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TOPIC 1: Political Party Finance & Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)

Subject: GS Paper 2 – Polity & Electoral Reforms

Key Highlights & Context

An investigation following an Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report revealed a **223% surge in the declared income** of Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) for FY 2022–23.

Out of over **2,800 registered political parties** in India, the vast majority earn no electoral recognition and do not actively contest elections.

On 9 August 2025, the Election Commission of India (ECI) **delisted 334 inactive RUPPs** as part of an electoral cleanup drive.

Legal & Statutory Framework

Constitutional Position: Political parties carry **no explicit mention in the Constitution**, except in the **Tenth Schedule** (Anti-Defection Law). They exist as voluntary "associations" under **Article 19(1)(c)**.

Registration under RPA, 1951: Governed by **Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**. Paragraph 3(xxiii) of ECI guidelines requires parties to declare they will contest elections within **5 years** of registration.

Non-Contestation Condition: Failing to contest elections continuously for **6 years** leads to removal from the list of recognised parties.

Symbol Allotment & MCC: Order 6 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 distinguishes recognised from unrecognised parties. **Order 16A** empowers the ECI to suspend/withdraw recognition for failing to observe the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) or ECI directions.

Tax Exemptions under Income Tax Act: Political parties enjoy **100% tax exemption** under **Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961** on voluntary contributions, house property, and interest income.

Disclosure Threshold: Section 29C of RPA, 1951 mandates reporting all individual donations exceeding **₹20,000** annually to the ECI.

Systemic Issues & Regulatory Gaps

Delisting vs. Deregistration: ECI can *delist* inactive parties, but under a 2002 Supreme Court precedent, ECI **lacks statutory power to routinely deregister political parties** unless registration was obtained by fraud or constitutional violation.

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Continued Money Flow: Delisted and unrecognised parties remain legally eligible to receive financial contributions under **Section 29B of RPA, 1951**.

Income from Unnamed Sources: Over **60% of total party income** in India comes from undisclosed/unnamed sources.

No Ceiling on Party Campaign Expenditure: While candidate election expenditure for Lok Sabha is capped at **₹95 lakh**, there is **no statutory limit on expenditure by political parties**.

Revenue Cost: Tax exemptions granted for political donations cost the exchequer over **₹11,813 crore** over the last decade.

Shift in Exemptions: Individual donors and HUFs claimed **₹2,275.85 crore** in tax exemptions in FY 2022–23, surpassing corporate tax exemption claims (₹514.4 crore).

Proposed Reforms for Mains

Grant ECI explicit **statutory powers to deregister** non-performing or fraudulent RUPPs. Invoke **Article 324** ("reservoir of authority") to mandate annual auditing of political party accounts by the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)**.

Impose a statutory **cap on political party campaign expenditure** during elections.

Enforce centralized digital reporting formats to prevent financial laundering.

TOPIC 2: Reforms in UN Security Council & Veto Power Regulation

Subject: GS Paper 2 – International Relations & Global Institutions

Key Highlights & Context

Recent UN General Assembly (UNGA) discussions revived proposals to **regulate the use of veto power** in the UN Security Council (UNSC) during humanitarian crises and mass atrocity situations.

The proposal builds on the **French-Mexican Initiative launched in 2015**, where permanent members (P5) voluntarily refrain from using the veto in mass atrocity cases.

Three Dimensions of UNSC Reform

Use of the Veto: Restraining a permanent member from casting a negative vote during humanitarian disasters.

Accountability for the Veto: Requiring permanent members to justify veto decisions publicly.

Structural Reform: Modifying the Council's size, membership categories, and decision rules.

Non-Charter Amendment Reform Mechanisms

French-Mexican Initiative (2015): A voluntary commitment by P5 members not to use the veto in cases of **genocide, crimes against humanity, and large-scale war crimes**. Currently backed by **128 member states**, with France and the UK accepting the principle.

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Liechtenstein Initiative (UNGA 2022): Requires the UN General Assembly to convene within **10 working days** whenever a veto is cast in the Security Council, forcing the vetoing power to explain and defend its vote on the Assembly floor.

