, Sinai, and Golan Heights. It reshaped the Middle East geopolitically.
- **Two-State Solution:** The two-state solution proposes creating separate, independent Israeli and Palestinian states to resolve the conflict. Despite being a focus of international peace

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efforts, it remains unachieved due to territorial and political challenges.

- Hence, option B is correct.

42. (C)

Exp:

**United States Agency For International Development (USAID):**

- USAID was established in 1961 as an **independent agency** under the Foreign Assistance Act, 1961 designed to provide **global humanitarian** and development aid. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- USAID funds a range of programmes which include **health care, food aid** (including assistance to Gaza), and policy advocacy.
- The agency has maintained a **strong presence in India since the 1960s**, supporting initiatives in education, immunisation, HIV/TB prevention, polio eradication, and child health. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ Though direct financial aid to India has declined in recent years, USAID contributions still amounted to over USD 150 million for the latest fiscal year.

43. (D)

Exp:

- Coal is a mixture of carbon, ash, moisture, and other impurities. The higher the available carbon in a unit of coal, the better its quality or 'grade.'
- The most important uses of coal are in **thermal power plants** and in powering blast furnaces for steel production, each requiring different kinds of coal.
- Indian coal historically has **high ash content** and low calorific value compared to imported coal. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ Domestic thermal coal has an average GCV of 3,500-4,000 kcal/kg, while imported thermal coals have over 6,000 kcal/kg.
    - The **Gross Calorific Value (GCV)** determines the gradation of coal based on the amount of heat or energy that can be generated from burning it.
  - ◆ Indian coals have over **40% ash content**, while imported coal has less than 10%.
  - ◆ Burning high-ash coal results in higher particulate matter, nitrogen, and sulphur dioxide.
- Indian coal generally has a **lower sulphur content** than other coal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Coal washing** is a pre-combustion process that improves coal quality by removing impurities like ash and sulfur to reduce emissions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans: 44. (B)

Exp:

**Suggestions of Economic Survey:**

- Food makes up 46% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Headline Inflation in developing countries, thus controlling food prices is key to managing overall inflation. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The **Economic Survey 2023-24** suggested excluding food inflation from India's inflation targeting framework. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Reasons for Excluding Food from Inflation Targeting:
  - ◆ **Supply-Induced Price Changes:** Food price fluctuations are mainly due to supply shocks (For example: poor harvests, climate conditions) rather than demand.
    - Traditional monetary policy tools, designed to address demand-side pressures, are ineffective for supply-induced changes.
  - ◆ **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT):** To help poor and low-income consumers cope with rising food prices, the Survey suggests using direct benefit transfers or coupons, offering targeted assistance without disrupting the inflation framework.
  - ◆ **Core Inflation Focus:** Excluding food items allows the focus to shift to core inflation, which better reflects underlying inflation trends and the economy's health, as it is less influenced by temporary shocks.
  - ◆ **International Practices:** Countries like the US, UK, and Canada also exclude food and energy prices in their inflation targeting to maintain a more stable and predictable monetary policy framework.
- 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.

45. (D)

Exp:

- **India ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in global shipbuilding** with only a 0.06% share, while China alone holds over 50%. **Hence, statement I is not correct.**
  - ◆ The annual shipbuilding output of Indian shipyards is only 0.072 million gross tonnage (GT), which needs to increase to 0.33 million GT by 2030 to meet the Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 goals.
- Shipbuilding is an **integral part of India's Blue Economy**, which includes fisheries, port development, and marine tourism. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
  - ◆ According to the World Bank, the blue economy is the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic

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growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem.”

◆ The Blue Economy contributes 4% to India's GDP.

- A strong shipbuilding industry enhances inland and coastal shipping, reducing logistics costs and decongesting road and rail networks.
- Additionally, it can help India tap into deep-sea exploration for minerals and hydrocarbons, improving energy security.
- Hence, option D is correct because Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

46. (B)

Exp:

**Unified Payments Interface (UPI):**

- UPI, or Unified Payments Interface, is a system developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It allows users to send and receive money instantly using just their phone numbers or unique identifiers called UPI IDs.
  - ◆ Unlike other payment methods, such as National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)**, UPI also lets users or merchants request money from others by sending a simple message through their bank app. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In recent years, several countries have begun adopting UPI for **cross-border payments**, and Indian residents have been able to use UPI-based services abroad in certain cases. For example, UPI payments can now be used in countries like **Singapore, UAE, and Bhutan** through specific partnerships. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

47. (C)

Exp:

**Governor:**

- **Article 153** of the Constitution of India mandates a Governor for each State, with the provision allowing the same person to serve as Governor for multiple States. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 154** of the Constitution of India grants the executive power of the State to the Governor.
  - ◆ The **executive authority of the State** is vested in the Governor and may be exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him, as per the provisions of this Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The origins of the governor's role as chancellor of universities can be traced to **Wood's Despatch of 1854**,

which recommended that university chancellors be persons of high station with an interest in the cause of education.

**Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

48. (A)

Exp:

**Living Will:**

- A **living will (Advance Medical Directive)** allows patients to document their treatment wishes, ensuring dignity in end-of-life decisions. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Passive euthanasia involves withholding or stopping life-sustaining treatments, letting a person die naturally from their condition.
- The Supreme Court verdict in **Common Cause v. Union of India, 2018** recognised the **right to die with dignity** as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and legalised the use of advance medical directives or 'living wills'. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
  - ◆ **Common Cause v. Union of India, 2023** simplified the process for making living wills and withholding/withdrawing life-sustaining treatment by removing bureaucratic hurdles.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

49. (A)

Exp:

- Lower borrowing costs can stimulate economic growth. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - ◆ A reduction in the repo rate **makes borrowing cheaper for businesses** and consumers, encouraging investments, home purchases, and higher spending, which can help revive sluggish GDP growth.
- It may put downward pressure on the rupee. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - ◆ A rate cut can **lead to capital outflows as foreign investors seek better returns** elsewhere, weakening the rupee against the dollar. This could **make imports costlier**, potentially impacting India's trade balance.
- A repo rate cut will not immediately bring down inflation. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
  - ◆ While lower interest rates can stimulate demand, they do not necessarily lead to an immediate reduction in inflation.
  - ◆ If demand rises significantly, it may **exert upward pressure on prices instead**. The RBI's decision assumes inflation will moderate due to external factors like food

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price stability, but a rate cut alone does not directly control inflation in the short term.

50. (B)

Exp:

**Decline of Indus Valley Civilization (IVC):**

- The IVC declined around 1800 BCE but the actual reasons behind its demise are
- still debated. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- One theory claims that the Indo-European tribe i.e. **Aryans invaded** and conquered the IVC.
- In later cultures, various elements of the IVC are found which suggest that **civilization did not disappear** suddenly due to an invasion. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- On the other hand, many scholars believe natural factors are behind the decline of the IVC.
- The natural factors could be geological and climatic.
- It is believed that the Indus Valley region experienced several tectonic disturbances that caused earthquakes and also changed the courses of **ivers or dried them up.**
- Another natural reason might be changes in patterns of rainfall.
- There could be also **dramatic shifts in the river courses**, which might have brought floods to the food-producing areas.
- Due to a combination of these natural causes, there was a slow but inevitable collapse of IVC.
- 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.

51. (A)

Exp:

**Olive Ridley Turtles:**

- These turtles are **carnivores** and get their name from their olive-coloured carapace.
- They are best known for their **unique mass nesting** called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.
- They are found in warm waters of the **Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans.**
- **Odisha's Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary** is known as the world's largest rookery (a colony of breeding animals) of sea turtles.
- **Protection Status:**
  - ◆ **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I
  - ◆ **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
  - ◆ **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

52. (B)

Exp:

**Constitutional Morality:**

- **Constitutional morality** signifies adherence to constitutional norms, embracing sovereignty, social justice, and equality beyond mere textual interpretation in a democracy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Though the term constitutional morality is **not explicitly used** in the Indian Constitution, it is deeply embedded in several of its sections. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Court, in the **Government of NCT of Delhi case (2018)**, likened constitutional morality to a "second basic structure doctrine", emphasising its role in curbing arbitrary authority. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

53. (B)

Exp:

**NIPUN Bharat:**

- The National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) was launched by the **Department of School Education & Literacy in 2021.**
- The mission aims to ensure that every child in the country **achieves foundational literacy and numeracy** by the end of Grade 3, with a target completion by 2026-27.
- NEP 2020 stipulates that Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) is critical for education and lifelong learning success.
  - ◆ The education system is deploying innovative pedagogies and teaching methods to ensure that every child achieves FLN.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

54. (C)

Exp:

**Article 356 (President's Rule):**

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

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Note:

- **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. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ Initially, the President's Rule is **for six months** and can be extended for up to three years with parliamentary approval every six months.
- The **44<sup>th</sup> 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.

55. (B)

Exp:

**Donkey Route:**

- The Donkey Route refers to **illegal migration pathways** used by individuals attempting to enter another country **without proper authorization**. These routes are often dangerous and involve multiple stopovers across different countries, typically facilitated by human smugglers.
- The Donkey Route is **widely used by Indians** attempting illegal migration to destinations like the United States, Canada, and Europe. It involves traveling through multiple countries using fake documents, unauthorized border crossings, and smuggling networks.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

56. (D)

Exp:

**Indus Valley Script:**

- The Indus Valley Script was used by the Indus Valley Civilization (2600–1900 BCE) in present-day Pakistan and north-western India.
- The script was **discovered in the 1920s** by Sir John Marshall's team and remains undeciphered. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It appears on seals, terracotta tablets, and metal, featuring pictograms and animal or human motifs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is generally written right to left, longer texts sometimes use **Boustrophedon Style** (alternating directions between lines). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Most inscriptions are short, averaging 5 characters, with the longest known text containing 26 symbols.

- The brevity has led to debates about whether it represents a full-fledged language or merely symbolic notations.

57. (C)

Exp:

**Capital Punishment:**

- ◆ The Constitution of India **does not explicitly declare** capital punishment as unconstitutional. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ However, the Supreme Court, as outlined in **Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab (1980)** identified 5 categories for such cases, including brutal murder, depraved motives, and crimes of significant magnitude where capital punishment is awarded.

**Mercy Petition:**

- ◆ A **Mercy Petition** is a formal request made by someone who has been sentenced to death or imprisonment seeking mercy from the President or the Governor, as the case may be.
- ◆ As per the Constitutional framework in India, a mercy petition to the President is the last constitutional resort a convict can take when a court of law sentences him.
  - 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.**
- ◆ 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.**

58. (B)

Exp:

**Quad:**

- The Quad is an **informal diplomatic alliance** between Australia, India, Japan, and the US, aimed at promoting an open, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Initially proposed by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007, it became a **formal group in 2017** after overcoming challenges like Australia's earlier withdrawal under Chinese pressure.
- The **QUAD Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP)** focuses on green shipping corridors, clean energy cooperation, and climate information services. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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Note:

- The US, like India, has a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with both Japan and Australia. But as of now, there is no Quad FTA. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

59. (C)

Exp:

- The **World Bank** assigns the world's economies to four income groups—low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high-income countries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The classifications are updated each year on 1<sup>st</sup> July and are based on **Gross National Income (GNI) per capita** in the current USD of the previous year. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - ◆ GNI is the total amount of money earned by a nation's people and businesses.

60. (B)

Exp:

- Monetary policy is a set of actions taken by a country's central bank to control the money supply and interest rates.
- Monetary policy is **different from Fiscal Policy** which is managed by the **Ministry of Finance** and measures the spending and taxation in the Indian Economy. Hence, statement I is correct.
- Monetary Policy is formed and managed by the Reserve Bank of India to control a nation's overall money supply and achieve economic growth. Hence, statement II is correct.
- The MPC determines the policy repo rate required to achieve the inflation target while other decisions are taken by the RBI.
- 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.

