



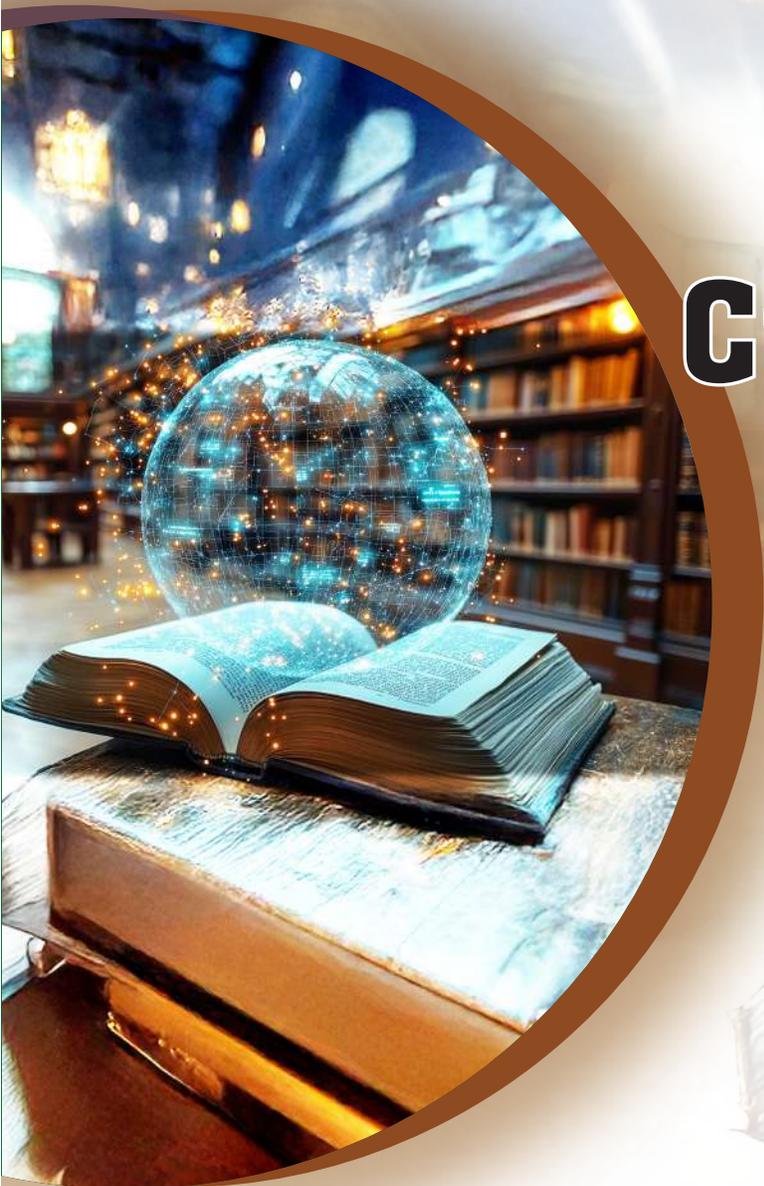
# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## MCQ CONSOLIDATION

### December

### 2025

### PART-II



C-171/2,  
Block-A,  
Sector-15,  
Noida



641,  
Mukherjee Nagar,  
Opp. Signature  
View Apartment,  
New Delhi



21,  
Pusa Road,  
Karol Bagh  
New Delhi



Tashkent  
Marg,  
Civil Lines,  
Prayagraj,  
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,  
Vasundhra  
Colony,  
Jaipur,  
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade  
Mall, Burlington  
Chauraha,  
Vidhan Sabha  
Marg, Lucknow



12,  
Main AB Road,  
Bhawar Kuan,  
Indore,  
Madhya Pradesh



Crystal Heights,  
Circular  
Road, Lalpur  
Chowk, Ranchi,  
Jharkhand



Shahi Lane,  
SP Verma Road,  
South Gandhi  
Maidan,  
Patna

## Practice Question

### Polity & Governance

1. With reference to Article 200 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor is constitutionally bound to act within a fixed timeline while assenting to State Bills.
2. The Governor may return a Bill to the State Legislature for reconsideration.
3. If a Bill is returned and re-passed by the State Legislature, the Governor must assent to it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), consider the following statements:

1. It provides a legal guarantee of wage employment to rural households willing to do unskilled manual work.
2. The entire cost of wages under the scheme is borne by the Union Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. With reference to the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It provides a special governance framework for Scheduled Areas.
2. It mandates the creation of a Tribal Advisory Council with a majority of adivasi members.
3. It grants discretionary powers to the Governor to prevent land alienation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only

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

4. With reference to funding under MGNREGA, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Government bears 100% of unskilled labour costs.
2. States bear the cost of unemployment allowance.
3. Material cost is shared equally between Centre and States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. With reference to Article 200 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor is constitutionally bound to act on a Bill within a fixed time period.
2. The Governor may reserve a Bill for the consideration of the President.
3. The Governor can return a Bill (other than a Money Bill) to the Legislature with comments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. With reference to Article 41 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It mandates the State to guarantee employment as a justiciable fundamental right.
2. It places the right to work within the limits of the State's economic capacity and development.
3. Article 41 falls under Socialistic (or Welfare) Directive Principles of State Policy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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7. Which of the following features of MGNREGA have contributed to increasing women's participation in rural employment?

1. Self-targeting design allows anyone willing to work to claim employment.
2. Mandatory wage parity between men and women.
3. Centrally fixed allocation of work to states based on technocratic criteria.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

8. With reference to the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, consider the following statements:

1. The Act empowers the Central Government to control the development, use and disposal of atomic energy in India.
2. It provides a statutory mandate for an independent nuclear safety regulatory authority.
3. The Act restricts private sector participation in nuclear power generation without government approval.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. The decentralised implementation of MGNREGA was aligned with which constitutional provision?

- A. 61<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Amendment
- B. 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment
- C. 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment
- D. 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment

10. With reference to the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It shifts the employment guarantee framework from demand-driven to allocation-based.

2. It grants discretionary powers to the Union government regarding nature and location of works.

3. It strengthens the financial autonomy of States compared to MGNREGA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

11. The Supreme Court first explicitly recognised the right to live in a healthy environment as part of Article 21 in:

- A. Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)
- B. Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra v. State of U.P. (1985)
- C. Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar (1991)
- D. M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (1987)

12. The Supreme Court upheld the conviction of traffickers involved in the sexual exploitation of a minor under which of the following laws?

- A. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act
- B. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act
- C. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act
- D. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act

13. With reference to the Viksit Bharat — Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It enhances the statutory wage employment guarantee from 100 to 125 days.
2. It removes procedural clauses that earlier weakened the enforceability of unemployment allowance.
3. It converts the employment guarantee from a justiciable right into a policy directive.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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14. Consider the following statements regarding fiscal federalism under MGNREGA and VB-G RAM G:

1. Under MGNREGA, the Centre bore the full wage cost.
2. The revised funding ratio under VB-G RAM G is 60:40 between Centre and States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

15. With reference to the Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR), consider the following statements:

1. The SIR aims to remove duplicate, outdated, or ineligible entries from electoral rolls.
2. The burden of proving eligibility is largely shifted from the voter to the state.

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

16. Which of the following statements about the Prevention of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006 is/are correct?

1. It criminalises child marriage and provides for annulment of such marriages.
2. The Act has led to high conviction rates across all States in India.
3. Its implementation has been uneven, with infrequent application in several areas.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

17. Consider the following statements regarding child marriage in India:

1. The legal age for marriage is 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys.

2. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, allows child marriages if both families give consent.

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

### International Relations

18. With reference to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), consider the following statements:

1. It came into force in 1975.
2. It prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons.
3. It mandates the destruction or diversion to peaceful purposes of existing biological weapons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. Which of the following countries joined NATO after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022?

1. Sweden
2. Finland
3. Ukraine
4. Georgia

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

20. With reference to the Preah Vihear temple, consider the following statements:

1. It is an 11<sup>th</sup>-century Hindu temple of Khmer origin.
2. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled in 1962 that it belongs to Cambodia.
3. The ICJ clarified in 2013 that Thailand has sovereignty over the surrounding area.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. How many countries share a land border with Oman?

- 1. Saudi Arabia
- 2. UAE
- 3. Yemen
- 4. Qatar

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All four

22. With reference to the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), consider the following statements:

- 1. The corridor envisages a multimodal connectivity network integrating maritime routes, rail links and digital infrastructure.
- 2. Jordan occupies a critical position in the corridor as a land bridge between the Gulf region and the Mediterranean.
- 3. The initiative is intended, among other objectives, to provide a rules-based alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. With reference to the African Union (AU), consider the following statements:

- 1. The African Union replaced the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 2002.
- 2. The headquarters of the African Union is located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 3. The African Union follows a strict policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of member states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

24. In the context of India's foreign policy, the term "performative diplomacy", refers to:

- A. Diplomacy driven by coercive military power
- B. Symbolic gestures without substantive outcomes
- C. Back-channel negotiations between states
- D. Citizen-centric foreign policy initiatives

25. With reference to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), consider the following statements:

- 1. It connects India with Russia and Northern Europe via Iran.
- 2. It is shorter and more cost-efficient than the Suez Canal route for India.
- 3. It is an exclusively maritime trade corridor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### Economy

26. Consider the following statements regarding insurance metrics in India:

- 1. Insurance density in India has increased from \$55 to \$97 over the past decade.
- 2. Insurance penetration has risen from 3.3% to 3.7% of GDP.
- 3. India's insurance density is higher than the global average due to life insurance dominance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**27. The depreciation of the Indian rupee has helped exporters mainly by:**

- Increasing domestic consumption
- Fully neutralising the impact of U.S. tariffs
- Partially offsetting higher tariff costs
- Eliminating trade deficits

**28. With reference to the relationship between human development and energy consumption, consider the following statements:**

- Growth in per capita energy consumption has historically accompanied human progress.
- Digitalisation of the economy reduces overall energy demand.
- The Human Development Index (HDI) correlates with per capita Final Energy Consumption (FEC).

