

GS PAPER 2- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS- BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL GROUPINGS AND AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA AND/OR AFFECTING INDIA'S INTERESTS**India needs to adopt cross-border insolvency laws**

The article emphasizes the need for India to adopt cross-border insolvency laws, especially in trade agreements like FTAs and CEPAs, to support international trade. It argues that insolvency provisions should be integrated into such agreements for stronger trade relationships.

What Is UNCITRAL's Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency?

1. The UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) introduced a Model Law based on four key principles: access, recognition, cooperation, and coordination.
2. Since the 1990s, it has been promoting these laws, but only 60 countries have adopted them.
3. Despite the benefits of the Model Law, many countries have implemented it differently due to its non-binding nature. Some include exceptions based on public policy or reciprocity.

Why India needs to adopt cross-border insolvency laws?

1. **Strengthening Trade:** Cross-border insolvency laws provide legal certainty, improving financial stability for companies operating internationally.
2. **Model Law Recommendations:** UNCITRAL's Model Law, recommended by the Bankruptcy Law Reform Committee, aims to enhance trade cooperation globally, but only 60 countries have adopted it.
3. **India's Current System:** India relies on bilateral agreements, which are seen as inadequate for cross-border insolvency cases. By including insolvency provisions in these agreements, India can strengthen its trade relationships and ensure better handling of financial risks.
4. **Increasing Trade Agreements:** India has signed FTAs with over 54 countries but lacks detailed insolvency provisions.
5. **Global Competitiveness:** Including cross-border insolvency in trade agreements would boost India's international trade competitiveness.

What Are the Challenges in Implementing Cross-Border Insolvency Laws?

1. Although UNCITRAL's Model Law is recognized, its practical application in diverse legal and economic systems remains debated.
2. Only 60 countries have adopted UNCITRAL's Model Law, showing slow global progress.
3. The non-binding nature of the law allows nations to tailor it, leading to variations in implementation.
4. Countries often include exceptions, such as public policy and reciprocity clauses, complicating harmonization.

GS PAPER 2- GOVERNANCE- ISSUES RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF SOCIAL SECTOR/SERVICES RELATING TO EDUCATION**Benefits of the National Credit Framework (NCrF)**

The article discusses the benefits of the National Credit Framework (NCrF) under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It promotes flexibility in education, integrating vocational skills with academic knowledge, and emphasizes adapting higher education to meet India's evolving needs.

What is the National Credit Framework (NCrF)?

1. **National Credit Framework:**
2. The National Credit Framework (NCrF) is part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
3. It provides a flexible system for accumulating and transferring credits across multidisciplinary education.
4. The NCrF is not a regulatory framework but rather an enabling one that aims to provide flexibility in education.
5. **Benefits of NCrF**
6. NCrF allows students to combine classroom learning with practical skills.
7. Credits can be earned through diverse activities such as research, handicrafts, yoga, and internships.
8. NCrF helps students gain skills relevant to modern job markets.
9. Higher education institutions (HEIs) that adopt the NCrF can bridge the gap between education and the evolving job market.
10. This system ensures that students are prepared for both employment and self-employment by combining knowledge with skill-based learning.
11. **Resistance to NCrF**
12. Critics believe higher education should focus solely on academic knowledge.
13. They oppose reforms that promote flexibility and skill-based education, seeing it as unsuitable for traditional educational methods.
14. **Ultimate Goal of NCrF**
15. NCrF aims to balance vocational training with academic knowledge.
16. It promotes continuous adaptation in higher education to meet India's evolving societal and technological needs.
17. By adopting NCrF, HEIs can prepare students for both employment and self-employment.

Why is flexibility in higher education important?

1. Flexibility in education democratizes learning and promotes social equity.
2. The NCeF supports this by allowing HEIs to balance vocational training and knowledge production. For instance, students in vocational training can have as much impact as those in academic research.
3. This flexible approach enables students to improve their social mobility.

Why is continuous adaptation essential for HEIs?

1. The NEP 2020 also proposes the concept of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU).
2. These institutions will serve as hubs for academic scholars and intellectuals.
3. However, the article stresses that many other HEIs should focus on vocational skills, not just academic pursuits, to ensure that students are employable.

