

APPLICATIONS OF ETHICS PAPER-IV**Anna Sebastian Perayil: Death Due to Overwork**

The tragic death of 26-year-old EY employee Anna Sebastian Perayil has sparked critical discussions about toxic work culture in corporate India.

Anna's mother claims work pressure led to her daughter's passing, highlighting issues of overwhelming workloads, long hours, and unrealistic expectations. Employees often hesitate to voice concerns due to fear of professional consequences, worsening the situation.

Despite corporate wellness initiatives, many companies fail to prioritize employee well-being. Experts emphasize the need for empathetic leadership, reduced workloads, and stress management programs. Anna's death serves as a reminder that creating a healthy workplace culture should be a priority for all organizations.

The ethical issues in the case of the 26-year-old EY employee's death include:

1. **Workplace Stress and Mental Health:** Failure to manage excessive workloads, long hours, and stress can harm employees' physical and mental health, raising concerns about employer responsibility for well-being.
2. **Toxic Work Culture:** A culture that normalizes overwork, burnout, and the fear of speaking up about stress or exhaustion can be seen as unethical, as it neglects the human aspects of work.
3. **Lack of Empathy and Support:** The absence of company representatives at the employee's funeral reflects a lack of empathy and emotional support from the organization, which is essential during such situations.
4. **Retaliation and Fear of Repercussions:** Employees hesitating to report work-related stress due to fear of retaliation or poor performance ratings highlight an unethical power dynamic within the workplace.
5. **Unclear Expectations and Unrealistic Workloads:** Imposing unrealistic expectations without regard for employee capacity or well-being is a violation of ethical labour practices.
6. **Mental Health Stigma:** The fear of being judged for mental health struggles or stress highlights a broader ethical issue of insufficient support for mental well-being in the workplace.
7. **Credit Misappropriation:** Instances where managers take credit for subordinates' work, resulting in poor performance ratings for employees, reflect a lack of integrity and fairness.
8. **Neglecting Employee Welfare Policies:** Despite wellness programs, the failure to genuinely implement policies that prioritize employee welfare shows a disconnect between corporate promises and actual practices.

18 hours work' debate and hustle culture

Hustle culture is defined as one that encourages employees to work more than normal working hours.

- Work is on their minds even when they have free time or on holidays.
- The major requirement of this culture is to complete a job on target at a faster pace than usual.

A LinkedIn post by the CEO of a company advising youngsters to work 18 hours a day, at least for four to five years initially in their career, faced a backlash and was ridiculed.

What does WHO study on long working hours say?

- 745,000 people died from a stroke and heart disease associated with long working hours in 2016
- Working 55 hours or more per week is a serious health hazard
- Capping hours would be beneficial for employers since that has been shown to increase worker productivity.

Why is it important to have a work-life balance?

Siddhartha S, an author of 5 books — '60 Keys to Success with NLP', 'Thank God it's Monday', and many others suggest:

1. Work-life balance is critical
2. Put health before wealth
3. Devise an incentive system if you want employees to work extra hours
4. Success has different meanings for different people: Economic success is not the only yardstick to measure the success of human life.
5. Entrepreneur and employee mindsets are different: If an employee has to work 70+ hours for a basic salary, then it is not a great idea. The employee may as well take the entrepreneurship path where there is an opportunity to create a company and to keep the profits.

GS PAPER 2 – SOCIAL ISSUES – ISSUES RELATED TO POVERTY AND HUNGER**Thalinomics Vs Cost of Healthy Diet (CoHD) for measuring nutrition needs**

Even after improvements in poverty rates and income levels in India, India faces persistent nutritional challenges. The National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) in 2015-16 and 2019-21 reveal high rates of undernutrition among children and increasing anaemia among adults, alongside rising obesity prevalence in both rural and urban areas.

This triple burden of malnutrition (undernutrition, overnutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies) is exacerbated by many factors. Healthy nutritious diets are crucial for addressing India's triple burden of malnutrition.

What are the main barriers to Healthy Diets?

High cost of healthy diets, making them unaffordable for a significant portion of the population. As per the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 report, 55.6% of India's population (788 million people) could not afford a nutritionally adequate diet as of 2022.

Rising food prices, especially for nutritious items like vegetables, fruits, pulses, and eggs, coupled with stagnating or declining real wages, are making healthy diets increasingly expensive.