61. (A)

Exp:

**West Bank:**

- West Bank is a **landlocked territory in West Asia**. It also contains a significant section of the western Dead Sea.
- It was captured by Jordan after the Arab-Israeli War (1948) but Israel snatched it back during the Six-Day War of 1967 and has occupied it ever since.
- The West Bank is **sandwiched between Israel and Jordan**.

**Other Locations:**

- **Gaza Strip** is located along the Mediterranean Sea, not near the Dead Sea.
- **Golan Heights** is located northeast of the Sea of Galilee, bordering Syria and Israel.

- The **Sinai Peninsula** is in Egypt, not between Israel and Jordan.



- Hence, option A is correct.

62. (C)

Exp:

**Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005:**

**Background & Objective:**

- ◆ MGNREGA was passed in September 2005 to **provide a legal guarantee for wage employment** under the MGNREGA Scheme.
- ◆ The objective was to **enhance livelihood security in rural areas** by offering 100 days of wage employment per financial year to adult members of rural households willing to do unskilled manual labor. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

**Target Group:**

- ◆ The Target Group includes all rural households in need of employment and willing to do manual, unskilled work.
- ◆ Applicants submit their requests to the Gram Panchayat, which registers households and issues job cards after verification.
- ◆ At least **one-third of the wage seekers** should be women. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

**Other Provisions:**

- ◆ Employment should last at least 14 consecutive days, with no more than six workdays per week.

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Note:

- ◆ The **Gram Panchayat or Block Programme Officer** must provide work within 15 days of application, ideally within 5 kilometers of the applicant's village.
- ◆ Work beyond this requires an extra 10% wage for transportation and living costs.
- ◆ If employment is not provided within 15 days, an **unemployment allowance is given** which is one-fourth of the wage rate for the first 30 days and at least half for the rest. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

63. (A)

Exp:

**Operation Jackpot:**

- On 15<sup>th</sup> May 1971, India launched Operation Jackpot to **recruit, train, arm, equip, supply, and advise Mukti Bahini fighters** engaged in guerrilla warfare against the Pakistan military.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1971, India decided to go to war with Pakistan to save Bengali Muslims and Hindus in East Pakistan. The war lasted for 13 days.
- After that, a written agreement between India, Pakistan, and the provisional government of Bangladesh came into effect bringing an **end to the Bangladesh Liberation War.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

64. (B)

Exp:

**India State of Forest Report 2023 (ISFR):**

- Recently, the Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the 18<sup>th</sup> India State of Forest Report 2023 (ISFR 2023).
- ISFR has been brought out by the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** on a **biennial basis since 1987.**
- The total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 km<sup>2</sup> which is 25.17% of the geographical area (GA) of the country.
- The country's forest and tree cover has increased by 1,445.81 km<sup>2</sup>, with a 156.41 km<sup>2</sup> rise in forest cover compared to 2021.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

65. (D)

Exp:

- Article 355 – The Union has a duty to protect states from external aggression and internal disturbances. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- Article 356 – The President can impose President's Rule in a state if its government fails to function as per the Constitution. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

- Article 365 – If a state fails to comply with Union directives, the President can deem it as a failure of constitutional machinery. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- Article 352 – The President can declare a National Emergency due to war, external aggression, or armed rebellion. **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

66. (C)

Exp:

**United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982:**

- It is an international agreement that establishes the legal framework for marine and maritime activities.
- It is also known as the Law of the Sea.
- It is the only international convention that stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces. It provides a different legal status to different maritime zones. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It divides marine areas into five main zones namely, Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and the High Seas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It provides the backbone for offshore governance by coastal states and those navigating the oceans.
- It not only zones coastal states' offshore areas but also provides specific guidance for states' rights and responsibilities in the five concentric zones.

67. (B)

Exp:

- The **Abraham Accords** are a series of agreements signed in 2020 **between Israel and several Arab states**, marking a historic shift in diplomatic relations in the Middle East.
- The Accords were named 'Abraham Accords' in reference to the supposed common ancestor of the Jews and the Arabs, the biblical Abraham, and as an expression of brotherhood.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

68. (B)

Exp:

- Public debt in developing countries is rising at twice the rate of that in developed countries. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
  - ◆ It reached USD 29 trillion (30% of the global total) in 2023, increasing from 16% in 2010.

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Note:

- Roughly 50% of developing countries are now dedicating a minimum of 8% of their government revenues to servicing their debts, a number that has increased twofold in the last ten years.
  - ◆ Currently, developing nations are spending a greater portion of their GDP on paying off interest (2.4%) than on climate efforts (2.1%).
- India has launched a **comprehensive and human-centric “Global Development Compact”** aimed at fostering trade, sustainable growth, technology sharing, and concessional financing within the Global South. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
  - ◆ A key feature is that **it will not impose debt burdens** on developing nations under the guise of development finance, focusing instead on sustainable and equitable progress.
  - ◆ Announced at the third virtual Voice of the Global South Summit, the initiative aligns with the development priorities of participating nations.
- The Global Development Compact is based on India’s growth experience and development partnerships, ensuring a multi-sectoral, inclusive approach.
- 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.

69. (C)

Exp:

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks’ Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It has been incorporated as a **“Not for Profit” Company** under the provisions of Section 25 of the **Companies Act 1956** (now Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013), to provide infrastructure to the entire Banking system in India for physical as well as electronic payment and settlement systems.
- The company is **focused on bringing innovations to retail payment systems** through the use of technology to achieve greater efficiency in operations and widen the reach of payment systems.
- **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)** provided a mobile-based interoperable fund transfer service, with instant payment confirmation to both the remitter and the beneficiary. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** transactions are settled through IMPS. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

70. (B)

Exp:

- The central government has established the **International Financial Services Centres Authority** to regulate all financial services in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) with headquarters in Gandhinagar (Gujarat).
- The authority will **regulate 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.
- It will also regulate any other financial products, financial services, or financial institutions in an IFSC, which may be notified by the central government.
- It may also **recommend to the central government** any other financial products, financial services, or financial institutions, which may be permitted in an IFSC.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

71. (C)

Exp:

- The **Union Budget 2025** has proposed setting up a **Makhana Board in Bihar** to enhance the production, processing, value addition, and marketing of makhana (fox nut). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In 2022, ‘Mithila Makhana’ was conferred a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, a certification that signifies that a product can only be grown in a particular geographical location, and as a result, has unique characteristics (like Darjeeling’s tea or Mysore sandal soap). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

72. (B)

Exp:

- India’s ability to ban applications such as DeepSeek AI is well-supported by its legal framework.
- The primary mechanism for such actions is **Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act)**. Section 69A empowers the central government to block public access to information. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- In addition to Section 69A, Rule 3(1)(d) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules), provides an additional provision for takedown and there are previous precedents for take down of app under both provisions.

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Note:

- While there is some legal uncertainty around the takedown process under Rule 3(1)(d) read with Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, in the absence of a judicial stay the takedown regime is valid and enforceable.
- The Supreme Court in **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India**, (2015), upheld Section 69A's constitutionality. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
  - ◆ In the same judgment, the Court had struck down Section 66A of the IT Act as unconstitutional for being overly broad and vague.
- While upholding the fires of Section 69A, the Supreme Court emphasised procedural safeguards and transparency.
- It also read down Section 79(3)(b), to mean actual knowledge as a court order or as directives from a notified government agency.
- **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.**

**73. (D)****Exp:**

- The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** Conference of the Parties 29 (COP29) reached a landmark agreement to finalise the mechanisms for carbon markets, including **country-to-country trading** (Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement) and a centralised carbon market under the United Nations (UN) (Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement).
- **Article 6.2**, allows bilateral agreements between countries to trade carbon credits based on mutually agreed terms. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism** (also known as Article 6.4) seeks to develop a centralised, United Nations-managed carbon emissions offset and trading system. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**74. (B)****Exp:**

- According to the **Forest Survey of India**, more than 36% of the country's forest cover is prone to fire. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- India has put in place several policies and schemes to address forest fire management, such as the National Action Plan on Forest Fires and the Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FFPMS). The centrally sponsored FFPMS **assists State governments** in strengthening their forest fire prevention and management capabilities. **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.

**75. (B)****Exp:**

- NotPetya is a **highly destructive malware** and exploits vulnerabilities in Windows systems, including EternalBlue and EternalRomance (the same exploit used in the WannaCry attack).
- WannaCry ransomware attack **spreads by exploiting vulnerabilities** in the Windows operating system.
- A denial-of-service (DoS) attack occurs when **legitimate users are unable to access information systems**, devices, or other network resources due to the actions of a malicious cyber threat actor.
- The Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack is a **malicious attempt to disrupt the normal traffic** of a targeted server, service, or network by overwhelming it with a flood of internet traffic from multiple sources. This type of cyberattack aims to make the target system unavailable to its intended users.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

**76. (A)****Exp:**

- Competitive Federalism **enhances economic efficiency** by allowing States to tailor policies to local needs, leading to higher growth, increased investment, and job creation.
- Competitive federalism **fosters policy innovation** as States experiment with governance models, regulatory reforms, and public service delivery to gain a competitive edge.
- Competitive federalism **strengthens fiscal discipline**, as States must balance revenue generation with responsible spending to attract businesses and maintain investor confidence.
- Competitive federalism **improves public service quality**, as competition forces States to enhance infrastructure, education, and healthcare to retain skilled workers and businesses.
- Competitive federalism **strengthens state autonomy** in decision-making, rather than reducing it.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

**77. (C)****Exp:**

- **BharatTradeNet (BTN)**, a unified digital platform has been launched to streamline export documentation and integrate major players such as DGFT, GSTN, and banks to reduce bureaucratic delays. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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Note:



- The **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** cap in the insurance sector will be increased from 74% to 100% for companies that invest the entire premium in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

78. (A)

Exp:

- In the case of *Vihaan Kumar vs The State of Haryana*, the Supreme Court of India ruled that a law enforcement officer's **failure to inform a detained person** of the grounds for arrest violates the Constitution and is therefore illegal. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- As per Article 22(1) of the Constitution, an arrested person must be promptly informed of the reasons for their arrest and must have the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of their choice. **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.

79. (B)

Exp:

- **Insolvency** is a state where the liabilities of an individual or an organization **exceed its assets and that entity** is unable to raise enough cash to meet its obligations or debts as they become due for payment. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- **Bankruptcy** is when a person or company is legally declared incapable of paying their due and payable bills.
- The IBC, 2016 is the bankruptcy law of India that consolidates and amends the existing laws relating to insolvency and bankruptcy of corporate persons, partnership firms, and individuals.
- The IBC, 2016 aims to provide a **time-bound and creditor-driven process** for insolvency resolution and to improve the credit culture and business environment in the country. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- IBC resolves claims involving insolvent companies. This was intended to tackle the bad loan problems that were affecting the banking system.
- **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.**

80. (A)

Exp:

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** is a value-added tax system that is levied on the supply of goods and services in India.
- It is a **comprehensive indirect tax** that was introduced in India on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017, through the **101<sup>st</sup> Constitution**

**Amendment Act, 2016**, with the slogan of 'One Nation One Tax'. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The primary GST slabs for regular taxpayers are currently 0% (nil-rated), 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%.
- There are a few GST rates that are less commonly used, such as 3% and 0.25%.
- The GST Council is a **constitutional body** responsible for making recommendations on issues related to the implementation of the GST in India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- As per Article 279A (1) of the amended Constitution, the GST Council was constituted by the President.

81. (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.
- They **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.
- **Types of Carbon Markets:**
  - ◆ **Compliance Markets:** These markets are mandatory, requiring regulated entities to purchase carbon credits to offset their emissions. Often, these entities are large industrial polluters.
  - ◆ **Voluntary Markets:** These 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.**

82. (A)

Exp:

**Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI):**

- The PLI scheme was conceived to **scale up domestic manufacturing capability**, accompanied by higher import substitution and employment generation. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**
- Launched in March 2020, the scheme initially targeted three industries:

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Note:

- ◆ Mobile and allied Component Manufacturing
- ◆ Electrical Component Manufacturing and
- ◆ Medical Devices.
- The scheme is currently active in 14 key sectors: mobile manufacturing, manufacturing of medical devices, automobiles and auto components, pharmaceuticals, drugs, specialty steel, telecom & networking products, electronic products, white goods (ACs and LEDs), food products, textile products, solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell (ACC) battery, and drones and drone components.
- Under the PLI scheme, **domestic and Foreign companies receive financial rewards** for manufacturing in India, based on a percentage of their revenue over up to five years. **Hence, statement 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.

