

SOCIETY-POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES [GS-I]

Real challenge with inequality in India

The article discusses how recent data shows a decline in inequality in India, as measured by the Gini coefficient. However, it argues that this data may not fully capture the inequality among the affluent. The real issue is spatial inequality between different states.

What is the current status of inequality in India?

1. **Decline in Gini Coefficient:** The Gini coefficient, measuring inequality, has decreased in both rural and urban areas. Rural areas saw a drop from 0.283 in 2011-12 to 0.266 in 2022-23, and urban areas from 0.363 to 0.314.
2. **Spatial Inequality:** Significant consumption disparity exists between states and between rural and urban areas. For instance, Chhattisgarh shows an 82% difference in MPCE between rural and urban areas.

What is the real challenge with inequality in India?

1. The primary challenge with inequality in India is spatial disparity between regions and states.
2. The gap in consumption between rural and urban areas is stark, with a nearly 71% difference in average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) at the national level.
3. Disparities between states are also significant. For example, rural Tamil Nadu's MPCE is nearly double that of Jharkhand, and urban Telangana's MPCE is over 70% higher than in Bihar.

What should be done?

1. To address spatial inequality, the central government should provide **increased fiscal support to poorer states**. These states often lack sufficient revenue for development and require resources allocated through mechanisms like the Finance Commission or direct federal support.
2. There is a **need for strategic policy interventions in lagging states** to attract investments and improve development outcomes. Investing in sectors like low-skill manufacturing could help by creating incentives for businesses to relocate to areas with cheaper labor, potentially uplifting poorer regions.
3. A **balanced growth strategy is crucial**, as developed states already have resources and advantages that allow them to attract more investments, further increasing regional disparities.

GOVERNANCE – FISCAL FEDERALISM [GS-II]

On Special Category Status for Andhra

The demand for Special Category Status (SCS) for Andhra Pradesh has resurfaced in the political discourse, especially after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. This issue has reignited the debate whether the state qualifies for special category or not.

History and Background of Andhra Pradesh's demand of SCS

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, split the state into Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, came into effect on June 2, 2014.

In a 2014 Rajya Sabha debate, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured SCS for Andhra Pradesh for five years, supported by BJP leader M. Venkaiah Naidu.

However, after the NDA took power in 2014, the promise of SCS was set aside, with claims that Andhra Pradesh did not meet the criteria and due to the dissolution of the Planning Commission.

What is the Criteria for Special Category Status?

The SCS was created in 1969, on the recommendation of 5th Finance commission, to support states with significant socio-economic disadvantages and geographical challenges. There are 5 factors that are considered for granting SCS:

- 1) Majority tribal population,
- 2) Low population density,
- 3) Hilly terrain and international borders,
- 4) Socio-economic and industrial backwardness, and
- 5) Inadequate state finances

Current SCS States: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, and Uttarakhand.

What are the arguments in favour of granting a SCS to AP?

First, Andhra Pradesh continues to face a revenue deficit and increasing debt. Development projects and the new capital at Amaravati are stalled.

Second, 15th Finance Commission chairman has stated in his book that 14th Finance Commission never stopped SCS status. It is only up to the central government to take a call on this matter.

What are the arguments against providing an SCS to AP?

Andhra Pradesh does not qualify for the SCS, as per norms.

Tax Devolution and Grants: The 14th Finance Commission increased tax devolution to 42% and introduced revenue deficit grants, which Andhra Pradesh received. The 14th Finance Commission equated SCS with the general category status, nullifying SCS for new states.

Special Package (SP): In place of SCS, the NDA government offered Andhra Pradesh an SP, which included full funding for the Polavaram irrigation project, tax concessions, and special assistance.

No Mention in reorganization Act: The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, which split the state into Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, came into effect on June 2, 2014. It did not mention SCS for Andhra Pradesh.

GOVERNANCE [GS-II]

Cooperative Societies are not subject to the RTI Act

The Madras High Court ruled that cooperative societies are not subject to the RTI Act. The court set aside a Tamil Nadu Information Commission order that had directed a cooperative society to disclose loan details.

Justice V. Bhavani Subbaroyan stated that cooperative societies do not qualify as 'public authorities' under Section 2(h) of the RTI Act. The court's decision aligns with previous rulings, including a 2013 Supreme Court verdict.

