



# RICE IAS

## SAMPLE TEST PAPER

### GENERAL STUDIES – (PAPER 1)



Time Allowed: 2 Hours

TEST BOOKLET

Maximum Marks: 200

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. **Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to encode and fill in the Roll Number and Test Booklet Series A, B, C or D carefully and without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission/discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.**
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. DO NOT write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. This Test Booklet contains **100** items (questions). Each item is printed in **English**. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose *ONLY ONE* response for each item.
5. You have to mark all your responses *ONLY* on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See directions in the Answer Sheet.
6. **All** items carry equal marks.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer Sheet the response to various items in the Test Booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the Answer Sheet as per instructions sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to the Invigilator only the Answer Sheet. You are permitted to take this Test Booklet with you.
9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
10. **Penalty for wrong answers:**

THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN ALL THE QUESTIONS.

- (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer is given by the candidate, **one-third** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
- (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a **wrong answer** even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
- (iii) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be **no penalty** for that question.

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**DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO**

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1. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

World Heritage Day is observed on 18 April each year to celebrate and safeguard cultural and natural heritage.

Statement-II:

Maratha Military Landscapes of India has been inscribed as India's 44th UNESCO World Heritage Site, following the Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas in 2024.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

2. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

The Harappan economy was a developed agro-commercial system based on agriculture, animal husbandry, and specialized crafts such as bead-making, pottery, and textiles.

Statement II:

Most Harappan sites are situated in semiarid regions, where agricultural production likely depended on the use of irrigation systems.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

3. With reference to the history of ancient India, which of the following was/were common to both Buddhism and Upanishadic principles?

I. Both traditions identify the ultimate spiritual goal as liberation from the endless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth.

II. Both criticize elaborate Vedic sacrifices as essential for liberation.

III. Both affirm Atman-Brahman unity and reject a permanent self.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- (a) I only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and II only
- (d) I, II and III

4. With reference to ancient India education centres, consider the following pairs:

	Education Centre	Present day State	Associated Scholar
1	Taxila	Pakistan	Chanakya
2	Vallabhi	Gujarat	Fahien
3	Vikramashila	Bihar	Atisha
4	Somapura	Odisha	Panini
5	Nalanda	Bihar	Nagarjuna

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All Five

5. With reference to ancient India (600–322 BC), consider the following pairs:

	Mahajana-pada	Capital associated with the Mahajanapada	River associated with the region
1	Asmaka	Potali	Godavari
2	Avanti	Ujjaini	Mahanadi
3	Kosala	Sarvasti	Saryu
4	Kamboja	Mathura	Yamuna

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

6. With reference to Chalcolithic sites, consider the following pairs:

	Sites	Present Day location	Key Importance
1	Pandu Rajar Dhibi	Burdwan (West Bengal)	First chalcolithic culture discovered in the West Bengal
2	Inamgaon	Pune (Maharashtra)	Excavations revealed it was a prominent agrarian society
3	Prabhas Patan	Nagpur (Maharashtra)	Trade with western world

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

7. Consider the following statements:

- I. Kodumanal was a well-known center of metal tool manufacture located in Gulbarga district of Karnataka.
- II. A Paleolithic blade is a flake tool, the length of which is more than twice its width.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

8. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Ashoka's rule marked a shift from expansionist warfare to a welfare-oriented state that emphasized social harmony and economic well-being.

Statement II:

Ashokan inscriptions indicate state involvement in public welfare measures such as the construction of roads, wells, rest houses, and medical facilities for humans and animals.

Statement III:

Ashoka completely abolished all forms of taxation and forced labour to promote social equality.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

9. Consider the following statements about the Harappan languages and scripts:

- I. Harappan script employs pictographs representing animals, such as birds and fish, as well as various human figures, reflecting symbolic and possibly semantic communication.
- II. Harappan script was written in right-to-left and left-to-right orientations in alternate lines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

10. The Pashupati seal of the Indus Valley Civilization depicts multiple animal species. Identify these species and indicate the present-day national park or tiger reserve where all of them naturally coexist.

- (a) Namdapha National Park
- (b) Kaziranga National Park
- (c) Valmiki Tiger Reserve
- (d) Simlipal Tiger Reserve

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Vijayanagara empire:

- I. The Persian ambassador Abdur Razzaq went to Vijayanagara during the rule of Devaraya-II.
- II. Krishna Deva Raya was the first Vijayanagara ruler to capture Goa from the Bahmani Sultanate.
- III. Narasimha Saluva ended the Sangama dynasty seized the throne for himself and started the Saluva dynasty.
- IV. In 1470 AD, Tirumala, Ramaraya's brother, took over from Sadasiva Raya and started the Aravidu dynasty.

How many of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

12. With reference to foreign travellers to medieval India, consider the following pairs:

	Foreign Traveller	Ruler during whose reign the visit took place
1.	Niccolò de' Conti	Devraya I
2.	Domingo Paes	Krishna Deva Raya
3.	Nikitin	Muhammad Shah III

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

13. In the context of the Vijayanagara Empire's administrative structure, arrange the following territorial units in decreasing order of their spatial extent:

1. Mandalam
2. Nadu
3. Sthala
4. Grama

Which one of the following sequences correctly reflects this hierarchy?

- (a) Mandalam - Sthala - Nadu - Grama
- (b) Mandalam - Nadu - Sthala - Grama
- (c) Nadu - Mandalam - Sthala - Grama
- (d) Nadu - Mandalam - Grama - Sthala

14. With reference to guilds in medieval India, consider the following statements:

- I. Guilds were associations of merchants, artisans, or traders formed to regulate production, prices, and quality of goods.
- II. Some powerful guilds functioned as banks and provided loans to kings and temples.
- III. Guilds were exclusively urban institutions and had no presence in rural areas.
- IV. In South India, merchant guilds like Ayyavole (Ainnurruvar) had wide trading networks extending beyond India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I, II and IV only
- (b) I and III only
- (c) II and IV only
- (d) I, II, III and IV

15. Consider the following statements with reference to Pala dynasty during early medieval:

- I. Dharmapala, a great patron of Buddhism, founded Vikramashila in Bihar.
- II. The Palas were great patrons of Mahayana Buddhism.
- III. Ramacharitam by Sandhyakar Nandi describes the consolidation of alliances by Pala rulers through gifts.
- IV. Devpala defeated the Rashtrakuta ruler Amoghavarsha by forming alliances with states opposing the Rashtrakutas.

How many statements given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

16. In respect of Balutedares, which of the statements given below are correct?

- I. Village servants in the Deccan were mainly artisans, forming a key rural group known as balutedars.
- II. They existed in the Medieval Deccan and Maharashtra.
- III. They are employed by individual peasant family.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

17. Consider the following architectural monuments built in Delhi:

- I. Red Fort
- II. Humayun's Tomb
- III. Qutub Minar
- IV. Jantar Mantar

How many of the above monuments are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

18. Consider the following ancient Indian literary and philosophical works. Which of these have been formally included in UNESCO's Memory of the World International Register to ensure their preservation and global accessibility?

- I. Natyashastra
- II. Arthashastra
- III. Bhagavad Gita

How many of the above is/are correct ?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

19. Consider the following pairs:

	King	Dynasty
1	Bhoja	Rashtrakuta
2	Nagabhata II	Gurjara-Pratihara
3	Amoghavarsha	Chalukya
4	Sashanka	Gauda

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

20. With reference to the agrarian economy of the Vijayanagara Empire, consider the following statements:

- I. Extensive irrigation works such as tanks and canals supported agriculture.

II. Land revenue was the sole source of state income.

III. The state encouraged cultivation in forested and dry regions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and III only
- (b) I and II only
- (c) II and III only
- (d) I, II and III

21. With reference to educational institutions and their founder during colonial rule in India, consider the following pairs:

- I. Sanskrit College at Benaras: William Jones
- II. Calcutta Madarsa: Warren Hastings
- III. Fort William College: Arthur Wellesley

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) III only

22. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

James Rennell is known for producing the first comprehensive map of India.

Statement-II:

Rennell, encouraged by Robert Clive, regarded mapmaking as essential for British domination in India and actively supported the colonial expansion.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

23. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The Munda Rebellion was led by Birsa Munda against British colonial rule in the Chotanagpur region.

Statement-II:

The rebellion arose mainly due to the introduction of the zamindari system, which alienated tribal land and undermined the traditional khuntkatti system of land ownership.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

24. In the Government of India Act 1919, the functions of Provincial Government were divided into "Reserved" and "Transferred" subjects.

Which of the following were treated as "Reserved" subjects?

- I. Administration of Justice
- II. Local Self-Government
- III. Land Revenue
- IV. Police

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) I, II and III
- (b) II, III and IV
- (c) I, III and IV
- (d) I, II and IV

25. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The Cripps Mission proposed that India should be granted complete independence immediately after the Second World War.

Statement-II:

It envisaged the creation of a Constituent Assembly with members partly elected by provincial legislatures and partly nominated by the princely states.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

26. Consider the following statements with reference to Goa under Portuguese rule:

Statement I:

Portuguese rule in Goa had a significant impact on its administrative, cultural, and religious life.

Statement II:

The Portuguese introduced a uniform civil code in Goa, which continues to influence its legal system even after integration with India.

Statement III:

The Portuguese actively promoted the spread of Christianity through missionary activities and state support.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct



27. Consider the following statements regarding the British land revenue systems in India:

- I. Under the Permanent Settlement, zamindars were responsible for collecting revenue from peasants and paying a fixed amount to the Company.
- II. The Permanent Settlement provided stability in revenue collection but it discouraged zamindars to invest in land improvements.
- III. The Ryotwari system allowed ryots to negotiate revenue individually with the British, giving them some measure of land rights.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

28. Consider the following statements regarding Raja Rammohan Roy and Brahmo Samaj.

1. Raja Rammohan Roy, the founder of Brahmo Samaj was called the father of Indian Renaissance.
2. Rammohan Roy translated Vedas and the five Upanishads into Bengali.
3. Brahmo Samaj aimed to purify Hinduism, preach monotheism and establish a new religion.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only Two
- (c) All Three
- (d) None

29 Consider the following personalities:

1. Barindra Kumar Ghosh
2. Aurobindo Ghosh
3. Jatindranath Mukherjee (Bagha Jatin)
4. Surya Sen

How many of the above were NOT associated with the Anushilan Samiti?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

30. With reference to Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's contributions to Indian thought, consider the following statements:

- I. He is often regarded as the philosophical precursor of cultural nationalism in India.
- II. His writings sought to reconcile Western education with Indian spiritual values.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

31. Consider the following statements regarding Pigeons :

- I. They are solely granivorous.
- II. Both male and female pigeons produce a crop 'milk' to nourish their chicks.
- III. Pigeons can sense the Earth's magnetic field by detecting tiny electrical currents in their inner ears.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II only
- (c) II and III only
- (d) III only

32. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

High Biological Oxygen Demand in a water body indicates deteriorating aquatic environmental conditions.

Statement II:

High Biological Oxygen Demand leads to rapid depletion of dissolved oxygen due to increased microbial respiration.

Statement III:

High Biological Oxygen Demand enhances photosynthetic oxygen production by aquatic plants.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

33. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Ecological niche is a multidimensional concept that determines how a species survives and reproduces in an ecosystem.

Statement II:

The ecological niche of a species includes its resource use, tolerance limits, and interactions with both biotic and abiotic components of the environment.

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

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

34. With reference to the characteristics of humus, consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

It undergoes decomposition at an extremely slow rate.

Statement-II:

It is highly resistant to microbial action.

Statement-III:

It is rich in nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, which are essential for plant growth.

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

- (a) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct and both of them explain Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement-I.
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement-I.
- (d) Neither Statement-II nor Statement-III is correct.

35. Consider the following statements about the *tropical rainforest biome*:

- I. Tropical rainforests are characterised by high annual rainfall and uniformly high temperatures throughout the year.
- II. Tropical rainforests show very high primary productivity but poor nutrient content in the soil.

III. Tropical rainforests are dominated mainly by deciduous trees that shed their leaves seasonally to conserve water.

IV. Tropical rainforests exhibit maximum species diversity among all terrestrial biomes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I, II and IV
- (b) I and III
- (c) II and III
- (d) I, III and IV

36. Consider the following ecosystem-related functions:

I. Pollination of crops by insects

II. Regulation of atmospheric gases through photosynthesis

III. Production of synthetic fertilizers by soil microbes

IV. Generation of fossil fuels through geological processes

V. Flood control by mangroves and wetlands

How many of the above are considered as *ecosystem services*?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All the five

37. In the context of *wetlands*, consider the following statements:

I. Wetlands are transitional ecosystems that occur only between terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and never between freshwater and marine ecosystems.