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

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

**29. Which of the following statements about foreign investment in Indian banks is correct?**

- Foreign banks can hold up to 50% stake under the automatic route.
- Any stake beyond 25% is considered promoter shareholding and subject to stricter norms.
- There is no overall FDI cap on private banks in India.
- RBI does not regulate foreign investment in Indian banks.

**30. A depreciation of the Indian rupee is less likely to translate into higher domestic inflation when:**

- There is a surge in global capital inflows
- Domestic inflation remains below the Reserve Bank of India's comfort zone
- Monetary policy interest rates are increased sharply
- The fiscal deficit is reduced significantly

**31. With reference to the Code on Wages, 2019, consider the following statements:**

- It provides for equal wages for men and women for the same work or work of similar nature.

- It empowers the Central Government to fix a national minimum wage.
- It mandates that State minimum wages cannot be lower than the national minimum wage.

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

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

**32. The term "core-periphery pattern" in the context of India's exports refers to:**

- Dominance of agricultural exports from inland States
- Concentration of export capacity in a few coastal and industrial States
- Higher exports from backward regions due to low labour costs
- Equal integration of all States into global value chains

**33. Consider the following statements regarding 'critical minerals':**

- They are essential for strategic and clean energy technologies.
- The Supreme Court permitted critical mineral mining despite the general ban on mining in the Aravalli region.
- India has achieved self-sufficiency in critical mineral production.

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

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

**34. With reference to labour law reforms in India, consider the following Labour Codes enacted by the Parliament:**

- Code on Wages
- Industrial Relations Code
- Code on Social Security
- Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code

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Which of the codes consolidated 29 central labour laws?

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

35. The concept of 'Dutch disease' is best described as:

- A. Decline of agriculture due to rapid urbanisation
- B. Negative impact of a booming sector on other tradable sectors through price and exchange rate effects
- C. Fiscal imbalance caused by excessive public expenditure
- D. Structural shift from manufacturing to services due to globalisation

36. Which of the following are government efforts to boost private investment in India?

- 1. Corporate tax rate cuts (2019)
- 2. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes
- 3. Income-tax and GST cuts to boost demand

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

37. The term "linguistic tax" most appropriately refers to:

- A. The additional cost imposed by governments for translation and interpretation services
- B. The social and economic disadvantages faced by migrants due to lack of linguistic assimilation
- C. The decline of indigenous languages in metropolitan cities
- D. The deliberate exclusion of regional languages from urban governance

38. "Convergence" in the context of state-level growth in India refers to:

- A. States with higher per capita income growing faster than lower-income states
- B. Low-income states gradually closing the income gap with high-income states
- C. Uniform growth of all states at the same absolute rate

D. Reduction of central transfers to fiscally weaker states

39. Consider the following statements regarding electoral bonds in India:

- 1. Electoral bonds were introduced in 2018 to enhance transparency in political funding.
- 2. The scheme allowed donors to maintain anonymity regarding which political party they funded.
- 3. Electoral trusts were the primary mechanism of political funding before electoral bonds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

40. With reference to India's Research and Development (R&D) ecosystem, consider the following statements:

- 1. India contributes about 3% of global research output despite having 17.5% of the world's population.
- 2. India's Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) has consistently exceeded 2% of GDP in recent years.
- 3. India's R&D expenditure is lower than that of China, the United States, and Israel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. With reference to rare-earth elements (REEs), consider the following statements:

- 1. Rare-earth elements include the 15 lanthanides along with scandium and yttrium.
- 2. All rare-earth elements are placed separately below the main periodic table.
- 3. Scandium and yttrium belong to Group 3 of the periodic table.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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42. The term “Goldilocks phase” in macroeconomics generally refers to:

- A. High growth with high inflation
- B. Low growth with low inflation
- C. Moderate inflation with strong growth
- D. Stagnation with fiscal expansion

43. With reference to exchange rate management in India, consider the following statements:

1. A prolonged fixing of the rupee exchange rate can lead to loss of foreign exchange reserves.
2. An overvalued currency can reduce export competitiveness and invite speculative attacks.
3. Allowing partial adjustment of the exchange rate can help absorb external shocks.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

44. With reference to maritime reforms in India, consider the following statements:

1. Nearly 95% of India’s trade by volume moves through maritime routes.
2. The Indian Ports Act, 2025 replaced a colonial-era law.
3. Maritime reforms focus only on port expansion and not governance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. The term “pink economy” or “rainbow market” refers to:

- A. Government welfare schemes for sexual minorities
- B. Cultural industries linked to LGBTQIA+ art
- C. The economic and consumer market power of LGBTQIA+ communities
- D. Corporate social responsibility initiatives

46. The term “WTO-plus commitments”, often mentioned in the context of India’s recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), refers to:

- A. Trade provisions that are inconsistent with or violate World Trade Organization (WTO) rules
- B. Trade agreements that are confined only to reduction or elimination of customs tariffs
- C. Commitments undertaken by countries that go beyond existing WTO obligations
- D. Special and differential trade concessions exclusively extended to least-developed countries

### Environment & Ecology

47. With reference to the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), consider the following statements:

1. CBAM is a European Union initiative to impose a carbon price on imports of certain goods from outside the EU.
2. It aims to prevent carbon leakage by equalizing the cost of carbon between domestic and foreign producers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

48. Fog formation in northern India is primarily associated with which of the following conditions?

- A. High wind speeds and low humidity
- B. Fall in temperature and accumulation of moisture near the ground
- C. Intense solar radiation and surface heating
- D. Temperature inversion caused by cyclonic systems

49. With reference to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), consider the following statements:

1. GRAP was first notified in 2017 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change following the Supreme Court’s order in the M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India case.
2. It is currently implemented by the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA).

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3. The measures under GRAP are statutory in nature, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**50. With reference to Environmental Vertical Reform (EVR), consider the following statements:**

1. It involves a top-down accountability system for local governments to meet environmental targets.
2. It encourages local governments to act autonomously without supervision from higher authorities.
3. EVR was a key factor in Beijing's reduction of PM2.5 levels in recent years.

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

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

**51. With reference to the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) conservation issue, consider the following statements:**

1. Overhead transmission lines have been identified as a major cause of GIB mortality.
2. The Supreme Court's 2021 order completely banned renewable energy projects in GIB habitats.
3. Undergrounding of power lines has been explored as a mitigation strategy.

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

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

**52. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 was enacted primarily to:**

- A. Regulate wages and bonus payments  
B. Consolidate laws related to trade unions

- C. Ensure safety, health, and welfare of workers across establishments  
D. Govern industrial dispute resolution mechanisms

**53. With reference to rhinoceros conservation, consider the following statements:**

1. As of 2024, India is home to more than 4,000 one-horned rhinoceroses.
2. Kaziranga National Park in Assam have home to one of the world's largest populations of greater one-horned rhinos.
3. Rhino horns are made of bone and calcium deposits.

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

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

**54. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Polluter Pays Principle' (PPP) in India:**

1. The PPP mandates that the person or firm causing environmental damage must bear the cost of such damage.
2. The principle was statutorily recognised under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
3. The Indian judiciary has strictly applied PPP in cases of air pollution, ensuring full cost recovery from polluters.

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

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

## History, Art & Culture

**55. Which of the following thinkers described Bankimchandra Chatterjee as "The rishi of Indian nationalism"?**

- A. Rabindranath Tagore  
B. Aurobindo Ghose  
C. Jawaharlal Nehru  
D. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya

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56. What was the impact of Macaulay's Minute on Indian languages during the colonial period?

- It aimed to entirely replace Indian languages with English.
- It prompted the modernization and refinement of Indian languages.
- It rendered Indian languages obsolete in the educational system.
- It discouraged the translation of texts between Indian languages and English.

57. With reference to the Keezhadi archaeological site, consider the following statements:

- Keezhadi is located on the floodplain of the Vaigai river in southern Tamil Nadu.
- The excavated structures at Keezhadi are exposed at the present ground surface.
- The site provides material evidence supporting descriptions found in Sangam literature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### Geography

58. With reference to internal migration in India, consider the following statements:

- Migrants constituted 38% of India's population in 2011.
- Two-thirds of migrants are women, largely due to marriage.
- Male migrants tend to move shorter distances than female migrants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

59. India's obligation to protect the Aravalli range is also linked to which international commitment?

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Ramsar Convention

- UN Convention to Combat Desertification
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

60. Assertion (A): The Southern Ocean absorbs a proportionately large share of anthropogenic carbon dioxide compared to its surface area.

Reason (R): According to IPCC AR6, cold surface waters and strong vertical stratification in the Southern Ocean enhance the solubility pump and limit outgassing of carbon dioxide.