What are the limitations of Thalonomics approach?

The Economic Survey 2019-20 introduced 'Thalinomics' to calculate the cost of "typical" thalis based on the 2011 Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs). However, the thali does not adequately reflect nutritional recommendations:

- It **accounts for only 61%** of the recommended daily food requirements in grams.
- It **covers only 65%** of the National Institute of Nutrition's (NIN) 2021 caloric recommendations.
- It **excludes nutrient-rich food** groups like green leafy vegetables, dairy, and nuts and seeds.

Thalinomics relies on outdated data from the 2011-12 National Sample Survey Consumer Expenditure Survey (NSS-CES).

The "typical" meals represented in Thalonomics may not account for India's dietary diversity and local food availability.

How does Cost of Healthy Diet (CoHD) function as an alternative?

The CoHD measures the minimum daily expenditure required to meet nutritional recommendations based on current FBDGs. It has the following advantages:

- Uses readily available price data**, eliminating the need for reliance on expensive household consumption surveys.
- Simple computations** that can be easily understood.
- Provides a **more accurate representation** of the cost of meeting nutritional requirements compared to the thali approach.

For example, an analysis comparing CoHD with vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis over the period 2018-2023 shows that the CoHD was generally higher, particularly during the COVID-19 lockdowns, when supply disruptions led to a spike in the prices of perishables

The Thalonomics approach, though intuitive, fails to capture the real cost of nutritious diets and may underestimate it, especially in times of crisis. In contrast, the CoHD provides a more accurate reflection of the true cost of meeting nutritional needs. It accounts for the fluctuating costs of perishable foods, particularly during supply-side disruptions.

GS PAPER 3- SECURITY CHALLENGES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

New Threats are Emerging in Aviation Safety

The article discusses new aviation safety risks from electronic devices like pagers and walkie-talkies, potentially triggered by external signals, citing incidents in West Asia. It highlights India's security vulnerabilities and urges stronger safety measures to prevent future threats.

What New Threats are Emerging in Aviation Safety?

- Small electronic devices like pagers and walkie-talkies have been identified as potential threats, as seen in Lebanon. Explosions in these devices could be triggered by external signals.
- In-flight explosions could cause cabin fires or damage to the aircraft's pressure system, leading to decompression and oxygen mask deployment, creating a dangerous situation for passengers.
- Mobile phones left on during flights can interfere with aircraft systems. One such incident caused a crash when an incoming signal misdirected the autopilot.

What security loopholes exist in India?

- VVIP Exemptions:** In India, VVIPs are exempt from security checks. This includes people with questionable backgrounds, unlike other countries where exemptions are limited.
- 1989 Rule Expansion:** Initially, only five categories were exempt from security checks, but later, even State Governors were added.

3. **Unchecked Baggage:** Some VVIPs and officials bypass hand baggage checks, increasing the risk of dangerous items being smuggled onboard.
4. **No Global Parity:** India's broad exemption contrasts with tighter global norms.

What Should be Done?

1. **Ban Wi-Fi on flights:** To prevent external signals from triggering explosions in devices, as seen in Lebanon.
2. **Introduce signal shields at airports:** This would block dangerous signals, similar to safety measures introduced before 5G near airports.
3. **Remove VVIP exemptions in India:** VVIP baggage should not bypass security checks, preventing potential threats from being smuggled.
4. **Enforce mobile phone flight rules:** Keeping phones in flight mode prevents interference, as a crash occurred due to a live signal.
5. **Ban risky devices on flights:** Airlines should follow Beirut's example of banning pagers and walkie-talkies.

GS PAPER 3- INDIAN ECONOMY – ISSUES RELATING TO MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

Concerns about using GST data for GDP estimates

The article discusses concerns about using GST data for GDP estimates. It warns that untested data, like MCA-21, led to overestimation. The NSO must ensure proper testing of GST data before adopting it to avoid inaccuracies in future GDP calculations.

What is the Main Concern About GDP Calculation?

1. The main concern is the accuracy of GDP estimates due to untested datasets.
2. The MCA-21 database, used since 2011-12, led to overestimation of industrial growth.
3. For example, in 2013-14, manufacturing growth was revised from (-)1.90% in the old series to (+)5.4% in the new series.
4. Comparisons between NAS (based on MCA-21) and ASI data from 2012-13 to 2019-20 showed significant discrepancies: GVA growth was 6.2% in NAS but only 3.2% in ASI.
5. The same issue occurred with GFCF growth, which was 4.5% in NAS and just 0.3% in ASI.
6. The NSO is considering using GST data for GDP estimation, but experts caution against hasty adoption without proper testing, as seen with MCA-21.