II. The presence of hydrophytic vegetation is a necessary criterion for identifying wetlands.

III. Wetlands may function either as nutrient sinks or nutrient sources depending on seasonal and hydrological conditions.

IV. Ramsar Convention classifies coral reefs and seagrass meadows as types of wetlands.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four



38. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Mangroves play a significant role in enhancing coastal water quality and protecting nearshore ecosystems.

Statement II:

Mangroves trap sediments and pollutants through their dense root systems, thereby reducing nutrient and contaminant load entering coastal waters.

Statement III:

Mangroves facilitate denitrification and microbial decomposition of organic matter, improving biogeochemical regulation in coastal zones.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

39. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Tundra and taiga biomes play a significant role in global climate regulation and carbon storage.

Statement II:

Tundra regions contain permafrost that stores large amounts of organic carbon and methane.

Statement III:

Taiga forests have extensive coniferous vegetation that acts as a major terrestrial carbon sink.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I

- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

40. In the context of Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), consider the following substances:

I. Bisphenol-A (BPA)

II. Phthalates

III. DDT

IV. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)

How many of the above are known endocrine-disrupting chemicals?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

41. Regarding the Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), consider the following statements:

I. It is a carnivorous mammal that feeds exclusively on small animals.

II. In the wild, its natural distribution is largely confined to North America, though it has been introduced elsewhere.

III. It is primarily a nocturnal species known for its high adaptability to urban environments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II and III
- (c) I and II
- (d) III only

42. Consider the following statements:

I. No bacteria can survive in extreme environments such as hot springs or salt lakes.

II. No bacteria possess genetic material outside a nucleus.

III. No bacteria are capable of photosynthesis.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

43. With respect to the Dharwar Rock System in India, consider the following statements:

1. It comprises metamorphosed rocks of both sedimentary and igneous origin.
2. Major rock types in this system include schists, quartzites, slates, limestone, and dolomites.
3. Its distribution extends to the Aravallis, the Himalayas, and the Meghalaya Plateau.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

44. Consider the following statements :

1. High clouds primarily reflect solar radiation and cool the surface of the Earth.
2. Low clouds have a high absorption of infrared radiation emanating from the Earth's surface and thus cause warming effect.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

45. Which of the following is/are correctly matched in terms of drainage pattern of Indian Rivers with their description?

	Drainage Pattern	Description	River Name
I	Dendritic	Resembles the branches of a tree	Ganga
II	Centripetal	Streams radiate outward from a point	Narmada
III	Radial	Primary tributaries of rivers flow parallel to each other	Godavari
IV	Trellis	River flows in single stream	Luni

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) I and IV only
- (b) I only
- (c) II, III and IV only
- (d) III only

46. Consider the following statements regarding India's coastal plains:

Statement I:

The western coastal plains provide more favorable conditions for the development of ports compared to the eastern coastal plains.

Statement II:

The western coastal plains are narrower than the eastern coastal plains.

Statement III:

Western coastal plains are characterized by more developed deltas compared to the eastern coastal plains.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, and both explain Statement I.
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement I.
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct, and that explains Statement I.
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

47. With reference to the physiography of the Peninsular India, consider the following statements:

1. The general elevation of the Peninsular Plateau is from the east to the west.
2. The Rajmahal Hills and the Cardamom Hills in the east are the outward extension of the Peninsular Plateau.
3. Patland topography is an important physiographical feature found in the Peninsular India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

48. With reference to the Wet Bulb Temperature, consider the following statements:

- I. It is the lowest temperature to which air can be cooled by the evaporation of water into the air.
- II. The threshold level of the Wet Bulb Temperature for human is considered to be 35°C. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

49. With reference to cotton cultivation in India, consider the following statements:

1. Cotton is a crop grown in the rabi season.
2. Cotton is semi-tolerant to salinity and sensitive to water logging and thus, prefers well-drained soils.
3. Cotton is grown in the tropical and subtropical conditions.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

50. Consider the following trees:

1. Mangrove (e.g., *Avicennia* / *Rhizophora* spp.)
2. Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* spp.)
3. Babool (*Acacia*)
4. Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*)

How many of the above are evergreen trees?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

51. Consider the following pairs of rivers and the water bodies they flow into:

	River	Flows into
1	Danube	Black Sea
2	Volga	Caspian Sea
3	Rhine	North Sea
4	Mekong	South China Sea

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one

- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

52. Which of the following countries share a land border with Israel?

- I. Egypt
- II. Jordan
- III. Lebanon
- IV. Syria
- V. Saudi Arabia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) I, II, III and IV only
- (b) II, III, IV and V only
- (c) I, II and IV only
- (d) I, III, IV and V only

53. Consider the Following pairs:

	Region	Country
1	Normandy	Spain
2	Rakhine	Myanmar
3	Darfur	Sudan
4	Tigray	Congo

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

54. Consider the following three lists with reference to different types of missiles and their typical speed ranges:

List I (Missile)	List II (Speed)	List III (Type)
I. BrahMos	Supersonic	Cruise missile
II. Agni-V	Hypersonic	Ballistic missile
III. Dhvani	Subsonic	Ballistic missile
IV. Nirbhay	Supersonic	Cruise missile

How many of above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

55. Through which of the following South American countries does the Tropic of Capricorn pass?

- I. Chile
- II. Argentina
- III. Paraguay
- IV. Brazil
- V. Uruguay

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) I, II, III and IV only
- (b) I, II and IV only
- (c) II, III, IV and V only
- (d) I, III, IV and V only

56. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Aravalli Range is one of the oldest fold mountain systems in the world.
- 2. The Rajmahal Hills were formed primarily due to volcanic activity during the Gondwana period.
- 3. The Purvanchal Hills form the eastern extension of the Himalayas into Northeast India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

57. Which of the following countries share land border with Mongolia?

- I. Russia
- II. China
- III. Uzbekistan
- IV. Kyrgyzstan

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and IV only
- (c) I and IV only
- (d) I, II and III only

58. With reference to India's relations with Afghanistan, consider the following statements:

- I. India does not share a direct land border with Afghanistan.
- II. The Zaranj-Delaram Highway and the Salma Dam are infrastructure projects built by India in Afghanistan.

III. India has created an alternative trade and transit route for Afghanistan through the Chabahar Port in Iran.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

59. Which of the following Indian States or Union Territories have more than two international boundaries ?

- I. Jammu and Kashmir
- II. Sikkim
- III. Arunachal Pradesh
- IV. West Bengal
- V. Ladakh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) I and II only
- (b) I, II and III only
- (c) II and IV only
- (d) II, III, IV and V only

60. Consider the following pairs:

	Hydropower Project	State	River
1	Ratle	Jammu and Kashmir	Chenab River
2	Tato-II	Mizoram	Siyom River
3	Etalin	Arunachal Pradesh	Talo
4	Vishnugad -Pipalkoti	Uttarakhand	Alakananda

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

61. Consider the following statements with regard to the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY):

- I. It consolidates existing agricultural schemes including PM-KISAN and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- II. It aims to transform 100 low-performing agricultural districts across India.
- III. At local level, it is operated by the District Dhan Dhaanya Samitis led by District Collectors.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

62. With reference to 'Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies (PACS)' in India, consider the following statements:

- I. PACS operate at the village or panchayat level and constitute the lowest tier of the Short-Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS).
- II. PACS come under the jurisdiction of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and are thereby placed under the regulatory oversight of the Reserve Bank of India
- III. The digitisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) is being carried out through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme administered by the Ministry of Cooperation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and II
- (b) II and III
- (c) I and III
- (d) I, II and III

63. With reference to India's trade dynamics, consider the following:

Statement I:

A sustained trade deficit can exert downward pressure on the domestic currency, leading to depreciation of the rupee.

Statement II:

A trade deficit results in increased demand for foreign currency to finance import payments exceeding export earnings.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

64. If India significantly reduces its dependence on oil imports, which of the following effects is most likely NOT expected?

- I. Improvement in the Current Account Balance.
- II. Appreciation pressure on the rupee owing to lower demand for foreign exchange.
- III. Reduced vulnerability to fluctuations in global commodity prices.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) I Only
- (b) I and II Only
- (c) III Only
- (d) None

65. A country's fiscal deficit stands at ₹ 60,000 crores. It is receiving ₹ 10,000 crores through non-debt creating capital receipts. The country's interest liabilities are ₹ 2,500 crores. What is the gross primary deficit?

- (a) 57,500 crores
- (b) 51,500 crores
- (c) 58,500 crores
- (d) None of the above

66. In the context of the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula, consider the following criteria:

- I. Income Distance
- II. Population (2011)
- III. Area
- IV. Forest and Ecology

How many of the above are proposed to be used as criteria for horizontal devolution among States?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

67. With reference to coconut cultivation and its status in India, consider the following statements:

1. India is currently the largest producer of coconuts globally, surpassing Indonesia and the Philippines.
2. The Coconut Development Board is a statutory body headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
3. The Union Budget 2026-27 has proposed a scheme to replace senile and unproductive trees with high-yielding varieties.
4. NAFED is one of the nodal agencies for the procurement of copra under the Price Support Scheme.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

68. With reference to 'Green Steel' in India, consider the following statements:

1. Under the newly released Green Steel Taxonomy, any steel with an emission intensity exceeding 2.2 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per tonne of finished steel is not considered green steel.
2. The National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology (NISST) is the nodal agency for issuing greenness certificates and star ratings for steel plants.
3. India is the first country in the world to formally define a taxonomy for green steel.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

69. With reference to the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
2. The 2022 amendment to the National Policy on Biofuels permits the use of damaged food grains and surplus rice from FCI for ethanol production.
3. Ethanol has a higher energy content than gasoline, which leads to improved vehicle mileage in higher blends.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

70. With reference to the economic theories, consider the following pairs:

	Economic Theories	Interpretation
1	Lorenz Curve	Illustrates an inverse relationship between inflation and unemployment
2	Kuznets Curve	Illustrates that inequality rises initially and falls with economic development.
3	Engel's Law	Indicates that the proportion of income spent on food decreases as income rises.

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only One
- (b) Only Two
- (c) All Three
- (d) None

71. Match List-I with List-II regarding president's pardoning power, given below the lists:

List I (Pardoning Powers)	List II (Descriptions)
A. Commutation	1. It implies a stay of the execution of a sentence for a temporary time
B. Remission	2. Awarding a lesser sentence due to some special fact.
C. Respite	3. Reducing the period of sentence without changing its character.
D. Reprieve	4. Substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1
- (b) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2
- (c) A-1, B-3, C-4, D-2
- (d) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3



72. Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to the tenure of Judges of the Supreme Court?

1. Judges can be removed from his office by the President on the recommendation of the Parliament.
2. The constitution provides a fixed tenure for the judges as 6 years or until attainment of the age of 65 years.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

73. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

A Governor cannot promulgate an Ordinance dealing with a matter on which a bill would require compulsory reservation for the President's consideration.

Statement II:

If the President directs the Governor to return a reserved bill, and the State Legislature re-passes the bill, the President is bound to assent to it.

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

- (a) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect
- (b) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct
- (c) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct
- (d) Neither Statement I nor Statement II are correct

74. Which of the following states in India currently have a bicameral legislature?

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Telangana
3. Tamil Nadu
4. Karnataka
5. West Bengal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

75. Which of the following statements with respect to the right to 'Freedom of Movement' as enshrined in Article 19 of the Indian Constitution are correct?

1. This right is protected against state action only and not against private individuals.
2. The entry of outsiders in tribal areas can be restricted for the protection of interests of the scheduled tribe.
3. This right is not available to foreigners.
4. It also includes right to move out of the country and right to come back to the country.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

76. With reference to the appointment of the Director General of Police (DGP) in India, consider the following statements:

- I. The DGP of a State is appointed by the Governor upon the sole recommendation of the State Cabinet.
- II. According to Supreme Court guidelines, an officer must have at least six months of service remaining to be eligible for empanelment as DGP.
- III. The Supreme Court has mandated a fixed minimum tenure of two years for the DGP, regardless of their date of retirement.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

77. With reference to the 'Motion of Thanks' in the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. The President's Special Address is a constitutional obligation that must be delivered at the commencement of every session of Parliament.
2. The Motion of Thanks must be passed in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, and its defeat in either House necessitates the resignation of the government.
3. Amendments to the Motion of Thanks can be moved by members to highlight issues that were not mentioned in the President's Address.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

78. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha tenders his resignation to the Deputy Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker addresses his resignation to the President of India.