Choose the correct answer:

- Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
- A is true but R is false
- A is false but R is true

61. Consider the following statements regarding monazite-bearing beach sands in India:

- They are a major domestic source of rare earth elements.
- They often occur alongside thorium.
- Their extraction involves strategic and nuclear-related governance concerns.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. With reference to cyclonic disturbances over the North Indian Ocean, consider the following statements:

- The Bay of Bengal remains the primary origin of cyclonic disturbances.
- The frequency of cyclonic disturbances in the Bay of Bengal has increased in recent decades.
- The Arabian Sea has historically produced more severe cyclonic storms than the Bay of Bengal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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63. With reference to the Aravalli Hills, consider the following statements:

1. The Aravallis form a continuous ecological landscape that regulates climate, facilitates groundwater recharge, and supports biodiversity.
2. The recent Supreme Court judgment relied on a "100-metre local relief" rule to define the Aravallis, sidelining scientific data.
3. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) fully endorsed the Ministry of Environment's 100-metre threshold report.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

64. With reference to the galaxy 'Alaknanda', consider the following statements:

1. It is the farthest spiral galaxy discovered so far.
2. It existed when the universe was about 1.5 billion years old.
3. It shows two well-defined spiral arms and a central bulge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

65. Consider the following statements regarding opium cultivation in India:

1. The Malwa region in Madhya Pradesh and Mewar region in Rajasthan produce nearly 85% of India's legally-grown opium.
2. Licences for opium cultivation are issued by the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
3. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan are the only states where opium cultivation is legally permitted.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

66. Consider the following statements regarding dark energy:

1. It constitutes roughly 70% of the total energy content of the universe.
2. It exhibits attractive gravitational behaviour at large scales.
3. Einstein's cosmological constant is one theoretical representation of dark energy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

67. With reference to the Aravalli mountain range, consider the following statements:

1. The Aravallis are among the oldest mountain systems in the world.
2. The Supreme Court has consistently treated hills, ridges, plateaus, and forests of the Aravallis as separate ecological units.
3. The Aravalli range plays an important role in reducing air pollution in the Indo-Gangetic plains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### Science & Tech

68. The term 'Window of Circadian Low' (WOCL), frequently used in aviation safety regulations, refers to:

- A. A period characterised by reduced air traffic movement at night
- B. A regulatory time window during which aircraft maintenance activities are restricted
- C. A biologically driven period in the human circadian rhythm reach their lowest point
- D. A phase during which pilots attain peak operational efficiency

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69. Project Suncatcher proposes inter-satellite computation primarily through:

- Radio-frequency communication links
- Fibre-optic cables in orbit
- Laser-based optical links
- Quantum entanglement networks

70. Regarding Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day, consider the following statements

- The theme of UHC Day 2025 was “Unaffordable health costs? We’re sick of it!”
- UHC Day is primarily focused on hospitalisation and curative care, excluding preventive and promotive services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

71. In the context of inhalable microplastics the term “Trojan horse effect” refers to:

- Their ability to chemically degrade inside the human body
- Their role in transporting toxic co-pollutants and microbes into the lungs
- Their contribution to ground-level ozone formation
- Their interaction with greenhouse gases in the atmosphere

72. With reference to nuclear power generation in India, consider the following statements:

- Nuclear power contributed about 3% of India’s total electricity generation in 2024–25.
- India has set a target of achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047.
- The target includes commissioning at least five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

73. With reference to DHRUV64 microprocessor, consider the following statements:

- It is a 64-bit, dual-core general-purpose processor capable of running modern operating systems.
- It is specifically designed only for low-end sensing and appliance control applications.
- It is part of India’s Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

74. Recently, the fossil skeleton “Little Foot” was in the news. It is related to:

- A newly discovered dinosaur species in South Africa
- A fossil of early human ancestor in South Africa
- Evidence of early human settlement in East Asia
- Ancient cave paintings in Europe

75. “Doxxing” in the context of online abuse refers to:

- Posting false news to damage someone’s reputation
- Publicly revealing private information about individuals without consent
- Spamming individuals with offensive messages
- Blocking social media accounts of targeted individuals

76. Which of the following Russian-origin defence systems form a critical part of India’s military capability?

- S-400 air defence system
- BrahMos missile
- Sukhoi SU-30 MKI
- F-16 fighter jets

Select the correct answer:

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

77. The phenomenon known as Kessler Syndrome refers to:

- Atmospheric drag causing satellite decay
- Cascading collisions among space debris making orbits unusable

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- C. Solar storms disrupting satellite electronics
- D. Micrometeoroid showers impacting spacecraft frame it better

**78. Consider the following statements regarding rabies in India:**

1. India accounts for nearly one-third of global rabies-related human deaths.
2. Dogs constitute the primary reservoir of rabies virus in India.
3. Rabies in India disproportionately affects economically vulnerable populations.

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

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

**79. Mitochondria are referred to as the “powerhouse of the cell” primarily because they:**

- A. Store genetic material
- B. Synthesize proteins for cellular metabolism
- C. Produce adenosine triphosphate (ATP) through cellular respiration
- D. Regulate cell division

**80. Which of the following statements regarding WADA is/are correct?**

1. It is the global regulator responsible for harmonising anti-doping rules.
2. It conducts doping tests directly on athletes worldwide.
3. It publishes annual reports on global doping trends.

**Select the correct answer:**

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

**81. Consider the following statements regarding ISRO’s LVM3-M6 mission:**

1. It successfully launched a 6,100-kg commercial satellite, Bluebird Block-2, into low-earth orbit.
2. It marked the heaviest payload ever carried by an Indian rocket.
3. It was part of ISRO’s Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme.

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

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

**82. India’s malaria elimination targets include which of the following milestones?**

1. Zero indigenous malaria cases by 2027
2. Complete elimination of malaria by 2030
3. Elimination of vector mosquitoes by 2030

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**83. With reference to Artificial Intelligence (AI) regulation in India, consider the following statements:**

1. India currently regulates AI primarily through existing legal frameworks such as the IT Act, IT Rules, and sectoral regulations.
2. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has taken steps to curb deepfakes under the IT Rules.

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

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

### Internal Security

**84. With reference to the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. It is modelled on the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

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

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

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## Answers

1.	(B)	15.	(A)	29.	43.	(D)	(A)	57.	(A)	71.	(B)
2.	(C)	16.	(C)	30.	44.	(A)	(B)	58.	(A)	72.	(D)
3.	(C)	17.	(A)	31.	45.	(C)	(A)	59.	(C)	73.	(A)
4.	(A)	18.	(C)	32.	46.	(C)	(D)	60.	(A)	74.	(B)
5.	(B)	19.	(A)	33.	47.	(C)	(D)	61.	(C)	75.	(B)
6.	(A)	20.	(A)	34.	48.	(B)	(D)	62.	(B)	76.	(A)
7.	(A)	21.	(C)	35.	49.	(C)	(B)	63.	(A)	77.	(C)
8.	(B)	22.	(D)	36.	50.	(A)	(B)	64.	(A)	78.	(C)
9.	(B)	23.	(A)	37.	51.	(A)	(A)	65.	(D)	79.	(C)
10.	(A)	24.	(B)	38.	52.	(C)	(A)	66.	(B)	80.	(A)
11.	(C)	25.	(A)	39.	53.	(A)	(B)	67.	(A)	81.	(A)
12.	(B)	26.	(A)	40.	54.	(A)	(B)	68.	(C)	82.	(A)
13.	(A)	27.	(C)	41.	55.	(B)	(B)	69.	(C)	83.	(C)
14.	(C)	28.	(A)	42.	56.	(B)	(B)	70.	(A)	84.	(A)

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## Explanation:

### Polity & Governance

1.

**Ans: B**

**Exp:**

- 💡 Article 200 requires the Governor to act “as soon as possible” when returning a Bill, but no fixed timeline binds the Governor for granting or withholding assent, allowing potential delays subject to judicial scrutiny. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 Under Article 200, the Governor may return non-Money Bills to the state legislature for reconsideration, along with a message suggesting amendments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 If the legislature re-passes the returned Bill (with or without amendments) and presents it again, the Governor shall not withhold assent and must declare it as law. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

2.

**Ans: C**

**Exp:**

- 💡 MGNREGA legally guarantees at least 100 days of unskilled manual wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer for such work. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Since the 2014-15 amendments, the Union Government bears 100% of wage costs (both unskilled and skilled labor), while states cover material costs and administrative expenses. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

3.

**Ans: C**

**Exp:**

- 💡 The Fifth Schedule lays down a special governance framework for Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes, dealing with their administration and control under **Article 244(1)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 It provides for a **Tribes Advisory Council in each State** having Scheduled Areas, with **up to 20 members**, of whom as nearly as may be, **three-fourths** are representatives of Scheduled Tribes in the State Legislative Assembly—i.e., an adivasi majority. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 Under the Fifth Schedule, the **Governor** has special regulatory powers for the “**peace and good government**” of **Scheduled Areas**, including making regulations that prohibit or **restrict transfer of land** by or among members of Scheduled Tribes, to prevent land alienation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

4.

**Ans: A**

**Exp:**

- 💡 Under MGNREGA, the Central Government bears 100% of the cost of unskilled labour. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Unemployment allowance, payable when work is not provided within 15 days of demand, is borne by the State Governments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The material cost is not shared equally; it is shared in a 75:25 ratio between the Centre and States (with special provisions of 90:10 for NE and hill states). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
  - ✦ MGNREGA, enacted in 2005, **came into force on February 2, 2006** guarantees **100 days** of unskilled manual wage employment per financial year to every rural household willing to work, enhancing livelihood security.
  - ✦ **Legal right to work; employment within 15 days of demand**, or unemployment allowance.
  - ✦ **Priority to women** (at least 1/3rd jobs); works focus on water conservation, rural infrastructure.
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

5.

**Ans: B**

**Exp:**

- 💡 **Article 200** governs the Governor’s actions on Bills passed by the state legislature. The Governor must declare whether to assent to the Bill, withhold assent, or reserve it for the President’s consideration.
- 💡 There is **no fixed time period that binds the Governor**; the proviso mentions acting “as soon as possible” for returns, but this is not a strict deadline. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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💡 The Governor of an Indian state has the **discretionary power to reserve a Bill** for the President's consideration under Article 200 of the Constitution. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

💡 The **Governor** can return **all Bills except Money Bill** with a message for reconsideration by the legislature. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

💡 Hence, **option B is correct.**

6.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Article 41** does not mandate employment as a justiciable Fundamental Right. It is non-enforceable in courts, as it forms part of the **Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV)**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 Article 41 explicitly states that the State shall make provision for the right to work "**within the limits of its economic capacity and development.**" Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

💡 Article 41 falls under **socialist/welfare-oriented DPSPs (Articles 38-47)** promoting economic justice and welfare state ideals. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

💡 Hence, **option A is correct.**

7.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 MGNREGA's **self-targeting design** allows anyone willing to work, including women, to claim employment, increasing their participation. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Mandatory wage parity** ensures women receive the same wages as men, which incentivizes participation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

💡 **Centrally fixed allocation of work reduces local flexibility** and does not contribute to increasing women's participation; it may even limit it. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 Other key features of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- ✦ MGNREGA, enacted in 2005, **came into force on February 2, 2006** guarantees **100 days** of unskilled manual wage employment per financial year to every rural household willing to work, enhancing livelihood security.