Why Was There a Change in Database Before?

1. The change in database occurred due to limitations in previous methods like the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) and the RBI sample.
2. ASI missed value addition outside factory premises, while the RBI sample didn't cover the fast-growing Private Corporate Sector (PCS).
3. MCA-21 was introduced in the 2011-12 base year to capture corporate output more fully.
4. MCA-21, with its extensive corporate returns data, replaced the older methods to provide better coverage.
5. GST data is a large and up-to-date source that may replace the MCA-21 database for estimating value addition in the Private Corporate Sector (PCS), which contributes 38% of GDP. The proposed base year is 2020-21, and using GST data could be a significant change.

What Should be Done?

1. To avoid repeating the overestimation seen with MCA-21 data, the NSO should conduct pilot studies to verify if GST data is reliable.
2. Testing is essential to ensure accuracy in GDP estimates. Cross-validation with other datasets is also important to maintain the integrity of GDP figures.
3. NSO could consider reverting to the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for estimating GDP in the manufacturing sector, as it is now available with a shorter time lag.

GS PAPER 3- SECURITY CHALLENGES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

India Need a National Security Strategy (NSS)

The article discusses the need for India to develop a National Security Strategy. It emphasizes that such a strategy should prioritize economic and defence resources, address external threats like China, and maintain secrecy. It highlights the challenges of balancing defence and diplomacy.

Why Does India Need a National Security Strategy (NSS)?

1. **External Threats:** India faces increasing challenges from a belligerent eastern neighbor, China, with whom it has an \$85 billion trade deficit and military inequalities, like fewer submarines and warships.
2. **Global Instability:** Ongoing wars in Ukraine and Gaza are affecting global growth, which threatens India's economic ambitions of becoming a \$4 trillion economy.

3. **Multi-alignment Strategy:** India's strategy of balancing relationships through alliances like the Quad and BRICS requires a coherent National Security Strategy to manage these diverse diplomatic and defence needs.
4. **Economic Strength:** The economy is crucial to national security, with various ministries vying for limited resources. A National Security Strategy would help India prioritize and manage its defence and economic objectives effectively.

What Should Be Included in a National Security Strategy?

1. **Defense and Economy Integration:** The National Security Strategy (NSS) should align defense needs with economic goals, recognizing the critical role the economy plays in security. For instance, defense budgeting should be transparent and prioritize investments in key areas like submarine and shipbuilding where India lags behind China significantly.
2. **Multi-Alignment Foreign Policy:** The NSS should formalize India's multi-alignment strategy, which includes balancing relationships within groups like the Quad and BRICS. This strategy helps India manage its \$85 billion trade deficit with China while addressing security challenges.
3. **Confidentiality:** The strategy should remain classified to protect national interests. Revealing vulnerabilities could compromise India's position against more powerful neighbors like China.
4. **Strategic Resource Allocation:** The NSS should outline how resources are allocated across different sectors like defense, finance, and technology. It should prioritize investments in sectors crucial for national security, ensuring balanced growth and readiness.

How Does the U.S. and Other Countries Define National Security?

1. **United States:** The U.S. defines national security as a union of values and national interests. The National Security Strategy (NSS) mentions "values" 29 times, emphasizing America's leadership role. It influences other documents like the National Defense Strategy and budgeting.
2. **United Kingdom:** The U.K.'s 2021 Integrated Review focuses on global partnerships and maintaining its status as a European power, despite its limited military resources, such as insufficient aircraft for its carriers.
3. **France:** In 2022, France's NSS focused on nuclear deterrence due to the Ukraine war, aiming to assert European leadership, though it faced limited success.

PRELIM FACTS

1.100 years of ICAR-NISA

About ICAR-National Institute of Secondary Agriculture (NISA):

It was established in 1924 as the Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums in Ranchi, Jharkhand, and was renamed in 2022. It operates under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

About Secondary Agriculture:

It involves adding value to primary agricultural products and related activities like beekeeping, poultry farming, and agritourism. It includes processes converting agricultural produce, residues, and by-products into high-value items for food, industrial, and medicinal uses. Examples include making jaggery from sugarcane or extracting oil from rice bran.

Significance:

- Increases farmer income through value-added products.
- Promotes sustainable use of crop residues.
- Boosts rural cottage industries.
- Meets growing demand for ready-to-eat and functional foods.

2. India's First Comprehensive Cancer Multi-omics Data Portal

The Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) foundation recently announced that it has launched **India's first comprehensive cancer multi-omics data portal**.

About ICGA cancer multi-omics data portal:

- The **India Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) Foundation** has launched **India's first cancer multi-omics data portal**.
- This platform provides **open access** to data specifically from **Indian cancer patients**, making it a **significant tool for cancer research** in the country.
- The portal offers **clinically correlated data** aimed at advancing research and improving cancer treatments for Indian populations.
- It is the **first of its kind in India** to provide **integrated DNA, RNA, and protein profiles of breast cancer patients**, alongside their clinical outcomes.

- The data is **accessible to researchers globally** under India's **PRIDE guidelines**, which foster ethical data sharing and collaboration in cancer research.

Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA)

- The Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) is a **national initiative** aimed at **mapping various types of cancer** across India.
- It is operated by the **ICGA Foundation**, a **Section 8 not-for-profit organisation**, which functions through a **public-private-philanthropic partnership**.
- The initiative is supported by a **diverse team of over 50 clinicians, researchers, and data analysts**.
- **Main goal of the ICGA:** To improve **cancer diagnosis and treatment** for Indian patients, while also contributing to the **global understanding of cancer biology**.
- **Foundation's first project:** Focuses on **multi-omics profiling of breast cancer**, with future plans to extend this approach to other cancers.

3.ASOSAI (Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions)

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the 16th Assembly of ASOSAI in New Delhi on September 24, 2024.

About ASOSAI (Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions):

- ASOSAI is one of the **regional groups of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)**.
- It focuses on **fostering cooperation and improving public audit standards** in Asia.
- **Founded:** Established in **1979, with 11 member SAIs**; membership has since **grown to 48 SAIs**.
- **Proposal:** First proposed by **Mr. Tantuico, Chairman of the SAI of the Philippines**, during the **9th INTOSAI Congress** (October 1977, Lima, Peru).
- **Charter Signing:** In September **1978**, **9 Asian SAIs** signed the **ASOSAI Charter in Berlin, West Germany**.
- **Assembly:** The Assembly consists of all members of the Organization and meets once in three years.
- **First Assembly:** Held in **May 1979 in New Delhi, India**, where the rules and regulations were approved.
- **Secretariat:** The Secretariat of ASOSAI is headed by the **Secretary General**, who is **elected by the Assembly**.
- ASOSAI Secretariat serves for **three-year terms** that can be renewed twice (up to 9 years).
- **Presently**, the **Auditor General of the National Audit Office of China** is the **Secretary General of ASOSAI**.
- **India's membership:** India is a member of ASOSAI.
- India is a **charter member of ASOSAI**, and the **CAG of India** has been elected as the **Chairman of ASOSAI for the period 2024-2027**

4.Vancomycin

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus rarely resists vancomycin; only 16 such cases have been reported in India so far.

About Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA):

- **Staphylococcus aureus** is a significant **bacterial species contributing to AMR**.
- **Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)** is a **strain** that has developed **resistance to many antibiotics**.
- **In 2019**, MRSA was responsible for **over 100,000 deaths globally**.

About Vancomycin:

- Vancomycin is an **antibiotic** used to **treat severe bacterial infections** caused by **gram-positive bacteria**, including **methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)**.
- Vancomycin has been a key **first-line treatment for MRSA for 40 years**.
- MRSA **rarely develops resistance to vancomycin**, but when it does, it becomes **Vancomycin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (VRSA)**.
- VRSA is still relatively **rare**, with **only 16 reported cases in India** to date.
- VRSA acquires **resistance to vancomycin** through the **transfer of a gene cluster** known as the **vanA operon** from other **vancomycin-resistant bacteria during co-infections**.
- The acquisition of vancomycin resistance usually leads to **slower bacterial growth and lower fitness**, which is why VRSA remains rare.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):

- Antimicrobial Drug Resistance or Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when **bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines.**
- **Impact:** Infections become **difficult or impossible to treat**, increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, disability and death.
- **Reason:** AMR is a **natural process that happens over time** through genetic changes in pathogens.

5. Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs)

Recently, CEA has approved two additional Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) in Maharashtra: the 1500 MW Bhavali PSP and the 1000 MW Bhivpuri PSP. This has been done as part of its commitment to a sustainable energy future.

About Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs)

1. Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs)- Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) play a crucial role in India’s transition to a renewable energy future. These projects function as large-scale energy storage systems, utilizing the gravitational potential energy of water.

2. Functioning of PSPs- During periods of low electricity demand, surplus power (usually from renewable sources) is used to pump water from a lower reservoir to a higher one. When electricity demand peaks, the stored water is released, flowing back down through turbines to generate electricity.

3. Significance of PSPs- This system helps in balancing the grid, ensuring stability during periods of high demand, and supporting the integration of renewable energy.

About the recently concurred Pumped Storage Projects

1. Two recently concurred Pumped Storage Projects in Maharashtra are the 1500 MW Bhavali PSP by JSW Energy Ltd. and the 1000 MW Bhivpuri PSP by Tata Power Co. Ltd. These are part of India’s growing focus on energy storage.

2. These projects are expected to be completed by 2028, will provide a combined storage capacity of over 15 GWh, offering significant support for grid stability during non-solar hours.

3. In addition to these, India has been developing several other pumped storage projects to meet its energy demands. Some notable ones include:

1. Srisaillam Dam PSP: It is located on the Krishna River, Andhra Pradesh. This is one of the largest PSPs in India, with a capacity of 1,670 MW. It has been critical in providing power during peak hours.

2. Kadana Dam PSP: It is situated in Gujarat. This project has a capacity of 240 MW and contributes to balancing the energy supply during off-peak and peak periods.

3. Purulia Pumped Storage Project: It is located in West Bengal. This PSP has a capacity of 900 MW and is an important asset for managing energy during peak demand.

4. Tehri PSP: It is located in Uttarakhand. This PSP has a capacity of 1,000 MW and plays a vital role in regulating energy in the northern grid.

5. Pancheshwar Dam PSP: It is planned on the Mahakali River between India and Nepal. This large-scale project is expected to have a significant storage capacity to support renewable energy integration in the region.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. In the fight against fake news, how can a balance be achieved between combating misinformation and safeguarding the fundamental right to free speech and expression?

Fake news has emerged as a significant challenge in the digital era, with the potential to mislead the public and disrupt democratic processes. However, in addressing misinformation, it is essential to balance the fundamental right to free speech, guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution. The challenge lies in combating misinformation without infringing on citizens’ right to express dissent or voice opinions, ensuring that regulatory measures do not suppress legitimate speech.

Challenges in Achieving a Balance Between Combating Misinformation and Safeguarding Free Speech:

- **Ambiguity in Definitions:** The lack of clear definitions for terms like “fake news” or “misleading information” creates **legal ambiguity**, making it difficult to regulate content without violating free speech rights.
- **Potential for Government Overreach:** Regulatory measures aimed at combating misinformation often lead to **government overreach**, where the authorities may suppress dissenting voices under the guise of curbing fake news.

- **Self-Censorship:** Vague regulations and fear of legal action can lead to **self-censorship** among individuals, particularly those in media, political satire, or activism, thus stifling creativity and open discourse.
For example: Satirists and comedians might avoid commenting on government policies, fearing repercussions under unclear laws.
- **Impact on Digital Platforms:** Digital platforms may be pressured into **removing content** preemptively to avoid legal liability, even if the content does not violate any laws, affecting the **diversity of opinions** available online.
For example: Platforms like **Twitter** and **Facebook** could lose their “safe harbour” protection, which shields them from liability for user-generated content.
- **Difficulty in Differentiating Between Opinion and Fact:** Free speech allows individuals to voice opinions, which may not always align with verified facts, making it hard to distinguish between **misinformation and personal expression**.
- **Chilling Effect on Investigative Journalism:** Regulatory controls on misinformation can inadvertently **chill investigative journalism**, which often involves exposing uncomfortable truths about powerful entities.
- **Balancing Free Speech with National Security:** While curbing fake news is necessary to prevent **national security threats**, an overzealous approach may **undermine civil liberties**, including free speech.