Positive Implications of the Judgement:

1. **Autonomy of Cooperative Societies:** Reinforces the independence of cooperative societies by not categorizing them as public authorities under the RTI Act.
2. **Legal Clarity:** Provides a clear legal interpretation that can guide similar cases in the future.
3. **Operational Efficiency:** Cooperative societies can operate without the administrative burden of complying with RTI requests, potentially increasing efficiency.

Negative Implications:

- **Reduced Transparency:** Limits public access to information on cooperative societies, potentially reducing transparency and accountability.
- **Potential for Misuse:** Without RTI oversight, there may be a higher risk of corruption or misuse of funds within cooperative societies.
- **Public Distrust:** The decision might foster distrust among the public, particularly if cooperative societies are seen as non-transparent entities.

About RTI Act, 2005:

- **Objective:** Ensures transparency and accountability by providing citizens access to information from public authorities.
- **Constitutional Basis:** Rooted in the right to freedom of speech and expression (Article 19 of the Indian Constitution) [State of UP vs. Raj Narain Case (1975)].
- **Key Provisions:** Time limits for information provision, proactive disclosure, appointment of Public Information Officers (PIOs), and establishment of Central and State Information Commissions.

Public Authorities (PAs) under the RTI Act, 2005:

- **Definition:** Includes government bodies, state-controlled entities, and NGOs significantly funded by the government.
- **Duties:** Maintain organized records, regularly disclose information, and designate PIOs for information dissemination.

Exemptions under Section 8:

- Information affecting the sovereignty, integrity, or security of India.
- Information forbidden by courts or constituting contempt of court.
- Information breaching Parliament's or State Legislature's privilege.
- Commercial confidences, trade secrets, and intellectual property (unless public interest requires disclosure).
- Personal information invades privacy without public interest.

Cooperatives in India and issues faced by them:

Meaning: Co-operatives are voluntary, democratic, and autonomous organisations controlled by their members who actively participate in their policies and decision-making.

Efforts to promote them:

- After independence, the first five-year plan (1951-56) emphasised the adoption of co-operatives to cover various aspects of community development.
- 97th Amendment (2011): It inserted Article 43B in the DPSP of the Indian Constitution inserted,
- As per Article 43B. States shall endeavour to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of cooperative societies.

Issues faced by the co-operatives:

- Inadequacies in governance
- Politicisation and the excessive role of the government
- Inability to ensure active membership
- Lack of efforts for capital formation
- Inability to attract and retain competent professionals
- Elections to co-operative boards have been postponed indefinitely

What are Multi-state Co-operative Societies?

- Regulated by the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act 2002, these are societies that have operations in more than one state (like FPOs).
- Part IXB (also inserted by the 97th amendment) of the Indian constitution is applicable only to multi-state co-operative societies (as per an SC verdict), as states have the jurisdiction to legislate over state co-operative societies.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS [GS-II]

Significance of Maldives President Visit in India

Recently, President Mohamed Muizzu of the Maldives was one of seven neighboring leaders who attended Indian Prime Minister’s wearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Significance of Maldives President Visit in India

- **Geostrategic Importance:** The Maldives is a crucial part of India’s ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy and the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.
- **Geopolitical Dynamics:** China’s ‘Belt and Road’ Initiative (BRI), which includes the Maldives, has expanded China’s influence in the region, potentially challenging India’s strategic interests.
- **Geoeconomic Significance:** Approximately 50% of India’s external trade and 80% of its energy imports pass through sea lanes near the Maldives, underscoring its critical role in India’s maritime economy.
- **Security Role:** The Maldives acts as a strategic ‘toll gate’ between the western and eastern Indian Ocean, enhancing its importance as a net security provider for India.
- **Regional Cooperation:** India and the Maldives engage in regional cooperation through platforms such as SAARC, SASEC, IORA, and IONS.

Neighbourhood First Policy

Neighbourhood First Policy (NFP) was conceived in 2008 wherein the principles of engagement under NFP were 5S (Samman, Samvad, Shanti, Samriddhi and Sanskriti).