ACT Code of Conduct: Promoted by the Accountability, Coherence, and Transparency group, calling on **all UNSC members** (permanent and non-permanent) not to vote against action halting mass atrocities.

Legal & Structural Realities

Charter Amendment Route: Formal abolition or modification of the veto requires an amendment under **Article 108 of the UN Charter**, mandating a **2/3rd vote in UNGA and ratification by 2/3rd of UN members, including ALL five permanent members (P5)**.

UNSC Composition: 15 members (5 Permanent with veto power: US, UK, France, China, Russia; 10 Non-Permanent elected for 2-year terms without veto).

India's Stance & Groupings:

Group of Four (G4): India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan mutually support each other's claims for permanent seats.

L.69 Group: Grouping of developing nations from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Small Island Developing States pressing for expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

India demands **Text-Based Negotiations (TBN)** under the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) framework.

TOPIC 3: Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026

Subject: GS Paper 2/3 – Defense & International Relations

Key Highlights & Overview

Organiser: Indian Air Force (IAF).

Venue: Air Force Station **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.

Duration: 26 September – 12 October 2026.

Nature: **Multilateral Air Exercise** (inaugural edition held in 2024).

Theme: "Power in Partnership".

Key Features & Strategic Significance

Participating Nations (7 Friendly Foreign Countries - FFCs): Australia, USA, UAE, France, Germany, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

Frontline Platforms: Advanced aircraft deployed include **F-35 Lightning II, Rafale, F-16, A400M, MRTT, C-130, C-130J, and KC-30A**.

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Operational Focus: Advanced joint training, tactical interoperability, aerospace safety, and operational philosophy exchanges.

Outreach & Cultural Elements: Features professional seminars, defense industrial tours, the **Sekhon Marathon**, heritage visits, and yoga sessions.

UPSC Prelims Traps

It is strictly an **Air Force exercise** (not Naval or Army).

It is held **inland at Jodhpur** (not a maritime or coastal facility).

It is a **multilateral exercise** involving multiple foreign air forces (not bilateral).

TOPIC 4: BRICS Mental Health Support Network & NIMHANS

Subject: GS Paper 2 – Social Justice & International Groupings

Key Highlights & Overview

India is piloting the new **BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Mental Health**.

Coordinating Centre: National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (**NIMHANS**), Bengaluru.

Core Problem & Strategy

High Treatment Gap: Between **70% and 92%** of affected individuals in India and BRICS nations receive no mental healthcare due to urban concentration of specialists and severe social stigma.

Strategy: Shift from relying solely on specialist psychiatrists to **task-sharing** (upskilling frontline non-specialist health workers in Primary Health Centres) and **digital telehealth platforms**.

Country-Specific Contributions

China: Anti-stigma **educational manga comic** following a schoolgirl overcoming anxiety.

Indonesia: 24x7 digital crisis and **suicide prevention helpline**.

South Africa: **Pictorial screening tools** for community health worker home visits.

UAE: Virtual reality (VR) clinical simulations.

Russia: Non-invasive physiological assessments (**heart rate variability, galvanic skin response, biofeedback**).

India: Integrated **tele-mental health delivery models**.

Back2Basics: NIMHANS

Status: Declared an **Institute of National Importance** by an Act of Parliament in 2012.

Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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National Role: Nodal agency for **Tele-MANAS** (National Tele-Mental Health Programme launched in 2022).

TOPIC 5: Designation of Mega Ports under Indian Ports Act, 2025

Subject: GS Paper 3 — Infrastructure: Ports & Maritime Governance

Key Highlights & Context

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways notified four major maritime hubs as "**Mega Ports**" under the **Indian Ports Act, 2025** on 25 September 2026.

Shift in Categorization: Ports are now graded based on **cargo handling volume and scale criteria**, rather than administrative ownership.

Notified Mega Ports & Statutory Provisions

Major Ports (Notified under Section 73(2)):

Deendayal Port (Kandla), Gujarat.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA / Nhava Sheva), Maharashtra.

Paradip Port, Odisha. (*Administered under the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021*).

Non-Major / Private Port (Notified under Section 73(3)):

Mundra Port, Gujarat (Operated by Adani Ports & SEZ).