Statement II:

The Speaker does not take a separate oath of office but rather takes the oath as a Member of Parliament.

Statement III:

The Speaker's salary and allowances are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India and are not subject to the annual vote of Parliament.

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

- (a) Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement III is the result of Statement II.
- (b) Statement II and Statement III are correct, and Statement III is a measure to ensure the impartiality highlighted by Statement II.
- (c) Statement I is correct, and Statements II and III are incorrect.
- (d) Statement II and Statement III are correct, and Statement I is incorrect.

79. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List I (Commission)	List II (Subject Matter)
A. Campbell Commission	1. Famine
B. Mansfield Commission	2. Currency
C. Fraser Commission	3. Police Reform
D. Butler Commission	4. Indian States

Codes:

A B C D

- (a) 4 3 2 1
- (b) 4 1 3 2
- (c) 1 3 4 2
- (d) 1 2 3 4

80. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I

The 101st Amendment Act, 2016 introduced GST, replacing multiple indirect taxes such as service tax, VAT, and excise duty with a unified tax system.

Statement-II

To operationalize the unified GST system, Parliament of India enacted several acts, including the Central GST Act, Integrated GST Act, GST (Compensation to States) Act, along with corresponding State GST Acts.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

81. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) Scheme, consider the following statements:

- I. It provides assistance to entrepreneurs only to upgrade existing units.
- II. It provides support only to collective entities such as Farmer Producer Organisations and Self-Help Groups.
- III. It aims to promote one unique product per district that reflects the district's comparative advantage.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

82. Which one of the following (Constitutional Amendment- Provisions) is NOT correctly matched?

- (a) 101 amendment act- Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- (b) 102 amendment act- Restored the power of state governments to identify and list Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs).
- (c) 103 amendment act- 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)
- (d) 106 amendment act- Women's Reservation Act.

83. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List I (Constitutional Amendment)	List II (Provisions)
A. 21st Amendment Act	1. Bifurcating the existing National Commission for Sc/St
B. 71st Amendment Act	2. Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali were added
C. 92nd Amendment Act	3. Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali were included
D. 89 Amendment act	4. Sindhi language was added

Codes:

A B C D

- (a) 4 3 2 1
- (b) 3 4 1 2

(c) 1 3 4 2

(d) 2 4 1 3

84. Consider the following statements regarding ordinances power of the President:

1. Constitution of India grants the President certain law-making powers to promulgate when either of the two Houses of the Parliament is not in session.
2. His power of ordinance-making is a discretionary power.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

85. With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements: While any resolution for the removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is under consideration.

- I. He/she shall not preside.
- II. He/She shall not have the right to speak.
- III. He/She shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) I and II only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II, and III

86. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R)

Assertion (A):

A Member of Parliament enjoys freedom of speech within the Parliament.

Reason (R):

Indian Constitution confers on MPs immunity from prosecution in respect of anything said or any vote given in Parliament

Choose the correct answer from the code given below

- (a) (A) is true but (R) is false
- (b) (A) is false but (R) is true
- (c) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- (d) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)

87. Which of the following statements with respect to lapsing of bills are Not correct?

- (a) A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses, whether originating in the Lok Sabha or transmitted to it by the Rajya Sabha.
- (b) A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha does not lapse.
- (c) A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the president does not lapse.
- (d) A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the president for reconsideration of Houses does not lapse.

88. Consider the following statements

- I. All the members of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels shall be elected directly by the people.
- II. The chairperson of panchayats at the district levels shall be elected indirectly.
- III. The Panchayati Raj provisions are not applicable to the Union territories.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

- (a) I only
- (b) I and II only
- (c) II and III only
- (d) I and III only

89. Consider the following statements with respect to 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment act

- I. The Act also introduced a new eleventh Schedule to the Constitution, containing twenty functional items for municipalities, as outlined in Article 243-W.
- II. The act provides for the constitution of the following three types of municipalities in every state.
- III. All the members of a municipality shall be elected directly by the people of the municipal area.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

90. Consider the following statements in respect of election to the Vice President of India :

- 1. Nominated members of either House of Parliament are not entitled to vote in the election for the Vice-President.
- 2. An elector placed under preventive detention is permitted to vote using the postal ballot system.

3. Unlike the Presidential election the value of every vote cast in the Vice-Presidential election has the same value.

4. In the event of the Vice-President's death, removal, or resignation, the Constitution provides a line of succession and instead mandates the conduct of a fresh election.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

91. Consider the following:

- I. Money Laundering
- II. Sale or purchase of passwords
- III. Interception of non-public data transmissions
- IV. Online distribution of child pornography

How many of the above activities are covered under the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

92. Consider the following statements with respect to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross Value Added (GVA) of Indian economy:

Statement-I:

If net indirect taxes increase during a particular financial year, the GDP growth rate is likely to be higher than the GVA growth rate.

Statement-II:

In India, GVA is calculated at the basic prices while GDP is calculated at the market prices.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

93. With respect to the nuances of budgetary deficits, consider the following pairs

	Term	Description
1.	Budget Deficit	The difference between Total Expenditure and Total Receipts.
2.	Revenue Deficit	Indicates that the government's revenue receipts are inadequate to meet routine expenditure, forcing it to rely on borrowing or disinvestment to cover the gap.
3.	Primary Deficit	The difference between Revenue Deficit and Interest Payments.

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

94. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

During liquidity trap, speculative demand for money is very low.

Statement-II:

When interest rates are very low in an economy, every economic agent expects interest rates to rise in the future.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

95. With respect to the IMF's structural distinction between the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) lending facilities, consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The Standby Credit Facility (SCF) functions as the sole concessional window that can treat Balance of Payments (BoP) needs as 'potential' rather than 'actual'.

Statement-II:

Unlike the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) which mandates immediate disbursement for protracted problems, the SCF allows for precautionary access to insure against future external shocks.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

96. Consider the following statements in Indian context:

Statement-I:

Inverted Duty Structure has a negative impact on the domestic manufacturing industry.

Statement-II:

Inverted duty structure is a situation where taxes on final products are higher compared to the input items.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct



97. With reference to the agriculture fund initiative by the government of India, consider the following information:

Initiative	Objective	Feature
1. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund	To provide interest-free short term loans to farmers	It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. Agriculture Accelerator Fund	To expand the area under irrigation and improve water use efficiency in the agriculture sector	It is a component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.
3. Agri-SURE Fund	To support start-ups and entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector	It is an initiative of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

98. Consider the following:

- 1. Net FPI outflows
- 2. Exports more than Imports
- 3. Valuation losses

How many of the above events may result in the decline of the Forex Reserves of a country?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

99. Consider the following statements with reference to the Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project:

- I. The Great Nicobar Project, initiated by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, aims to leverage the island's strategic location near the Malacca Strait.

- II. The core components of the GNI Project include; an International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT), a dual-use military civilian airbase, and a mega solar-gas hybrid power plant.

- III. Galathea Bay, included in the project region, is a nesting site of the Leatherback turtle.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) I Only
- (b) I and II only
- (c) II and III Only
- (d) III only

100. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty has become an important subject of discussion in global environmental governance.

Statement II:

The BBNJ Treaty establishes a legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Statement III:

The BBNJ Treaty mandates compulsory transfer of marine genetic resources and related technologies from developed countries to developing countries.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

\*\*\*



## Explanation:

**Ans. 1 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** World Heritage Day is observed annually on 18 April to promote the preservation of cultural and natural heritage.

UNESCO—the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—works to safeguard significant cultural and natural heritage worldwide. To advance this mission, its member nations adopted the World Heritage Convention in 1972.

**Statement II is incorrect:** At the 47th Session of the World Heritage Committee, India's 2024–25 nomination—the Maratha Military Landscapes—was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, becoming the country's 44th World Heritage Site, after the 2024 listing of the **Moidams of Charaideo in Assam**.

**Ans. 2 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** The Harappan (Indus Valley) economy was indeed a **well-developed agro-commercial system**. It was based on:

- Agriculture (wheat, barley, etc.)
- Animal husbandry
- Specialized crafts such as **bead-making, pottery, metallurgy, and textiles**, indicating surplus production and trade.

**Statement II is also correct:** Many Harappan sites were located in **semi-arid or riverine regions**, where agriculture was supported by **river floods, seasonal rainfall, and limited irrigation practices**.

**However, Statement II does NOT correctly explain Statement I:** The developed agro-commercial nature of the Harappan economy cannot be explained **only** by irrigation in semi-arid regions. It was equally due to:

- Urban planning
- Craft specialization
- Internal and external trade networks

**Ans. 3 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** Both **Buddhism** and **Upanishadic philosophy** accept **moksha/nirvana**—liberation from the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth (saṃsara)—as the highest spiritual goal.

**Statement II is correct:** Both traditions **criticize the over-emphasis on elaborate Vedic sacrifices**:

- Buddhism outright rejects ritualism as a means to liberation.
- The Upanishads shift focus away from **karma-kaṇḍa (rituals)** toward **jnana (knowledge)** for liberation.

**Statement III is incorrect:** The **Upanishads affirm Atman–Brahman unity** and accept a permanent self. **Buddhism rejects the idea of a permanent self (Anatta)** and does **not** accept Atman–Brahman unity.

**Ans. 4 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Taxila – Pakistan – Chanakya** (Correctly Matched)

- Taxila (Takshashila) was located in present-day Pakistan.
- **Chanakya (Kautilya)** is traditionally associated with Taxila.

**Vallabhi – Gujarat – Fahien** (Incorrectly matched)

- Vallabhi was an important centre of learning in Gujarat.
- **Fahien** visited India during the Gupta period and is associated mainly with **Nalanda**, not Vallabhi.

**Vikramashila – Bihar – Atisha** (Correctly Matched)

- Vikramashila Mahavihara was in present-day Bihar.
- **Atisha Dipankara** was a renowned scholar and teacher there.

**Somapura – Odisha – Panini** (Incorrectly Matched)

- Somapura Mahavihara is located in **present-day Bangladesh**, not Odisha.
- **Panini** is associated with the northwest (Taxila region), not Somapura.

**Nalanda – Bihar – Nagarjuna** (Correctly Matched)

- Nalanda was in Bihar.
- **Nagarjuna**, the great Mahayana philosopher, is associated with Nalanda.

**Ans. 5 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Pair 1 is correct:** Asmaka (Assaka) was one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas (c. 700–345 BCE), located in the Deccan along the **Godavari River**. It covered parts of present-day **Maharashtra and Telangana**, with its capital **Potali/Podana (Paudanyapura)**, generally identified with **modern Bodhan in Telangana**.

**Pair 2 is incorrect:** **Avanti** was one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas (c. 600–322 BCE), located in **western India** along the **Narmada River**. It covered parts of present-day **Madhya Pradesh**, with its major centers at **Ujjayini (Ujjaini)** in the north and **Mahishmati** in the south. Avanti emerged as an important political and commercial power and later became a key province of the **Mauryan Empire**.

**Pair 3 is correct:** Kosala was a prominent Mahajanapada (great kingdom) in 6th-century BCE Northern India, covering the modern Awadh region of Uttar Pradesh and parts of Nepal. As a powerful monarchical state, it featured key cities including Ayodhya, Saketa, and its capital, Shravasti (**Sarayu River**) in the middle Gangetic plains.

**Pair 4 is incorrect:** **Kamboja** was an ancient territorial region and one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas (c. 600–322 BCE), located in the **north-western frontier** of the Indian subcontinent. It lay in parts of present-day **Afghanistan and north-west Pakistan**, beyond the **Hindukush**, and was known for its strategic location, trade connections, and warrior communities

**Ans. 6 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Pair 1 is correct:** **Pandu Rajar Dhibi** is a significant **Chalcolithic (Copper Age) archaeological site** located in **West Bengal** (Bardhaman–Bankura region). Dated roughly to **c. 1600–1000 BCE**, it provides evidence of **early agrarian settlements**, use of **copper tools**, pottery, and mud houses, offering insights into the **transition from Neolithic to Chalcolithic cultures** in eastern India.