83. (C)

Exp:

**Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB-8) Countries:**

- The Prime Minister of India met with the President of Estonia. They both expressed support for the launch of **ministerial exchanges within the India-Nordic-Baltic framework.**
- This collaboration involves India and the **Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) countries.**
  - ◆ The NB8 group consists of five Nordic countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden—and three Baltic nations—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

84. (A)

Exp:

- **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** are advanced nuclear reactors designed for improved safety and efficiency, with power generation capacities ranging from under 30 MWe to over 300 MWe. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **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.
- 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 2 is not 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.

85. (A)

Exp:

**Fiscal Health Index (FHI):**

- The Fiscal Health Index (FHI) is an **assessment tool to evaluate the fiscal health of Indian states** and highlights specific areas for improvement.
  - ◆ In a bid to enhance fiscal governance, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) launched its inaugural Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025.
- The Index provides a **comprehensive evaluation of the fiscal health** of 18 major Indian states for 2022-23, offering data-driven insights that will guide policy interventions at the state level.
- FHI ranks states based on five key sub-indices.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

86. (B)

Exp:

- Building on the Electricity Conservation Act, 2001, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, India launched the Carbon Credits Trading Scheme (CCTS) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG emissions) by trading carbon credit certificates. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The compliance segment of CCTS will commence in 2025-26, allowing non-obligated entities to participate and trade carbon credit certificates (CCCs).
- **The Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme** and the Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) system are existing market-based emission reduction schemes in India.
- **The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** and the National Steering Committee for the Indian Carbon Market (NSCICM) are responsible for ensuring the integrity of the carbon credits through rigorous monitoring, reporting, and verification processes. **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.

87. (B)

Exp:

**e-Shram Portal:**

- The eShram portal was launched in 2021 as a **“One-Stop-Solution” for unorganised workers** to create a National Database for migrant or unorganised workers across India and facilitate access to various social security schemes.

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Note:

- It is integrated with the National Career Service (NCS) Portal, Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH), myScheme portal, and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhaan (PMSYM) scheme.

➤ Hence, option B is correct.

88. (D)

Exp:

- **Article 200** of the Indian Constitution deals with the powers of the Governor with regard to assent given to bills passed by the State legislature and other powers of the Governor such as reserving the bill for the President's consideration. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Article 201** deals with Bills reserved by the governor for the President's approval. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

89. (A)

Exp:

**Ad Hoc Judges:**

- Ad hoc judges are **temporary judges** appointed to a court, typically to address specific needs such as reducing case backlogs or filling gaps when permanent judges are unavailable. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Article 224A** of the Indian Constitution allows the Chief Justice of a High Court, with the President's approval (along with the consent of the retired judge), to appoint retired High Court judges to serve temporarily. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
  - ◆ **Article 201** deals with Bills reserved by the governor for the President's approval.
- The procedure is outlined in the **Memorandum of Procedure (MOP) 1998**, created after the collegium system for appointing High Court judges.
- The MOP states that after the retired judge has consented to the appointment, the Chief Justice must forward her name and details on the duration of the appointment to the state's Chief Minister (CM).
- The CM will pass this recommendation to the Union Law Minister, who will consult the Chief Justice of India (CJI) before forwarding the recommendation and the CJI's advice to the Prime Minister of India.
- The PM will advise the President on whether to give her approval.
- In the **Lok Prahari v. Union of India case, 2021**, the Supreme Court ruled that recommendations for appointing retired judges must go through the Supreme Court's collegium. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
  - ◆ In the Lok Prahari v. Union of India case, 2021, the SC laid down the following requirements to initiate the appointment process.
    - **Vacancy Thresholds:** More than 20% of the sanctioned strength of judges is vacant.

- **Pending Cases:** More than 10% of the backlog of pending cases is over 5 years old.
- **Regular Appointments First:** The Ad hoc appointment process can only be initiated after the process for regular judicial appointments has been triggered.

90. (C)

Exp:

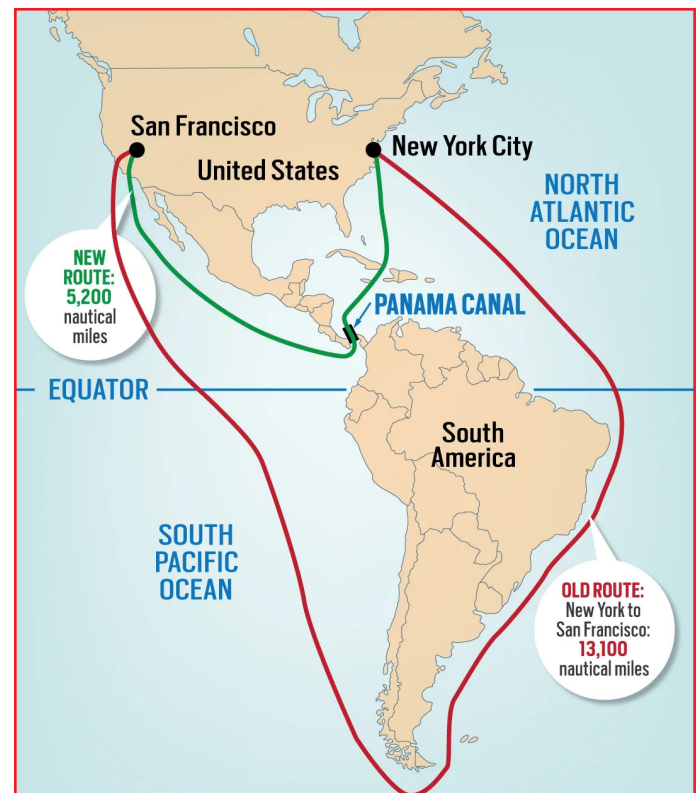
- **Hurricane potential** is the amount of heat contained in the oceans above the 26-degree Celsius threshold. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Hurricane potential is available and favourable in **all the known cyclone genesis regions** around the equator in the tropical oceans. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - ◆ A cyclone is born when the wind speeds cross the threshold of 18 m/s.

91. (A)

Exp:

**Panama Canal:**

- It is an artificial 82 kilometers waterway in Panama that connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- It cuts across the **Isthmus of Panama** and is a conduit for maritime trade. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It saves approximately 12,600 km in a trip between New York and San Francisco.
- The first ship passed through the Panama Canal on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1914.



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Note:

92. (B)

Exp:

- The **Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index 2025** reports that between 1993 and 2022, India was the sixth worst-affected country in terms of fatalities and damage caused by extreme weather events, with 80,000 deaths and losses amounting to 180 billion United States dollars (USD).
- Seven of the ten most affected countries, **including India**, were ranked based on extreme weather event data from an international database and socioeconomic data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and these nations are primarily low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- High-income nations, which have economies based on industrial-era fossil fuel use, argue that growing economies like India and China should take on greater responsibility for addressing climate change.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

93. (C)

Exp:

**Small Modular Reactors (SRMs):**

- SMRs are **advanced nuclear reactors** that have a power capacity of up to 300 MW(e) per unit, which is about one-third of the generating capacity of traditional nuclear power reactors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- SMRs, which can produce a large amount of low-carbon electricity, are,
  - ◆ **Small:** Physically a fraction of the size of a conventional nuclear power reactor.
  - ◆ **Modular:** Making it possible for systems and components to be factory-assembled and transported as a unit to a location for installation.
  - ◆ **Reactors:** Harnessing nuclear fission to generate heat to produce energy.
- Their designs incorporate enhanced safety features, reducing the risk of uncontrolled radioactive material release. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- SMRs are designed to operate for 40-60 years with capacity factors exceeding 90%. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

94. (A)

Exp:

- Appreciation and depreciation of currency refer to changes in the value of a currency relative to other currencies in the foreign exchange market. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- All emerging market currencies **including India have lost ground against the dollar** since 2013 because of the series of crises that hit the global economy during this period. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ The dollar's appeal as a **safe-haven currency grew due to the commodity meltdown** driven by the US-China trade war, the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, global inflation, and other geopolitical tensions.

95. (B)

Exp:

**National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA):**

- The Government of India established NFRA in 2018 under section 132(1) of the **Companies Act, 2013**, to serve as an audit regulator. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The decision to constitute the NFRA was taken after the role of auditors and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India came under the scanner for alleged lapses in various corporate scams including that at the Punjab National Bank.
- It **consists of a chairperson**, who shall be a person of eminence and having expertise in accountancy, auditing, finance, or law, appointed by the Central Government and such other members not exceeding 15. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ It recommends accounting and auditing policies and standards to be adopted by companies for approval by the Central Government.
  - ◆ 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.
- Its **account is monitored** by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

96. (C)

Exp:

- Waqf is the permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for religious, pious, or charitable purposes as recognised by Muslim law. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Waqfs in India are regulated by the Waqf Act, 1995.
- Waqfs are specifically established for religious and charitable uses and are intended to be permanent in nature. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ In contrast, trusts under the **Indian Trusts Act, 1882**, can serve broader purposes and may be dissolved by the board.
- Waqfs can be either public, serving charitable ends, or private, benefiting the property owner's direct descendants. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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Note:

97. (C)

Exp:

- **Core inflation** measures the change in prices of goods and services excluding volatile items like food and fuel. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Open inflation** refers to a rise in price levels without any suppressive measures from the government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **base effect** is the distortion in a variable's growth rate caused by an unusually high or low value in the corresponding period of the previous year. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans: 98. (B)

Exp:

**President's Rule (Article 356):**

- **Articles 355 and 356**, located in Part XVIII of the Indian Constitution (from Article 352 to 360) define the roles of the Centre and State governments during emergencies.
  - ◆ **Article 355:** Mandates that the Centre protect States from external and internal disturbances (internal crises) and ensure that State governments operate constitutionally.
  - ◆ **Article 356:** Allows imposition of President's rule in a State when its government is unable to function according to the Constitution, thus enabling the Centre to assume control directly.
- It can be proclaimed when the government of a state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution due to reasons that may not have **any connection with war, external aggression, or armed rebellion.**
- During its operation, the **state executive is dismissed** and the state legislature is either suspended or dissolved. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A maximum period is prescribed for its operation, that is, **three years.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Every resolution of Parliament approving its proclamation or its continuance can be passed **only by a simple majority.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

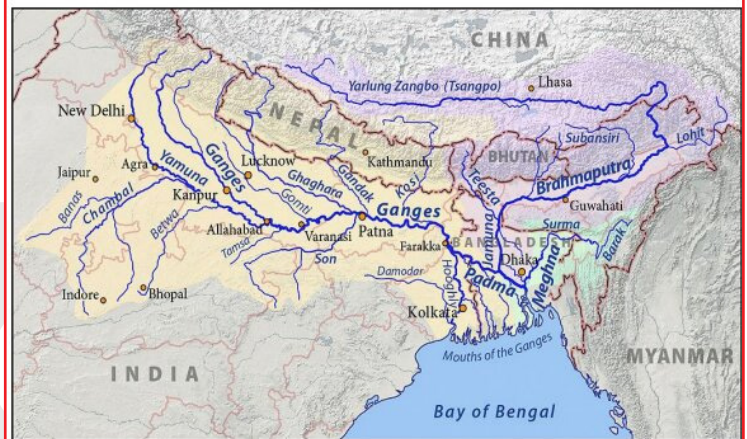
99. (D)

Exp:

**Teesta River:**

- Teesta River is a **tributary of the Brahmaputra** (known as Jamuna in Bangladesh), flowing through India and Bangladesh. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It **originates in the Himalayas near Chunthang**, Sikkim, and flows to the south through West Bengal before entering Bangladesh. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Originally, the river continued southward to empty directly into the **Padma River** the (main channel of Ganga in Bangladesh) but around 1787 the river changed its course to flow eastward to join the Jamuna River.
- The Teesta Barrage dam helps to **provide irrigation for the plains** between the upper Padma and the Jamuna.
- The Teesta River water conflict is one of the most contentious issues between India and Bangladesh.