Constitutional & Regulatory Dualism

Constitutional Division:

Major Ports: Union List (**Entry 27**) — Governed by Union Port Authority Boards.

Non-Major / Private Ports: Concurrent List (**Entry 31**) — Regulated by State Maritime Boards (e.g., Gujarat Maritime Board).

Key Conflict: Classifying Mundra as a Mega Port creates a national scale rating without changing its statutory regulator (it remains under the Gujarat Maritime Board).

Back2Basics: Major Port Authorities Act, 2021

Replaced the colonial **Major Port Trusts Act, 1963**.

Converted Port Trusts into **Port Authority Boards** with independent members.

Empowered each Board to **fix its own scale of tariffs/rates**, replacing the Central Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP).

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TOPIC 6: Rare Disease Drugs & Orphan Drug Manufacturing in India

Subject: GS Paper 2/3 — Social Justice, Health & Pharma Sector

Key Highlights & Context

Researchers at the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS) proposed that India build a domestic manufacturing base for **orphan drugs** (medicines for rare diseases).

India has identified **1,004 rare genetic disorders**, but global treatments exist for only **5% of ~8,000 rare diseases**.

Key Challenges & Demographics

Exorbitant Costs: Small patient pools lead global firms to charge **~\$100,000 (~₹1 crore)** per year per patient.

Endogamy Factor: High rates of endogamous marriages in specific Indian communities result in genetic clustering (e.g., **Beta-thalassemia** affects 3.7% of India's general population and up to **10.5% in specific communities**).

US Orphan Drug Act, 1983 Benchmark: Granted **7 years of market exclusivity**, tax credits, and fee waivers, raising US approvals thirtyfold (from 38 to 1,122).

India's Manufacturing Edge & Regulatory Pathways

Pharmacy of the World: Indian generic manufacturers supply **47% of US generic prescriptions** and **15% of US biosimilars**.

Rule 101 Pathway (New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019): Allows CDSCO to **waive local clinical trials** for drugs already approved in designated foreign countries.

Proposed Policy Interventions:

Introduce **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI)** schemes for orphan drug APIs.

Issue **Advance Market Commitments (AMCs)** to guarantee state purchasing at fixed volumes.

Utilize **Centres of Excellence on Rare Diseases** and Jan Aushadhi Kendras for procurement.

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TOPIC 7: Green Highways & Sustainable Road Infrastructure

Subject: GS Paper 3 – Environment & Sustainable Infrastructure

Key Highlights & Growth Data

India's National Highway network expanded by **61%** from 91,287 km in 2014 to **1,46,572 km by March 2026**.

Over **3.61 crore saplings** have been planted across **1.32 lakh km** of National Highways.

Green Highways Policy, 2015

Official Title: *Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance) Policy, 2015*.

Focuses on environmental mitigation, arresting soil erosion, noise reduction, and employment generation for local Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and forest corporations.

Key Innovations & Sustainable Technologies

Miyawaki Plantation ("Pot Plantation Method"): Technique to create dense native forests in restricted spaces, growing up to **10 times faster**.

Bio-Bitumen: Technology developed jointly by **CSIR-CRRI (New Delhi)** and **CSIR-IIP (Dehradun)** using **pyrolysis of post-harvest rice straw**.

Trial Stretch: A 100-metre trial stretch was laid on the **Jorabat-Shillong Expressway (NH-40) in Meghalaya**.

Economic Value: Reduces import dependency (India currently imports ~50% of its bitumen requirement) and tackles stubble burning.

National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI): Annual scientific assessment report prepared in collaboration with **ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)**. Uses space satellite imagery to evaluate green cover across 30,000 km of highways.

NHAI Compliance Guidelines (Sept 2026): Mandates at least **80% Right of Way (RoW)** coverage and a minimum **90% sapling survival rate** during inspections and O&M periods.

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TOPIC 8: Economics of Artificial Intelligence & IndiaAI Mission

Subject: GS Paper 3 — Science & Technology, IT & Economy

Key Highlights & Industry Framing

Recent incidents involving OpenAI AI "agents" escaping testing environments triggered UNSC debates on AI risk.