How to Achieve a Balance Between Combating Misinformation and Safeguarding Free Speech:

- **Clear Legal Definitions:** The law should provide **clear and specific definitions** for what constitutes fake news, distinguishing between deliberate misinformation and legitimate opinion.
For example: India could adopt a framework similar to the **European Union’s Digital Services Act**, which clearly outlines illegal content without suppressing free speech.
- **Independent Fact-Checking Mechanisms:** Establishing **independent, non-governmental bodies** to fact-check content can reduce the risk of government bias and ensure transparency.
- **Proportionate Regulations:** Regulatory actions should be **proportionate** and not result in blanket bans or removal of content. Striking a balance between **accountability and freedom** is essential.
- **Judicial Oversight:** Ensuring **judicial oversight** for content removal requests helps prevent arbitrary decisions and protects individuals’ rights to free expression.
- **Promoting Media Literacy:** A long-term solution to misinformation lies in improving **media literacy**, enabling the public to critically evaluate news sources and information independently.
For example: Government programs such as **Digital India** can expand to include media literacy campaigns, teaching citizens how to identify and avoid fake news.
- **Transparency in Content Removal:** Platforms and regulatory bodies should be **transparent** about why content is flagged or removed, providing clear reasons to build public trust.
- **Differentiating Between Harmful Misinformation and Harmless Falsehoods:** The law should focus on curbing **harmful misinformation** (e.g., fake medical advice) while allowing harmless falsehoods or opinions to remain protected under free speech.

In the fight against fake news, achieving a balance between combating misinformation and protecting the fundamental right to free speech is essential for preserving democratic values. Transparent, well-defined regulations that avoid government overreach, coupled with media literacy and judicial oversight, can safeguard both national security and civil liberties. This balanced approach will ensure that while misinformation is tackled, free expression continues to thrive in India’s digital age.

MCQ

1. In the recent meeting of QUAD, which one of the following programs has been expanded to cover the Indian Ocean region under India’s leadership?
 - a) Quad Infrastructure Fellowship Program
 - b) Indian Ocean Security and Surveillance Initiative (IOSSI)
 - c) **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)**
 - d) Quad Coast Guard Cooperation
2. The primary vision of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 is to:
 - a) Eliminate open defecation in urban areas
 - b) **Achieve garbage free status for all cities**
 - c) Provide toilets to every household
 - d) Clean all water bodies in urban areas
3. Jordan shares a coastline on which body of water?

- a) Mediterranean Sea
b) Arabian Sea
c) Gulf of Aqaba
d) Persian Gulf
4. Consider the following statements regarding the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue):
1. It includes India, the United States, Japan, and Australia.
2. It aims to contain the expansion of Russia's influence in the Pacific region.
3. India will host the next Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting in 2025.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
5. With reference to the Economy, consider the following statements:
1. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) refers to the growth in the size of fixed capital in an economy.
2. Developed economies such as the U.S. possess less fixed capital per capita than developing economies such as India.
Which of the above statements given is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. A comprehensive database for India-specific cancer genomics was launched to help researchers across the world provide tailored cancer treatments for patients by which of the following?
a) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
b) Tata Memorial Centre
c) Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) foundation
d) Centre for Cancer Genomics, NITI Aayog
7. Among the three branches of the government, the judiciary holds a position of pre-eminence due to:
a) Its role in the enforcement and interpretation of Constitutional provisions.
b) Its authority to initiate and pass legislation independently of the Parliament.
c) Its exclusive mandate to enforce legal provisions by directing both the legislature and executive in matters of governance.
d) Its power to revise the Constitution and modify its fundamental principles to reflect evolving social norms.
8. Consider the following statements:
Statement-I: India faces a triple burden of malnutrition.
Statement-II: Many Indians have diets that lack nutritional diversity.
Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
9. Consider the following statements regarding Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment):
1. The mission encourages environmentally conscious behaviors that can significantly reduce waste and resource exploitation.
2. It advocates for regenerative economy to balance development, economic growth, and sustainability.
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
10. With reference to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, consider the following statements:
1. The Union Finance Minister serves as the Chairperson of the GST Council.
2. A meeting of the GST Council requires a quorum of two-thirds of its total members.
3. The Council is responsible for adjudicating GST disputes between taxpayers and tax authorities.
How many of the statements given above are correct?
a) Only one
b) Only two
c) All three
d) None