- **Aim:** It aims to foster stronger ties, enhance regional cooperation, and address mutual concerns with immediate neighbouring countries.
- **Inspiration:** The Policy is driven by India’s consultative, nonreciprocal and development-oriented approach.

SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)

SAGAR, a concept introduced by PM Modi in 2015 during his visit to Mauritius, emphasizes the blue economy.

- **Aim:** This maritime initiative prioritizes the Indian Ocean region to ensure peace, stability, and prosperity for India.
- **Objectives:** The objectives include fostering trust and transparency, adherence to international maritime rules and norms,
 - Mutual respect for national interests, peaceful resolution of maritime disputes, and enhanced maritime cooperation. SAGAR aligns with the principles of the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

Significance of India for the Maldives

- **Defense and Security Cooperation:** India is a vital security partner for the Maldives, addressing its maritime surveillance needs.
 - India provides 70% of the Maldivian National Defence Force’s (MNDF) training and engages in joint exercises like Ekuverin and Ekatha, as well as disaster management initiatives.
 - The Indian Army played a crucial role in thwarting an attempted coup in Malé in 1988. “Across party lines in the Maldives, they don’t criticize this operation.
- **Trade Relations:** India is the Maldives’ largest trade partner, leading export destination, and a traditional donor.
 - It is heavily dependent on Indian imports in almost all important sectors, from food to life-saving medicines, and aircraft used in search and rescue missions.

- **Infrastructure and Development:** India is actively involved in numerous infrastructure projects in the Maldives, including airports at Hanimaadhoo and Gan Island, and the development of Gulhifalhu Port.
 - Current project is the Greater Male Connectivity Project, with India providing \$500 million in funding.
- **Capacity Building:** India has allocated Rs 52 crore for the enhancement of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital and facilitated the establishment of a cutting-edge cancer facility that will link over 150 health centers across various islands.
 - In the education sector, India established a technical education institute in 1996 and initiated a program to train Maldivian teachers and youth, along with vocational training, in a project worth USD 5.3 million.

Recent Challenges in India Maldives Relations

- **Security Concerns:** The current Maldivian government has accused India of infringing on the country's sovereignty and demanded the removal of Indian troops as part of the 'India out' campaign.
 - Additionally, Male was notably absent from the **Colombo Security Conclave** meeting in December 2023.
- **Shifting Priorities:** In Maldives, public opinion is split between two perspectives: the 'India out' campaign and the 'India first' campaign, championed by former President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
 - For instance, newly-elected President Mohamed Muizzu departed from tradition by making Turkey his first bilateral visit, followed by China, instead of visiting India first
- **Muizzu's pro-China tilt:** Like his mentor, former President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, under whose rule (2013-18) the India-Maldives relationship deteriorated severely, Muizzu has openly aligned his country with China.
- **Impact of Maldives' Domestic Politics:** Relations between Maldives and India have been strained since President Muizzu assumed power, with deliberate efforts by Male to create distance from New Delhi.
 - For example, the termination of the hydrography pact by Maldives can be interpreted as a move to distance itself from India.
- **Lakshadweep Controversy:** The controversy arose when three Maldivian deputy ministers made derogatory comments about India and the Prime Minister following his visit to Lakshadweep.
 - They claimed the visit aimed to challenge Maldivian tourism, renowned for its beachside amenities.
- **Diplomatic Turmoil:** Under President Muizzu, the Maldives faces a diplomatic crisis. Balancing between India and China has become challenging, leading to tensions.
 - **For example**, the Maldivian envoy to India was summoned by the external affairs ministry due to derogatory comments made by Maldivian leaders about India's PM.
- **Growing Chinese Influence:** President Muizzu's visit to China ahead of India has stirred concerns, hinting at a possible shift towards favoring China.
 - China views the **Maldives as vital to its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** and is actively engaging in infrastructure projects in the region to bolster its presence.
- **Supporting Extremists:** Maldivians' increasing involvement with groups like IS and LeT has sparked worries about radicalization.
 - These groups have exploited charity organizations in the Maldives after the 2004 tsunami. An attack on an Indian embassy's Yoga event in 2022 underscores this issue.