**The Ganges-Brahmaputra Basin**

100. (C)

Exp:

**National Manufacturing Mission:**

- The **Union Budget 2025-26** announced the "National Manufacturing Mission" to cover small, medium, and large industries for furthering **Make in India.**
  - ◆ The National Manufacturing Mission emphasizes **five focal areas** i.e. ease and cost of doing business; future-ready workforce for in-demand jobs; a vibrant and dynamic MSME sector; availability of technology; and quality products. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Mission will also support **Clean Tech manufacturing** and aims to improve domestic value addition and build the ecosystem for solar PV cells, EV batteries, motors and controllers, electrolyzers, wind turbines, very high voltage transmission equipment, and grid-scale batteries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

101. (A)

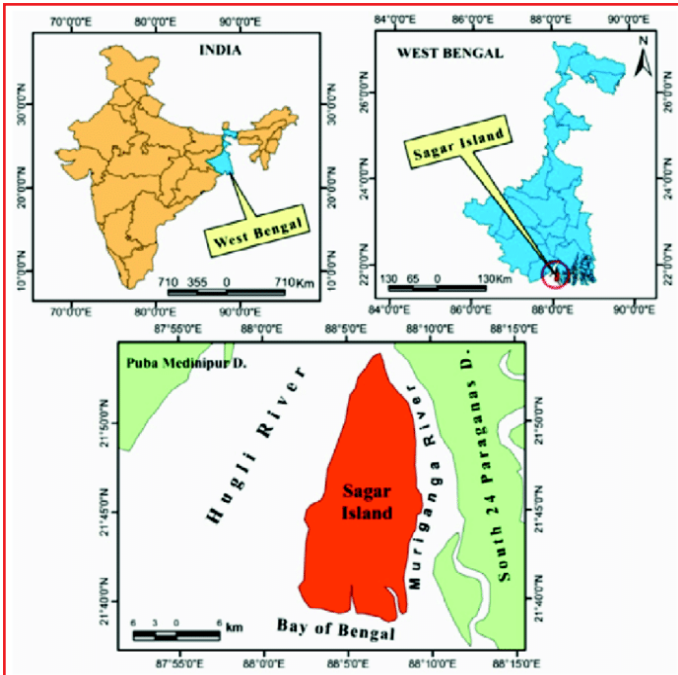
Exp:

- **Sagar Island**, also referred to as **Ganga Sagar** or **Sagardwip**, lies within the Ganges Delta, extending over the **continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal.**
  - ◆ It is separated from Mahisani Island by the Muriganga River and is part of a sand group that includes the Mahisani and Ghoramara Islands.

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Note:

- ◆ Unlike the rest of the Sundarbans, Sagar Island does not have mangrove forests, tiger habitats, or small river tributaries.
- The island is a prominent Hindu pilgrimage destination, drawing large crowds during the annual Gangasagar Mela, which coincides with Makar Sankranti. This event is recognized as the second-largest human congregation globally, following the Kumbh Mela.
- **Rising sea levels from the Bay of Bengal** pose a significant threat to Sagar Island, with coastal erosion encroaching to within 450 meters of the revered Kapil Muni Temple, a major site of pilgrimage.



- Hence, option A is correct.

102. (B)

Exp:

- **Marital rape** is a type of intimate partner violence that involves forced sex or sexual assault between spouses. It is not a crime in India.
  - ◆ However, If a couple is married, but living separately, then the husband is guilty of rape if his wife does not consent to sexual intercourse.
- Under the **Domestic Violence Act, 2005** marital rape is not a crime but a woman can seek relief under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 for sexual abuse, humiliation, or violation of dignity. Hence, statement I is correct.
- In the **Navtej Singh Johar Case, 2018** the SC partially struck down Section 377 IPC, decriminalizing consensual homosexuality. Hence, statement II is correct.

- **Indian Penal Code (IPC):** Section 375 (2) states that sexual intercourse or sexual acts between a man and his wife who is not under 15 years of age is not rape.
  - ◆ **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** retains immunity for husbands in cases of marital rape but the age of consent has been increased from 15 to 18 years complying with the SC judgement in the **Independent Thought vs Uoi Case, 2017**.
- Recently the **Gorakhnath Sharma vs State of Chhattisgarh Case, 2019**, the Chhattisgarh High Court (HC) ruled that a **husband cannot be charged with rape** or unnatural sex with his wife if she is above 15 years of age, regardless of consent.
- 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.

103. (A)

Exp:

Deep State:

- It refers to a **shadowy hybrid network** of governmental, corporate, and non-governmental elites who wield enormous power, control policymaking, **undermine elected politicians**, and thwart the interests of the common people.
  - ◆ Foreign governments selectively pursue the promotion of democracy, human rights, and liberal values in certain countries based on their interests.

- Hence, option A is correct.

104. (B)

Exp:

- **Cooperative banks** are financial institutions that are owned and operated by their members, who are also the bank's customers. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - ◆ In order to support the financial needs of a community such as a village or a specific community, people come together to pool resources and provide banking services such as loans.
- In India, they are registered under the **Cooperative Societies Act** of the State concerned or the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - ◆ Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) refers to primary cooperative banks located in urban and semi-urban areas.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** regulates the banking functions of Urban Cooperative Banks under the provisions of Sections 22 and 23 of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

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Note:

- Also, State Cooperative Banks, District Central Cooperative Banks, and Urban Cooperative Banks, which are registered with Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation are insured.

105. (C)

Exp:

- **Biomining** refers to the **extraction of metals** from ores and other solid materials using microorganisms such as bacteria, archaea, fungi, or plants. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Electrokinetic Mining (EKM)** is an innovative, eco-friendly technique for extracting rare earth elements. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Rat-hole mining** is a primitive, crude, labor-intensive, and hazardous method of coal mining. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
  - ◆ The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** banned rat-hole mining in 2014, due to environmental degradation and unsafe working conditions.
    - This decision was later upheld by the Supreme Court in the **State of Meghalaya v. All Dimas Students Union (2019)**.
- **Hence, option C is correctly matched.**

Ans: 106. (A)

Exp:

**India and the United States:**

- India's Prime Minister's recent visit to the United States included key discussions with the United States President focusing on trade and investments while avoiding anticipated tough measures.
  - ◆ **Mission 500:** India and the U.S. set a goal to reach USD 500 billion in bilateral trade by 2030.
  - ◆ **COMPACT (Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology for the 21st Century):** A framework designed to enhance cooperation in defense, trade, and technology between India and the U.S.
  - ◆ **iCET rebranded as TRUST (Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology):** A rebranded initiative to strengthen U.S.-India collaboration in critical technologies like AI, quantum computing, and semiconductors.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

107. (B)

Exp:

**Depreciation of Currency:**

- In a **floating exchange rate system**, market forces (based on the demand and supply of a currency) determine the value of a currency.

- Currency Depreciation is a **fall in the value of a currency** in a floating exchange rate system. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Economic fundamentals, political instability, or risk aversion can cause currency depreciation.
- In general, devaluation and depreciation are often used interchangeably.
  - ◆ They both have the same effect – a fall in the value of the currency which makes imports more expensive, and exports more competitive.
  - ◆ **However, there is a difference in the way they are applied.**
    - A **devaluation occurs** when a country's central bank makes a conscious decision to lower its exchange rate in a fixed or semi-fixed exchange rate. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
    - A depreciation is when there is a fall in the value of a currency in a floating exchange rate.
- Currency depreciation **encourages a country's export** activity as its products and services become cheaper to buy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

108. (B)

Exp:

- Under Indian law, content is deemed obscene if it is **"indecent" or appeals to "sexual interest,"** with penalties varying under the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** and the **Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000**. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
  - ◆ Under Section 294 of the BNS, selling, importing, exporting, advertising, or displaying obscene material, including electronic content, can lead to imprisonment of up to two years and a fine of ₹5,000 for first-time offenders.
- However, under Section 67 of the IT Act, publishing or transmitting obscene material online carries a harsher penalty — up to three years in prison and a fine of up to Rs. 5 lacks for a first-time offence.
- The Supreme Court's ruling in **Aveek Sarkar vs State of West Bengal (2014)** emphasised that content must be judged in context.
  - ◆ In March 2024, the Supreme Court quashed obscenity proceedings against the makers of College Romance, ruling that profanity alone does not amount to obscenity.
    - The judgment reinforced that for content to be **deemed obscene, it must actively arouse sexual thoughts.**

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Note:

- Historically, Indian courts followed the outdated **Hicklin test**, which judged obscenity from the perspective of the most impressionable audience. Over time, this approach has been replaced by the “**community standards**” test, where a work is evaluated in its entirety rather than isolated words or images. **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.

109. (D)

Exp:

**Nuclear Power:**

- Nuclear power contributes to **grid stability** while contributing to deep decarbonisation as it provides a constant, reliable source of electricity, unlike renewable energy sources such as wind or solar, which depend on variable weather conditions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It helps reduce carbon emissions during electricity generation, playing a key role in reducing overall greenhouse gases and advancing efforts to tackle climate change.
- Nuclear power differs from other energy sources in that it provides a **high-capacity factor, operates independently** of weather conditions, and requires significantly less land. Nuclear operates at a high capacity factor (90%+), is unaffected by weather, and uses less land compared to renewables like wind and solar. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Nuclear plants have a **long operational life and lower lifecycle emissions**, making them key for India’s energy transition as they provide reliable, long-term energy with minimal carbon output. Nuclear plants last 40-60 years with minimal emissions, helping India reduce its reliance on fossil fuels during its transition to cleaner energy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The Union Budget 2025-26 announced the launch of a **Nuclear Energy Mission**, which is focused on research and development (R&D) of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
  - ◆ The government has allocated Rs. 20,000 crore for this initiative, aiming to develop at least five indigenously designed and operational SMRs by 2033.

110. (D)

Exp:

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization(NATO):**

- NATO is a **political and military alliance** of countries from Europe and North America. Its members are committed to protecting each other from any threat.