**Pair 2 is correct:** **Inamgaon** is a major **Chalcolithic archaeological site** located on the **Ghod River** (a tributary of the Bhima) in **Pune district, Maharashtra**. Dated to **c. 1600–700 BCE**, it is associated with the **Jorwe culture** and provides rich evidence of **planned settlements, agriculture, animal domestication, granaries, and burial practices**, offering valuable insights into **proto-historic Deccan society**.

**Pair 3 is incorrect:** **Prabhas Patan** is an important **ancient and medieval site** located in **Gujarat**, near the confluence of the **Hiran River with the Arabian Sea**. It is best known for the **Somnath Temple**, one of the twelve **Jyotirlingas of Shiva**, and has been a significant **religious and cultural centre** from ancient times. The **beginning of the Early Historical phase in Gujarat** is marked by the presence of **Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)**, along with the discovery of **Mediterranean amphorae and terra sigillata**, indicating **active trade contacts with the Western (Mediterranean) world**.

**Ans. 7 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is incorrect:** Kodumanal, 40 km from Erode, is located on the northern bank of Noyyal river, a tributary of the Cauvery. **Ancient Trade Hub:** It was a prosperous city called "Kodumanam," mentioned in Sangam literature.

- o **Megalithic Burials:** The site features various burial types, like urn burials and cist burials, containing grave goods such as gemstones, tools (swords, axes), and pottery, suggesting beliefs in the afterlife.
- o **Other megalithic sites:** Junapani (Maharashtra), Paiyampalli (Tamil Nadu), Burzahom (Kashmir), Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu)

**Statement II is correct:** Standard archaeological definition of a Paleolithic blade: it's a type of flake tool that is significantly elongated, with its **length being at least twice its width**, often featuring parallel sides, and representing a key technological advance in creating more cutting edge from raw material.

**Ans. 8 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct :** Post-Kalinga, Ashoka emphasized **Dhamma**, public welfare, and ethical governance, affecting both economy and society.

**Statement II is correct :** His edicts mention **infrastructure development, medical care, planting of trees, and wells**, reflecting an active welfare state.

**Statement III is incorrect :** Ashoka **did not abolish taxation or forced labour**; the Mauryan state continued its revenue system.

Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I, as the specific welfare measures described in the inscriptions are the practical manifestations of his shift toward a welfare-oriented state. Since Statement III is incorrect, only Statement II serves as the valid explanation.

**Ans. 9 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** Harappan script is a way of writing that uses **pictographics**, like fish birds and symbols. These pictures give clues about how the people in the ancient society communicated.

There are about 400 to 600 different signs and symbols in the Harappan Script. Among these 40 to 60 are most important ones.

**Statement II is correct:** The Harappan language was written in **Boustrophedon style** in which right-to-left and left-to-right orientations are followed in alternate lines.

**Ans. 10 (b)**

**Explanation:**

Kaziranga National Park is famous for its **"Big Five"—Indian elephant, Royal Bengal tiger, Indian rhinoceros, wild water buffalo**, and swamp deer—living together in the same ecosystem.

**Ans. 11 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Persian ambassador Abdur Razzaq visited Vijayanagara during the reign of Devaraya II (r. 1424–1446 CE). His travel account provides valuable descriptions of the city's prosperity, administration, and society.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Goa was first captured from the Bahmani Sultanate by **Harihara II** (late 14th century).

Later, in 1510, Goa passed from Bijapur Sultanate to the **Portuguese**, not Vijayanagara.

**Statement 3 is correct:** In 1485/1486, Narasimha Saluva (Saluva Narasimha Deva Raya) executed the "First Usurpation" of the Vijayanagara Empire, ending the Sangama dynasty by deposing the weak ruler Virupaksha Raya II. He seized the throne to restore order,, check the invading Bahmani Sultanate and Gajapatis, and established the Saluva dynasty, which lasted from 1485–1505.

**Statement 4 is incorrect:** Tirumala Deva Raya, brother of Aliya Rama Raya, established the **Aravidu dynasty**, the fourth and final dynasty of the Vijayanagara Empire, by taking control from Sadasiva Raya around 1570, not 1470. Following Rama Raya's defeat at the Battle of Talikota (1565), Tirumala shifted the capital to Penukonda.

**Ans. 12 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Niccolo de Conti - Deva Raya I:** The Italian traveller **Niccolò de' Conti** visited Vijayanagara around **1420 CE**, during the reign of **Deva Raya I** of the Sangama dynasty.

**Domingo Paes - Krishna Deva Raya: Domingo Paes**, a Portuguese traveller, visited Vijayanagara during the reign of **Krishna Deva Raya (1509–1529)** and gave a detailed account of the empire's prosperity and administration.

**Nikitin - Muhammad Shah III :** The Russian traveller **Afanasy Nikitin** visited India during the rule of **Muhammad Shah III of the Bahmani Sultanate** and mentioned Deccan politics in his travelogue *Voyage Beyond Three Seas*.

**Ans. 13 (b)**

**Explanation:**

The Vijayanagara Empire was effectively administered by dividing the kingdom into several administrative units, arranged in a strict hierarchy in descending order of size.

**Mandalam:** This was the largest unit, equivalent to a province or a state in modern terms.

**Nadu:** The Mandalam was subdivided into several Nadus, which were like districts or regions.

**Sthala:** A Nadu comprised multiple Sthalas, which were akin to sub-districts or taluks.

**Grama:** This was the smallest and most basic administrative unit, essentially a village.

**Ans. 14 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is a correct** function of guilds (Shrenis) in ancient and medieval India, as they set rules, standards, and prices for their members.

**Statement II is also correct.** Guilds were often wealthy corporate bodies that accepted deposits, acted as bankers, and financed local projects, including providing loans or donations to temples and rulers.

**Statement III is incorrect.** While guilds were prominent in urban centers and port cities, they were not strictly limited to them and were part of wider trade networks that extended across various regions. Some sources indicate an overlap or interaction between urban and rural economic structures facilitated by these networks.

**Statement IV is correct.** Powerful South Indian merchant guilds like Ayyavole and Manigramam had extensive maritime trade networks with Southeast Asia, China, and the Middle East, as evidenced by various inscriptions and historical records.

**Ans. 15 (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** Sanka, ruler of Gauda (c. 590–625 CE), is regarded as the first major king of Bengal; after a period of anarchy following Gauda's decline, regional chiefs elected Gopala as ruler in 750 CE. The Palas were great patrons of **Mahayana Buddhism**. Dharmapala established the Vikramashila and the Somapura Mahaviharas (Bangladesh).

**Statement II is correct:** The Palas governed eastern India from Patāliputra between the ninth and early twelfth centuries, using **Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Pali** as administrative and literary languages, and adhered to Mahayana Buddhism.

**Statement III is correct:** Vikramashila and Nalanda flourished under the Palas, producing scholars like **Atisha and Silabhadra**. The dynasty patronized philosophy, medicine, Sanskrit, and Buddhist tantric literature, while works such as Ramacharitam and folk traditions like Mahipalageet reflect their cultural and political legacy.

**Statement IV is correct:** **Devapala** of the Pala dynasty defeated the Rashtrakuta ruler **Amoghavarsha** through alliances with states hostile to the Rashtrakutas during the tripartite struggle, though inscriptions from both sides suggest a series of largely indecisive conflicts with shifting claims of supremacy.

**Ans. 16 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** Deccan village society comprised large landholding officials (deshmukhs, deshpandes), village officers (patil, muqaddam, kulkarni), proprietary peasants (mirasdars), temporary peasants (uparis), and **service groups of artisans known as balutedars**.

The balutedars were usually menials or untouchables. They were the counterparts of the **Kamins of North India**.

There was another class of village servants called the **alutedars**, who did not enjoy the same status as the balutedars.

**Statement II is correct:** They existed in the Medieval Deccan and Maharashtra

**Statement III is not correct:** Various records show that the balutas were never employed by separate families. Rather they were servants of the village as a whole.

**Ans. 17 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Red Fort:** Built by Shah Jahan in the 17th century, the Red Fort is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture and was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in **2007**.

**Humayun's Tomb:** Constructed in the 16th century, it is the first garden-tomb in the Indian subcontinent and inspired later Mughal architecture, including the Taj Mahal. It was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in **1993**.

**Qutub Minar:** Built in the early 13th century, it is the tallest brick minaret in the world and an outstanding example of Indo-Islamic architecture. It was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in **1993**.

**Jantar Mantar (Delhi):** Although historically important as an astronomical observatory built by Sawai Jai Singh II, the **Delhi Jantar Mantar is not a UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The UNESCO-listed Jantar Mantar is located in **Jaipur**, Rajasthan.

**Ans. 18 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Natyashastra:** The *Natyashastra*, attributed to Bharata Muni, is a foundational text on Indian performing arts, covering drama, dance, and music. Its manuscripts have been **included in UNESCO's Memory of the World International Register** for their outstanding cultural and historical value.

**Arthashastra:** The *Arthashastra* of Kautilya (Chanakya), though extremely important for understanding ancient Indian statecraft, economy, and administration, has **not been formally included** in UNESCO's Memory of the World International Register.

**Bhagavad Gita:** The *Bhagavad Gita*, a key philosophical text of India and part of the Mahabharata tradition, has been **inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World International Register** to ensure its preservation and global accessibility.

**Ans. 19 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Bhoja – Rashtrakuta:** Bhoja was a renowned ruler of the **Paramara dynasty of Malwa**, not the Rashtrakuta dynasty. Hence, this pair is **incorrectly matched**.

**Nagabhata II – Gurjara-Pratihara:** Nagabhata II was an important ruler of the **Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty**, associated with the expansion of Pratihara power in North India. This pair is **correctly matched**.

**Amoghavarsha – Chalukya:** Amoghavarsha I was a celebrated ruler of the **Rashtrakuta dynasty**, not the Chalukyas. Hence, this pair is **incorrectly matched**.

**Sashanka – Gauda:** Sashanka was the ruler of the **Gauda kingdom** in Bengal during the early 7th century. This pair is **correctly matched**.

**Ans. 20 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** The Vijayanagara rulers built and maintained extensive **irrigation works**, including large tanks, canals, and anicuts, which played a crucial role in supporting agriculture in the semi-arid Deccan region.

**Statement II is incorrect:** Land revenue was an important source of income, but **not the sole source**. The state also earned revenue from **trade, customs duties, tribute, and taxes on crafts and markets**.

**Statement III is correct:** The state encouraged the **extension of cultivation** into forested and dry areas through land grants, incentives, and irrigation development to increase agricultural production.

**Ans. 21 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Sanskrit College at Benaras – William Jones**

This pair is incorrect. The **Sanskrit College at Benaras (1791)** was founded by **Jonathan Duncan**, not by William Jones. William Jones founded the **Asiatic Society of Bengal**, not this college.

**Calcutta Madarsa – Warren Hastings**

This pair is correct. The **Calcutta Madarsa** was established in **1781** by **Warren Hastings** to promote Islamic learning and Persian–Arabic studies.

**Fort William College – Arthur Wellesley**

This pair is incorrect. **Fort William College (1800)** was founded by **Lord Wellesley (Richard Wellesley)**, the Governor-General of India. Arthur Wellesley was his brother, not the founder.

**Ans. 22 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** **James Rennell** is widely regarded as the *father of Indian geography* and is known for preparing the **first comprehensive and systematic maps of India**, especially through his work "*Bengal Atlas*" and later maps of the subcontinent.



**Statement II is also correct:** Rennell was **encouraged by Robert Clive**, and he believed that **accurate mapping was essential for military control, revenue administration, and political domination**. His cartographic work directly supported **British colonial expansion and consolidation** in India.

**Statement II correctly explains Statement I** because the British colonial objective of control and expansion created the motivation and institutional support for Rennell's extensive mapping of India.

**Ans. 23 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** The **Munda Rebellion (Ulgulan)** was led by **Birsa Munda** in the **Chotanagpur region** against British colonial authority during the late 19th century.

**Statement II is also correct:** A major cause of the rebellion was the **introduction of the zamindari system**, which resulted in:

- Alienation of tribal land
- Erosion of the traditional **khuntkatti** (clan-based) land ownership system
- Exploitation by zamindars, moneylenders, and missionaries

**Statement II correctly explains Statement I**, as these land-related grievances formed the core reason for the uprising led by Birsa Munda.

**Ans. 24 (c)**

**Explanation:**

Under the Government of India Act, 1919, provincial subjects were divided into **Reserved** and **Transferred** categories under the system of dyarchy. Reserved subjects were administered by the Governor and his Executive Council and were not responsible to the legislature. These included **administration of justice, land revenue, and police**.