PRELIM FACT

1. AIM – ICDK Water Challenge 4.0 and Innovations For You – SDG Entrepreneurs of India

Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog (AIM) recently launched of two initiatives aimed at fostering innovation and sustainability in India. They are 'AIM – ICDK Water Challenge 4.0' and the fifth edition of 'Innovations for You' handbook, spotlighting SDG entrepreneurs of India.

1. The AIM (Atal Innovation Mission) has introduced the fourth edition of the Water Challenge in partnership with the Innovation Centre Denmark (ICDK) at the Royal Danish Embassy in India.
2. This challenge aims to find creative solutions for important water problems. It's part of a special partnership between India and Denmark focused on green and sustainable strategies.
3. Teams that are selected will join the Indian cohort and participate in a global program called the Next Generation Digital Action. They will work with young talents from top universities and innovation centers in nine countries: India, Denmark, Ghana, Kenya, Korea, Tanzania, South Africa, Colombia, and Mexico.

4. The challenge is open to students and young entrepreneurs under the age of 35. It's especially encouraging early-stage startups, researchers, and young innovators who are committed to environmental sustainability to apply.

5. There are two tracks in this challenge:

- i) The Student Track focuses on using digital technology to create a positive impact on society.
- ii) The Young Entrepreneurs Track offers Indian tech startups an opportunity to develop their ideas faster and form international partnerships.

About Innovations For You – SDG Entrepreneurs of India

1. AIM has also released the fifth edition of 'Innovations For You'. It is a coffee table book series that highlights the work of entrepreneurs in India who are contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. This edition features 60 entrepreneurs from different parts of India.

3. Each one is working on sustainable innovations that help society, such as creating products from recyclable materials, promoting green energy, providing inclusive education, and supporting underrepresented communities and local artisans.

2. Przewalski horses

Przewalski horses were reintroduced to their native habitat in Kazakhstan.

About Przewalski horses

Source: Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute

Aspects	Description
About	<p>1. Przewalski horses were found in Mongolia. They are the last truly wild horse.</p> <p>2. Once thought to be the ancestor to the domestic horse, they are actually distant cousins.</p> <p>3. Mitochondrial DNA suggests that they diverged from a common ancestor 500,000 years ago.</p>
Physical Description	<p>i) They are small, stocky, heavily built with a large head, thick neck, and short legs.</p> <p>ii) They have dun-colored with a dark zebra-like erect mane, no forelock, and a dark stripe along the backbone to a dark, plumed tail.</p> <p>iii) There are markings in their body which are of yellowish-white belly, dark lower legs, and zebra-like stripes behind the knees.</p> <p>iv) Horses can withstand harsh winters with temperatures dropping below minus 30 degrees Celsius.</p>
Native Habitat	<p>i) They were originally found across Europe and Asia. Now they are found at reintroduction sites in Mongolia, China, and Kazakhstan.</p> <p>ii) There are now 2,000 Przewalski horses around the world, mainly in China and Mongolia but, they are also found in France, Russia and living wild in the Chernobyl exclusion zone between Belarus and Ukraine.</p>
Diet	Grass and leaves from shrubby trees
Social Structure	Typically consist of several mares, a dominant stallion, and their offspring. Younger stallions form bachelor herds and must defeat the dominant stallion to breed. Offspring are chased out upon reaching breeding age.
Distinction	Wild Status: It is the only true wild horses left. Other "wild" horses are actually feral domestic horses.
Conservation status	IUCN: Endangered

3. National Health Claim Exchange

The Health Ministry and IRDAI are collaborating to launch the National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX), aiming to streamline healthcare access and claims processing.

What is NHCX?

NHCX is a communication protocol facilitating the exchange of health claim information between payers, providers, and beneficiaries. NHCX will centralize health claims, enabling seamless interoperability, improving efficiency, and reducing administrative burdens on hospitals. Twelve insurance companies and one

TPA have integrated with NHCX. Under the Digital Health Incentive Scheme, hospitals receive financial incentives for digital health transactions through NHCX.



Current Claim Processing: The existing process lacks standardization and is mostly manual, leading to inefficiencies and variations across insurers and providers.

About IRDAI:

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, regulating the insurance industry. Established in 1999, it's headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana. Recently, IRDAI directed health insurance providers to create specialized policies for senior citizens and removed the age limit for purchasing health insurance policies, effective April 1, 2024. It operates with a 10-member body appointed by the government, including a chairman and both full-time and part-time members.