- NATO brings together sovereign countries from **Europe and North America**, consulting and cooperating in the field of security and defence.
- All Alliance **decisions are taken by consensus**, with each Ally having an equal say. Members are committed to the same values and share the strategic goal of maintaining security in the Euro-Atlantic area.
- NATO members have pledged to support each other against attack, in accordance with Article 5 of the Alliance’s founding treaty, which asserts that an **attack against one is an attack against all.**
- There are currently 32 members including Slovakia (2004), Türkiye (1952), Finland (2023), and Sweden (2024).
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

111. (B)

Exp:

**Colour Revolutions:**

- The “colour revolutions” were a **series of peaceful uprisings in post-Soviet states** aimed at replacing pro-Moscow governments with pro-Western leadership in the pursuit of democratic reforms.
  - ◆ Though non-violent and largely driven by popular demand, Russia viewed these movements with suspicion and saw them as Western-backed efforts to undermine its influence.
- **Georgia’s Rose Revolution (2003):** A peaceful protest led by opposition leaders against the fraudulent election of Eduard Shevardnadze, resulting in his resignation and the installation of Mikheil Saakashvili. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Ukraine’s Orange Revolution (2004):** Sparked by widespread allegations of election fraud in the presidential election, this movement led to a rerun of the election and the eventual victory of pro-Western candidate Viktor Yushchenko. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Kyrgyzstan’s Tulip Revolution (2005):** Following disputed parliamentary elections, mass protests led to the ousting of President Askar Akayev, bringing a new government to power with aspirations for reform and democratization. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Hence, option B is correctly matched.**

112. (C)

Exp:

**India’s updated Nationally Determined Contribution:**

- Under the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in August 2022, India has committed to:

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Note:



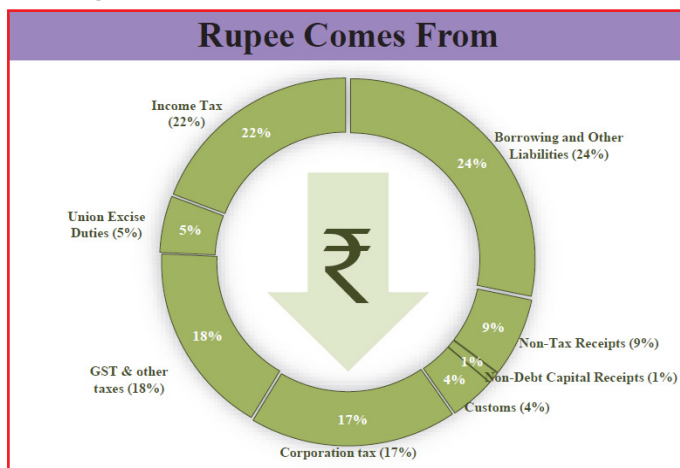
- ◆ Adopting a **climate-friendly and cleaner path** to economic development.
  - ◆ India has committed to **reducing the emissions** intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from the 2005 level. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ India aims to achieve about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Currently, thermal power has the dominant share in India's electricity basket.
- ◆ Under the new regime, thermal power will also have a 50% share.

113. (A)

Exp:

**Securities Transaction Tax (STT):**

- First introduced in 2004, STT is levied on transactions **involving listed securities on stock exchanges** and on units of equity mutual funds (MFs) being redeemed. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It's a part of the income tax earned by the Union government. In 2018-19, it formed around 2.4% of the income tax collected. In 2024-25 and 2025-26, it's expected to form 4.4% and 5.4%, respectively. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ In the **Union Budget 2025-26** Goods and Services Tax (GST) and other taxes formed around **18%** of the government source of revenue.



114. (A)

Exp:

**Digital Energy Grid (DEG):**

- The Digital Energy Grid (DEG) is a modernized energy infrastructure that **utilizes digital technologies to create an interconnected** and flexible system for energy production, distribution, and consumption.

- It **integrates various entities in the energy ecosystem** by assigning unique digital identities, using standardized data formats, and ensuring secure, tamper-evident data portability, transforming traditional, siloed energy networks into a more efficient, bi-directional, and collaborative framework.
- The DEG design includes **three main components**: identity, data formats, and verifiable data portability.
- ◆ Every entity in the energy ecosystem (power plants, transmission grids, battery farms, rooftop panels, etc.) will be assigned a unique global identity.
- Data generated by these entities will be linked to their identity and expressed in a standardized, machine-readable format, enabling digital processing.
- A set of robust verification procedures will ensure data portability across the ecosystem and make it cryptographically tamper-evident.
- When implemented at scale, the DEG will **enable direct information sharing between participants**, shifting the energy system from a top-down, one-way flow to a more flexible, bi-directional network.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

115. (C)

Exp:

- Indian Famine Commission (1901) led to the enactment of the first Cooperative Credit Societies Act in 1904 followed by the (amended) Cooperative Societies Act, 1912. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- First Five-Year Plan (1951-56): Highlighted the promotion of cooperatives for comprehensive community development.
- Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 provided for the formation and functioning of multi-state co-operatives.
- **97<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011** established the right to form cooperative societies as a fundamental right (Article 19). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ Introduced a new Directive Principle of State Policy on Cooperative Societies (Article 43-B).
  - ◆ Added a new Part IX-B to the Constitution titled "The Co-operative Societies" (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT).
- **Establishment of Union Ministry of Cooperation (2021):** Assumed responsibility for cooperative affairs, previously overseen by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- **Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2022** introduced the Co-operative Election Authority to oversee board elections in multi-state co-operative societies. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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Note:

116. (B)

Exp:

- The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (EC) are appointed by the President based on the recommendation of a **Selection Committee consisting of:**
  - ◆ Prime Minister (Chairperson).
  - ◆ Leader of the Opposition (LoP) (or leader of the largest opposition party) in the Lok Sabha.
  - ◆ Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
- CEC and EC candidates must be former or current Secretaries to the Government and have integrity with election management experience.
- The CEC can be removed only in the **same manner and on the same grounds** as a Supreme Court Judge, while an EC can be removed on **the CEC's recommendation. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- CEC and ECs receive a SC judge's salary and serve for six years or until age 65, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- CEC and ECs cannot be re-appointed. If an EC becomes CEC, their total tenure cannot exceed six years. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

117. (B)

Exp:

- The locations Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Lyptsi are often mentioned in the news due to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.
- **Donetsk** is a city in eastern Ukraine, known for its industrial history and ongoing conflict due to regional tensions.
- **Kharkiv** is the second-largest city in Ukraine, located in the northeastern part of the country, near the Russian border.
- **Lyptsi** is a small village in Ukraine, located in the Kharkiv Oblast (region), also in the eastern part of the country.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

118. (D)

Exp:

- **Article 355** mandates the Central government to ensure that every state functions as per the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- If a state government fails to function as per the constitution, the Centre can intervene under **Article 356** by imposing the President's Rule. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ President's Rule refers to the suspension of a state government and its legislative assembly, placing the state under the direct control of the central government.

- **Article 365** mandates If a state fails to comply with the Centre's directions, the President can declare that its government cannot function constitutionally. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

119. (A)

Exp:

- **Horticulture** is the branch of agriculture concerned with **intensively cultured plants directly** used by humans for food, medicinal purposes, and aesthetic gratification. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India is the **second-largest producer** of horticultural produce, producing about 12% of the global fruit and vegetable production. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ **China** is the world's largest producer of horticultural produce.

120. (B)

Exp:

**Fiscal Health Index 2025:**

- In a bid to enhance fiscal governance, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) launched its **inaugural Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025.**
- The Index provides a **comprehensive evaluation of the fiscal health** of 18 major Indian states for 2022-23, offering **data-driven insights** that will guide policy interventions at the state level.
- It ranks states based on five key sub-indices.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

121. (C)

Exp:

**Tectonic Plates:**

- A **tectonic plate** (also called **lithospheric plate**) is a massive, irregularly shaped slab of solid rock, generally composed of **both continental and oceanic plates. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The tectonic plates are **not fixed but constantly move horizontally** over the **asthenosphere** as rigid units. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ Their interactions- **colliding, diverging, or sliding past each other** result in geological events like **earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.**
- **Continental plates** form the **Earth's landmasses**, while **oceanic plates** lie beneath the **ocean floor.**
- **Oceanic plates** are composed of **denser basaltic rocks** and **are subducted beneath continental plates** at convergent boundaries, as continental plates consist of lighter granitic rocks. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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Note:

122. (D)

Exp:

**Samagra Shiksha Scheme:**

- It is an **integrated scheme** for school education extending from pre-school to class XII to ensure **inclusive and equitable** quality education at all levels of school education. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It **subsumes the three Schemes** of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The main emphasis of the Scheme is on **improving the quality of school** education by focusing on the two T's – Teacher and Technology. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

123. (A)

Exp:

**Farmers Producer Organisation:**

- FPO is a **farmer-based producer organization (PO)**, and the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) supports its promotion. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ PO is a generic name for an organisation of producers of any produce, e.g., agricultural, non-farm products, artisan products, etc.
  - ◆ A PO can be a producer company, a cooperative society, or any other legal form that provides for the sharing of profits/benefits among the members.
- It helps **small and marginal farmers** achieve economies of scale, increase their bargaining power by negotiating collectively, double their income, and reach the global markets.
  - ◆ In India, small and marginal farmers represent **86% of farmers.**
- The ownership of the FPO is with its members. It is an organization of the producers, by the producers, and for the producers.
- **FPOs can be registered under:**
  - ◆ Companies Act, 1956 and Companies Act, 2013.
  - ◆ Societies registered under Society Registration Act, 1860
  - ◆ Public Trusts registered under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

124. (B)

Exp:

**Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS):**

- The Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), which **includes 89 central banks worldwide**, is driving efforts to **integrate climate risks** into financial stability policies.

- Since joining in 2021, the Reserve Bank of India has taken commendable steps, including launching green deposits, expanding priority sector lending for renewable energy, and issuing sovereign green bonds worth USD 2.2 billion.

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

125. (C)

Exp:

**Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC):**

- It came into **existence in 1978** after the merger of Deposit Insurance Corporation (DIC) and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (CGCI) after the passing of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961 by the Parliament.
- It serves as a deposit insurance and credit guarantee for banks in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ Primary cooperative societies are not insured by the DICGC.
- It is a **fully owned subsidiary** of and is governed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

126. (A)

Exp:

**Reserve Currency:**

- A reserve currency must be **widely accepted internationally**, not restricted to domestic use.
- A reserve currency is typically a **globally-recognized foreign currency** that central banks or other financial institutions hold in large quantities as part of their country's foreign exchange reserves.
- It is **utilised for global transactions** involving trade and investments. At present, the US dollar is the world's predominant reserve currency.
- A reserve currency is **also used by central banks** to prepare for international debt obligations and to influence their domestic exchange rate.
- A large proportion of commodities, from **gold to oil**, are priced in the reserve currency. Thus, other countries have to hold this currency to pay for these commodities.
- Holding a reserve currency **minimizes exchange rate risk** since the purchasing country will not need to exchange its currency for the reserve currency while making purchases.
  - ◆ Besides import payments and servicing foreign debt, countries also maintain such reserves to overcome economic crises.
- **Key Features:**
  - ◆ A reserve currency's main feature is that it must be **easily convertible** and have a stable value. The factors

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Note:

that determine the usage of a country's currency as a reserve currency are the **size and heft of its economy**, particularly the importance of the economy in global trade, the **openness and depth** of the concerned country's financial markets, and its macroeconomic policies.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

127. (C)

Exp:

➤ **Fiscal consolidation** refers to the prudent management of government finances to ensure long-term economic stability. Hence, statement 1 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.

➤ Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 aimed to establish financial consolidation in the government to reduce fiscal deficits and promote fiscal responsibility. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

➤ In 2016, the **NK Singh Committee** was set up to suggest improvements to the FRBM Act, 2003.

- ◆ The N.K. Singh Committee, 2016 recommended the **creation of an autonomous Fiscal Council** with independent members to oversee fiscal policy. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

128. (B)

Exp:

➤ **National Communication (NC) vs. Biennial Update Report (BUR):** The National Communication (NC) is a **comprehensive, in-depth report that countries submit every four years**, detailing their greenhouse gas emissions and actions on climate change. In contrast, the **Biennial Update Report (BUR)** is a shorter, more frequent update submitted **every two years**, offering progress on emissions reductions and climate change initiatives. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

➤ **16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) Decision on BUR:** The **16th Conference of the Parties (COP16)** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in 2010, decided that countries would submit the Biennial Update Report (BUR) every two years as part of their commitment to regularly update their climate actions and emissions data. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

➤ **Mandate for National Communication (NC):** The National Communication (NC) reports were mandated by the United

**Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992**, as a way for countries to report their progress on addressing climate change and to enhance transparency in their environmental actions. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

129. (A)

Exp:

**Operation Greens Scheme:**

➤ Operation Greens, a **central sector scheme** launched in 2018, under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADANA Yojana**, aims to stabilize the prices of perishable crops and enhance farmers' earnings by drawing inspiration from "Operation Flood (White Revolution)".

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

130. (B)

Exp:

**Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC):**

➤ The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), established in 1981, is a **regional political and economic organization** consisting of six Arab states: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

- ◆ The GCC was established in response to regional tensions, notably the Iranian Revolution (1979) and the Iraq-Iran War (1980–1988).