Local self-government was placed under **Transferred subjects** and was administered by Indian ministers responsible to the provincial legislative councils.

Therefore, **I, III and IV** were treated as Reserved subjects.

**Ans. 25 (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is incorrect:** The **Cripps Mission (1942)** did **not** propose immediate independence for India. It promised **Dominion Status after the end of the Second World War**, with Britain retaining control over defence during the war.

**Statement II is correct:** The Mission proposed the setting up of a **Constituent Assembly**, whose members were to be:

- **Elected by the provincial legislative assemblies**, and
- **Nominated by the princely states**.

Since Statement I is incorrect and Statement II is correct, the correct option is **(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct**.

**Ans. 26 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct.** Portuguese rule in Goa (from the early 16th century to 1961) deeply influenced its **administrative structure, cultural practices, and religious life**.

**Statement II is correct:** The **Portuguese Civil Code of 1867**, introduced in Goa, created a **uniform civil code** applicable to all communities. This legal framework was retained even after Goa's integration into India and continues to influence Goa's legal system.

**Statement III is also correct:** The Portuguese state actively supported **Christian missionary activities**, leading to large-scale conversions and lasting religious changes in Goan society.

**Statements II and III together explain Statement I**, as legal reforms and religious policies were central to the Portuguese impact on Goa.

**Ans. 27 (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** Under the **Permanent Settlement (1793)**, zamindars were recognized as landowners and were responsible for collecting land revenue from peasants and paying a **fixed amount** to the East India Company.

**Statement II is correct:** One stated aim of the Permanent Settlement was to encourage zamindars to invest in land improvements by fixing land revenue permanently, but in practice this objective was largely not achieved.

**Statement III is correct:** Under the **Ryotwari system**, revenue settlements were made **directly with individual ryots (cultivators)**. Ryots could negotiate revenue assessments and were recognized as having **occupancy and use rights** over their land, subject to revenue payment.

**Ans. 28 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Raja Rammohan Roy is widely regarded as the **Father of the Indian Renaissance** due to his role in social, religious, and intellectual reform in early 19th-century India and for founding the **Brahmo Samaj (1828)**.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Rammohan Roy translated and interpreted several **Upanishads** into **Bengali and English**, but he did **not translate the Vedas** as a whole. Hence, this statement is factually incorrect.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The **Brahmo Samaj did not seek to establish a new religion**. Its aim was to **reform and purify Hinduism**, promote **monotheism**, and oppose idolatry and social evils.

**Ans. 29 (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Barindra Kumar Ghosh** – Associated with **Anushilan Samiti** (one of its key organizers).
- **Aurobindo Ghosh** – Closely associated with **Anushilan Samiti** in its early phase.
- **Jatindranath Mukherjee (Bagha Jatin)** – Primarily associated with the **Jugantar group**, not Anushilan Samiti.
- **Surya Sen** – Leader of the **Chittagong Armoury Raid**. In 1916 buoyed by the spirit of nationalism and inspired by his teacher in college, Sen joined the **Anushilan Samiti**.

**Ans. 30 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** Bankim Chandra Chatterjee is widely regarded as a **philosophical and intellectual precursor of Indian cultural nationalism**. His works, especially *Anandamath* and the hymn “**Vande Mataram**”, played a major role in shaping nationalist consciousness.

**Statement II is correct:** Bankim Chandra attempted to **reconcile Western rational thought and modern education with Indian spiritual, moral, and cultural values**. He did not reject Western ideas outright but sought a synthesis rooted in Indian tradition.

**Ans. 31 (c)**

**Explanation:**

- Pigeons are **primarily granivorous**, meaning they mostly eat grains and seeds, but they can consume small amounts of animal-based food, classifying them as **opportunistic omnivores**. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- While mammals feed milk to their young, some birds like **pigeons, doves, and flamingos** produce nutrient-rich crop milk. **Both male and female** pigeons secrete it to feed their chicks, which compete for it by flapping their wings. So, **statement 2 is correct.**
- They have a **strong sense of direction** and can navigate hundreds of miles using the Earth's magnetic field, the sun, and landmarks. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Ans. 32 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement II is correct** because elevated Biological Oxygen Demand implies a high concentration of biodegradable organic matter, which stimulates microbial activity and increases oxygen consumption, thereby reducing dissolved oxygen levels and harming aquatic life. This directly explains why high BOD signifies degraded water quality.

**Statement III is incorrect** because high BOD is generally associated with organic pollution and oxygen stress, not enhanced photosynthetic oxygen production, which depends on light availability and nutrient balance rather than organic load.

**Only Statement II explains Statement I**, making option (c) the correct answer.

**Ans. 33 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct** because an ecological niche represents the functional position of a species in an ecosystem, encompassing how it uses resources, survives environmental conditions, and contributes to ecosystem processes such as energy flow and nutrient cycling.

**Statement II is also correct** because ecological niche includes multiple dimensions such as food habits, habitat preference, climatic tolerance, and interactions like competition, predation, and mutualism.

**Statement II explains Statement I**, as the multidimensional nature of resource use, tolerance limits, and interactions collectively define how a species survives and reproduces within an ecosystem

**Ans. 34 (b)**

**Explanation:**

The process of humification involves the breakdown of organic residues by microorganisms, leading to the formation of humus. Humus is characterized by its dark color, high organic carbon content, and ability to bind with soil particles. It improves soil structure, promotes nutrient availability to plants, and helps in retaining moisture.

**Statement-I is correct:** Humus is a dark colored amorphous substance. It is highly resistant to microbial action and undergoes decomposition at an extremely slow rate.

**Statement-II is correct and explains the Statement-I:** Humus is highly resistant to microbial action due to its complex structure. Certain substances within humus act as natural defenses against microbial degradation, contributing to its slow decomposition rate. Consequently, humus stands out as the most stable organic molecule found in the soil. These attributes explain the delayed decomposition of humus in comparison to other organic matter.

**Statement III is correct:** Humus is a valuable source of essential plant nutrients. Humus is formed through the breakdown of organic matter, which contains essential plant nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and various micronutrients.

But the statement does not explain the reason as to why humus undergoes decomposition at an extremely slow rate. Thus, Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, but only one of them i.e. Statement II explains Statement-I

**Ans. 35 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** Tropical rainforests occur near the equator and are marked by consistently high temperatures and heavy rainfall, usually exceeding 200 cm annually. The climate shows minimal seasonal variation, which supports continuous plant growth.

**Statement II is correct:** Although tropical rainforests have very high primary productivity due to abundant sunlight and moisture, their soils are generally nutrient-poor. Most nutrients are locked in the living biomass, and rapid decomposition along with heavy rainfall leads to leaching of minerals.

**Statement III is incorrect:** Tropical rainforests are dominated by evergreen trees, not deciduous ones. Deciduous forests are typical of tropical monsoon and temperate regions where trees shed leaves seasonally in response to water stress or cold.

**Statement IV is correct:** Tropical rainforests exhibit the highest species richness and biodiversity among all terrestrial ecosystems, supporting a vast number of plant, animal, and microbial species due to stable climate and complex vertical stratification.

**Ans. 36 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** Pollination by insects is a regulating ecosystem service because it supports plant reproduction and enhances agricultural productivity and food security.

**Statement II is correct:** Regulation of atmospheric gases through photosynthesis is a regulating ecosystem service since plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, thereby maintaining atmospheric balance and climate regulation.

**Statement III is incorrect:** Soil microbes do not produce synthetic fertilizers. Synthetic fertilizers are industrial products manufactured through chemical processes such as the Haber-Bosch process, and hence this is not an ecosystem service.

**Statement IV is incorrect:** Fossil fuels are formed over millions of years through geological processes and are non-renewable resources. Their generation is not an active ecosystem function and therefore not classified as an ecosystem service.

**Statement V is correct:** Mangroves and wetlands reduce the impact of floods and storm surges by absorbing excess water and dissipating wave energy, which is a regulating ecosystem service.

**Ans. 37 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is incorrect:** Wetlands occur not only between terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems but also between freshwater and marine ecosystems, such as estuaries, mangroves, salt marshes, and lagoons. Hence, the statement is conceptually misleading.

**Statement II is incorrect:** Hydrophytic vegetation is a common indicator of wetlands but it is not a necessary criterion in all cases. Some wetlands like mudflats, salt pans, and periodically flooded wetlands may lack visible vegetation but are still classified as wetlands.

**Statement III is correct:** Wetlands can act as nutrient sinks by trapping sediments and absorbing nutrients, or as nutrient sources when accumulated nutrients are released during flooding or decomposition, depending on hydrological conditions.

**Statement IV is correct:** The Ramsar Convention adopts a broad definition of wetlands and includes coral reefs, seagrass meadows, mangroves, estuaries, and even shallow marine waters up to six meters depth.

**Ans. 38 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** Mangroves contribute significantly to coastal water quality by filtering sediments, regulating nutrient fluxes, and maintaining ecological balance in nearshore marine environments.

**Statement II is correct and explains Statement I:** The complex prop root and pneumatophore systems of mangroves trap suspended sediments, heavy metals, and pollutants, preventing excessive nutrient and contaminant inflow into coral reefs and seagrass ecosystems.

**Statement III is correct and explains Statement I:** Mangrove soils support active microbial communities that carry out denitrification and decomposition of organic matter, thereby regulating nitrogen levels and improving overall water quality and biogeochemical stability.

**Ans. 39 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** Tundra and taiga biomes are important for **global climate regulation and carbon storage**, as they store vast amounts of carbon in soils, vegetation and frozen organic matter.

**Statement II is correct:** Tundra regions are characterised by **permafrost**, which traps large quantities of **organic carbon and methane**, preventing their release into the atmosphere and thereby influencing the global carbon cycle.



**Statement III is correct:** Taiga, also known as **boreal forest**, consists mainly of **coniferous trees like pine, spruce and fir**, which sequester carbon through photosynthesis and make taiga one of the largest **terrestrial carbon sinks** on Earth.



Therefore Statement II and Statement III are correct and both explain why tundra and taiga biomes play a crucial role in climate regulation, hence option (a) is correct

**Ans. 40 (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)** are substances that interfere with the hormonal system of humans and wildlife, affecting growth, reproduction, and metabolism.

**Bisphenol-A (BPA):** Found in plastics and food containers, BPA **mimics estrogen** and disrupts endocrine functions.



**Phthalates:** Used as plasticizers in PVC products, they **interfere with reproductive hormones**.

**DDT:** A persistent organochlorine pesticide, DDT **acts as an estrogen mimic** and is a classic EDC.

**Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs):** Industrial chemicals that **affect thyroid and reproductive hormones**.

Hence, **all four substances are recognized as endocrine-disrupting chemicals**.

**Ans. 41 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is incorrect:** The raccoon (**Procyon lotor**) is **omnivorous**, not strictly carnivorous. It feeds on fruits, nuts, insects, small animals, and human food waste.

**Statement II is correct:** Its natural distribution is **largely North America**, but it has been **introduced in Europe, Japan, and other regions**.

**Statement III is correct:** Raccoons are **primarily nocturnal** and highly adaptable to **urban and suburban environments**, often foraging near human settlements.

**Ans. 42 (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is incorrect:** Many bacteria, called **extremophiles**, can survive in extreme environments such as **hot springs, acidic lakes, or salt lakes**. Examples include *Thermus aquaticus* (hot springs) and halophilic bacteria (salt lakes).

**Statement II is incorrect:** Bacteria are **prokaryotes**, meaning their genetic material is **not enclosed in a nucleus**. They possess DNA in a nucleoid region.

**Statement III is incorrect:** Some bacteria **can perform photosynthesis**, such as **cyanobacteria**.

**Ans. 43 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Dharwar system represents the **oldest metamorphosed sedimentary rocks** in India. They were formed between **2.5 billion and 1.8 billion years ago** through the erosion and deposition of the Archean gneisses, followed by intense metamorphism. Consequently, they contain deformed rocks of both **sedimentary** and **igneous** origin.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Due to high-grade metamorphism, the original sedimentary nature has been altered. The system is lithologically dominated by **hornblende schists, quartzites, phyllites, slates, crystalline limestone, and dolomites**. This system is also the most **economically significant** in India, hosting rich metallic minerals like iron, manganese, and gold.

**Statement 3 is correct:** While the type area is the **Dharwar district of Karnataka**, these rocks have a scattered distribution across the subcontinent.