4. Sticky Inflation

Recently RBI has refrained from cutting interest rates despite declining retail inflation rates, which have hovered near the 4% mark since September 2023.

What is Sticky Inflation?

Sticky inflation refers to a situation where inflation rates remain relatively high or stable over time, despite changes in economic conditions or monetary policy. This phenomenon is characterized by a slow decline in inflation rates and resistance to central bank efforts to lower them through measures like interest rate cuts.

Reasons: Rising wages and prices for consumer goods and services are typically the main factors behind inflation stickiness.

Implications: It can push monetary authorities to tighten monetary policy and raise interest rates.

5. safeEXO-Cas

Scientists at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine have developed a new gene editing platform called "safeEXO-Cas," using exosomes as delivery vehicles for CRISPR/Cas9 components.

This platform enhances precision in targeting specific cells and tissues, overcoming the limitations of current delivery methods.

What are Exosomes?

Exosomes are naturally occurring vesicles that act as vehicles for transporting molecules, such as proteins and genetic material, between cells. These tiny membrane-bound structures play a crucial role in cell-to-cell communication and have potential applications in drug delivery, diagnostics, and therapeutics.

About CRISPR/Cas9 technology:

It is a genome editing tool, that works as a cut-and-paste mechanism on DNA strands, allowing targeted modifications to the genome. Its applications include editing genes in human embryos, improving crop resilience, and treating diseases like sickle cell disease.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Birsa Munda, a tribal freedom fighter, played a significant role in the struggle against British colonial rule in India. Discuss his contributions to the Indian freedom movement and analyze the relevance of his ideals in the present-day context of tribal rights and empowerment.

Birsa Munda was born on November 15, 1875, in Ulihatu, Jharkhand, and his birthday is commemorated annually as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' by the Government of India, highlighting his enduring legacy. He played a pivotal role in resisting British colonial rule and advocating for tribal rights. As a leader of the Ulgulan movement, he not only mobilised tribal communities but also laid the foundation for modern tribal rights movements in India.

Role and Historical Context:

Birsa Munda spearheaded the Ulgulan (Great Tumult) movement in the late 19th century, which was a significant uprising against British colonial policies that exploited tribal lands and resources. The movement aimed to establish Munda Raj (Munda Kingdom) and was instrumental in resisting the feudal practices imposed by the British and local landlords.

Contributions to the Indian Freedom Movement:

- **Leadership in Ulgulan Movement:** Birsa Munda led the **Ulgulan** movement to challenge the British-imposed **zamindari** system, which alienated **tribals** from their lands.
For example: The movement forced the British to enact the **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (CNT)** in **1908**, protecting tribal lands from being easily transferred to **non-tribals**.
- **Social and Religious Reforms:** He founded the **Birsait faith**, which promoted **monotheism, moral conduct**, and the **rejection of superstitions and alcoholism**.
For example: His followers, known as **Birsaits**, resisted both British influence and missionary activities, strengthening **tribal unity and identity**.
- **Mobilisation Against Land Alienation:** Birsa strongly opposed the policies that led to land alienation and exploitation by landlords and moneylenders.
For example: His efforts in mobilising **tribals** against **forced labour** and **unfair taxation** highlighted the issues of **land rights**, leading to **legislative changes** to protect tribal interests.
- **Unification of Tribal Communities:** He unified various tribal groups across the **Chotanagpur plateau** to collectively resist British exploitation and preserve their traditional way of life.
For example: His mobilisation efforts extended beyond the **Munda tribe**, involving other **tribal communities** in **Jharkhand** and surrounding regions, fostering a broader resistance movement.