- ◆ It aims to promote unity and address shared challenges in the Gulf region.

➤ The GCC is a **key trading and investment partner** for India, with significant investments from the UAE and Saudi Arabia.



➤ Hence, option B is correct.

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Note:

131. (C)

Exp:

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):**

- **The Washington Treaty**, signed on April 4, 1949, officially laid the foundations for the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Washington Treaty derives its authority from **Article 51 of the United Nations Charter**, which reaffirms the inherent right of independent states to individual or collective defence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A “NATO decision” is the expression of the **collective will of all 32 member countries** since all decisions are taken by consensus. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

132. (D)

Exp:

- The Constitution provides that the Governor can exercise his executive powers only on the advice of the Council of Ministers under **Article 154**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 200** of the Indian Constitution outlines the process for a Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State to be presented to the Governor for assent, who may either assent, withhold assent, or reserve the Bill for consideration by the President. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 201** states that when a Bill is reserved for the consideration of the President, the President may assent to or withhold assent to the Bill. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

133. (A)

Exp:

- The **Design Law Treaty (DLT)**, finalized after nearly two decades of negotiations, aims to harmonize and simplify industrial design protection **across multiple jurisdictions**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The treaty seeks to **standardize procedural requirements** to make design registration more efficient and accessible globally, thereby reducing administrative burdens.
  - ◆ It focuses on ensuring that stakeholders, especially **small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**, startups, and independent designers, can benefit from streamlined protection.
- India has a long-standing tradition of valuing design, which plays a significant role in its economic development.
  - ◆ By signing the Final Act of the **Design Law Treaty**, India reaffirms its **dedication to fostering inclusive growth** and ensuring equitable access to intellectual property protection. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ The country has implemented initiatives like the **Startup India program and the Startups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP) scheme**, which help startups and SMEs secure design rights and increase their global competitiveness.

134. (C)

Exp:

**National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT):**

- The **Eradi Committee (2000)** headed by Justice V. Balakrishna Eradi first recommended the constitution of an NCLT. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was set up under the Companies Act, 1956, to address disputes related to company law. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ NCLT was set up to replace the erstwhile Company Law Board and the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).
  - ◆ BIFR was set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 in India.
- The NCLT is a crucial forum for initiating and overseeing the **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)** under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

135. (A)

Exp:

**Manipur:**

- Manipur is one of the Border States in the northeastern part of the country having an international boundary of about 352 km.
- It is bounded by **Nagaland in the north**, Assam in the west, and Mizoram in the south. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It has a total area of 22327 sq. km. It lies between 23.80 N to 25.70 N latitude and 93.50 E to 94.80 E longitude.
- The State achieved its statehood in 1972. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The first free Indian tricolor flag was hoisted on Indian soil at Moirang (45 km. from Imphal) in Manipur on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1944 by the I.N.A. led by **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

136. (B)

Exp:

- **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** came into existence in 1978 after the merger of Deposit Insurance Corporation (DIC) and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (CGCI) after the passing of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961 by the Parliament.

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Note:

- ◆ It serves as a deposit insurance and credit guarantee for banks in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a fully owned subsidiary of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- A depositor is currently entitled to a maximum insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per account, known as '**deposit insurance**'. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

137. (B)

Exp:

**Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB):**

- CPCB is a **statutory organisation** that was constituted in September 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was also entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It serves as a field formation and also **provides technical services** to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- **Principal Functions of the CPCB:**
  - ◆ To promote the cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control, and abatement of water pollution.
  - ◆ To improve the quality of air and to prevent, control, or abate air pollution in the country.
- Water Quality Monitoring is an important part of the Water quality management. The parliament of India enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to maintain and restore the wholesomeness of water bodies.
  - ◆ One of the mandates of CPCB is to collect, collate, and disseminate technical and statistical data relating to **water pollution**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - ◆ Hence, **Water Quality Monitoring (WQM)** and Surveillance are of utmost importance.

138. (A)

Exp:

**Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):**

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has classified 75 tribal groups in 18 states of the country and

the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

- PVTGs are the **most vulnerable among the tribal groups**. In 1975, the Government of India took the initiative to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs.
- Initially, 52 tribal groups were classified as PVTGs. In the year 1993, 23 additional tribal groups were included in this category, due to which there are **currently 75 tribal groups under PVTG**.
- Of the 75 listed PVTGs, the highest number are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

139. (C)

Exp:

**Mount Kailash:**

- It 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.**
- Though lower in height than Mount Everest (8,849 meters), it remains unclimbed as its ascent is prohibited due to its sacred significance. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Mount Kailash **stands at 6,638 meters** and is considered a sacred peak by Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Bons (indigenous religion of Tibet).
  - ◆ For Tibetan Buddhists, Kailash is the cosmic axis, or Mount Meru, connecting heaven and earth.
  - ◆ In Hinduism, it is the abode of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.
  - ◆ In Jainism, Kailash is Ashtapada, where Rishabhanatha attained enlightenment.



140. (A)

Exp:

- **Freedom of expression** under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution is **subject to reasonable restrictions** under Article 19(2), including

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Note:

to prevent obscenity and uphold societal morality. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- In *Navej Singh Johar vs. Union of India, 2018* the Supreme Court held that constitutional morality takes precedence over public morality, emphasizing justice over social norms. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

141. (C)

Exp:

- Article 120 deals with the language to be used in Parliament. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Article 346 specifies the official language for communication between states and between states and the Union. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Article 350A directs States to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

142. (A)

Exp:

- Poland borders Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, and Russia (the Kaliningrad exclave). Its northern border (440 km long) runs along the Baltic Sea coast.
- Its capital city is Warsaw (In Polish: Warszawa)
- Features sandy beaches of the Baltic Sea coast, rolling central lowlands, and snow-capped peaks of the Carpathian and Sudeten Mountains. Home to over 1,300 lakes.



- Hence, option A is correct.

143. (B)

Exp:

- **Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024:**
  - ◆ They Specify registration, reporting, and certification requirements for **manufacturers and importers**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
  - ◆ They expand definitions of “importer” and “producer,” mandate certification for biodegradable and compostable plastics, and require reporting of pre-consumer plastic waste. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022** sets mandatory recycling and reuse targets, imposes environmental compensation for non-compliance, and promotes a circular economy.
- **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021** bans specific **single-use plastics by 2022** and mandates EPR for packaging waste. It increases the carry bag thickness to 120 microns by December 2022.
- **Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018** phase out **non-recyclable, non-energy recoverable, or non-reusable multi-layered plastic (MLP)**. It introduces a registration system for producers under the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016** focus on minimizing waste generation, preventing littering, and ensuring segregation and proper disposal. It **introduces Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** for producers, importers, and brand owners.
  - ◆ The minimum thickness of plastic carry bags is raised to 50 microns, with rural areas also included for implementation.

144. (D)

Exp:

**Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Sector:**

- The 2025 budget launches MSME credit cards, offering Rs 5 lakh credit for micro-enterprises on the **Udyam portal**, with 10 lakh cards to be issued in the first year. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- A new **Fund of Funds** with Rs 10,000 crore will be established to expand support for startups. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The **National Manufacturing Mission (NMM)** announced in Budget 2025-26, supports **Make in India** with a focus on clean tech manufacturing, including solar photovoltaic (PV) cells, Electric Vehicles batteries, wind turbines, and transmission equipment. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

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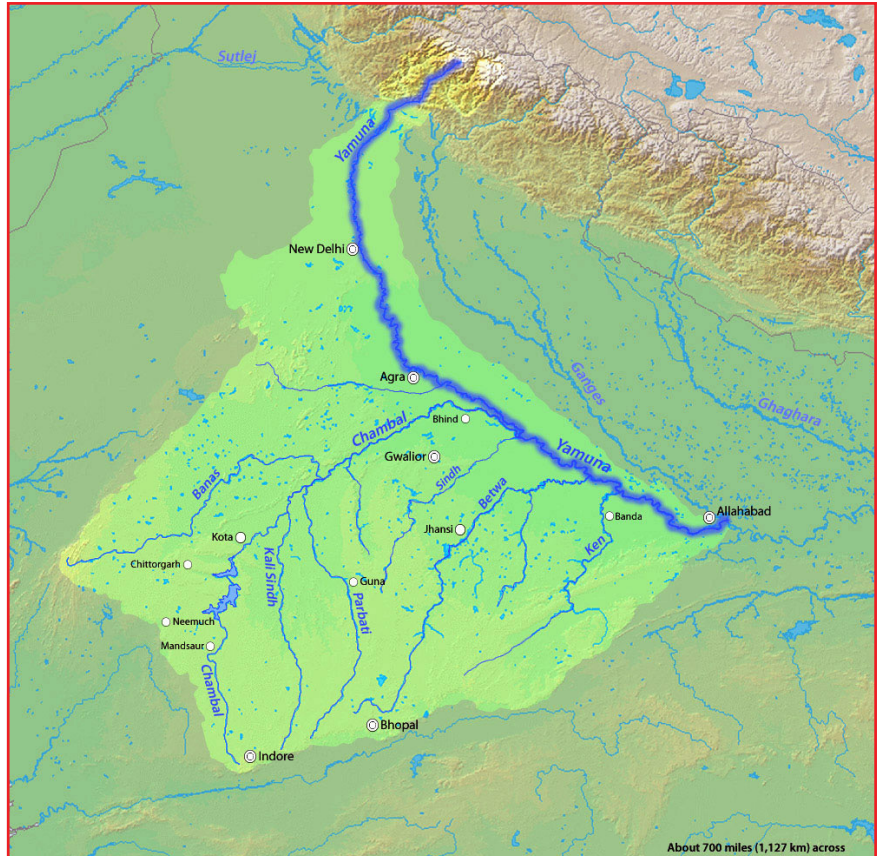
Note:

145. (B)

Exp:

➤ **Yamuna River:**

- ◆ **About:** The Yamuna River is one of the major tributaries of the Ganges in Northern India.
  - It forms an integral part of the **Yamuna-Ganga Plain**, one of the world's most extensive alluvial plains.
- ◆ **Source:** It has its source in the Yamunotri Glacier at an elevation of 6,387 meters on the southwestern sides of Banderpooch crests in the lower Himalayan ranges.
- ◆ **Basin:** It meets the Ganges at the Sangam (where Kumbh mela is held) in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh after flowing through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.
- ◆ **Important Dam:** Lakhwar-Vyasi Dam (Uttarakhand), Tajewala Barrage Dam (Haryana) etc. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ **Important Tributaries:** Chambal, Sindh, Betwa and Ken. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ The **Delhi government** has prepared a six-point plan to clean the **Yamuna river** to **bathing standards** by February 2025. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - The plan comprises the construction and upgradation of **Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)**, **100% sewer connectivity**, desilting of the sewer network, trapping drains from jhuggi-jhopdi (JJ) clusters, controlling industrial pollutants and diverting polluting drains and sub-drains.
  - This will increase **sewage treatment capacity** from around **600 million gallons of wastewater** a day to **750 MGD-800 Millions of Gallons Per Day (MGD)**.



146. (A)

Exp:

**Economic Survey 2024-25:**➤ **About:**

- ◆ The **Economic Survey** is an annual report presented by the government before the **Union Budget** to assess India's economic condition.
- ◆ It is prepared by the **Economic Division of the Ministry of Finance** under the Chief Economic Adviser's supervision, it is tabled in both houses of Parliament by the Union Finance Minister.

➤ **Key Highlights of the Economic Survey 2024-25:**◆ **Global Economy:**

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** projected **3.2% global growth in 2024 (3.3% in 2025)**, with manufacturing slowing due to supply chain disruptions, while services remain strong.