**Aravallis:** The Aravalli system (one of the oldest fold mountains) corresponds to this geological period.

**Himalayas:** Correlated formations are found in the flanks of the Himalayas (e.g., the **Vaikrita** and **Salkhala** series).

**Meghalaya Plateau:** The **Shillong Series** represents the Dharwar equivalent in the North East.

**Ans. 44 (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** High clouds (such as **cirrus**) are typically thin and composed of ice crystals. Instead of reflecting solar radiation, they are quite transparent and allow most of the Sun's shortwave radiation to pass through to the Earth's surface. Their primary role is trapping outgoing **longwave infrared radiation**, which results in a net **warming effect**.



- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Low clouds (such as **stratus** or **stratocumulus**) are generally thick and dense. Their primary characteristic is a high **albedo**, meaning they reflect a large portion of incoming solar radiation back into space. While they do absorb some infrared radiation, their ability to reflect sunlight is their dominant climatic influence, leading to an overall **cooling effect**.

**Ans. 45 (b)**

**Explanation:**

The streams within a drainage basin form certain patterns, depending on the slope of land, underlying rock structure as well as the climatic conditions of the area. These are dendritic, trellis, rectangular, and radial patterns.

**Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The drainage pattern resembling the **branches of a tree is known as “dendritic”** the examples of which are the rivers of northern plain namely River Ganga.

**Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** When the **rivers originate from a hill and flow in all directions, the drainage pattern is known as ‘radial’**. The rivers originating from the Amarkantak range present a good example of it.

**Pair 3 is not correctly matched:** When the primary tributaries of rivers flow parallel to each other and secondary tributaries join them at right angles, the pattern is known as **‘trellis’**.

**Pair 4 is not correctly matched:** When the rivers discharge their waters from all directions in a lake or depression, the pattern is known as **‘centripetal’**.

**Ans. 46 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** The **western coastal plains** (Konkan, Malabar, and Kathiawar coasts) provide **better conditions for ports** because they are **narrow, rocky, and deep**, allowing for natural harbors. The eastern coastal plains (Coromandel and Northern Circars) are wider and gently sloping, making natural port formation less favorable.

**Statement II is correct:** The **western coastal plains are narrower** (50–80 km) compared to the eastern coastal plains (100–120 km). This narrowness contributes to **steep gradients and better port sites**, thus **explaining Statement I**.

**Statement III is incorrect:** The **western coastal plains do not have well-developed deltas**; delta formation is prominent in the **eastern coastal plains** (e.g., Godavari, Krishna, Mahanadi).

**Ans. 47 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** The general slope of the **Peninsular Plateau** is **from west to east**, not east to west. Rivers like the Godavari, Krishna, and Mahanadi flow eastward into the Bay of Bengal.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Rajmahal Hills (Jharkhand/Bihar)** is in east and **Cardamom Hills (Kerala/Tamil Nadu)** is in southwest, are **outlying hills** and extensions of the Peninsular Plateau.

**Statement 3 is correct:** **Patland topography** (undulating plateau with flat-topped hills called *pats*) is a distinct feature found in parts of the **Chotanagpur Plateau** and other plateau regions in Peninsular India.

**Ans. 48 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** **Wet Bulb Temperature (WBT)** is the lowest temperature that can be reached under current ambient conditions by the evaporation of water only. It is measured by a thermometer covered in a water-soaked cloth. If the air is 100% humid, evaporation stops, and the wet-bulb temperature equals the dry-bulb (air) temperature.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The **35°C** Wet Bulb Temperature is widely considered the theoretical upper limit for human survivability. At this threshold, the air is so saturated and hot that human sweat no longer evaporates. Since the human body relies on sweat evaporation to cool down (and skin temperature is roughly 35°C), the body loses the ability to regulate its internal heat, leading to fatal heatstroke within hours, even for healthy people resting in the shade.

**Ans. 49 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Cotton is primarily a **Kharif** crop in India, sown with the onset of the monsoon (June-July) and harvested in autumn. It requires 6 to 8 months to mature.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Cotton is semi-tolerant to soil salinity but highly sensitive to waterlogging. Therefore, it thrives best in deep, well-drained black cotton soils (Regur) or alluvial soils.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Cotton is a tropical and sub-tropical crop that requires uniformly high temperatures (21°C to 30°C) and at least 210 frost-free days.

**Ans. 50 (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Mangrove (Avicennia / Rhizophora spp.)** – Evergreen, retaining leaves throughout the year.
- **Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus spp.)** – Mostly evergreen.
- **Babool (Acacia): Non-Evergreen (Deciduous).** There trees are found in semi-acid regions (rainfall < 50 cm) They are characterized by small leaves or thorns and shed what little foliage they have during the long dry season to conserve moisture.
- **Khejri (Prosopis cineraria): Non-Evergreen (Deciduous). Tropical Thorn Forest.** It is a drought-resistance tree of the Thar Desert that undergoes a period of leaf-fall during the dry summer months.

**Ans. 51 (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Danube → Black Sea:** Flows through Central and Eastern Europe into the Black Sea.
- **Volga → Caspian Sea:** The longest river in Europe, draining into the Caspian Sea.
- **Rhine → North Sea:** Flows through Germany and the Netherlands into the North Sea.
- **Mekong → South China Sea:** Flows through Southeast Asia into the South China Sea.

**Ans. 52 (a)**

**Explanation:**

The countries that share a land border with Israel are **Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.**

- **Egypt** – Southwest border with Israel.
- **Jordan** – Eastern border along the Jordan River and Dead Sea.
- **Lebanon** – Northern border with Israel.
- **Syria** – Northeastern border (Golan Heights region).
- **Saudi Arabia** – Does not share a direct land border with Israel.

**Ans. 53 (b)**

**Explanation:**

Rakhine is in Myanmar and Darfur is in Sudan. Normandy belongs to France, not Spain, and Tigray is in Ethiopia, not Congo.

**Ans. 54 (b)**

**Explanation:**

The pairs correctly matched are:

- **BrahMos – Supersonic – Cruise missile**
- **Agni-V – Hypersonic – Ballistic missile**

The Dhvani missile is **India's advanced Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV)** being developed by DRDO for strategic deterrence, capable of flying faster than Mach 5 (over 7,400 km/h) with a potential range of 6,000-10,000 km, offering high maneuverability and stealth to evade defenses, building on the HSTDV program

Nirbhay (Wikipedia) is **India's first indigenously developed, all-weather, long-range subsonic cruise missile**, featuring a 1,000 km range and a 450 kg payload capacity. Developed by the DRDO, this 6-meter-long weapon can carry conventional or nuclear warheads, fly at 0.7-0.8 Mach, and evade radar by operating at low altitudes.

**Ans. 55 (a)**

**Explanation:**

The Tropic of Capricorn passes through **Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil** in South America. It does not pass through Uruguay.

**Ans. 56 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Aravalli Range: Statement 1 is correct**

- The Aravalli Range, running across Rajasthan, is one of the **oldest fold mountain systems in the world**, formed during the **Precambrian era** (around 1500 million years ago).
- Being ancient, it has undergone significant **erosion**, resulting in low hills today.

**Rajmahal Hills: Statement 2 is incorrect**

- These hills are located in **Jharkhand** and were formed due to **volcanic activity during the Jurassic period, not during the Gondwana period**.
- They are primarily composed of **basaltic lava flows** and are associated with the **Rajmahal Traps**.

**Purvanchal Hills: Statement 3 is correct**

- The Purvanchal Hills are located in **Northeast India** and form the **eastern extension of the Himalayas**.
- They include ranges like **Naga, Mizo, Lushai, and Patkai hills** and act as a transition between the Himalayas and the plains of the Brahmaputra and Assam valley.

**Ans. 57 (a)**

**Explanation:**

Mongolia shares land borders with **Russia** to the north and **China** to the south. It does not border **with Uzbekistan or Kyrgyzstan**.

**Ans. 58 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct: India does not share a direct land border with Afghanistan** – True. India is separated from Afghanistan by **Pakistan**.

**Statement 2 is correct: Zaranj-Delaram Highway and Salma Dam**. These are major **infrastructure projects funded and built by India** in Afghanistan.

**Statement 3 is correct: Alternative trade route via Chabahar Port.** India developed **Chabahar Port in Iran** to provide Afghanistan access to international trade **bypassing Pakistan**.

**Ans. 59 (d)**

**Explanation:**

In India, there are **four** administrative units (three States and one Union Territory) that share international boundaries with **more than two** (exactly three) countries:

- **Arunachal Pradesh:** Shares borders with **Bhutan, China, and Myanmar**.
- **Sikkim:** Shares borders with **Bhutan, China, and Nepal**.
- **West Bengal:** Shares borders with **Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal**.
- **Ladakh (Union Territory):** Shares borders with **Afghanistan, China, and Pakistan**.

**Ans. 60 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**1. Pair 1 is correct: Ratle – Jammu and Kashmir – Chenab River-**

- Ratle Hydroelectric Project is in Jammu & Kashmir on the Chenab River.

**2. Pair 2 is incorrect: Tato-II – Mizoram – Siyom River**

- Tato-II is actually in Arunachal Pradesh, not Mizoram. Siyom River is also in Arunachal Pradesh.  
**So this pair is incorrect.**

**3. Pair 3 is correct: Etalin – Arunachal Pradesh – Talo**

- Etalin Hydro Project is in Arunachal Pradesh, is on the Talo river.

**4. Pair 4 is correct: Vishnugad-Pipalkoti – Uttarakhand – Alaknanda**

- This hydro project is on the Alaknanda River in Uttarakhand.

**Ans. 61 (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** PMDDKY consolidates **36 existing agricultural schemes** from various ministries, including **PM-KISAN** and **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**, to reduce duplication and improve efficiency.

**Statement II is correct:** The scheme targets **100 low-performing agricultural districts** across India to boost productivity, improve cropping intensity, and strengthen farm incomes.

**Statement III is correct:** At the district level, implementation is done by **District Dhan Dhaanya Samitis** chaired by the **District Collector**, ensuring local oversight and planning.

**Ans. 62 (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **statement 1 is correct:** The short-term cooperative credit system is organised as a three-tier structure comprising Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) at the village level, Central Cooperative Banks (CCBs) at the district level, and State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) at the State level.
- Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) form the **grassroots tier** of the short-term cooperative credit system, providing short- and medium-term credit, ensuring loan recovery, and supporting procurement, distribution, and marketing functions.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** PACS **fall outside the Banking Regulation Act, 1949** and are not regulated by the RBI, whereas StCBs and DCCBs- registered under respective State Cooperative Societies Acts- are regulated by the Reserve Bank.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** To promote self-reliant PACS, the GoI approved a five-year (2022-27) Centrally Sponsored Project under the Ministry of Cooperation to computerise 63,000 PACS using ERP software, linking them with NABARD via State and District Cooperative Banks, with Rs. 2,516 crore outlay.

**Ans. 63 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** A sustained trade deficit can exert downward pressure on the domestic currency, leading to depreciation of the rupee.

When a country imports more than it exports over a prolonged period, there is more demand for foreign currency to pay for imports, which can weaken the domestic currency.

**Statement II is correct:** A trade deficit results in increased demand for foreign currency to finance import payments exceeding export earnings.

By definition, a trade deficit occurs when **imports exceed exports**, creating higher demand for foreign currency to settle payments.

**Relationship:** Statement II **explains the mechanism** behind Statement I: the increased demand for foreign currency due to a trade deficit leads to depreciation of the domestic currency.

**Ans. 64 (d)**

**Explanation:**

- Lower oil imports **reduce India's import bill**, shrinking the trade deficit. This decreases foreign exchange outflow, improving the balance of trade, and thereby strengthens the current account in the medium term. Essentially, spending less on oil helps retain more foreign currency, positively impacting the current account. So, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Lower oil imports **reduce the need for dollars**, decreasing forex demand. With less demand for foreign currency, the rupee strengthens, leading to potential appreciation against other currencies. So, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Reduced dependence on oil imports lowers India's exposure to global crude price shocks, preventing sharp rises in the import bill, inflation, rupee depreciation, and current account deficits, thereby making the economy more resilient. So, **statement 3 is also correct**.

**Ans. 65 (a)**

**Explanation:**

Gross Primary Deficit = Fiscal Deficit – Interest Payments

Given:

Fiscal Deficit = ₹60,000 crores

Interest Liabilities = ₹2,500 crores

Non-debt creating capital receipts are not needed to calculate the Primary Deficit directly. They are part of the financing of the fiscal deficit but do not affect the primary deficit calculation.