Relevance of Birsa Munda's Ideals in Present-Day:

- **Protection of Tribal Lands:** The protection of tribal lands remains a crucial issue today, with many tribals facing **displacement** due to **industrial projects**.
For example: Movements against **large-scale mining projects** in tribal areas, like those in **Niyamgiri, Odisha**, draw inspiration from Birsa's struggle for land rights.
- **Empowerment through Education:** Birsa emphasised **education** as a tool for **empowerment**, which is vital for the **socio-economic upliftment** of tribal communities today.
For example: Initiatives like **Eklavya Model Residential Schools** aim to provide **quality education** to tribal children, reflecting Birsa's vision for empowering tribal youth through education.
- **Preservation of Tribal Culture and Identity:** Birsa's efforts to revive and preserve tribal culture are echoed in present-day initiatives to promote and protect tribal heritage.
For example: The **celebration of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas'** on his birth anniversary is a step towards recognizing and honoring the cultural contributions of tribal communities.
- **Advocacy for Tribal Rights:** Birsa's fight for **justice** and **rights** continues to inspire contemporary movements advocating for the legal and constitutional rights of tribals.
For example: The implementation of the **Forest Rights Act**, which aims to recognize the rights of **forest-dwelling tribes** over **ancestral lands**, is a testament to his enduring legacy.

Conclusion:

Birsa Munda's contributions to the Indian freedom movement were pivotal in highlighting the injustices faced by tribal communities under British rule. His ideals of land protection, cultural preservation, and education remain highly relevant in addressing the challenges faced by tribals today. To truly honour his legacy, it is essential to implement policies that **safeguard tribal rights**, promote **socio-economic development**, and preserve their **rich cultural heritage**. By doing so, we can ensure a more inclusive and equitable future for all tribal communities in India.

MCQS

1. With reference to Right to Information Act, 2005, consider the following statements:
 1. The RTI Act applies only to the Central Government.
 2. The RTI Act mandates that information should be provided within 45 days of the request.
 3. The RTI Act allows any citizen to request information from a public authority.
 How many of the above statements is/are correct?
 - a) Only one
 - b) Only two
 - c) All three
 - d) None
2. Which body is established at the central level to oversee the implementation of the RTI Act?
 - a) Central Vigilance Commission
 - b) **Central Information Commission**
 - c) Comptroller and Auditor General
 - d) National Human Rights Commission
3. Consider the following statements:
 1. Sticky inflation occurs when prices of goods and services adjust quickly to changes in supply and demand.
 2. Sticky inflation indicates that inflation rates are highly sensitive to short-term economic fluctuations.
 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
4. Which of the following statements accurately reflects the purpose of the 'safeEXO-Cas' technology?
a) It aims to enhance agricultural productivity by increasing crop yield.
b) Its primary goal is to combat climate change by reducing carbon emissions.
c) The technology is designed to safely and precisely edit genes in living organisms.
d) Its purpose is to facilitate faster and more efficient data transmission in telecommunications.
5. Gardi Sugdub, recently in the news due to a climate change crisis, is located in:
a) The Maldives
b) Fiji
c) Panama
d) The Bahamas
6. With reference to the Przewalski's horse (Asian wild horse), consider the following statements:
1. They have shorter legs compared to domestic horses.
2. They have a large head, thick neck, and an erect mane with no forelock.
3. They are categorized as 'Extinct in the Wild' in the IUCN List of Threatened Species.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
7. Which one of the following is NOT a pillar of India's Neighbourhood First Policy?
a) Strengthening bilateral ties
b) Promoting regional security and stability
c) Encouraging unilateral trade concessions for neighbours
d) Enhancing people-to-people connectivity
8. Consider the following statements:
1. The concept of Special Category Status (SCS) was first brought into existence through the recommendations made by the Fifth Finance Commission.
2. A primary objective of granting SCS to a state is to grant it greater autonomy in managing its resources.
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
9. Consider the following statements about the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):
1. IRDAI is an autonomous, statutory body established to regulate and develop the insurance industry in India.
2. IRDAI is responsible for protecting the interests of policyholders.
3. IRDAI regulates only life insurance companies in India.
How many of the above statements is/are correct?
b) Only two
a) Only one
c) All three
d) None
10. Consider the following statements regarding Aditya-L1 mission:
1. Aditya-L1 is placed at L1 Point which helps the spacecraft to conserve fuel by maintaining a stable orbit.
2. L1 point is completely safe from harsh space environments including radiation and micrometeoroid impacts.
3. The Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX) analyzes solar wind particles including protons and heavier ions.
How many of the above statements are correct?
b) Only two
a) Only one
c) All three
d) None