◆ **India's Economy:**

- India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** is projected to grow between **6.3-6.8% in FY26 (2025-26)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The services sector is estimated as the **fastest-growing sector in FY25**, driven by **IT, finance, and hospitality**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Return on Assets (RoA)** rose to **1.4%**, and **Return on Equity (RoE)** improved to **14.1%** (Sep 2024).
- **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA)** of **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** dropped to a **12-year low of 2.6%** in 2024, with net NPAs at 0.6%. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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Note:



147. (C)

Exp:

➤ **Key Highlights of Union Budget, 2025-26:**

- ◆ A six-year Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses was announced which will focus on **Tur, Urad, and Masoor dal**, ensuring **self-sufficiency** in domestic production. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - It will reduce dependence on **imports, stabilize domestic prices** and **improve farmer incomes.**
- ◆ The loan limit under the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** has been raised from **₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh** under the **Modified Interest Subvention Scheme.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - This will increase **financial inclusion** for **farmers, fishermen, and dairy producers, ensuring better investment** in agricultural inputs.
- ◆ A five-year Mission for Cotton Productivity was launched to enhance **scientific farming techniques** and **technological interventions** for improved yields. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - Strengthening cotton farming will boost **India's textile sector** and enhance **global trade competitiveness.**

148. (D)

Exp:

**Minimum Support Price (MSP):**

- **MSP** is based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, which considers various factors such as cost of production, demand and supply, market price trends, inter-crop price parity, etc. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 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 2 is correct.**
- The MSP is aimed at **ensuring remunerative prices** to growers for their produce and encouraging **Crop Diversification.**
- The **CACP** recommends MSPs for **22 mandated crops** and **fair and remunerative price (FRP)** for sugarcane. The **mandated crops** include **14 crops** of the **kharif season**, **6 rabi crops** and **2 other commercial crops.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

149. (A)

Exp:

- **Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)** is a **serious autoimmune disorder** that affects the **peripheral nervous system.** It initially presents **weakness, tingling, and numbness** in the

limbs, which can progress to paralysis lasting **6-12 months or longer.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The **syndrome affects the nerves** responsible for **muscle movement, pain, temperature, and touch sensations.** While more common in **adults and males, GBS** can occur in individuals of all ages.
- The exact cause of **GBS** is unknown, but as per the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, GBS is often preceded by an **infection.** This could be a **bacterial or viral infection.** This leads the immune system to attack the body itself. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

150. (A )

Exp:

- **Hindi** is one of the **22 languages** listed in the **eighth schedule of the Constitution of India** and It is not a classical language.
  - ◆ The **Constituent Assembly** designated **Hindi in Devanagari script** as the official language of the Union of India on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1949. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The **Munshi-Ayyangar formula**, a **compromise between K M Munshi and N Gopalaswamy Ayyangar**, resulted in Article 343 of the Constitution adopting Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union while allowing English to continue for official purposes for fifteen years. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Articles Related to Hindi:**

- ◆ **Article 210** states that the language to be used in the legislature can be the official language of the state, **Hindi, or English.**
- ◆ **Article 351** states that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the **Hindi language** to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India.

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

151. (C)

Exp:

**National Education Policy, 2020:**

- The current **10+2 system** was replaced by a new **5+3+3+4** curricular structure corresponding to ages **3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years** respectively. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It will bring the uncovered age group of **3-6 years** under the school curriculum, which has been recognized globally as the crucial stage for the development of mental faculties of a child.

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Note:

- It Introduced **PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)** for competency-based and holistic assessments. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

152. (D)

Exp:

- **E.V. Ramasami Naicker**, popularly known as **Thanthai Periyar**, played a pivotal role in the **Vaikom Satyagraha**, recognized as the first organized movement for the rights of the 'untouchable' communities in India in April 1924.
  - ◆ **Periyar's activism** led to his **imprisonment twice** for his involvement in the movement, earning him the title **Vaikom Veeran**.
- The **Vaikom Satyagraha**, a peaceful protest held in **Vaikom, Kerala**, from **30th March 1924 to 23rd November 1925** was led by visionary leaders **T.K. Madhavan, K.P. Kesava Menon**, and **K. Kelappan**.
- Hence, **option D is correct.**

153. (A)

Exp:

- **G-7** is a group of the **most developed and advanced economies** of the world. i.e. **France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States, and Canada**.
- Members of G7 have decided to promote G7 PGII (Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment) initiatives in the 50th G7 Summit. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) Project** was signed at the G20 Summit in **New Delhi**, which holds significant geopolitical and economic implications for India. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ **G-7 nations** committed to promoting the **IMEC**.
- During its 50<sup>th</sup> Summit, G7 extended support for the **Lobito Corridor** in **Central Africa** and **Luzon Corridor** and the **Middle Corridor**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

154. (B)

Exp:

- The **Kothari Commission (1964-66)** emphasized the importance of a common educational framework across states to foster national integration and cultural exchange. Hence, **pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- The **National Knowledge Commission** was constituted in **2005** to prepare a blueprint for reforms of knowledge-related **institutions** and **infrastructure** which would enable India to meet the challenges of the future. Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- The **Radhakrishnan Commission**, also known as the **University Education Commission**, was appointed in **1948**

to examine the state of university education in India. The commission was chaired by Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who later became India's second president. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched.**

- In **1990**, the Government of India announced the appointment of a Committee to review the **National Policy on Education, 1986** with Acharya Ramamurthi as the Chairman. Hence, **pair 4 is not correctly matched.**
- Hence, **option B is correct.**

155. (C)

Exp:

- Ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol are toxic alcohols with a slightly sweet taste. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Diethylene glycol** and **ethylene glycol** are **adulterants** that are sometimes illegally used as solvents in liquid drugs as an alternative to **non-toxic solvents** such as **glycerine** or **propylene glycol** to cut costs. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- In addition to its use in antifreeze, ethylene glycol is used as an ingredient in **hydraulic fluids, printing inks, and paint solvents** and **diethylene glycol** is used in the commercial preparation of **antifreeze, brake fluid, cigarettes, and some dyes.**

156. (B)

Exp:

- 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Indian Constitution:
  - ◆ It lists the **official languages** of the **Republic of India**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **22 Official Languages:** Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.
- **Classical Languages:**
  - ◆ **About:** In **2004**, the Government of India introduced the **Classical Language category** and formed the **Linguistic Experts Committee (LEC)** under the **Sahitya Akademi** to evaluate languages for this status.
    - The criteria for classifying the **Classical Languages** was revised in **2024** by the **LEC**. It also added five more languages to the list of existing six classical languages.
    - These 11 classical languages are **Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Sanskrit, Odia, Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali and Prakrit**. **Out of these languages, Pali, and Prakrit** are the only two classical languages not listed in the 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule (Only 9 classical languages are listed in the 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule). Hence, **both statement 2 and statement 3 are not correct.**

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Note:

- Classical languages preserve India's rich and **ancient cultural heritage**, reflecting the historical and cultural milestones of various communities.
- Currently, there are six nine languages in 8<sup>th</sup> schedule of the Indian constitution which granted the '**Classical status in India**'. Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014), Marathi (2024), Bengali (2024), Assamese (2024). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- All the **Classical Languages** are not listed in the **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution**.

157. (C)

Exp:

- Makhanas** are a significant agricultural product of Bihar, accounting for **85%** of the world's production. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The creation of the Makhana Board in the Union Budget 2025-26 has been announced. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - It will enhance the **production, processing, value addition, and marketing of foxnuts.**
- Mithila Makhana** received a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** in 2022. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.

158. (D)

Exp:

Union Budget:

- The **Union Budget 2025-26**, presented by the **Finance Minister**, outlines a strategic roadmap for economic growth.
- It focuses on **agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, investment, exports, taxation, and social development to achieve Viksit Bharat.
- The **MSME Credit Guarantee Scheme** has been expanded, offering additional credit support of **₹1.5 lakh crore** over five years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)** will be set up in government schools over **five years**, fostering **STEM** learning and innovation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

159. (D)

Exp:

- '**National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**' initiatives are aimed at building an empowered

and financially inclusive rural India through specific goal-oriented departments which can be categorized broadly into three heads: **Financial, Developmental and Supervision.**

- It prepares district-level credit plans to guide and motivate the banking industry in achieving these targets. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It supervises Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and helps them develop sound banking practices and integrate them to the **(Core Banking Solution) CBS platform.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - Core Banking Solution (CBS)** is a networking of branches, which enables Customers to operate their accounts and avail banking services from any branch of the Bank on CBS network, regardless of where he/she maintains his/her account.
- NABARD's Climate Strategy 2030** document is targeted to support India's green financing needs. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

160. (A)

Exp:

- Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO):**
  - CDSCO is India's **National Regulatory Authority (NRA)** for the **medical devices industry**, governed by the provisions of the **Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - The **Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940** and **Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945** have entrusted various responsibilities to central & state regulators for the regulation of drugs & cosmetics.
    - It aims for the **uniform implementation** of the **Act** and its **Rules** to regulate **drugs and cosmetics**, ensuring **patient safety, rights, and well-being.**
  - CDSCO, in collaboration with **state regulators (State Drug Control Organizations)**, is responsible for granting licenses for **specialized critical drugs**, including blood and blood products, IV fluids, vaccines, and sera. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

161. (A)

Exp:

**Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:**

- The law aims to address offences of **sexual exploitation and sexual abuse** of children. The Act defines a child as any person below the **age of 18 years.**
- It was enacted in consequence to **India's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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Note:

- The Act recognises that **both girls and boys** can be victims of **sexual abuse** and that such abuse is a **crime regardless of the gender of the victim** i.e., it is a **Gender-Neutral Nature**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The act mandates that the identity of child victims must be kept confidential. Media reports cannot disclose any details of child victims.
- The minimum punishment for penetrative sexual assault in POCSO is **10 years**, and it is **20 years** if the victim is below 16 years of age. Hence **statement 3 is not correct**.

162. (B)

Exp:

- **Belarus** is a landlocked country bordered by **Lithuania and Latvia** to the northwest, by **Russia** to the north and east, by **Ukraine** to the south, and by **Poland** to the west. In area, it is roughly one-third the size of its southern neighbour, **Ukraine**.
- **Estonia** does not share a border with Belarus.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

163. (D)

Exp:

**Marginal Propensity to Consume (MPC):**

- MPC is a key element of **Keynesian macroeconomic theory**, where additional spending drives production growth, fueling a cycle known as the Keynesian multiplier.
- MPC suggests that the individual has a propensity to consume more with an **additional rise in income**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- MPC is a key determinant of the **multiplier effect** which is the impact of increased investment or government spending that results in **increase in GDP**. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.

164. (B)

Exp:

- The **Aralam Farm and Wildlife Sanctuary** is an **evergreen and deciduous forest area** spanning **55 sq. kms**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It is situated on the **slope of the Western Ghats**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The **Aralam Sanctuary** is home to a wide array of flora and fauna, the **only wildlife sanctuary in Kannur** district of Kerala. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

165. (C)

Exp:

- India and the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** agreed to exclude the most "sensitive" agricultural products and gold imports from the **TEPA**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- **TEPA** comprises **14 chapters** with a main focus on market access related to **goods, rules of origin, trade facilitation**, trade remedies, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, investment promotion, market access on services, intellectual property rights, trade and sustainable development and other legal and horizontal provisions.
- India is the **EFTA's 5th-largest trading partner** after the European Union, the United States, Britain and China. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

166. (C)

Exp:

- The **Supreme Court**, in the landmark **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India case, 2020** reiterated that **internet shutdowns** violate fundamental rights to freedom of expression. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Court also held that the freedom of trade and commerce through the internet is constitutionally protected by Article 19. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- **Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect**. Hence **option C is correct**.

167. (C)

Exp:

**Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):**

- **About:**
  - ◆ The Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) in **2017**.
  - ◆ The PMMVY Scheme is being implemented as per provisions under Section 4 of the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013** which provides financial support for pregnant and lactating mothers to improve the health and nutrition of mother and child as well as compensation for wage loss, if any.
- **Objectives:**
  - ◆ To provide **cash incentive** for partial compensation for the wage loss so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first child;
  - ◆ To improve health-seeking behavior amongst **Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM)**.
  - ◆ To promote positive behavioral change towards girl children by providing additional cash incentives for the second child, if that is a girl child.
- **Features:**
  - ◆ The benefit is available to a woman **for the first two children** provided the second child is a girl. In the case of the first child the amount of **₹5000 in two installments** and for the second child, the benefit of

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Note:

₹6000 will be provided subject to the second child being a girl child in one installment after the birth. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- ◆ However, for availing benefits for the second child, registration during the pregnancy shall be mandatory.
  - This would contribute to improving the Sex Ratio at Birth and to prevent female foeticide.