Gross Primary Deficit = 60,000 – 2,500 = 57,500 crores

**Ans. 66 (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement I is correct:** Income Distance continues to remain the most important criterion under the 16th Finance Commission framework as well, since fiscal equalisation among States is a core constitutional mandate under Article 280.

- **Statement II is correct:** Population based on the **2011 Census** is retained in the devolution formula to reflect current demographic realities rather than historical population figures.
- **Statement III is correct:** Area is included to compensate States that face higher administrative, infrastructure and service delivery costs due to large geographical size.
- **Statement IV is correct:** Forest and Ecology is included to reward States that preserve forest cover and ecological assets that provide national and global environmental benefits.

**Ans. 67 (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While the Budget speech highlighted India's prominence, according to global data (FAO), India is the **third-largest producer**, behind Indonesia and the Philippines.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Coconut Development Board is indeed a statutory body, but its headquarters is in **Kochi, Kerala**, not Chennai.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Union Budget 2026–27** explicitly introduced the **Coconut Promotion Scheme** to rejuvenate old plantations with high-yielding saplings.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** **NAFED** (along with NCCF) serves as the central nodal agency for the procurement of copra.

**Ans. 68 (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Ministry of Steel has set the threshold for green steel at less than 2.2 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per tonne of finished steel, anything above this does not qualify for a star rating.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** NISST is responsible for the Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) process and issuing the star ratings annually.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India has indeed become the first country globally to define a specific taxonomy and star-rating system for green steel to facilitate its market and transition

**Ans. 69 (a)**

**Explanation:**

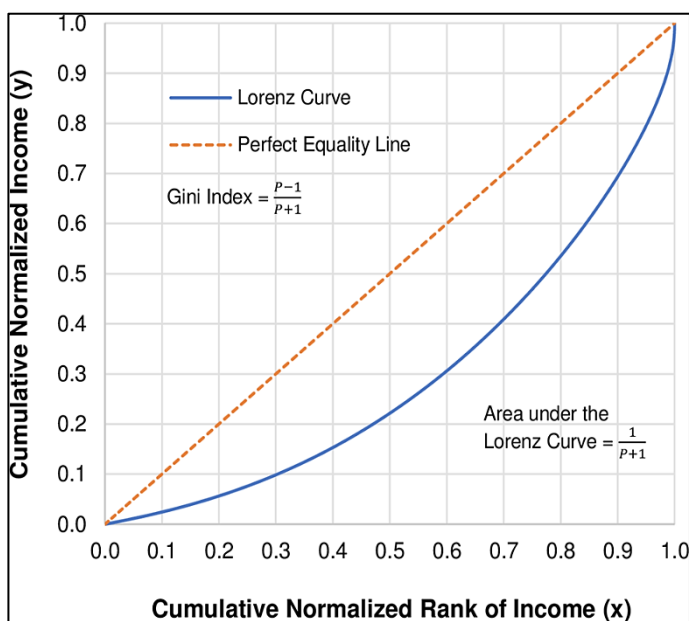
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The NBCC is chaired by the **Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, not the Prime Minister.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 2022 amendment specifically expanded feedstocks to include damaged food grains and surplus rice with the approval of the NBCC.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Ethanol actually has about **27% lower energy content** than gasoline, which can lead to a slight reduction in mileage (approx. 6-7% for E20) unless engines are specifically tuned.

**Ans. 70 (b)**

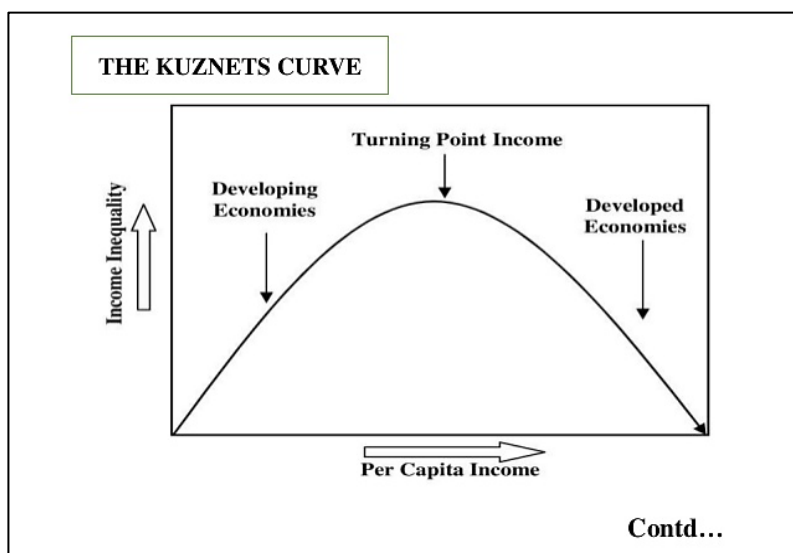
**Explanation:**

**Pair 1 is incorrect:** The Lorenz Curve is a graphical representation **of income or wealth inequality within a population**. It shows the cumulative percentage of income earned by the bottom x% of the population. It does not measure the relationship between income inequality and economic development

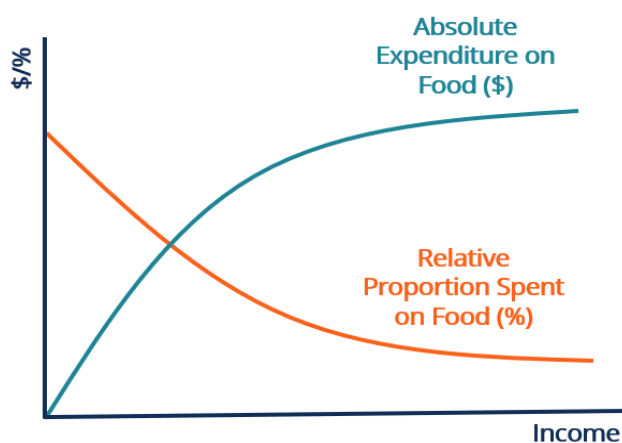




- **Pair 2 is correct:** The Kuznets Curve demonstrates the relationship between **economic development and income inequality**. It suggests that inequality rises during the early stages of development, peaks, and then declines as the economy matures and wealth distribution improves.



**Pair 3 is correct:** Engel's Law states that **as household income rises, the proportion of income spent on food decreases**, even though the absolute expenditure on food may still increase. This reflects changes in spending behavior with rising income



**Ans. 71 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Pardoning Power of the president:**

- **Pardon:** It removes both the sentence and the conviction and completely absolves the convict from all sentences, punishments and disqualifications.
- **Commutation:** It denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form. For example, a death sentence may be commuted to rigorous imprisonment, which in turn may be commuted to a simple imprisonment.
- **Remission:** It implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character. For example, a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for two years may be remitted to rigorous imprisonment for one year.
- **Respite:** It denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact, such as the physical disability of a convict or the pregnancy of a woman offender.
- **Reprieve:** It implies a stay of the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period. Its purpose is to enable the convict to have time to seek pardon or commutation from the President.

**Note:** The power is to be exercised by the President on the **advice of the union cabinet**.

**Ans. 72 (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** S/He can be removed from his office by the President on the recommendation of the Parliament.
- The President can issue the removal order **only** after an address by Parliament has been presented to him in the same session for such removal. The address must be supported by a **special majority** of each House of Parliament.
- The grounds of removal are two—proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:**
  - The Constitution has not fixed the tenure of a judge of the Supreme Court. However, it makes the following three provisions in this regard:
  - He holds office until he attains the age of 65 years. Any question regarding his age is to be determined by such authority and in such manner as **provided by Parliament**.

**Ans. 73 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is Correct:** The Proviso to Article 213 explicitly states that the Governor shall not promulgate an Ordinance if a bill containing the same provisions would require his reservation for the President's consideration (e.g., if it endangers the position of the High Court).

**Statement II is Incorrect:** Under Article 201, if the President directs the Governor to return a bill and the State Legislature re-passes it, the President is NOT bound to give his assent. The President retains a final, absolute veto power over state legislation reserved under Article 201.

**Ans. 74 (a)**

**Explanation:**

Currently, **6 states** have bicameral legislatures: **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.**

- Tamil Nadu and West Bengal currently have unicameral legislatures (Legislative Assembly only).

**Ans. 75 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is Correct:** Article 19(1)(d) guarantees every citizen the right to move freely throughout the territory of India. This right is protected only against State action and not against private individuals.

**Statement 2 is Correct:** Under Article 19(5), reasonable restrictions can be imposed on this right on two grounds: the interests of the general public and the protection of interests of any Scheduled Tribe.

**Statement 3 is Correct:** The rights under Article 19 are available exclusively to citizens and not to foreigners or legal persons (e.g., companies or corporations).

**Statement 4 is Incorrect:** Article 19(1)(d) protects only internal movement (within the country). The right to travel abroad (external movement) is protected under Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty), as established in the Menaka Gandhi case (1978).

**Ans. 76 (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement I is incorrect:** The DGP is appointed by the State Government, but they must choose from a panel of three names prepared by the **UPSC**, not based on the sole recommendation of the Cabinet.
- **Statement II is correct:** As per the UPSC's 2023 revised guidelines, only police officers with at least six months of service left before retirement are considered for empanelment.
- **Statement III is correct:** The *Prakash Singh* judgment (2006) mandates a minimum tenure of two years for the DGP to protect the office from political whim and frequent transfers.

**Ans. 77 (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Under Article 87, the Special Address is mandatory only at the commencement of the first session after a general election and the first session of each year, not every session.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While the motion must be passed in both Houses, only its defeat in the **Lok Sabha** amounts to a lack of confidence requiring the government's resignation. Defeat/amendment in the Rajya Sabha does not force a resignation.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Members of Parliament have the right to move amendments to the motion to include matters they believe the Address failed to mention or to criticize specific policies.

**Ans. 78 (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is incorrect:** The **Speaker tenders his resignation to the Deputy Speaker** (or in the absence of Deputy Speaker, to the Lok Sabha), but it is **not addressed to the President**. The Constitution (Article 94) does not require the resignation to go to the President.

**Statement II is correct:** The Speaker is first a **Member of Parliament** and assumes office through the **oath/affirmation as an MP**. No separate oath is required for the Speakership.

**Statement III is correct:** The Speaker's salary and allowances are **charged on the Consolidated Fund of India** (Article 93 and Salary, Allowances and Pension of Speaker Act), ensuring independence and impartiality, **not requiring annual parliamentary approval**.

**Ans. 79 (d)**

**Explanation:**

<b>Some Important commission</b>	
Campbell Commission	Famine
Mansfield Commission	Currency
Fraser Commission	Police Reform
Butler Commission	Indian states
Strachy Commission	Famine
Fowler Commission	Currency
Babington Smith Commission	Currency
Muddiman Committee	To examine the working of Diarchy of the Montague-Chelmsford reforms
Whitley Commission	Labour
Floud Commission	Tenancy in Bengal

**Ans. 80 (c)**

**Explanation:**

- The 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016 ushered in the GST regime, restructuring Union–State taxation powers and establishing a unified tax system for goods and services across India. So, **statement 1 is correct.**
- To give effect to the unified GST regime, Parliament enacted key legislations such as the Central GST Act, Integrated GST Act, and the GST (Compensation to States) Act. SGST Act enacted by each individual state legislature, **not by the Parliament.** So, **statement 2 is not correct.**

**Ans. 81 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is incorrect:** FME provides financial, technical, and marketing support **both to new and existing micro food processing units**, not just to upgrade existing ones.

**Statement II is incorrect:** The scheme provides support to **individual micro-enterprises as well as collective entities** (SHGs, FPOs, cooperatives).

**Statement III is correct:** Under PM-FME, a **flagship product** is identified for each district to leverage local resources and boost marketability.

**Ans. 82 (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **The 101st Constitutional Amendment Act of 2016**, officially known as "The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016," introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India.
- **The 102nd Amendment (2018) of the Constitution** of India, gave constitutional status to the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**.
  - Thus, under Article 342A, it was laid down that the President shall notify a list of SEBCs in relation to each State and Union Territory in consultation with the Governors.
- **The 103rd Amendment (2019) of the Indian Constitution**, introduced reservations for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). The amendment added Articles 15(6) and 16(6) to the Constitution.
- **The 104th Constitution Amendment Act of 2020** extended the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies until 2030.