✦ Legal right to work; **employment within 15 days of demand**, or unemployment allowance.

✦ **Priority to women** (at least 1/3rd jobs); works focus on water conservation, rural infrastructure

💡 Hence, **option A is correct.**

8.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** empowers the Central Government to regulate atomic energy development, production, use, and disposal through licensing, prohibitions, and control over minerals, substances, and equipment.

💡 **Sections 14 and 17** grant the Central Government authority to control mining, production, possession, use, and disposal of atomic materials and related activities. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The Act **does not establish an independent nuclear safety regulatory authority** (AERB operates under the Atomic Energy Commission, created administratively). Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 **Private sector activities require government licenses**, with prohibitions on unauthorized production or use of atomic energy. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

💡 Hence, **option B is correct.**

9.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, introduced **Part IX and Articles 243-243O**, establishing **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** as constitutional bodies with powers for planning and implementation of rural development schemes.

💡 **MGNREGA (2005)** mandates **decentralized implementation primarily through Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas** for work selection, execution, and monitoring, directly operationalizing the 73rd Amendment's devolution of powers to local self-governments.

💡 **61<sup>st</sup> Amendment (1988)**: Reduced the **voting age from 21 to 18 years** for Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections.

💡 **74<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1992)**: Constitutionalised Urban Local Bodies (Municipalities) by adding **Part IX-A to the Constitution.**

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🔦 **42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment (1976):** Added the words “**Socialist**” and “**Secular**” to the Preamble and included “**Unity and Integrity of the Nation**” in the Fundamental Duties. Significantly expanded Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs).

🔦 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

✦ **Legal guarantee:** Provides **100 days of wage employment** in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work.

✦ **Rights-based approach:** Mandates time-bound employment or unemployment allowance, strengthening livelihood security.

✦ **Asset creation:** Focuses on durable rural assets like water conservation, drought proofing, and land development.

🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

10.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 The **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025** shifts the framework from a **demand-driven employment guarantee** (as under MGNREGA) to an **allocation-based/command-driven model**, where the Union government prescribes State-wise normative allocations. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 The Act **grants wide discretionary powers to the Union government** to decide where, what and how public works will be undertaken, diluting local and State-level autonomy. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 The Act **does not strengthen the financial autonomy of States.** Instead, by changing the funding pattern to **60:40** and requiring **States to pay for any expenditure beyond the Centre’s fixed allocation**, it actually **increases the financial burden on States** and reduces their flexibility compared to MGNREGA, where the Centre bore a larger share of costs. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

11.

Ans: C

Exp:

🔦 **Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar:** SC explicitly recognized the right to a healthy environment as part of Article 21’s right to life. The Supreme Court held that access to unpolluted water and a pollution-free

environment is a fundamental right under Article 21, directing closure of polluting tanneries in Patna.

🔦 **Maneka Gandhi (1978):** Expanded Article 21 to include due process but not environmental rights.

🔦 **Rural Litigation (1985):** Closed limestone quarries citing ecological damage, implied environmental protection.

🔦 **M.C. Mehta (1987):** Established absolute liability for hazardous industries, foundational but not the first explicit recognition.

🔦 Hence, option C is correct.

12.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 The Supreme Court recently upheld the conviction of a couple involved in trafficking and sexually exploiting a minor girl, primarily under the **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), 1956**, along with IPC provisions.

🔦 Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), 1956

✦ **Purpose:** The ITPA aims to **prevent human trafficking and sexual exploitation**, particularly of women and children, and to rehabilitate victims.

✦ **Key Provisions:** It criminalizes **procuring, inducing, or exploiting persons for prostitution**, running brothels, and living off the earnings of prostitution.

✦ **Protection and Rehabilitation:** The Act provides for **rescue, shelter, and social reintegration** of victims, along with regulation and monitoring of offenders.

🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

13.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 The new Act increases the legal guarantee of wage **employment from 100 days to 125 days** in a financial year. This clearly expands the entitlement of rural households. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 Earlier, even though unemployment allowance existed on paper, procedural conditions made it difficult to claim. The new Act removes such dis-entitlement clauses and strengthens grievance redressal, making the guarantee more enforceable in practice. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

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⚡ The Act **does not dilute the legal right to work**. The employment guarantee remains statutory and justiciable, meaning workers can still legally demand employment. It is not reduced to a policy guideline. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

14.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ Under MGNREGA, the Central government bore the full cost of unskilled wages and **more than 90% of the total programme expenditure**, giving States a strong incentive to implement the scheme. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ Under the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, the funding pattern has been **revised to a 60:40 Centre-State ratio**, shifting a substantially larger financial burden on States. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 (Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission – Gramin):**

⚡ It replaced MGNREGA, shifting from a **rights-based, demand-driven employment** guarantee to a supply-driven framework where the Centre decides the scale and allocation of work.

⚡ The Act centralises control, reducing State autonomy in planning and implementation, and caps employment instead of guaranteeing up to 100 days of work.

⚡ **Hence, option C is correct.**

15.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ The SIR's primary aim is to prune duplicates, outdated addresses, and entries for ineligible voters from electoral rolls. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ The burden of proving eligibility is shifted from the state to the voter, meaning voters have to actively ensure their names remain on the rolls, not the other way around. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

16.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ The **Prevention of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006** makes it a punishable offense for anyone to solemnize or conduct a child marriage. It also empowers courts

to annul child marriages, especially when one or both parties are below the legal age (18 for girls, 21 for boys). The Act provides for penalties for those facilitating child marriage, including parents, guardians, and religious authorities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ Although the Act exists, its **implementation has been weak**. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data show very low conviction rates, often because cases are not reported, families resist prosecution, or enforcement authorities lack resources. Social norms, fear of community backlash, and procedural delays further reduce the practical impact of the law. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

⚡ The effectiveness of the Act varies across States and regions. While some States like **Rajasthan, Bihar, and West Bengal have higher child marriage rates**, enforcement is inconsistent. Factors such as poverty, illiteracy, lack of awareness, and inadequate administrative machinery contribute to gaps between law and practice. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option C is correct.**

17.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ The legal age for marriage in India is 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, does not allow child marriages under any circumstances, even with parental consent. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

### International Relations

18.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) entered into force on 26 March 1975. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ The core obligation of the BWC is to ban the development, production, stockpiling and acquisition of biological agents and toxins for non-peaceful purposes, as well as related weapons and delivery systems. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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States Parties are required to destroy or divert to peaceful purposes all agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery covered by the Convention within a specified period after it enters into force for them. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option C is correct.

19.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Finland joined NATO in April 2023.
- Sweden joined NATO in March 2024. Both accessions occurred after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- Ukraine and Georgia are not NATO members (though they seek membership).
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):** NATO is a political and military alliance of **32 member states** from Europe and North America, **founded on April 4, 1949**, via the North Atlantic Treaty to counter Soviet expansion during the Cold War.
  - Headquartered in Brussels, NATO includes two strategic commands (Allied Command Operations and Allied Command Transformation).

Hence, option A is correct.

20.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Preah Vihear Temple:** It is an **11<sup>th</sup>-century Khmer Hindu temple** dedicated to **Shiva**, constructed primarily during the reigns of **Suryavarman I and II**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ICJ Ruling:** The ICJ ruled in **1962** that the temple itself **belongs to Cambodia**, affirming its location within Cambodian territory based on a **1907 Franco-Siamese treaty map**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 2013 ICJ Clarification:** The 2013 ICJ ruling clarified the temple's immediate promontory belongs to Cambodia but did not grant Thailand sovereignty over the surrounding disputed areas; it called for demarcation while Thailand retains some adjacent zones. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- International Court of Justice (ICJ):** It is the principal **judicial organ of the United Nations**, established in **1945** under the UN Charter.
  - It settles legal disputes **between states** and gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred by UN organs and specialized agencies.

The ICJ is headquartered at **The Hague, Netherlands**, and consists of **15 judges elected for nine-year terms**.

Its judgments are **binding only on the parties** involved in a particular case and have no direct enforcement mechanism.

Hence, option A is correct.

21.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Saudi Arabia** — Shares a land border with Oman from **West**
- United Arab Emirates (UAE)** — Shares a land border with Oman from **North-west**
- Yemen** — Shares a land border with Oman from **South-west**
- Qatar** does not share a land border with Oman; it is located across the Persian Gulf, connected only by maritime boundaries.
- Oman also has a **maritime boundary** with **Iran and Pakistan** across the **Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman**.



Hence, option C is correct.

22.