Supreme Court rule about accessing child sexual material

The article explains a Supreme Court ruling that accessing or storing child sexual material is punishable under Indian law. The court clarified laws, discouraged using the term “child pornography,” and recommended education on the legal and ethical issues of such content.

What did the Supreme Court rule about accessing child sexual material?

1. The Supreme Court of India ruled that accessing or storing child sexual material is punishable under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act**.
2. This ruling applies to both possession and viewing of such material online, even without actual storage on a device, by **invoking the doctrine of “constructive possession” under Section 15 of the POCSO Act**.
3. The Court set aside a Madras High Court judgment that had quashed charges against someone for viewing child sexual content, emphasizing that merely watching such material also violates the law.
4. The judgment highlighted the need to avoid narrow legal interpretations, reinforcing the penalties outlined in **Section 67B of the Information Technology Act and Section 15 of the POCSO Act**.

What are the recommendations given by the Supreme Court?

1. The Court recommended using the term **“Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material” (CSEAM) instead of “child pornography”** to better reflect the gravity of the crime.
2. The Court has reminded platforms and intermediaries of their duty to **remove such content as well as report it to the police units concerned**.
3. The Court urged the government to **implement comprehensive sex education programs** to raise awareness about the legal and ethical issues related to child exploitation.

GS PAPER 3 – SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-INDIGENIZATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGY**India’s technology diplomacy**

The article discusses Prime Minister Modi’s recent visit to the U.S. and the focus on technology cooperation. It highlights past phases of India’s technology diplomacy, the current geopolitical context, and the need for reforms in India’s science and technology sectors to achieve better outcomes.

How has technology diplomacy evolved in India?

1. **1950s:** Nehru, alongside Homi Bhabha, built foundations for nuclear and space technology, with US support in the Green Revolution.
2. **1970s:** Internal populism, bureaucratic hurdles, and anti-Americanism slowed progress. India’s 1974 nuclear test led to increased external restrictions.
3. **1980s:** Indira and Rajiv Gandhi renewed technological cooperation with the US, focusing on telecom and computing.
4. **2014-present:** Modi’s government revitalized efforts, especially in nuclear deals, AI, and semiconductors.

What were the key challenges in previous India’s technological phases?

1. **Economic Populism and Bureaucratism:** In the 1970s, India’s focus on economic populism and the growing bureaucracy slowed technological progress.
2. **Anti-Americanism:** Political sentiment turned against the US, reducing cooperation and affecting technology access.
3. **Nuclear Test and Non-Proliferation:** India’s 1974 nuclear test led to global restrictions under the non-proliferation regime, constraining technology diplomacy.
4. **Private Sector Marginalisation:** The government sidelined India’s private sector, limiting its role in technological advancements.
5. **Brain Drain:** Indian scientists, frustrated by limited domestic opportunities, moved to the US, diminishing India’s talent pool.

How is the current phase of India’s technology diplomacy different?

The current phase is driven by multiple factors:

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1. **India's new focus:** The Modi government has put advanced technologies at the top of its agenda.
2. **US-China rivalry:** The US is seeking capable partners like India to counterbalance China.
3. **Global supply chains:** The US and India want to reduce dependence on China, leading to joint initiatives like the iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies).

What are the outcomes of the current phase of technology diplomacy?

1. **Wider technology cooperation:** Covers areas like semiconductors, AI, clean energy, biotech, and quantum computing.
2. **Modernizing India's industrial base:** Focus on both civilian and military applications.
3. **Supply chain rearrangements:** Efforts to reduce global dependence on China and build alliances with countries like the US, Japan, and Australia.
4. **Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET):** Strengthening India-US defense and technology partnerships.
5. **Digital and green technologies:** Prioritized under Modi's leadership, contributing to India's advancements in AI, semiconductors, and nuclear technology.

What are the future challenges for India's technology sector?

1. Despite progress, India still needs reforms in its science and technology sectors.
2. Without addressing internal bureaucratic resistance, the outcomes of the current technology diplomacy phase could be limited.

GS PAPER 3- CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND DEGRADATION

Main pollution issues in India

The article discusses pollution issues in India, affecting not just big cities but also smaller ones. It highlights problems with regulatory bodies, like staffing shortages and lack of expert involvement. It suggests using university expertise to improve pollution control and enhance agency efficiency.

What are the main pollution issues in India?

1. **Pollution:** India faces serious pollution problems like bad air, poor water quality, and poor waste management.
2. **Waste management:** These issues impact not only big cities but also smaller cities (Tier 2 and 3). Pollution affects the overall quality of life.
3. **Staffing issues in regulatory bodies:** Nearly half of the posts in State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) are vacant. In the National Capital Region, 54% of sanctioned posts are unfilled.
4. **Lack of expertise:** Pollution control efforts are hampered by the absence of independent scientists, with civil servants occupying key positions instead of technical experts.

How has the mandate of SPCBs expanded?

1. SPCBs were originally set up in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act to address water pollution.
2. Over time, their mandate has expanded to include controlling air and noise pollution, and managing hazardous waste.
3. Despite this expanded mandate, SPCBs struggle to meet the challenges of post-liberalization India due to chronic understaffing.

What can be done to improve pollution control?

1. **Utilize Academic Expertise:** Universities and technical institutions can provide the needed expertise to support pollution control exercises.
2. **Increase Autonomy:** Financial and institutional independence for pollution control agencies will enhance their effectiveness in long-term pollution management.

ECONOMY PAPER-III

Haircut in Banking

After taking a substantial haircut in a debt restructuring proposal of Supreme Infrastructure India Ltd (SIIL), State Bank of India (SBI) has proposed to invest in the preferential share issue of the defaulting company.

About Haircut in Banking

- A haircut is a term used in banking to describe the amount of money a lender forgoes during the loan resolution process.
- It is the difference between the loan amount and the actual value of the asset used as collateral.

Different Conditions for Haircut

Loan Recovery

- When a borrower defaults on a loan, **the bank may agree to accept a settlement** amount that is less than the full amount owed.
- This difference between the original debt and the settlement amount is known as the haircut.

- **For Example**, if a bank was owed Rs 10,000 by a borrower and it agrees to take back only Rs 8,000, it takes a 20% haircut.
- Banks often take haircuts on loans where there is a high risk of default and full recovery is unlikely.

Debt Restructuring

- When a company faces financial difficulties and needs to restructure its debt, creditors may agree to accept a haircut on their claims.
- This means they agree to reduce the amount they are owed in exchange for other concessions, such as longer repayment terms or lower interest rates.

Asset Valuation

- The haircut can also **refer to the difference between the market value of an asset and the value assigned to it by a lender** when it is used as collateral.
- Riskier assets are typically assigned lower values, resulting in larger haircuts.

IBC Process

- In the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) process, the haircut can refer to the **difference between the claims of financial creditors and the amount they actually receive** through the resolution process.
- The haircut can vary widely **depending on the circumstances** of the case and the value of the company's assets.
- The IBC process can yield a zero haircut (100% recovery of claimed amount) in one case and 100 per cent haircut (i.e. 0% recovery) in another.

PRELIM FACTS

1. Tuvalu

By 2050, NASA scientists project that daily tides will submerge half of the main atoll of Funafuti, home to 60% of Tuvalu's residents, where villages cling to a strip of land as narrow as 20 m in parts.

More About Tuvalu

It is often referred to as the first country that will **be totally submerged, due to climate change**

- **Location:** Polynesian country in the west-central Pacific Ocean
- **Hemisphere:** Located in both the Southern and Eastern hemispheres.
- **Bordering Countries:** Santa Cruz Islands, Vanuatu, Nauru, Kiribati, Tokelau, Wallis & Futuna, Samoa, Fiji.
- **Capital City:** Vaiaku

2. Certified Security Professional for Artificial Intelligence (CSPA) Program

The Certified Security Professional for Artificial Intelligence (CSPA) **program** was launched under the aegis of the **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)**, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and private cybersecurity firm, SISA.

About CSPA program:

- It is the first-ever **American National Standards Institute's National Accreditation Board (ANAB)** approved AI security certification programme.
- **Skill Upgradation:** The CSPA program equips security professionals with the **skills needed to effectively integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI)** into business applications while adhering to sustainable practices.
- **Cyber Nalanda Initiative Alignment:** The CSPA program **aligns with SISA's Cyber Nalanda** initiative to address future cybersecurity challenges.
- Cyber Nalanda is a cutting-edge **cyber security research and development (R&D) centre in India, established by SISA**, a global cybersecurity solutions firm.

About CERT-In: The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has been designated to serve as National agency for incident response under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

- **Operates under:** CERT-In is a Government organisation under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, Government of India.
- **Functions:** CERT-In operates **24x7 incident response Help Desk** for providing timely response to reported cyber security incidents.
- It provides **Incident Prevention and Response services** as well as **Security Quality Management Services**.

About SISA: SISA is a **global cybersecurity solutions provider specialising** in forensics-driven security in the Financial Services Industry.

3. Nagar Van Yojana (NVY)

Recently, the activities proposed under Nagar Van Yojana during the first 100 days of the Government was to approve 100 Nagar Vans.

About Nagar Van Yojana (NVY):

- **Launched By:** Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India in 2020.

- **Objective:** To create Nagar Vans (urban forests) and Nagar Vatikas in urban and peri-urban areas to enhance urban greenery, improve biodiversity, and promote ecological balance.
- **Target:** Develop 1000 Nagar Vans by 2027.

Key Objectives:

- **Enhance Tree Cover:** Increase trees outside forest areas and enhance urban green cover.
- **Improve Quality of Life:** Provide recreational spaces, improve air quality, reduce urban heat islands, and increase biodiversity in cities.
- **Promote Biodiversity Conservation:** Plant native species to attract wildlife and promote ecological balance.
- **Address Environmental Issues:** Tackle air pollution, habitat degradation, and urban heat islands.
- **Climate Resilience:** Make cities climate-resilient by providing green spaces that help in climate adaptation.

Features:

- **Nagar Van Areas:** Cover urban and peri-urban areas with a size range of 10-50 hectares.
- **Public Engagement:** Citizens, students, and other stakeholders are encouraged to participate in tree planting, management, and maintenance of these green spaces.
- **Components:** Includes Biodiversity Parks, Smriti Vans, Butterfly Conservatories, Herbal Gardens, and Matri Van (under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam).
- **Minimum Tree Cover:** At least two-thirds of the area must be under tree cover.
- **Community Participation:** Emphasis on public involvement through tree planting, educational programs, and sustainable management.

Funding:

- **Source:** CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority) Fund.
- **Financial Assistance:** Rs. 4 lakh per hectare for the creation and maintenance of urban forests.

4. Cancer Moonshot Initiative

The Quad countries—United States, Australia, India, and Japan—have launched a “Cancer Moonshot Initiative” aimed at reducing cancer in the Indo-Pacific, starting with cervical cancer.

- The initiative will improve the cancer care ecosystem through better health infrastructure, research collaboration, data systems, and enhanced prevention, detection, treatment, and care.
- Cervical cancer, the third leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the region, can be prevented with HPV vaccines and early screening, but access remains limited.
- The initiative will promote HPV vaccination, increase screenings, and improve treatment, with the goal of saving hundreds of thousands of lives over time.

The Quad countries plan to collaborate on research, engage the private and non-governmental sectors, and work with organizations like Gavi and the International Atomic Energy Agency to lower screening costs and improve cancer care access.

5. COMPUTER SECURITY INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM – POWER (CSIRT-POWER)

The Union Minister inaugurated the COMPUTER SECURITY INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM – POWER (CSIRT-Power) facility, aimed at protecting India’s power infrastructure from increasing cyber threats.

- The facility is a proactive response to the growing risk of cyberattacks on the power sector, which is a critical part of national infrastructure.
- CSIRT-Power, equipped with advanced cybersecurity tools and expert teams, will coordinate incident responses, enhance preparedness, and strengthen the cybersecurity framework of the power sector.
- It addresses the sector’s vulnerabilities, especially given the digital transformation and growing attack surface.
- The initiative follows the National Cyber Security Policy of 2013 and seeks to build resilience through information sharing, best practices, training, and collaboration with stakeholders.
- It aims to provide specialized support, prevent cyber incidents, and improve the overall security posture of the power sector.

6. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)

The Supreme Court ruled that the 14-day timeline for granting sanctions under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) is mandatory, not discretionary, requiring strict adherence by both central and state governments.