- **The 105th Amendment (2021) of the Indian Constitution**, restored the power of state governments to identify and classify Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs), including Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- **The 106th Amendment of the Constitution** of India, also known as the Women's Reservation Act, was passed in 2023. This amendment reserves one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, and the Delhi legislative assembly for women.

**Ans. 83 (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Sindhi language was added by the **21<sup>st</sup> Amendment Act of 1967**.
- Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali were included by the **71<sup>st</sup> Amendment Act of 1992**.
- Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali were added by the **92<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act of 2003** which came into force in **2004**.
- The Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Act, 2003, established the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) by bifurcating the existing National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, with the NCST focusing on the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribe.

**Ans. 84 (a)**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Article 123 of the Constitution empowers the President to promulgate ordinances. This power can be exercised only when **both Houses of Parliament are not in session** or when **either of the two Houses is not in session**. An ordinance cannot be promulgated when both Houses are in session. Since a law requires the approval of both Houses, the unavailability of even one House prevents the legislative process, justifying the use of an ordinance for urgent matters.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The President's power to promulgate ordinances is **not a discretionary power**. He can promulgate or withdraw an ordinance only on the **aid and advice of the Council of Ministers** headed by the Prime Minister. The "satisfaction" of the President regarding the necessity of immediate action is the satisfaction of the Council of Ministers, not his personal judgment.

**Ans. 85 (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct.** When any resolution for the removal of a Lok Sabha is under consideration, **he cannot preside at the sitting of the Lok Sabha**. However, he may be present in the house.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** When any resolution for the removal of a Lok Sabha is under consideration, **he can speak and take part in the proceedings of the House**.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** When any resolution for the removal of a Lok Sabha is under consideration, **he is entitled to vote in the first instance** and not in the case of an equality of votes.

**Ans. 86 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Assertion(A) is true:** The Constitution has extended the parliamentary privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees.

**Reason(R) is true:** Article 105(2) of the Indian Constitution confers on MPs immunity from prosecution in respect of anything said or any vote given in Parliament or on any parliamentary committee. Similarly, Article 194(2) grants protection to MLAs.

**R is correct explanation A:** Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of Parliament, there shall be freedom of speech in Parliament and no person shall be so liable in respect of the publication by or under the authority of either House of Parliament of any report, paper, votes or proceedings.

**Ans. 87 (b)**

**Explanation:**

The position with respect to lapsing of bills is as follows: A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha **lapse**.

**Ans. 88 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 and 2 is correct:** All the members of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels shall be **elected directly** by the people. Further, the **chairperson of panchayats** at the intermediate and **district levels** shall be elected indirectly-by and from amongst the elected members thereof.

However, the **chairperson of a panchayat** at the village level shall be elected in such manner as the state legislature determines.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The provisions of this Part are **applicable to the Union territories**. But the President may direct that they would apply to a Union territory subject to such exceptions and modifications as he may specify.

**Ans. 89 (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is not correct:** This Act has added a new **Part IX-A** to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled as 'The Municipalities' and consists of provisions from Articles 243-P to 243-ZG.

In addition, the act has also added a new **Twelfth Schedule** to the Constitution. This schedule contains **eighteen functional items** of municipalities. It deals with Article 243-W.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The act provides for the constitution of the following **three types** of municipalities in every state; a **Nagar panchayat**, a **municipal council**, and a **municipal corporation**.

**Statement 3 is correct:** All the members of a municipality shall be elected directly by the people of the municipal area.

**Ans. 90 (b)**

**Explanation:**

- The Vice-President is elected by an Electoral College comprising all members of both Houses of Parliament, including elected as well as nominated members. So, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Under Article 324 of the Constitution, the **Election Commission of India** is empowered to conduct the election to the office of the Vice-President.
- An elector who is under **preventive detention may cast their vote via postal ballot**. To facilitate this, the concerned government must inform the Commission of the elector's name, place of detention, and other relevant details, allowing the Commission to then dispatch the postal ballot paper to that elector. **So, statement 2 is correct**.
- Unlike the Presidential election, where the value of votes cast by Members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies differs, **every vote cast in the Vice-Presidential election holds the same value: one**. **So, statement 3 is correct**.
- The Vice-President serves a five-year term and continues in office until a successor assumes charge. In the event of death, removal, or resignation, the **Constitution does not prescribe** any line of succession and requires a fresh election. **So, statement 4 is not correct**.

**Ans. 91 (d)**

**Explanation:**

The **United Nations Convention against Cybercrime** (often referred to as the **UN Cybercrime Treaty**) was formally adopted by the UN General Assembly in August 2024. It is the first global, legally binding instrument designed to combat cybercrime, complementing existing frameworks like the Budapest Convention.



## Breakdown of the Activities Covered

The convention is broad in scope, covering several categories of offenses:

**Money Laundering:** The treaty includes provisions for the **laundering of proceeds of crimes** covered by the convention. It mandates that states establish legal frameworks to criminalize the concealment of illicit funds generated through cyber-activities.

**Sale or purchase of passwords:** This falls under the category of **offenses related to the misuse of devices**. Specifically, it targets the production, distribution, or procurement of devices, programs, or data (like passwords or access codes) for the purpose of committing cybercrimes.

**Interception of non-public data transmissions:** This is a core "cyber-dependent" crime. The treaty covers the **illegal interception** of non-public transmissions of computer data to, from, or within a computer system.

**Online distribution of child pornography:** The convention includes strict provisions for **offenses related to child sexual abuse material (CSAM)**. This includes the production, distribution, dissemination, and possession of such material via computer systems.

### Ans. 92 (a)

#### Explanation:

**Statement-I is correct: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) represents the aggregate value of goods and services including the net tax burden.** Consequently, if the economy witnesses a robust surge in tax collections (Net Indirect Taxes) during a fiscal year, this fiscal component inflates the GDP figures. As a result, the GDP growth rate naturally outpaces the growth rate of Gross Value Added (GVA), which is devoid of these product taxes.

**Statement-II is correct:** In the Indian national income accounting framework, **GVA is estimated at Basic Prices** to capture the value received strictly by the producers. In contrast, **GDP is calculated at Market Prices** to reflect the final price paid by consumers, which inherently incorporates the impact of product taxes and subsidies.

Statement-II establishes the fundamental structural relationship: GDP is essentially GVA adjusted for the net fiscal impact (taxes less subsidies). This definition provides the theoretical justification for Statement-I; it explains precisely **why** a variation in tax revenue creates a divergence between the GDP and GVA growth rates.

### Ans. 93 (b)

#### Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:** Budget Deficit is defined as the **excess of total expenditure over total receipts** (both revenue and capital).

**Statement 2 is correct:** A **Revenue Deficit** implies that the government's current earnings are insufficient to meet its current consumption expenditure. Consequently, the government borrows (uses savings of other sectors) to fund consumption rather than investment.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Primary Deficit is defined as **Fiscal Deficit minus Interest Payments, not Revenue Deficit minus Interest Payments**. It isolates the current fiscal stance from past debt obligations.

### Ans. 94 (d)

#### Explanation:

**Statement-I is incorrect: Speculative demand for money is inversely related to interest rates.** When interest rates are extremely low (the floor), investors prefer to hold their wealth in liquid cash rather than bonds. They do this because they anticipate that bond prices (which are currently at their peak) will fall when interest rates eventually rise.

**Statement-II is correct: Interest rates and bond prices move in opposite directions.** When interest rates are at a historic or critical low, economic agents expect that they cannot go much lower and must eventually rise. Consequently, they anticipate a future fall in bond prices (capital loss). **To avoid this loss, they convert bonds into cash, leading to a situation where any additional money supply is simply trapped in cash holdings rather than being invested.**

**Ans. 95 (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement-I is correct:** The **Standby Credit Facility (SCF)** is indeed designed for **Low-Income Countries (LICs)** with short-term Balance of Payments (BoP) needs. Uniquely among the PRGT facilities, it allows for **precautionary access**. This means countries can secure the financing arrangement to treat "potential" BoP needs (insurance against shocks) without having to draw down the funds immediately unless the need materializes.
- **Statement-II is correct:** The **Extended Credit Facility (ECF)** is the Fund's main tool for LICs with **protracted** BoP problems (long-term structural issues). By definition, a protracted problem implies an existing, actual need for financing to support economic adjustment, necessitating immediate disbursement; it cannot be treated as precautionary.
- In contrast, the **SCF is designed for short-term or potential needs**, allowing the flexibility of precautionary access.
- **Statement-II explains the structural mandates that validate Statement-I.** The reason the SCF functions as the *sole* window for "potential" needs (Statement-I) is precisely because the alternative facility (ECF) is structurally bound to "protracted/immediate" needs, while the SCF is structurally designed to handle "short-term/precautionary" needs (Statement-II).

**Ans. 96 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement II is not correct: Inverted duty structure** refers to a situation **where taxes on input items are higher compared to the final product**. This creates an inverse accumulation of input tax credit, and the blockage of working capital, which strains the liquidity for businesses.

**Statement I is correct: Inverted duty structure** impacts the domestic industry in a negative way as the manufacturers have to pay a higher price for raw materials in terms of duty, while the finished products land at lower duty and cost. Expensive inputs make products costly and cannot compete in the export market.

**Ans. 97 (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund** is a **Central Sector Scheme**. It provides a **medium to long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management** infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. So, **row 1 is not correctly matched**.
  - All loans under this financing facility have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit F of Rs. 2 crore. This subvention is available for a maximum period of seven years.
  - Eligible beneficiaries include: Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Agri-Entrepreneur, Central sponsored Public-Private Partnership Project, Farmer, Farmer Producers Organization, Primary Agricultural Credit Society, Self Help Group etc.
- **Agriculture Accelerator Fund** has been set-up to encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs

in rural areas. It aims at bringing innovative and affordable solutions for challenges faced by farmers, and to bring in modern technologies to transform agricultural practices, increase productivity and profitability.

- Under the programme, the financial and technical support is provided to entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture & allied sector.
- The accelerator programme is an extension of the Innovation and **Agri-Entrepreneurship Development programme under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. So, **row 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has announced an 'Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (AgriSURE) to provide support to Startup and Agripreneurs. The Fund will support start-ups and agripreneurs by providing them with equity and debt investments. This initiative aims to foster innovation and sustainability in India's agricultural sector. So, **row 3 is correctly matched.**
  - It will have an initial corpus of ₹750 crore to be managed by its wholly owned subsidiary Nabventures. While NABARD and the Ministry of Agriculture are contributing ₹250 crore each, the rest ₹250 crore is from other institutions.
  - The fund focuses on innovative, technology-driven, high risk, and high-impact activities in agriculture and allied areas.

So, in only one of the above rows is the given information correctly matched. Therefore, **option (a) is the correct answer.**

**Ans. 98 (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Item 1 causes a decline:** Net Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) outflows necessitate the sale of foreign exchange by the central bank to meet demand and support the domestic currency, thereby reducing reserves.
- **Item 2 causes an increase:** A trade surplus, characterized by exports exceeding imports, results in a net inflow of foreign currency, which typically augments the foreign exchange reserves.
- **Item 3 causes a decline:** Valuation losses occur when the major non-dollar currencies held in the reserves depreciate against the US dollar, leading to a reduction in the aggregate value of the forex reserves.

**Ans. 99 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Development project, officially named the "**Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island**," is a massive infrastructure plan spearheaded by NITI Aayog and executed by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO).

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Great Nicobar Island Development Project includes an International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT), a greenfield international airport, two greenfield cities, a coastal mass rapid transit system, and a free trade zone.

**Key concerns:** Great Nicobar, over 85% rainforest-covered, is a biodiversity hotspot; Galathea Bay, a Ramsar wetland, is a key nesting site for endangered Leatherback turtles. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Ans. 100 (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I is correct:** The BBNJ Treaty (also known as the **High Seas Treaty**) is indeed a major milestone in global environmental governance. It addresses the legal vacuum covering nearly two-thirds of the world's oceans.

**Statement II is correct:** This is the core definition of the treaty. It was adopted under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (**UNCLOS**) to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the "High Seas" (areas beyond the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zones of nations).

**Statement III is incorrect:** This is a nuanced point that often trips people up. While the treaty emphasizes the **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** and encourages "capacity building and the transfer of marine technology," it **does not mandate the compulsory transfer** of proprietary technologies. The transfer is generally intended to be on "mutually agreed terms" and "voluntary," though it establishes a framework to facilitate this for developing nations.

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