Ans: D

Exp:

- India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is envisaged as a **multimodal connectivity corridor**,

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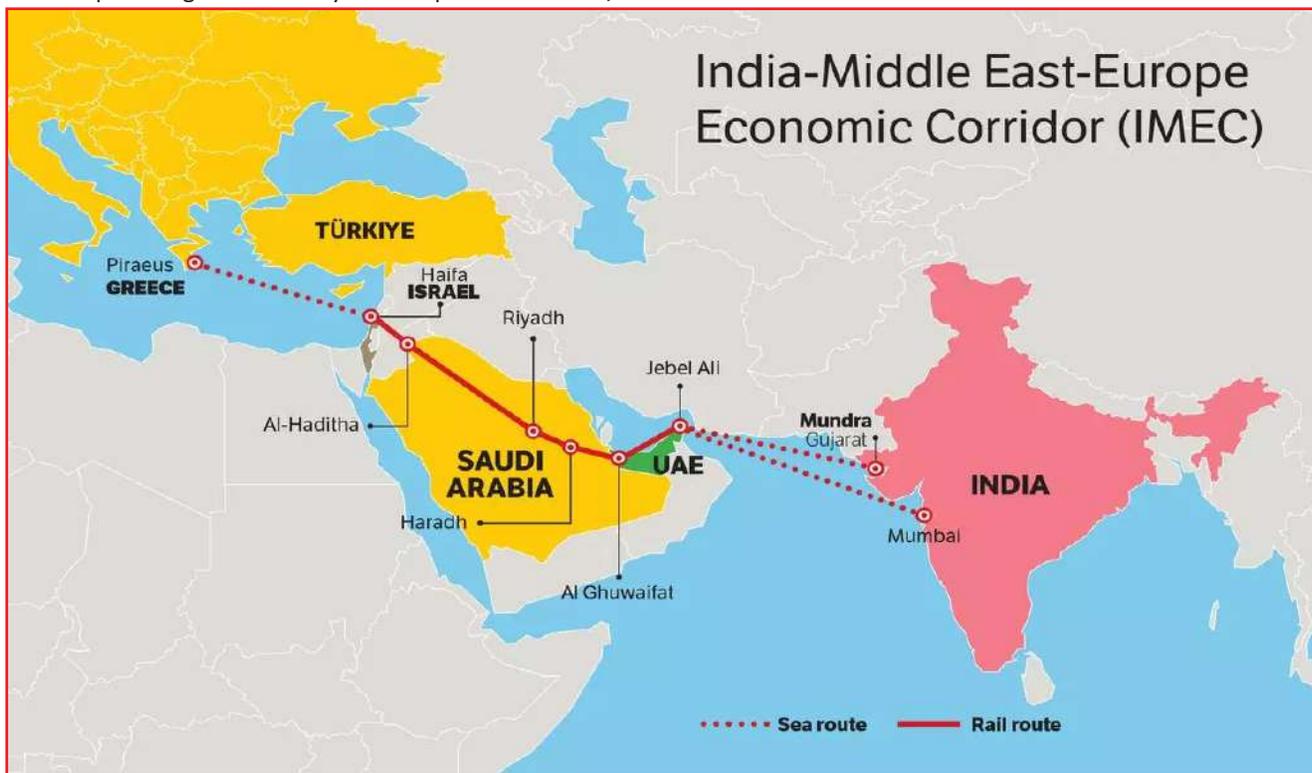


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integrating maritime routes, rail links, energy and digital infrastructure to enhance trade and **connectivity between India, West Asia and Europe. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- 🔦 Jordan occupies a strategic geographic position in the Northern Corridor, acting as a **land bridge between the Gulf region and the Mediterranean**, making it crucial for overland connectivity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 🔦 IMEC is widely seen as a transparent, rules-based and multilateral **alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative**, emphasising sustainability and cooperation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



- 🔦 Hence, option D is correct.

23.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 🔦 The African Union (AU) formally replaced the **Organisation of African Unity (OAU)** in **2002** to move beyond decolonisation towards integration and development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 🔦 The headquarters of the African Union is located in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 🔦 Unlike the OAU's strict non-interference doctrine, the AU follows the **principle of "non-indifference"**, allowing intervention in cases of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

24.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 🔦 **Performative diplomacy** highlights a style of **foreign policy** where **symbolism, grand narratives, summits, and public-facing gestures are prioritised** over tangible, long-term strategic or economic outcomes.
- 🔦 While such diplomacy **may generate positive headlines and international visibility**, it may fall short when tested by **structural challenges or external shocks**, such as trade disputes or geopolitical tensions.
- 🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

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25.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** connects **India with Russia and Northern Europe** through **Iran**, facilitating Eurasian trade. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The INSTC is shorter and more cost-efficient (**about 40% shorter and 30% cheaper**) than the traditional Suez Canal route. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The INSTC is a **multimodal corridor**, involving sea, rail and road, not an exclusively maritime route. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)
  - ✦ **Launched in 2000** with **founding members as India, Iran, Russia.**
  - ✦ It is a multimodal transport corridor (ship–rail–road) connecting **India with Russia, Central Asia, and Northern Europe via Iran and bypassing Pakistan.**
  - ✦ Iran is the pivotal transit hub, with key nodes such as **Chabahar Port and Bandar Abbas** enhancing India's connectivity to Eurasia.
  - ✦ INSTC strengthens India's strategic, trade, and energy linkages, while reducing dependence on traditional maritime chokepoints like the Suez Canal.



- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

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## Economy

26.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Insurance Density:** It rose from \$55 (2014-15) to \$97 currently, reflecting **higher average premiums per capita**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 **Insurance penetration:** It increased from **3.3% of GDP (2014-15) to 3.7%** in FY23-24. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 **Comparison with Global Average:** India's **insurance density (\$97)** remains far below the global average (**~0.6% of world average**), despite life insurance dominance. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- 💡 **Insurance Regulator in India:** **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** is the statutory body regulating the insurance sector in India.
  - ✦ It was established under the **IRDA Act, 1999**.
  - ✦ **Functions:** Protect policyholders' interests, regulate and promote orderly growth of the insurance industry, and ensure financial stability of insurers.
- 💡 Hence, **option A is correct**.

27.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Impact of Rupee Depreciation on Domestic Demand:** A **depreciating rupee makes imports more expensive**, which can actually reduce domestic consumption of imported goods. Its primary effect is on external competitiveness, not boosting internal demand. Hence, **option A is not correct**.
- 💡 **Rupee Depreciation vs High Tariff Barriers:** While a **weaker rupee makes Indian exports cheaper in dollar terms**, India's tariff differential with competing countries is too large to overcome. Hence, rupee depreciation cannot fully cancel out the effect of steep U.S. tariffs. Hence, **option B is not correct**.
- 💡 **Effect on Export Competitiveness:** A **depreciating rupee improves price competitiveness of exports by lowering their dollar value**. This helps exporters absorb some of the tariff shock, but only to a limited extent. This is why exporters are still under stress. Hence, **option C is correct**.

- 💡 **Trade Deficit and Demand Conditions:** Exchange rate **depreciation alone cannot eliminate trade deficits**, especially when imports fall due to weak demand rather than structural strength. The shrinking trade deficit is partly a sign of slackening demand, not improved competitiveness. Hence, **option D is not correct**.

- 💡 Hence, **option C is correct**.

28.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Per capita energy consumption growth** has historically driven human progress, with low-development countries seeing sharp Human Development Index (HDI) gains from modest energy increases due to industrialization, health, and education improvements. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 **Digitalisation does not reduce overall energy demand;** direct ICT production/use, rebound effects, and economic growth from productivity gains typically increase net consumption despite efficiency improvements. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- 💡 Strong positive correlation exists between HDI and per capita **Final Energy Consumption (FEC)**, with studies confirming energy use rises alongside development metrics like income, health, and education. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

- 💡 Hence, **option A is correct**.

29.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Under the automatic route, foreign banks **can invest up to 20% in an Indian private sector bank** without prior RBI approval. Hence, **A is not correct**.
- 💡 If a foreign bank or investor **holds more than 25%**, it is classified as a promoter, triggering stricter RBI scrutiny, fit-and-proper checks, and licensing conditions. Hence, **B is correct**.
- 💡 The total foreign direct investment in **private banks is capped at 74% under India's FDI policy**. Hence, **C is not correct**.
- 💡 The Reserve Bank of India monitors and regulates foreign investment, **especially beyond thresholds like 20% or 24.99%**, to ensure financial stability and compliance. Hence, **D is not correct**.
- 💡 Hence, **option B is correct**.

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30.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Surge in global capital inflows:** Capital inflows can help stabilize the exchange rate, but they do not directly reduce the inflationary pass-through from a depreciating currency to domestic prices. **Hence, option A is not correct.**
- 💡 **Inflation below RBI's comfort zone:** When inflation is already low, a weaker rupee (which raises import costs) is less likely to **push overall inflation** to uncomfortable levels. **Hence, option B is correct.**
- 💡 **Sharp increase in interest rate:** Higher interest rates are a **policy response to inflation**, not a condition that explains why depreciation itself leads to lower inflationary impact. **Hence, option C is not correct.**
- 💡 **Significant reduction in fiscal deficit:** Fiscal consolidation affects macro stability in the long term, not the immediate inflationary impact of currency depreciation. **Hence, option D is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

31.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 The **Code on Wages, 2019** explicitly provides for equal wages to men and women for the same work or work of similar nature. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The Code **empowers the Central Government to fix a national minimum wage** applicable across the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The Code mandates that **State governments cannot fix minimum wages below the national minimum wage**, though they may set higher wages. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

32.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 India's exports exhibit a core-periphery pattern where coastal states like **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka (the "core")** account for **over 60% of merchandise exports** due to ports, SEZs, and manufacturing clusters, while inland/peripheral states contribute minimally.
- 💡 **Pattern Characteristics**
  - ✦ **Core states (western/southern coasts)** dominate electronics, pharmaceuticals, gems/jewelry, and

petroleum exports via Mumbai, Kandla, Chennai, and Bangalore hubs.

- ✦ **Periphery (Bihar, UP, Odisha interiors)** focuses on low-value agri/mineral exports with poor connectivity.
- ✦ This spatial inequality persists despite policies like Act East and inland waterways.

💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

33.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel and rare earth elements** are essential for strategic sectors like **defence, electronics, space, and clean energy technologies** including electric vehicles, batteries, and renewable energy systems. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 While the **Supreme Court ordered a halt on fresh mining leases in the Aravallis**, however it allowed government-sanctioned mining of critical minerals, recognising their importance for India's development and strategic needs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 India has **not achieved self-sufficiency** in critical minerals and remains heavily dependent on imports, particularly from countries like China, Australia, and Chile. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

34.

Ans: D

Exp:

As part of a major labour law reform exercise, the Parliament consolidated 29 central labour laws into four Labour Codes:

- 💡 **The Code on Wages, 2019** merged laws relating to minimum wages, payment of wages, bonus, and equal remuneration.
- 💡 **The Industrial Relations Code, 2020** replaced laws dealing with trade unions, industrial disputes, and conditions for layoffs and retrenchment.
- 💡 **The Code on Social Security, 2020** brought together provisions relating to provident fund, insurance, gratuity, and social security for organised and unorganised workers.
- 💡 **The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020** consolidated laws concerning workplace safety, health, and welfare.
- 💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

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35.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Dutch disease** describes the negative effects on other tradable sectors, like manufacturing, caused by a boom in one sector, such as natural resources, through mechanisms like currency appreciation and rising prices for non-tradables.

✦ Thus, a booming sector can **crowd out** other tradable sectors by causing **price rises and currency appreciation**, reducing their **global competitiveness**.

💡 The term comes from the **Netherlands** in the 1960s, when large natural gas discoveries caused the Dutch guilder to appreciate. As a result, Dutch manufacturing became less competitive, leading to economic imbalances.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

36.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 **Corporate tax rate cuts (2019)**: Reduced the corporate tax burden to encourage private sector investment and improve competitiveness. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes**: Provided financial incentives to firms for expanding domestic manufacturing and investment. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 **Income-tax and GST cuts**: Aimed at boosting consumer demand, thereby improving capacity utilisation and incentivising private investment. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

💡 Hence, option D is correct.

37.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The term “**linguistic tax**” refers to the social and economic barriers or extra costs imposed on migrants and non-native speakers due to language barriers, such as challenges in communication, integration, and opportunities in host societies.

💡 This concept highlights **disadvantages** like increased mental effort, slower processing, higher rejection risks in professional contexts, and **reduced competitiveness** for those not fluent in the dominant language.

💡 In migration scenarios, it captures how lack of **linguistic assimilation** leads to broader vulnerabilities in employment, education, and daily life.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

38.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 Convergence in the context of state-level growth in India means **low-income states grow faster than high-income ones**, gradually **narrowing the per capita income gap** over time, as per neoclassical growth models like Solow-Swan.

💡 This “**catch-up**” effect arises from diminishing returns to capital, allowing poorer states higher growth potential when controlling for factors like investment and human capital.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

39.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Electoral bonds** were introduced in March 2018 with the stated objective of enhancing transparency in political funding. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The scheme allowed donors to **maintain anonymity**, meaning the public did not know which party received a donation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 Before electoral bonds, the majority of political funding came from opaque cash donations; electoral trusts existed but were sparingly used and were not the primary mechanism. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

40.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 India has about **17.5% of the world’s population** but contributes only around **3% of global research output**, highlighting underutilisation of its human capital. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 **India’s Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD)** has remained at about **0.6–0.7% of GDP**, and has not exceeded 2% in recent years. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

💡 India’s R&D spending is **much lower than that of China (~2.4%), the USA (~3.5%) and Israel (>5%)**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

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**Reasons for Low R&D Expenditure in India**

- ✦ **Low Private Sector Participation:** Indian industry contributes only around 36–37% of total R&D, while the government funds the majority (~63%).
- ✦ **Academia-Industry Disconnect:** Research often theoretical, weak technology transfer, few collaborations.
- ✦ **Brain Drain:** Talented researchers seek better opportunities abroad.
- ✦ **Bureaucratic Hurdles:** Delays in approvals, staggered funding, and weak IP incentives.

Hence, option A is correct.

41.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Rare-earth elements (REEs) consist of **15 lanthanides (La–Lu) plus scandium and yttrium**, making a total of 17 elements.
- 💡 **Only the lanthanides are usually shown separately below** the main periodic table for convenience. Scandium and yttrium are placed in the main table, not separately.
- 💡 Scandium and yttrium belong to **Group 3 of the periodic table** and are positioned above the transition metals.

Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18											
Period 1	1 H																	2 He											
Period 2	3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne											
Period 3	11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar											
Period 4	19 K	20 Ca											21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr	
Period 5	37 Rb	38 Sr											39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe	
Period 6	55 Cs	56 Ba	La to Yb										71 Lu	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn	
Period 7	87 Fr	88 Ra	Ac to No										103 Lr	104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Nh	114 Fl	115 Mc	116 Lv	117 Ts	118 Og	
	s-block (plus He)		f-block	d-block								p-block (excluding He)																	
			Lanthanides	57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb												
			Actinides	89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No												

Hence, option A is correct.

42.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 A Goldilocks phase in macroeconomics describes an economy that is **“just right” — neither too hot nor too cold**. It is characterised by robust or strong economic growth without excessive inflation, allowing stable employment, steady consumption, and accommodative but not overstretched policy conditions.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

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43.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 Defending or fixing the rupee for a prolonged period requires the RBI to sell foreign currency, which leads to a **drawdown of foreign exchange reserves**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 An **overvalued currency makes exports costlier and imports cheaper**, hurting export competitiveness and often inviting speculative attacks once markets perceive the exchange rate as unsustainable. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 **Partial or flexible adjustment of the exchange rate allows the economy to absorb external shocks** (such as capital outflows or trade shocks) without excessive loss of reserves. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- 💡 Exchange Rate Management in India
  - ✦ India follows a **managed float system**, where the RBI allows the rupee to fluctuate based on market forces but intervenes to reduce excessive volatility.
  - ✦ **RBI interventions**: Buying/selling dollars in the spot and forward markets to stabilize the currency.
  - ✦ **Policy tools**: Adjusting foreign exchange reserves, repo rates, and capital flow regulations to influence demand and supply of the rupee.
  - ✦ **Objective**: Maintain external stability, protect export competitiveness, and manage inflationary pressures.

💡 Hence, option D is correct.

44.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Nearly 95% of India's trade by volume and about 70% by value is carried through maritime routes, making shipping and ports critical to competitiveness. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 The Indian Ports Act, 2025 replaced a colonial-era legal framework, introducing modern governance mechanisms. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 Maritime reforms go beyond port expansion and include governance reforms, such as dispute-resolution mechanisms, safety norms, environmental preparedness, and coordination frameworks. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

45.

Ans: C

Exp:

The terms "pink economy" or "rainbow market" describe the collective purchasing power, consumption patterns, and economic influence of LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities. They highlight this group as a significant consumer segment shaping markets, branding, and business strategies, rather than referring to welfare schemes, cultural industries alone, or CSR initiatives.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

46.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 WTO-plus commitments refer to provisions in FTAs that exceed the minimum obligations under WTO agreements.
- 💡 These usually cover areas such as services trade, investment protection, digital trade, intellectual property rights, competition policy, labour and environmental standards, which are either weakly covered or not covered at all under WTO rules.
- 💡 India increasingly uses WTO-plus commitments in bilateral and regional FTAs to deepen economic integration and attract investment, while still protecting sensitive sectors.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

## Environment & Ecology

47.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **CBAM**: The **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** is an EU policy that imposes a carbon price on imports of carbon-intensive goods like cement, steel, aluminum, fertilizers, electricity, and hydrogen from non-EU countries. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ✦ CBAM imposes **carbon tariffs (up to 35%)** on Indian steel, aluminum, cement, and fertilizers—**27% of India's steel/aluminum exports go to the EU**—raising costs due to coal-based production and reducing competitiveness.
- 💡 **Aim**: CBAM prevents carbon leakage by ensuring imported goods face equivalent carbon costs to EU producers under the EU **Emissions Trading System (ETS)**, promoting global decarbonization while protecting EU industry. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

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✦ **Emissions Trading System (ETS):** It is a market-based mechanism to control air pollution by providing economic incentives for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

💡 **India's Concern:** India argues CBAM violates WTO non-discrimination, ignores developing nations' CBDR principle, and hinders **2070 net-zero target** by pressuring high-emission industries without support.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

48.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 Fog forms when **temperatures drop** and **moisture accumulates close to the ground**, leading to **condensation of water vapour** into tiny droplets suspended in air.

💡 This condition is common in northern India during winter, especially after the retreat of monsoon winds.

💡 Fog requires **calm or light winds** and **high relative humidity**. High wind speeds disperse moisture, and low humidity prevents condensation, making fog formation unlikely. **Hence option A is wrong.**

💡 Strong solar radiation causes **surface heating**, which increases air temperature and reduces relative humidity, thereby **preventing fog formation**. **Thus option C is wrong.**

💡 Fog in northern India is mainly linked to **radiation inversion under anticyclonic (high-pressure) conditions**, not cyclonic systems. Cyclones usually bring clouds, winds, and rainfall, which disrupt fog formation. **Thus option D is wrong.**

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

49.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):** A statutory emergency framework under the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** to curb air pollution in Delhi-NCR through **stage-wise measures (Stage I-IV)** triggered by **worsening AQI**.

💡 It forecasts **meteorological/ weather conditions in Delhi** that brings together multiple **stakeholders, implementing agencies and authorities in NCR** to respond to situations of deteriorating air quality in the region.

💡 GRAP was **approved by the Supreme Court in the M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (2016)** matter and then notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in January 2017. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 EPCA implemented GRAP initially but was dissolved in 2020 and replaced by the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)**.

💡 **Since 2021**, GRAP has been **implemented by CAQM, not EPCA**.

💡 Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 GRAP was notified by MoEFCC under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, making its measures **statutory**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

50.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Environmental Vertical Reform (EVR)** involves a **top-down accountability system**, where local governments are directly responsible to higher authorities for achieving environmental targets. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 EVR **reduces local autonomy**; it moves away from fragmented local control to a **vertically integrated system**, reducing the chances of local interference in pollution control. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 EVR was a key factor in **Beijing's reduction of PM2.5 levels**, enabling strict enforcement, regional coordination, and rapid policy implementation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Significance:**

✦ **Improved environmental governance:** More consistent and effective regulation across regions.

✦ **Tackling local protectionism:** Reduces tendencies of subnational governments to relax environmental standards for economic reasons.

✦ **Enhanced enforcement capacity:** Provincial or central agencies have greater leverage to enforce rules and monitor pollution.

✦ **Better corporate compliance:** Firms may increase **environmental and social governance (ESG)** performance under stricter vertical oversight.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

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51.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ Overhead transmission lines are a major cause of **mortality for the Great Indian Bustard** due to collisions, which has been a central concern in conservation efforts and Supreme Court proceedings. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ⚡ The **Supreme Court's 2021** order did not completely ban renewable energy projects in GIB habitats. Instead, it **imposed restrictions on overhead transmission lines** and called for a committee-led approach to assess feasibility, including undergrounding, while balancing conservation with renewable energy needs. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ⚡ Undergrounding of power lines has been **explored and mandated in certain priority areas** as a mitigation strategy to reduce bird mortality. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ⚡ **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)**
    - ✦ **Great Indian Bustard (GIB) (Ardeotis nigriceps)** is one of India's **heaviest flying birds**, endemic to the grassland and semi-arid ecosystems of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
    - ✦ It is listed as **Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List**, with habitat loss, collision with power transmission lines, and fragmentation of grasslands being the main threats.
    - ✦ The species is protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, affording it the **highest level of legal protection** in India.
- ⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

52.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ⚡ The **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020** was enacted to consolidate and regulate occupational safety, health, and working conditions of workers across various types of establishments by **subsuming 13 existing labour laws**.
- ⚡ It mandates employer responsibility for providing a **safe working environment**, including **health standards, welfare facilities, working hours, and**

leave, with special provisions for women and inter-State migrant workers.

- ⚡ The Code introduces **uniform definitions and allows women to work in all establishments**, including night shifts, subject to safety and consent requirements.
  - ⚡ It **empowers the Central and State governments to prescribe standards**, conduct inspections through web-based systems, and impose penalties for non-compliance, strengthening enforcement mechanisms.
- ⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

53.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ Assam is collectively home to 80% of the global population of greater one-horned rhinos. This conservation success story is the result of relentless efforts by the forest department and local communities. The rhino population in India has surged by approximately 170% since the 1980s, growing from 1,500 to over 4,014 today. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ⚡ **Kaziranga National Park (Assam)** is home to one of the largest populations of the greater one-horned rhinoceros in the world. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ⚡ Rhino horns are not made of bone or calcium. They are **composed of keratin**, the same protein found in human hair and nails. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - ⚡ **Conservation Status of One-Horned Rhinoceros:**
    - ✦ **IUCN Status: Vulnerable** – the population is increasing due to strong conservation efforts but still faces threats from poaching and habitat loss.
    - ✦ **CITES Listing: Appendix I** – international trade of the species is prohibited except under exceptional circumstances to prevent exploitation.
- ⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

54.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ The Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) indeed mandates that the person or firm causing environmental damage must bear the cost of remediation or compensation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ PPP has been statutorily recognised under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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💡 In practice, the Indian judiciary has not fully ensured strict application of PPP, especially in complex cases of air pollution with multiple sources. Often, the government bears most of the cost, and PPP is applied partially or contextually. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

## History, Art & Culture

55.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 Sri Aurobindo described Bankimchandra Chatterjee as “**The rishi of Indian nationalism**” in his essays on Bankim Chandra, particularly praising **Anandamath and Vande Mataram** for awakening national consciousness through the spiritual vision of Bharat Mata.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

56.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 Macaulay’s Minute on Education is often associated with the promotion of English education. However, in practice, its impact on Indian languages was more complex.

- ✦ While English gained prominence, Indian languages continued to evolve by absorbing new ideas, vocabulary, and literary forms.
- ✦ This interaction contributed to the reorganisation and enrichment of their literary and intellectual traditions, rather than leading to their disappearance or isolation.

💡 **Macaulay’s Minute on Indian Education (1835)**

- ✦ **English Education:** Advocated English as the medium to create an “English in taste, Indian in blood” class.
- ✦ **Indian Languages:** Indirectly modernized and enriched them with new vocabulary and ideas.
- ✦ **Western Knowledge:** Emphasized Western science, literature, and philosophy over traditional Indian systems.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

57.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The **Keezhadi site** is located on the floodplain of the **Vaigai river in southern Tamil Nadu**. Its position on a river floodplain explains the presence of multiple layers of sand, silt, and clay deposited by floods. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The archaeological remains at Keezhadi are **not visible on the present ground surface**. They are **buried beneath flood sediments**, which is why scientific dating methods like **Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL)** were needed to understand when these layers were deposited. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 The **discovery of brick structures, drainage systems, pottery, and planned layouts provides material evidence** that supports the **Sangam-period literary descriptions** of well-developed towns and active trade in the Tamil region. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

## Geography

58.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Census 2011 recorded 453 million internal migrants, constituting **37-38% of India’s total population**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Two-thirds of migrants are women**, primarily due to **marriage-related migration** (46% of total migration). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 Male migrants typically **travel longer distances for work** (inter-state), while female migration is shorter-distance and intra-state, driven by marriage. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

59.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Aravalli’s distribution:** Aravalli Range extends from **Delhi–Haryana region to Gujarat**, covering about 800 km.

- ✦ It passes through **Rajasthan (the largest stretch), Haryana, Delhi, and Gujarat.**

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💡 **Protection Efforts:** India's Aravalli protection efforts, including the **Aravalli Green Wall Project**, directly address desertification prevention, aligning with **obligations under the UNCCD** to restore degraded lands and combat Thar Desert expansion.

💡 **UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** is a legally binding international agreement adopted in **1994** to combat **desertification, land degradation and drought**, particularly in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions.

✦ **India is a Party to the UNCCD**, which obligates it to undertake **sustainable land management, ecosystem restoration and protection of vulnerable regions** such as the Aravalli range.

💡 UNCCD is one of the **three Rio Conventions**, along with the **UNFCCC** (climate change) and the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, and supports the **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target by 2030**.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

60.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **High CO<sub>2</sub> Uptake by the Southern Ocean:** The Southern Ocean covers **only about 25–30% of the global ocean area** but accounts for **roughly 40% of the oceanic uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>**, as also highlighted in **IPCC AR6**. Hence, the assertion is correct.

💡 **Physical Processes Enhancing Carbon Absorption:** **Cold surface waters increase CO<sub>2</sub> solubility (solubility pump)**, while strong vertical stratification restricts the return of carbon-rich deep waters to the atmosphere, thereby limiting outgassing. Hence, the reason is correct.

💡 **Link Between Assertion and Reason:** These physical processes directly explain why the Southern Ocean absorbs a disproportionately large amount of carbon dioxide. Hence, both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

61.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Monazite-bearing beach sands** are a major domestic source of **rare earth elements (REEs)** in India,

especially along the eastern and southwestern coasts. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 Monazite commonly occurs along with **thorium, a radioactive element of strategic importance** for India's nuclear energy programme. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 Because of the presence of thorium and other atomic minerals, extraction and processing of monazite sands are subject to stringent governance, regulatory oversight, and coordination with nuclear authorities, making it a strategic sector. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

62.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Bay of Bengal as the primary origin:** The Bay of Bengal has historically been the main source of cyclonic disturbances in the North Indian Ocean, contributing the largest share of annual storms. This is due to its warmer waters, higher humidity, and conducive atmospheric conditions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 **Frequency trend in the Bay of Bengal:** While the Bay of Bengal continues to be the primary cradle, its frequency of cyclonic disturbances has declined in recent decades. The decline is particularly noticeable since the 1980s, even though the intensity of storms has increased (more storms reaching severe or very severe levels). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 **Severity of Arabian Sea cyclones:** Although fewer cyclones originate in the Arabian Sea, those that do are more likely to intensify into severe cyclonic storms compared to those from the Bay of Bengal. Recent warming of the Arabian Sea has further increased both the intensity and unpredictability of these storms. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

63.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The **Aravalli Hills** constitute a continuous ecological landscape that regulates climate, supports groundwater recharge, and sustains biodiversity. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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⚡ The **Supreme Court** relied on the “100-metre local relief” rule to define the Aravallis, which sidelined scientific evidence such as slope-based analysis. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ The **Central Empowered Committee (CEC)** did not approve or endorse the Ministry of Environment’s 100-metre threshold; in fact, it had cautioned against it. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

64.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ Alaknanda is not the farthest, but the **second farthest spiral galaxy** discovered so far using JWST. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

⚡ Alaknanda **existed about 1.5 billion years after the Big Bang**, which is very early in cosmic history. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ The galaxy has a **well-developed disk with two clearly visible spiral arms and a small central bulge**, confirming it as a mature spiral galaxy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

⚡ **Galaxy:** A large system of stars, stellar remnants, interstellar gas, dust, and dark matter, bound together by gravity. The **Milky Way** which contains our **Solar System** is an example of a galaxy.

⚡ **JWST (James Webb Space Telescope):** A space-based telescope **launched by NASA, ESA, and CSA** to observe distant galaxies, stars, and exoplanets with unprecedented sensitivity, especially in the infrared spectrum.

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

65.

Ans: D

Exp:

⚡ The Malwa region in Madhya Pradesh and Mewar region in Rajasthan produce nearly 85% of India’s legally-grown opium. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ Licences for opium cultivation are issued by the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), which functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ Opium cultivation is permitted in the notified tracts in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (As per Dept of Revenue). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option D is correct.**

66.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ Observational evidence from Type Ia supernovae, Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB), and large-scale structure shows that dark energy constitutes about 70% of the universe’s total energy density. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ Dark energy does not exhibit attractive gravitational behaviour. Instead, it has a repulsive effect at large cosmic scales, causing the accelerated expansion of the universe and counteracting gravity. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

⚡ Einstein’s cosmological constant ( $\Lambda$ ) represents dark energy as a constant energy density filling space uniformly in the  $\Lambda$ CDM model, which is the standard model of cosmology. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option B is correct.**

67.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ The Aravalli range is one of the oldest mountain systems in the world, estimated to be nearly two billion years old. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ The Supreme Court has consistently treated hills, ridges, plateaus, and forests of the Aravallis as a single, integrated ecological system, not as separate units. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

⚡ The Aravalli range acts as an important ecological barrier, helping to reduce air pollution and dust movement into the Indo-Gangetic plains. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

## Science & Tech

68.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ The Window of Circadian Low (WOCL) refers to the time period—typically 2:00 to 5:59 in the crew’s acclimatized time zone—when the body’s internal clock causes peak fatigue, reduced alertness, and lowest cognitive performance, increasing aviation safety risks.

⚡ **Hence, option C is correct.**

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69.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Project Suncatcher, Google's initiative for solar-powered AI data centers in space, uses laser-based optical links (free-space optical communication) for high-speed inter-satellite data transfer, enabling distributed computation across satellite constellations.
- These links provide terabit-level bandwidth by maintaining close satellite formations, far surpassing radio-frequency limitations for AI workloads.
- Hence, option C is correct.

70.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The 2025 theme, "Unaffordable health costs? We're sick of it!", focuses on tackling high out-of-pocket expenses, pushing millions into poverty. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- UHC encompasses the full health spectrum—prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care—not just hospitalization. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

71.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The "Trojan horse effect" describes how inhalable microplastics act as carriers, adsorbing toxic chemicals (like heavy metals, PAHs, phthalates) and pathogens (bacteria, fungi) on their surfaces due to their hydrophobic nature and high surface area.
- Once inhaled, these particles deliver the contaminants deep into lung tissue, bypassing natural defenses and amplifying health risks like inflammation and respiratory diseases.
- Hence, option B is correct.

72.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Nuclear power contributed approximately 3% of India's total electricity generation in FY 2024–25, with NPCIL achieving a record 50+ billion units from its ~8.8 GW capacity. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- India targets 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047 as part of its energy security and net-zero strategy,

requiring ~11-fold expansion from current levels. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- The Nuclear Energy Mission (Budget 2025-26) allocates funds for at least five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033 to accelerate deployment. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Nuclear Energy Mission for Viksit Bharat: It aims to enhance domestic nuclear capabilities, promote private sector participation, and accelerate the deployment of advanced nuclear technologies such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs): Small Modular Reactors are advanced nuclear reactors with power capacity up to 300 MWe per unit—one-third of traditional plants—designed for factory fabrication, modular assembly, and transport to sites.
- Hence, option D is correct.

73.

Ans: A

Exp:

- DHRUV64 is a 64-bit, dual-core general-purpose processor capable of supporting modern operating systems. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is not limited to low-end sensing or appliance control; it targets telecom, industrial automation, automotive, and embedded systems. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- DHRUV64 is part of India's Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) programme aimed at indigenous processor development. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

74.

Ans: B

Exp:

- "Little Foot" is one of the most complete early human fossils discovered in the Sterkfontein cave system, South Africa. Recent studies suggest it may belong to a previously unknown species of early human ancestor, providing new insights into the branching pattern of human evolution.
- Hence, option B is correct.

75.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Doxxing is the malicious practice of exposing someone's personal information—such as home address, phone number, family details, or workplace—

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without their consent, often to harass, intimidate, or endanger them.

💡 **Doxing Methods:** Personal information is exposed by combining public data from social media and records, digital tracking (IP addresses, metadata), hacking or data breaches, social engineering (impersonation or fake messages), and cross-platform linking using common usernames or emails.

💡 In the X (Twitter) incident, verified users publicly shared private information about South Asians, including addresses and family photos, which is a classic example of doxing.

💡 **Other common Online Abusive Practices**

- ✦ **Cyberstalking:** Repeated monitoring, following, or threatening a person online.
- ✦ **Cyberbullying:** Harassment through abusive messages, trolling, or humiliation on digital platforms.
- ✦ **Trolling:** Deliberate provocation or posting offensive content to incite reactions.
- ✦ **Impersonation:** Creating fake accounts to pose as someone else and damage their reputation.
- ✦ **Revenge pornography:** Sharing intimate images or videos without consent.
- ✦ **Online hate speech:** Targeting individuals or groups based on identity, ideology, or belief.
- ✦ **Swatting:** Making false emergency reports to trigger police action against a victim.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

76.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **S-400 air defence system:** A Russian-origin, long-range air and missile defence system inducted by India and forming a key pillar of its air defence. Hence, 1 is correct.

- ✦ It can detect targets up to ~600 km and engage aircraft, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles up to ~400 km.

💡 **BrahMos missile:** A jointly developed Indo-Russian supersonic cruise missile and a critical component of India's strike capability. Hence, 2 is correct.

✦ A speed of Mach 2.8–3.0 and an extended range of ~450 km (and growing). It can be launched from land, sea, air and submarines.

💡 **Sukhoi SU-30 MKI:** A Russian-origin multirole fighter aircraft, licence-produced in India, with a combat radius of ~1,500 km (over 3,000 km with refuelling).

✦ Equipped with advanced avionics, supermanoeuvrability and long-range missiles, it forms the backbone of the Indian Air Force. Hence, 3 is correct.

💡 **F-16 fighter jets:** A U.S.-origin fighter aircraft supplied to Pakistan, not part of India's military inventory. Hence, 4 is not correct.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

77.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Kessler Syndrome** describes a chain reaction where collisions between satellites and debris generate more fragments, exponentially increasing debris density until low Earth orbit becomes unusable for future missions.

💡 Proposed by NASA scientist **Donald Kessler in 1978**, it occurs when object density exceeds a critical threshold; each collision spawns thousands of trackable debris pieces traveling at orbital speeds (~7.8 km/s), triggering further impacts.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

78.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 India accounts for around 20,000 rabies deaths annually, which is nearly one-third of the global total (~59,000 deaths). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 Dogs are the primary reservoir of the rabies virus in India, especially free-roaming dogs. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 Rabies disproportionately affects economically vulnerable populations, such as daily wage workers, rural communities, waste collectors, and children, due to poor access to timely post-exposure prophylaxis and awareness. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

💡 **Rabies:** It is a viral zoonotic disease that affects the central nervous system.

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- ✦ **Transmission:** Bite, scratch, or saliva of an **infected animal** entering broken skin/mucosa.
- ✦ **Common reservoirs:** Dogs (major source in India), bats, cats, monkeys.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

79.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 Mitochondria earn the nickname “**powerhouse of the cell**” because they **generate ATP**, the cell’s primary energy molecule, via **cellular respiration** processes like the **Krebs cycle and electron transport chain**.
- 💡 This occurs mainly in the **inner mitochondrial membrane**, where **oxidative phosphorylation** converts food-derived energy into about 30-34 ATP per glucose molecule.
- 💡 **Mitochondria:** Mitochondria are **semi-autonomous, double-membrane organelles** responsible for ATP synthesis and are **inherited maternally**.
  - ✦ **Own DNA & Reproduction:** They have their **own circular DNA** and **ribosomes**, allowing them to **replicate independently** of the cell, supporting the **endosymbiotic origin theory**.
  - ✦ **Other Functions:** Mitochondria are involved in **apoptosis (programmed cell death)**, **calcium storage**, **heat production**, and regulation of cellular metabolism.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

80.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** is the apex global body that frames and harmonises anti-doping rules through the **World Anti-Doping Code**, ensuring uniform standards across countries and sports. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 WADA does not directly conduct doping tests on athletes. Testing and sample collection are carried out by **National Anti-Doping Organisations** (like NADA in India) and **international sports federations**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 WADA publishes annual reports and global statistics, including data on adverse analytical findings (AAFs) and testing trends worldwide. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

81.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Launch of Bluebird Block-2:** The mission successfully placed a 6,100-kg commercial satellite into **low-earth orbit (LEO)**. This satellite belongs to a **private operator** and highlights **ISRO’s growing role in commercial satellite launches**, not just domestic missions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **Heaviest payload by an Indian rocket:** Before this mission, the heaviest payload ISRO had placed in LEO was smaller. **LVM3-M6** demonstrated ISRO’s capability to handle very heavy satellites, which is **crucial for both domestic and international clients** and for future deep-space and large payload missions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Not part of Gaganyaan:** Although the LVM3 rocket is also the launch vehicle for **Gaganyaan, the human spaceflight programme**, this specific mission was entirely commercial and uncrewed. The Gaganyaan missions are separate and are planned to place **astronauts in Low Earth Orbit and return them safely**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

82.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Zero indigenous malaria cases by 2027 is an intermediate milestone set by India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Complete elimination of malaria by 2030 aligns with India’s commitment under the WHO global malaria strategy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Elimination of vector mosquitoes by 2030 is not an official target; the focus is on controlling vectors, not eradicating them. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

83.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 India does not yet have a dedicated, comprehensive AI law. Instead, it regulates AI indirectly through existing frameworks such as the Information Technology Act, 2000, the IT Rules, and sector-specific regulations (for example, by RBI and SEBI). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- 💡 The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has used the IT Rules to address AI-related harms such as deepfakes, fraud, and synthetically generated content, including requirements for due diligence and content labelling. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

### Internal Security

84.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) has been constituted as a statutory body under Section 13 of

the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, giving it legal authority to enforce port and ship security norms. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- 💡 BoPS does not function under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It operates under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, reflecting its sector-specific regulatory role. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- 💡 BoPS is modelled on the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), meaning it performs regulatory oversight, coordination, and standard-setting functions rather than direct operational deployment. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.



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