➤ **Beneficiaries:**

- ◆ All pregnant women and lactating mothers in regular employment with the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force shall not be entitled to benefits under PMMVY. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

168. (A)

Exp:

**Ethanol Blending:**

➤ **About:** Ethanol blending refers to the process of mixing ethanol, a biofuel derived from plant-based sources, with petrol to create a more sustainable and cleaner-burning fuel.

- ◆ This reduces dependence on fossil fuels, lowers carbon emissions, and enhances energy security.
- ◆ Ethanol is primarily produced from sugarcane molasses, maize, rice, and other biomass sources in India.
- ◆ The Government of India launched the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme in 2003 to promote ethanol use in transportation fuel.

➤ **Current Status & Future Roadmap:** The initial target of 10% blending by 2022 was achieved ahead of schedule, leading to an ambitious goal of 20% ethanol blending (E20) by 2025. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- ◆ As per information provided by former Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to the Lok Sabha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana and Punjab have the highest number of ethanol factories in the country, contributing a substantial portion to the overall production capacity of 947 crore litres in 2022. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - However, all ethanol production plants and distilleries fall under the 'red category', which means that they have a pollution score of 60 or more, as per Central government norms. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

169. (C)

Exp:

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):**

➤ **About:**

- ◆ IPCC is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change.

- ◆ It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- ◆ IPCC assessments provide a scientific basis for governments at all levels to develop climate-related policies, and they underlie negotiations at the UN Climate Conference – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

➤ **IPCC Assessment Report:**

- ◆ Since 1988, the IPCC has had six assessment cycles and delivered six Assessment Reports, the most comprehensive scientific reports about climate change produced worldwide. They are:

- First Assessment Report (FAR) (1990).
- The Second Assessment Report (SAR) (1995)
- Third Assessment Report (TAR) (2001)
- Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) (2007)
- The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) (2014)
- The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) (2023)
- The IPCC is currently in its seventh assessment cycle which formally began in July 2023.

➤ Hence, statement 2 is correct.

170. (B)

Exp:

➤ **Advanced Nuclear Energy for Enriched Life (ANEEL):**

- ◆ **About:** ANEEL is a patented nuclear fuel that is a blend of Thorium and High Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU).

- The fuel is named to honor Dr. Anil Kakodkar, one of India's foremost nuclear scientists.
- HALEU is uranium enriched between 5% and 20%, required for many advanced nuclear reactor designs. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

➤ It is currently produced at scale only in Russia and China, with limited production in the US. Hence, statement 2 is correct

- ◆ **Compatibility with PHWRs:** ANEEL fuel can be used in existing PHWRs, which are the backbone of India's nuclear power fleet.

- Presently, India has 22 operating reactors, with an installed capacity of 6780 MWe. Among these 18 reactors are PHWRs and 4 are Light Water Reactors (LWRs).

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Note:

- India is building 10 more PHWRs, each with a capacity of 700 MW.

171. (A)

Exp:

- In May 2016, the RBI Act was amended to provide a legislative mandate to the central bank to operate the country's monetary policy framework.
- Under Section 45ZB of the **amended RBI Act, 1934**, the central government is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to determine the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target.
  - The first such MPC was constituted on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Section 45ZB lays down that **"the Monetary Policy Committee shall determine the Policy Rate required to achieve the inflation target"**, and that "the decision of the MPC shall be binding on the Bank". Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**
- Section 45ZB says the **MPC shall consist of** the RBI Governor as its ex officio chairperson, the Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, an officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board and three persons to be appointed by the central government. 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.
- The MPC fixes the **benchmark interest rate or the base or reference rate** that is used to set other interest rates in India. The primary objective of the RBI's monetary policy is **to maintain price stability** while keeping in mind the objective of growth.

# Monetary Policy Committee



## Monetary Policy

- It is formed and managed by **Reserve Bank of India** to control a nation's overall money supply and achieve economic growth
- It is **different from Fiscal Policy** which is managed by the **Ministry of Finance** that measures the spending and taxation in Indian Economy

## Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

- Ex-officio Chairperson:** RBI Governor
- Objective:** To determine the policy rate required to achieve the inflation target ( 4+/- 2%, Urjit Patel Committee)

- Legal Framework:** Under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the Central Government is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)
  - The MPC is required to meet at least four times in a year. 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.
- Monetary Policy Report:** RBI once in every six months, releases Monetary Policy Report to explain the sources of inflation and the forecast of inflation for 6-18 months ahead



172. (B)

Exp:

- Thorium:**
  - About:** Thorium is a silvery, slightly radioactive metal. It is commonly found in igneous rocks and heavy mineral sands.

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Note:

- ◆ **Abundance:** Thorium is **three times more abundant** in the Earth's crust than uranium, with an average concentration of 10.5 parts per million (ppm) of thorium, compared with about 3 ppm of uranium.
  - ◆ **Isotope:** The only **naturally occurring isotope of thorium is thorium-232**, which is fissionable (can undergo fission) but not fissile (cannot sustain a chain reaction without external neutrons).
    - Thorium-232 **requires high-energy neutrons** to undergo fission.
  - ◆ **Deposits in India:** India has a unique position in the world, in terms of availability of nuclear fuel resources. It has a limited resource of uranium but a large resource of thorium.
    - The beach sands of **Kerala and Orissa** have rich reserves of monazite, which contains about 8–10% thorium.
- Hence, option B is correct.

173. (A)

Exp:

- **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS):**
- ◆ PACS are village level cooperative credit societies that serve as the **last link in a three-tier cooperative credit structure** headed by the State Cooperative Banks (SCB) at the state level. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
  - **The first PACS was formed in 1904.**
  - ◆ Credit from the SCBs is transferred to the District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), **which operate at the district level.** The DCCBs work with PACS, which deal directly with farmers.
  - ◆ PACS provide **short-term, and medium-term agricultural loans** to the farmers for the various agricultural and farming activities. Hence, **statement 2 not is correct.**

174. (C)

Exp:

**Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):**

- **About:**
- ◆ FDI is an investment made by a firm or individual in one country into business interests located in another country.
- **Types of FDI:**
- ◆ **Greenfield Investment:** Creating new business operations from the ground up, offering high control and customization.
  - ◆ **Brownfield Investment:** Expanding through mergers, acquisitions, or joint ventures by utilizing existing facilities.

- While control may be lower than in Greenfield investments, it still allows significant influence over operations.

➤ **FDI in India:**

- ◆ **Regulation:** FDI in India is governed by the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999**, and is administered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ **FDI Entry Routes:** FDI under sectors is permitted either through the Automatic route or Government route.
  - **Under the Automatic Route**, the non-resident or Indian company does not require any approval from the Government of India.
  - Whereas, **under the Government route**, approval from the Government of India is required prior to investment.
  - Proposals for foreign investment under the Government route are **considered by the respective Administrative Ministry/Department.**
- ◆ Upto 100% FDI permitted under Automatic & Government Routes include:
  - Air transport service
  - Banking (Private sector)
  - Biotechnology
  - Defence
  - Healthcare
- ◆ Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

175. (A)

Exp:

- The **73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** gave constitutional status to the **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** and established a **system of uniform structure (three tiers of PRIs)**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- Panchayats act on three levels: **gram sabhas** (village or group of small villages), **panchayat samithis** (block council), and **zila parishads (district)**.
- The **Ashok Mehta Committee in 1977** recommended a **two-tier Panchayat Raj institutional structure** consisting of **Zilla Parishad and Mandal Panchayat**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 243H** gives state legislatures the power to authorize Panchayats to **levy, collect, and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls, and fees.**

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Note:

➤ **Article 243G** of the Constitution of India gives state legislatures the power to provide Panchayats with the authority and powers to function as **self-government institutions**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

➤ Hence, **option A is correct**.

**176. (A)**

**Exp:**

➤ **Delimitation** means the process of **fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies** in each **State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

➤ The **Commission** is appointed by the **President of India** and works in collaboration with the **Election Commission of India**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

➤ The **87<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003** provided for the **delimitation of constituencies on the basis of 2001 census** and not **1991 census**.

➤ The **84<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 2001** empowered the government to undertake readjustment and rationalisation of territorial constituencies in the states on the basis of the population figures of **1991 census**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

**177. (A)**

**Exp:**

➤ The **Study in India (SII) scheme** was launched in **2018** to attract foreign students by offering **scholarships and fee waiver schemes**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

➤ **Indian universities** are encouraged to set up **offshore campuses** to enhance **India's global education footprint**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

➤ The main emphasis of the **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Scheme** is on improving the quality of school education by focussing on the two **T's i.e., Teacher and Technology**. This provision is not part of the **Study in India scheme**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

➤ As per the latest **All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22**, the total number of **foreign students** enrolled in India is **46,878**.

**178. (C)**

**Exp:**

➤ Kumbh Mela comes under United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

➤ It is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.

➤ It is held on the banks of the **Godavari (Nashik), Shipra (Ujjain), Ganges (Haridwar)**, and the **confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and Saraswati (Prayagraj)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

➤ As it is held in four different cities in India, it involves different social and cultural activities, making this a culturally diverse festival.

**179. (D)**

**Exp:**

➤ The **Ninth Schedule of the Constitution** includes a **list of Central and State laws** that cannot be challenged in courts. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

➤ The first Amendment added **13 laws** to the Schedule. Subsequent amendments in various years have taken the number of protected laws to **284** currently.

➤ This schedule was added to the constitution by the **Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

➤ Most laws in the **Ninth Schedule** focus on **agriculture and land issues**, but some cover other subjects also.

➤ **Article 31B**, along with **Article 31A**, was introduced to protect **agrarian reform laws** and abolish the **Zamindari system**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

**180. (A)**

**Exp:**

➤ **Federalism** is a system of government in which powers are divided between two or more levels of government, such as the **centre and the states**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

➤ Division of Powers, Written Constitution, Supremacy of Constitution, Independent Judiciary, Dual Government, Rigid Constitution are the federal characteristic of the **Indian Constitution**.

➤ In India, all citizens irrespective of the state in which they are born or reside enjoy the same **political and civil rights of citizenship** all over the country and no discrimination is made between them.

➤ The **single citizenship** granted by the **Indian Constitution** reflects India's **Unitary characteristic of the Indian political system**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

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Note:



181. (B)

Exp:

- **Population Census** is the total process of **collecting, compiling, analyzing** and **disseminating demographic, economic and social data** pertaining, at a specific time, of all persons in a country or a well-defined part of a country.
- The Census is mandated by the **Constitution in India**, but there is no **legal obligation** for it to be conducted every ten years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Census of India Act of 1948** provides the **legal framework** for carrying out the **Census**; **however**, it does not mention its timing or periodicity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **10-year frequency** is followed in many countries (Ex. the US and the UK) but some countries like **Australia, Canada, Japan** conduct it **every five years.**
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I. Hence, option B is correct.

182. (C)

Exp:

- **Kerogens** are the **lumps of organic matter** and they are the **primary source of hydrocarbons** in the **rocky underground.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Kerogen accounts for approximately **90%** of the organic carbon present in sediments.
- Kerogen can be deposited from three possible sources as the remains of a **lake (lacustrine)**, a **larger marine ecosystem**, or a **terrestrial ecosystem.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It contains **both lighter** and **heavier hydrocarbons** and serves as a precursor to **oil** and **natural gas.**
- Kerogen undergoes **high-temperature pyrolysis**, decomposing into lower-molecular-weight products like **bitumen, oil, and gas.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



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Note: