

**GS PAPER2-POLITY- ISSUES AND CHALLENGES PERTAINING TO THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE****Impact of Upcoming Census on Delimitation and Women's Reservation**

The article discusses the upcoming Census in India, expected to start next year and finish by 2026. This will affect delimitation, which redraws constituency boundaries, and women's reservation in elections. Both processes depend on the Census results and legal amendments.

**What is the expected timeline for the census and its impact on Delimitation?**

1. The Indian government aims to begin the Census next year and complete it by 2026, aligning it with preparation for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.
2. Delimitation, or redrawing constituency boundaries, depends on Census data. It last happened in 2002, using data from the 1971 and 2001 Censuses.
3. Currently, Lok Sabha has 543 seats and all state Assemblies together have 4,123 seats, based on older Census figures when India's population was 54.81 crore (1971) and 102.87 crore (2001).
4. With the expected 1.5 billion population in the upcoming Census, seats in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies are likely to increase significantly.

**What legal changes are needed for delimitation?**

1. For delimitation to happen before the next Lok Sabha election in 2029, Article 82, along with Articles 81, 170, and 55, will need to be amended.
2. The 42nd Constitutional Amendment in 1976 froze delimitation until after the 2001 Census, and it was extended for 25 years in 2001.
3. Now, any adjustment must wait until the Census after 2026. Southern states with controlled population growth worry they might lose seats if only population data is considered.

**What role does the Census play in women's reservation?**

1. The Constitution (128th Amendment) Act, passed in 2023, reserves 33% of seats in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies for women.
2. This reservation will only be implemented after the Census and subsequent delimitation. Currently, with 545 seats in Lok Sabha, 182 would be reserved for women, leaving 363 for men, which could challenge current male representatives.
3. However, if the strength of Lok Sabha increases to 770 seats, as projected, there would be 257 seats for women, with 513 for men, easing the transition for male politicians.

**GS PAPER2-INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD- RELATIONS****India's Diplomatic Balancing Act Amid Myanmar Civil War and ASEAN Struggles**

The article discusses Myanmar's ongoing civil war, ASEAN's struggle to mediate peace, and India's delicate position balancing security and diplomacy. ASEAN faces internal divisions, while India focuses on regional connectivity and stability amid Myanmar's political turmoil and humanitarian crisis.

**What is the crisis in Myanmar?**

1. Since a military coup in 2021, Myanmar is in crisis.
2. A brutal civil war rages between the junta, Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs), and the People's Defence Forces (PDFs).
3. Armed resistance groups hold large territories, even controlling six major border trade routes.
4. The junta's violent suppression has displaced hundreds of thousands, creating a humanitarian emergency.
5. The United Nations estimates 18.6 million people need aid, including 6 million children.

**How has ASEAN responded to Myanmar's crisis?**

1. ASEAN responded to Myanmar's 2021 coup by breaking its non-interference policy, acknowledging the violation of ASEAN's Charter on rule of law.
2. ASEAN created the **Five-Point Consensus for peace**, including violence cessation and humanitarian aid, yet implementation has been limited.
3. To pressure Myanmar, ASEAN excluded its military leaders from summits for non-compliance.
4. For the 44th ASEAN Summit, Myanmar sent a senior official, signaling slight engagement.
5. Thailand proposed informal talks involving ASEAN Troika (Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia) for diplomatic progress.

**What are the challenges within ASEAN?**

1. **Internal Divisions:** ASEAN members like Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines advocate stronger actions, while others, such as Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos, maintain closer relations with Myanmar's military government.
2. **Non-Interference Policy:** ASEAN broke its traditional non-interference stance in response to Myanmar's 2021 coup, reflecting internal tensions over governance and rule of law.
3. **Consensus-Based Decision-Making:** ASEAN's consensus model slows responses, as decisions require unanimity, weakening the bloc's reaction to Myanmar's crisis.

4. **Limited Stakeholder Engagement:** Thailand's proposed talks focus on the junta and lack involvement from Myanmar's National Unity Government and ethnic groups, limiting inclusivity.
5. **Humanitarian Challenges:** Thailand's humanitarian corridor operates only in areas controlled by Myanmar's junta, limiting effective aid distribution.

#### **What is India's stance on Myanmar?**

1. **Support for ASEAN's Role:** India endorses ASEAN's centrality and its Five-Point Consensus for peace in Myanmar, as highlighted by Prime Minister Modi at recent ASEAN-India and East Asia Summits.
2. **Strategic Importance for Act East Policy:** Myanmar is essential for India's Act East Policy, serving as a land bridge to other ASEAN countries, with a 1,643 km shared border.
3. **Regional Connectivity Projects:** India is involved in projects like the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway to boost trade and connectivity.
4. **Developmental Assistance:** India recently signed five Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Myanmar under the Quick Impact Projects framework, backed by a \$250,000 grant for agriculture, vocational training, disaster management, and education.
5. **Border Security Measures:** Concerns over regional stability and refugee influxes led India to fence its Myanmar border and discontinue the Free Movement Regime.
6. **Broad Engagement Approach:** India aims to engage with various stakeholders in Myanmar to safeguard its strategic interests while promoting peace.

### **GS PAPER3- ECONOMY-MOBILISATION OF RESOURCES, GROWTH, AND DEVELOPMENT**

#### **India's concerns related to low levels of investment**

The article critiques India's economic situation, noting that despite government optimism and some reforms, private and foreign investments are slow. It highlights gaps in credibility, regulatory challenges, over-concentration of capital, and reliance on empty statements to inspire growth.

#### **What Is the Current State of Investment in India?**

1. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman expressed concerns about low levels of domestic and foreign investments in India, despite favorable growth figures and government incentives like tax breaks.
2. However, investments continue to lag, and the expected boom in private investment has not materialized despite optimistic projections over the years.
3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notes some positive signs in private investment but acknowledges significant ongoing weaknesses.
4. Corporate growth is slowing, and companies are cautious with spending, affecting investments in new capacities.

#### **What Are the Major Credibility Gaps?**

1. **Epistemic Gaps:** There are conflicting reports about consumer confidence and economic conditions, making it difficult to gauge the real economic situation.
2. **Regulatory Issues:** India is perceived as having a challenging business environment due to unpredictable regulations and increased compliance burdens.
3. **Concentration of Capital:** Economic power is increasingly concentrated among a few large firms, which harms competition and may deter smaller enterprises and new entrants.
4. **General Economic Credibility:** Frequent reliance on optimistic statements (termed "Open Mouth Operations") by officials fails to convincingly address underlying economic issues, leading to a lack of trust in the government's economic management.

#### **How Does Lack of Credibility Affect Economic Growth?**

1. For sustainable growth, credibility in governance is crucial.
2. While India showcases large infrastructure projects, issues like urban flooding indicate gaps in basic governance.
3. Statements without actions create a perception that India's economic management lacks clarity and consistency, weakening trust among investors.

### **GS PAPER3 -ECONOMIC- GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT; INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND ISSUES ARISING FROM IT**

#### **EAC-PM Report about state-wise economic performance**

The article discusses economic disparities among Indian states. It highlights that richer states attract more investment, leading to growing inequalities. To address this, it suggests improving governance and focusing on the unorganised sector in poorer states to boost their growth and federal unity.

#### **What does the EAC-PM Report reveal about state-wise economic performance?**

1. The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) released a report on the economic performance of Indian states from 1960-61 to 2023-24.
2. It compares each state's share in the national income and their per capita income against the all-India average. The report highlights significant disparities among states, with Maharashtra as the top contributor to the national

economy. However, Maharashtra also has regions like Vidarbha, which face severe poverty and farmer distress, showing inequality within states.

3. The report notes that western and southern states consistently outperform eastern states, and most northern states perform poorly, except for Haryana and Delhi.
4. This widening gap leads to a federal divide, with wealthier states like Kerala questioning resource allocation by the central government. Similar protests occurred in 2000 against the Eleventh Finance Commission's decisions.

#### **What role does investment play in state development?**

1. Investment drives economic output.
2. Richer states generally attract more investment due to higher returns, stronger infrastructure, and better governance.
3. Private investment, comprising 75% of total investment, favors well-developed areas like Mumbai, Delhi, and Bengaluru, where market potential is high. In contrast, poorer states see less investment due to weaker infrastructure and governance, further widening regional inequalities.
4. Coastal areas, including Odisha in the east, benefit from easier export access and lower import costs, attracting investment.
5. Urban centers such as Delhi and Bengaluru are preferred due to larger markets and better facilities.
6. Additionally, rich states have more efficient governance and educational facilities, attracting companies seeking productive labor.

#### **How has liberalisation affected investment trends?**

1. Post-1991 liberalisation reduced public sector investment in backward regions and increased private sector dominance, directing more funds to already developed states.
2. Consequently, savings from poorer states have moved to wealthier regions offering higher returns, worsening the credit-deposit ratio gap between rich and poor states.
3. Poorer states have larger unorganised sectors with low productivity and income. NEP policies favor the organised sector, and projects like freight corridors and highways extend this sector's reach, benefiting richer states at the expense of poorer ones.

#### **Why do some states face unique economic challenges?**

1. West Bengal and Kerala have strong labor movements, which discourage private investment.
2. Border states receive less public investment due to strategic and security concerns, while opposition-led states allege the central government favors "Double Engine" (same-party) states, impacting investment flows.
3. In poorer states, weak governance, high black-market activity, and policy failures discourage investment, limiting growth potential.
4. Cronyism in investment decisions benefits select companies, raising overall investment risk, especially in less developed states.

#### **How can India address these economic disparities?**

1. To strengthen federalism and reduce inequalities, states need to improve governance and invest in social services.
2. The central government should focus on the unorganised sector to boost demand in poorer states, encouraging private investment.
3. Reducing regional disparities would support balanced growth across India.

#### **Unpaid Labor**

##### **ECONOMICS GS PAPER III**

The paper "Valuation of Unpaid Household Activities in India" by Sahoo, Sarkar, and Kumar sheds light on the economic significance of unpaid household work, particularly the disproportionate burden borne by women.

#### **Unpaid work and India's status:**

- **High burden on women:** Indian women spend an average of 36 hours per week on unpaid domestic work, compared to 16 hours for men.
- **Major contributor to economy:** Unpaid work in India contributes approximately Rs.22.7 lakh crore, around 7.5% of GDP.
- **Labor force gap:** Women outside the labor force spend over seven hours daily on unpaid work, limiting their ability to participate in paid employment.

#### **Comparison with global trends:**

- **Global perspective:** Unpaid work accounts for between 10% to 60% of GDP worldwide, varying significantly across countries.
- **Examples:** APEC member economies estimate unpaid work at 9% of GDP; in Australia, it represents up to 41.3%, while it is only 5.5% in Thailand.

- **SDG integration:** Recognizing unpaid labor aligns with UN SDG 5, which promotes gender equality and values unpaid care and domestic work.

**Economic value of unpaid work in India:**

- **Monetary valuation:** Estimated at Rs.49.5 lakh crore (24.6% of GDP) using the Gross Opportunity Cost method and Rs.65.1 lakh crore (32.4% of GDP) using the Replacement Cost method for 2019–20.
- **Pandemic impact:** During COVID-19, the value rose to 27.2% (GOC) and 42.3% (RCM) of GDP, reflecting increased household contributions

**Consequences of unpaid work:**

- **Gender inequality:** Disproportionate unpaid work for women perpetuates gender disparity, restricting women’s financial independence and professional growth.
- **Economic underutilization:** Excluding unpaid work from GDP undervalues substantial economic contributions, leading to an incomplete view of national productivity.
- **Reduced workforce participation:** High unpaid workload limits women’s entry into the formal labor market, affecting overall labor force productivity and economic growth.
- **Mental and physical health impact:** The burden of unpaid work can lead to stress, burnout, and negative health outcomes for those disproportionately responsible for it.
- **Policy blind spot:** Without quantification, unpaid work remains unaddressed in policy-making, leaving a significant economic and social issue unresolved.

**New Zealand’s Wellbeing Budget Case Study:** New Zealand’s 2019 Wellbeing Budget emphasizes citizen well-being alongside economic growth, targeting mental health, child welfare, and gender equity. By accounting for unpaid and domestic labor in policy, it promotes a holistic approach to development, balancing economic and social welfare

**Way ahead:**

- **Policy recognition and inclusion:** Develop frameworks to recognize and account for unpaid work in national economic indicators, acknowledging its economic value.
- **Redistribution of domestic labor:** Encourage shared domestic responsibilities to address gender disparities, supported by public awareness and educational initiatives.
- **Enhanced data collection:** Conduct frequent and comprehensive Time Use Surveys to obtain accurate data on unpaid labor and support evidence-based policymaking.
- **Supportive services:** Introduce affordable childcare, eldercare, and family support services to ease the unpaid workload on primary caregivers, mostly women.
- **Financial support mechanisms:** Consider direct or indirect support, such as tax credits or social security benefits for primary caregivers, to offset unpaid work contributions.

**Conclusion:**

Integrating unpaid labor into economic assessments would not only highlight the economic value of women’s contributions but also foster more equitable policies, supporting India’s growth and aligning with global goals for sustainable development.

**PRELIM FACTS**

**1.Aarambh 6.0 Initiative**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged with young civil servants during Aarambh 6.0, focusing on enhancing governance through public participation (Jan Bhagidari) and improving feedback and grievance redressal systems.

**About Aarambh 6.0 initiative:**

- **Objective:** Aarambh is an orientation program for young civil servants, designed to equip them with governance skills and foster innovative thinking.
- **Focus Areas:** This edition emphasized “Jan Bhagidari” (public participation), the importance of robust feedback mechanisms, and streamlined grievance redressal.

**Relevance in UPSC syllabus:**

- **Governance:** Highlights the role of citizen-centric governance and the significance of feedback in public administration.
- **Polity and Public Administration:** Demonstrates how public participation can strengthen the effectiveness and accountability of civil services.
- **Ethics and Integrity:** Reinforces values such as responsiveness, transparency, and citizen welfare in government roles.

**2.“Mummy-Papa, Vote Do” campaign**

**Context:** Ahead of the upcoming assembly elections in Jharkhand, the Election Commission launched an innovative voter awareness campaign, “Mummy-Papa, Vote Do,” engaging schoolchildren to encourage their parents to vote.

**About “Mummy-Papa, Vote Do” Campaign:**

- **Objective:** Aimed at increasing voter turnout by involving children in urging their parents to vote.
- **Method:** Over 1.7 million students from 18,570 schools wrote letters to their parents, encouraging them to fulfill their civic responsibility.
- **Significance:** Boosts democratic participation, especially in rural areas, and emphasizes the importance of voting as a civic duty.

**Relevance for UPSC**

- **Electoral awareness:** Demonstrates strategies for increasing electoral participation, an important aspect of democratic governance.
- **Civic engagement:** Highlights citizen involvement in the democratic process, relevant to Indian polity and governance topics.
- **Innovative governance:** Showcases the role of innovative campaigns in strengthening democratic participation, aligning with themes of social awareness and electoral reforms in the syllabus.

**3.Kanda Express**

The Kanda express train with 840 metric tonnes of onion arrived at Kishanganj Railway Station in **Delhi from Nashik** in Maharashtra to meet the demand of onion in Delhi-NCR.

**About Kanda Express:**

- **Cargo:** The Kanda Express carries bulk loads of onions to meet regional demands.
- **Recent arrival:** Recently delivered 840 metric tonnes of onions to Delhi’s Kishanganj Railway Station from Nashik.
- **Second bulk shipment:** Follows a previous shipment of 1,600 metric tonnes to Delhi-NCR.
- **National impact:** The initiative contributes to onion price stabilization, with similar shipments aiding markets in Northeast India and other major states.
- **Buffer stock utilization:** Part of the government’s price stabilization strategy, using its 4.7 lakh tonne buffer of rabi onions to counter price fluctuations.

**4.Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park**

Himachal Pradesh’s upcoming Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park in Kangra’s Dehra constituency is set to become India’s first zoo certified by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for sustainable and eco-friendly infrastructure.

**About Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park:**

- **Location:** Situated in the Bankhandi area of Kangra’s Dehra assembly constituency, Himachal Pradesh.
- **Unique attractions:** The park will feature 34 enclosures within its Van Vaibhav Path and Biodiversity Court, housing 73 species, including Asiatic lions, crocodiles, gharials, and indigenous birds.
- **Sustainability:** With a budget of Rs.619 crore, it emphasizes eco-friendly design and will be the first zoo to earn IGBC certification.
- **Tourism and employment impact:** Aims to attract tourists, create jobs, and promote eco-tourism in Kangra, reinforcing its status as Himachal Pradesh’s “**Tourism Capital.**”

**About Indian Green Building Council (IGBC):**

- **Established:** Formed in 2001 as part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- **Headquarters:** Based in Hyderabad, India.
- **Role:** India’s leading body for green building certification, offering programs to promote sustainable architecture.
- **Services:** Provides certification, develops rating systems for eco-friendly buildings, and conducts training on green construction practices.
- **Global representation:** One of five countries on the World Green Building Council board, engaging in international discussions on sustainability at events like COP.
- **Rating criteria:** Evaluates projects based on categories like energy and water efficiency, hygiene, innovation, and sustainable practices.

**5.Gold Reserves**

India’s total gold reserves held by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** amount to 854.73 metric tonnes, according to the central bank’s latest report.

**India’s Gold Reserve Status:**

- **Total Gold Reserves:** 854.73 metric tonnes, with 510.46 metric tonnes held domestically and 324.01 metric tonnes stored at the Bank of England and BIS.

- **Gold's Share in Total Reserves:** Gold now represents 9.32% of forex reserves as of September 2024, an increase from 8.15% in March.
- **Import Cover:** As of June 2024, forex reserves cover 11.2 months of imports, slightly down from March's 11.3 months.
- **World ranking:** (as of September 2024)
  - Top rankers are **United States, Germany and Italy.**
  - The United States has the most gold reserves and has nearly as many reserves as the combined total of the next three countries with the largest gold holdings: Germany, Italy, and France.
  - India holds a significant position in global gold reserves, **ranking 8th in the list** of countries with the most gold reserves.

**About Forex Reserves:**

- **Definition:** Forex reserves are assets held by RBI in foreign currencies, including foreign currencies, gold, SDR (Special Drawing Rights), and RTP (Reserve Tranche Position) with the IMF.
- **Purpose:** They support the Indian rupee, stabilize the exchange rate, and enable monetary policy adjustments. Reserves also back liabilities and serve as a safety net in times of currency devaluation.
- **Importance:** A strong forex reserve helps India attract foreign trade and investment, enhancing its international reputation and economic resilience.

**ANSWER WRITING**

**Q. "Economic disparity among Indian states poses a significant challenge to cooperative federalism." Analyse the statement with special reference to the growing divide between developed and developing states.**

India's economic disparity among states presents a challenge to cooperative federalism, impacting balanced development, resource sharing, and policy implementation. With developed states like Maharashtra and Gujarat attracting more investment, and less-developed states struggling with limited resources, this divide hampers equitable growth. The widening gap between rich and poor states calls for concerted efforts to ensure inclusive economic development across the nation, reinforcing the principles of cooperative federalism.

**How Economic Disparity Among Indian States Challenges Cooperative Federalism**

- **Uneven Resource Allocation:** States with lower GDP struggle to secure adequate resources, affecting their public services and infrastructure, leading to over-reliance on central assistance.  
**For example:** Northeastern states heavily depend on central funds, limiting their autonomy in policy-making.
- **Differences in Investment Attraction:** Wealthier states attract higher investment due to advanced **infrastructure**, while economically weaker states face a lack of investment, reinforcing the economic gap.
- **Public Service Disparity:** Economic disparity impacts public service quality, where poorer states face challenges in healthcare, education, and basic amenities, undermining federal principles.
- **Policy Implementation Imbalance:** Economic disparity causes challenges in implementing central policies uniformly, with wealthier states showing better outcomes than poorer counterparts.  
**For example:** Schemes like **Swachh Bharat** saw quicker implementation in developed states, while resource-strapped states lagged in execution.
- **Migration and Regional Tensions:** Disparities in job opportunities cause migration from poorer to richer states, leading to workforce imbalances and regional tensions, straining federal relations.  
**For example:** High migration rates from **Uttar Pradesh** to Delhi and Maharashtra highlight unequal opportunities, impacting social dynamics in host states.

**Factors Responsible for Economic Disparity Among Indian States**

- **Unequal Natural Resource Distribution:** States rich in natural resources attract more industries, while others with limited resources face slower growth and dependency.  
**For example:** **Jharkhand's** mineral wealth enables **mining-based revenue**, while resource-scarce states rely on agriculture.
- **Varying Levels of Industrial Development:** Developed states with advanced industrial bases have robust economies, while others lag due to minimal industrialisation.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Poorer states often lack adequate infrastructure, deterring investors and limiting economic growth compared to better-equipped states.  
**For example:** Poor road and rail connectivity in **Assam** hampers its economic potential compared to well-connected states like **Punjab**.
- **Differences in Educational Attainment:** States with higher literacy and skill levels experience better **job creation** and **economic stability**, widening the gap with less-educated states.

**For example:** Kerala's high literacy rate supports its service sector economy, unlike regions with lower literacy rates.

- **Governance and Policy Differences:** Effective governance fosters economic growth; states with better governance attract more investment and manage resources more efficiently.

#### Way Forward to Address Economic Disparities

- **Focused Infrastructure Development:** Prioritise infrastructure development in economically weaker states to attract investment and stimulate growth, ensuring balanced regional development.  
**For instance:** Improved rail and road connectivity in northeastern states can enhance trade and economic activities.
- **Special Economic Zones (SEZs):** Establish SEZs in lagging states to promote industrialization, create job opportunities, and bridge the development gap with wealthier states.
- **Equitable Resource Sharing:** Implement policies that ensure fair resource distribution, enabling all states to contribute to and benefit from national economic growth.  
**For instance:** Central schemes allocating funds based on need rather than revenue potential can support poorer states more effectively.
- **Promotion of Skill Development:** Enhance skill development programs in lagging states to boost employment and productivity, promoting economic self-reliance.  
**For example:** Expanding Skill India initiatives in economically weaker regions can generate local employment opportunities.
- **Improving Governance and Transparency:** Promote transparent and accountable governance in less-developed states, improving investment climate and reducing corruption-related growth barriers.  
**For instance:** Initiatives like **e-governance** and **transparency** reforms can streamline processes in states struggling with bureaucratic inefficiencies.

Addressing economic disparities among Indian states is critical for strengthening cooperative federalism and achieving inclusive growth. As Dr. B.R. Ambedkar aptly said, "The progress of any society depends on the progress of the weakest sections." By implementing equitable policies, fostering industrialization, and focusing on regional infrastructure, India can reduce the development divide and pave the way for balanced and sustainable progress across states.

#### MCQ

- Consider the following statements:  
Statement-I: The Indian government has recently launched the Civil Registration System (CRS) app.  
Statement-II: As per the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, all births and deaths from October 1, 2023, must be registered digitally.  
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
- Consider the following statements:  
1. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is responsible for overseeing telecommunications infrastructure.  
2. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has been launched to enhance the cybersecurity framework for law enforcement agencies in India.  
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
- Consider the following statements about medicinal foods and their health benefits:  
1. Turmeric is effective for its anti-inflammatory properties, but high doses can present health risks.  
2. Lemon's benefits as an immunity booster vary depending on the cultivar or variety.  
3. Ashwagandha is valued in Ayurveda for its impact on mental focus and stress reduction.  
4. Giloy is mainly consumed for improving hair health and supporting liver function.  
How many of the above statements is/are correct?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) Only three  
d) All four
- With reference to the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), consider the following statements:

1. IMBL are determined under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
  2. It defines areas where a country has exclusive rights over marine resources.
  3. In India, the Indian Coast Guard is responsible for patrolling the IMBL.  
Which of the statements given above are correct?  
**a) 2 and 3 only**  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2 and 3
5. Consider the following statements regarding the PR-126 paddy variety:
    1. PR-126 requires more water than conventional varieties, which has limited its adoption in water-scarce regions.
    2. It is a short-duration variety, typically maturing in 125 days, which contributes to lower water consumption in paddy cultivation.
    3. The Out Turn Ratio (OTR) of PR-126 is higher than other traditional varieties, making it highly preferred by rice millers.How many of the above statements is/are correct?  
**a) Only one**  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None
  6. Which one of the following sectors in India is most likely to benefit directly from increased capital expenditure by the government?  
**a) Real estate and personal housing loans**  
b) Healthcare and pharmaceuticals  
**c) Infrastructure and transportation**  
d) E-commerce and digital startups
  7. Consider the following statements regarding the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve:
    1. It is located in Madhya Pradesh.
    2. It lies between Satpura and Aravalli ranges.
    3. The reserve has tropical moist deciduous forests with sal and mixed forest.How many of the statements given above are correct?  
a) Only one  
**b) Only two**  
c) All three  
d) None
8. Consider the following statements regarding the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve:
    1. It is located in Madhya Pradesh.
    2. It lies between Satpura and Aravalli ranges.
    3. The reserve has tropical moist deciduous forests with sal and mixed forest.How many of the statements given above are correct?  
a) Only one  
**b) Only two**  
c) All three  
d) None
  9. With reference to the Standard Veterinary Treatment Guidelines (SVTG), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?
    1. It recommends antibiotics as the first line of treatment for all conditions.
    2. These guidelines also incorporate the use of Ayurvedic drugs in veterinary care.
    3. It aligns with the 'One Health Approach' in terms of health management.Select the correct answer using the codes give below:  
a) 2 only  
b) 3 only  
c) 1 and 2 only  
**d) 2 and 3 only**
  10. Which one of the following is NOT included in the calculation of Consumer Price Index (CPI)?  
a) Food and beverages  
b) Transportation costs  
**c) Investment in stocks and bonds**  
d) Medical expenses