- Non-compliance with this timeline could lead to the quashing of criminal proceedings, emphasizing the importance of swift and diligent decision-making in national security matters.
- The court clarified that this ruling applies prospectively and is aimed at ensuring that the procedural rights of the accused are upheld.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. The National credit framework (NCrF) under NEP 2020 aims to reform India's higher education by promoting flexibility, multidisciplinary learning and skill based education. Discuss the key features of NCrF and its potential impact on addressing skill mismatch mismatch and employability. What challenges and concerns have critics raised, and how can these be addressed?

The National Credit Framework (NCrF) under NEP 2020 aims to restructure India's education system by promoting flexibility and lifelong learning. By integrating academic and vocational credits, it seeks to make education more inclusive, improve employability, and foster skill-based learning. NCrF enables seamless transitions between different learning paths and enhances career opportunities.

Key Features of National Credit Framework (NCrF) under NEP 2020:

- Integration of Academic and Vocational Learning: NCrF combines academic and vocational education, allowing students to earn credits for both.
For instance: A student can pursue an IT degree while earning credits from a vocational course in graphic design.
- Credit Accumulation and Transfer: The framework allows students to accumulate and transfer credits between institutions and programs, fostering continuity in learning.
For instance: A student transferring from a diploma course to a degree program can carry forward their accumulated credits.
- Skill-Based Education Focus: NCrF emphasises skill development, enabling students to gain industry-relevant skills, enhancing employability.
For instance: Students earn credits for industry internships through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- Flexibility in Learning Pathways: The framework offers flexible learning pathways, allowing students to switch between academic and vocational streams based on interest and career goals.
For instance: A student pursuing arts can simultaneously earn credits for technical courses in coding.
- Lifelong Learning Opportunities: NCrF promotes lifelong learning by allowing working professionals to earn credits and upgrade their qualifications at any stage of their careers.
For instance: Professionals can enrol in part-time programs and accumulate credits for career advancement.
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL): NCrF recognizes informal learning and experience, allowing individuals to earn credits for skills gained outside formal education.
For example: Workers in the construction industry receive formal credits under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

Potential Impact of NCrF on Addressing Skill Mismatch and Employability:

- Bridging the Skills Gap: NCrF aligns education with industry needs, helping students acquire relevant skills and bridging the skill gap.
For instance: Collaboration with IT companies ensures that students are trained in technologies like AI and data science.
- Enhancing Employability: By emphasising industry-relevant skills, NCrF increases employability and helps students match their skills with job market demands.
For instance: Students completing vocational courses under Skill India have higher probability to gain better employment opportunities.
- Promoting Diverse Career Opportunities: NCrF supports multiple career pathways, including self-employment, by offering credits for entrepreneurship and skill-based education.
For instance: Students can gain credits for entrepreneurship modules, promoting startup culture under the Startup India initiative.
- Addressing Mismatched Qualifications: The flexible structure allows students to pursue relevant skills, addressing mismatched qualifications and improving employability.
For instance: Rural students can gain vocational credits that help them qualify for both formal and technical jobs.
- Entrepreneurship Promotion: NCrF supports entrepreneurship by recognizing experiential learning and providing credits for practical business knowledge.
For instance: Students involved in startup incubation programs receive credits that can be applied toward their degrees.

Challenges and Concerns Raised Against NCrF:

- **Lack of Awareness:** Many stakeholders, including local governments and communities, lack awareness which hampers effective implementation and engagement with its objectives.

For instance: Various surveys reflect low awareness of the credit system among **rural students**, impacting adoption.

- **Complexity in Implementation:** Coordinating between institutions for credit transfers, diverse educational contexts and varying resource availability hinder **uniform application** across different regions and institutions.

For instance: Schools with inadequate infrastructure and teacher training may lead to **uneven educational quality** compared to more resource-rich schools/universities.

- **Limited Industry Collaboration:** NITI Aayog's **report** highlights the need for stronger **academia-industry** collaborations.

For example: Many technical colleges lacking partnerships with local businesses, result in outdated curricula that do not meet current job market needs.

- **Insufficient Training for Educators:** This leaves teachers unprepared to deliver new curricula consistently, which ultimately reduces student engagement in vocational education.

For example: Many teachers lack familiarity with new curricula and assessment methods, leading to inconsistent delivery of vocational education and reduced student engagement.

- **Risk of Diluted Academic Standards:** Some fear that focusing on vocational credits could dilute academic rigour and reduce the quality of traditional degrees.

Suggested Measures to Address These Challenges:

- **Nationwide Awareness Campaigns:** This will enhance public understanding of the NCrF, encouraging greater engagement and support for vocational education

For example: Government-led campaigns via **SWAYAM** can disseminate information about the framework's benefits.

- **Improving Institutional Infrastructure:** Strengthening the technological infrastructure in institutions to ensure **smooth credit transfers and tracking**.

For instance: Universities can receive grants for upgrading digital platforms to support NCrF.

- **Promoting Industry Partnerships:** Promote stronger collaborations between academia and industries to align educational programs with market needs.

For instance: **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme** can link students with industries for skill development.

- **Training Educators:** IT equips them with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively teach and guide students, facilitating learning and enhancing the overall quality of vocational education.

For instance: UGC and AICTE can host workshops and seminars for educators across India.

- **Maintaining Academic Standards:** Consistent assessment, clear benchmarks, and regular evaluations ensure that students receive quality education, allowing both **academic excellence** and a **robust learning** environment.

For instance: Regulatory bodies like **AICTE** can monitor curriculum design to maintain standards.

The National Credit Framework (NCrF) under NEP 2020 aims to reform India's education system by emphasising flexibility, skill development, and employability. Although challenges exist, such as awareness and implementation issues, strategic measures can address them. NCrF has the potential to transform Indian education, making it more inclusive, practical, and responsive to market needs.

MCQ

1. With reference to the term 'Haircut' in banking consider the following statements:
 1. It refers to the lower-than-market value placed on an asset when it is being used as collateral for a loan.
 2. Riskier the assets, lower the haircuts.
 Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only**
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. With reference to Tuvalu, consider the following statements:
 1. It is a Polynesian island nation in the Atlantic Ocean.
 2. It is the fourth smallest country in the World.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only**
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Consider the following statements regarding the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF):
 1. The IPEF was launched in 2022 with the aim of enhancing economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

2. All IPEF partner countries, including India, are part of all four pillars of the framework.
3. Together, the IPEF countries represent 40% of global GDP.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
4. Consider the following statements regarding the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):
1. PLFS is conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
 2. PLFS covers households from both rural and urban regions.
 3. The survey tracks unemployment rates across various demographics.
 4. The data collected is used to inform inflation-related policies.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 4 only
b) 1, 2, and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 2, 3, and 4 only
5. Consider the following statements regarding the CSIRT-Power facility:
1. CSIRT-Power focuses exclusively on protecting the defense infrastructure of India.
 2. It was established under the Digital India Mission framework.
 3. The primary objective of CSIRT-Power is to facilitate internet access for rural communities.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) None of the above
6. Consider the following statements about cervical cancer in the Indo-Pacific region:
1. Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the Indo-Pacific.
 2. Access to HPV vaccines and early screening for cervical cancer remains limited in the region.
 3. The Quad's Cancer Moonshot Initiative aims to reduce the high costs of cancer treatment through public-private partnerships.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) Only one
b) Only two
c) All three
d) None
7. With reference to the National Credit Framework (NCrF), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?
1. It aims to unify academic, vocational, and experiential learning by allowing credits earned in one stream to be recognized across others.
 2. It is applicable only to public educational institutions.
 3. National School Education Qualification Framework (NSEQF) is one of the components of the NCrF.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 3 only
8. In the context of academic publishing, what does the term "retraction" refer to?
- a) The process of adding supplementary material to a published paper.
 - b) The removal of a paper from scientific literature due to significant flaws.**
 - c) The correction of minor errors in a published paper.
 - d) The rejection of a paper before publication.
9. Consider the following statements regarding the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):
1. It is a constitutional body.
 2. It is responsible to ensure that laws and policies align with child rights perspectives.
 3. It issues directions that are binding on concerned persons or authorities.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- a) Only one**
b) Only two
c) All three
d) None
10. Which one of the following is the objective of the Plan for Reliability Improvement and Maintenance Effectiveness (PRIME) initiative introduced by the Indian Railways?
- a) It aims to increase the speed of trains across the network.
 - b) It aims to enhance the reliability and maintainability of railway signaling systems.**
 - c) It aims to reduce the cost of railway operations.
 - d) It aims to expand the railway network to rural areas.