Computer scientist Emily Bender characterizes Large Language Models (LLMs) as "**stochastic parrots**"—systems that predict language probabilities without genuine understanding.

Computer scientist Arvind Narayanan defines AI as a "**normal technology**" with specific limits, cautioning against "apocalypse framing" used by tech firms to demand government deference and self-regulation.

Economic Realities of AI

Over **\$1 trillion** invested in LLM infrastructure over six years, with revenues lagging behind in hundreds of billions.

Primary economic beneficiaries are hardware producers and semiconductor chipmakers like **Nvidia**.

Pseudo-scientific tools like "emotion detection" lack scientific grounding but form a near-billion-dollar market.

Government Initiatives: IndiaAI Mission

Approved Outlay: ₹10,371 crore under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**).

IndiaAI Compute: Establishing a national compute grid of over **38,000 GPUs** offered at subsidized rates to Indian startups and researchers.

IndiaAI Safety Institute: National trust framework focusing on bias mitigation, privacy, and explainability.

Regulatory Gap: India currently lacks an AI-specific law; governance relies on the **Information Technology Act, 2000**, which predates generative AI.

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MCQs

Q1. With reference to the legal and financial framework governing political parties in India, consider the following statements:

Political parties are granted explicit statutory status as legal corporations under Article 19(1)(c) of the Constitution.

Under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, registered political parties are granted 100% tax exemption on income from voluntary contributions and house property.

Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 mandates that political parties submit annual reports of all donations exceeding ₹20,000 to the Election Commission of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q2. Regarding Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) and the powers of the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

The ECI possesses statutory powers under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to routinely deregister inactive political parties.

ECI guidelines specify that a party failing to contest elections continuously for six years shall be removed from the list of recognised parties.

Delisting a political party by the ECI automatically disqualifies it from receiving financial contributions under Section 29B of the RPA, 1951.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 2 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

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Q3. Consider the following statements regarding initiatives to reform the UN Security Council (UNSC):

The French-Mexican initiative proposes a formal amendment to Article 108 of the UN Charter to abolish the veto power during humanitarian crises.

Under the Liechtenstein Initiative adopted by the UNGA in 2022, whenever a veto is cast in the UNSC, the General Assembly convenes within 10 working days for the vetoing state to explain its vote.

The Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Code of Conduct applies exclusively to the five permanent members (P5) of the UNSC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 2 only

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

Q4. With reference to UN Charter amendments and UNSC reform groupings, consider the following statements:

Under Article 108 of the UN Charter, any Charter amendment requires a two-thirds vote in the UNGA and ratification by two-thirds of UN members, including all five permanent members.

The Group of Four (G4) comprises India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan, mutually supporting each other's candidatures for permanent seats in an expanded Security Council.

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

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding "Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026":

It is a bilateral naval exercise conducted jointly by the Indian Navy and the US Navy off the coast of Jodhpur.

The 2026 edition involves 7 participating Friendly Foreign Countries, including Australia, USA, UAE, France, Germany, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

The official theme of Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 is "Power in Partnership".

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only

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

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Q6. With reference to the BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Mental Health, consider the following statements:

NIMHANS Bengaluru serves as the coordinating centre for India piloting the BRICS Mental Health Support Network.

NIMHANS is an Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and acts as the nodal agency for Tele-MANAS.

The BRICS Mental Health Network operates primarily through direct central monetary grants allocated by the New Development Bank.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q7. Match the following BRICS member states with their specific approach contributed to the BRICS Mental Health Network:

Member State	Approach / Tool
1. China	A. Educational anti-stigma manga comic
2. Indonesia	B. 24x7 digital crisis and suicide helpline
3. UAE	C. Virtual reality clinical simulations
4. Russia	D. Non-invasive biofeedback and galvanic skin response

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched? (a) 1-A and 2-B only

(b) 3-C and 4-D only

(c) 1-A, 2-B and 3-C only

(d) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C and 4-D

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Q8. Regarding the regulatory classification of ports under the Indian Ports Act, 2025, consider the following statements:

The Indian Ports Act, 2025 classifies ports into "Mega Ports" based on cargo handling volume and scale criteria rather than administrative ownership.
Major Ports fall under Entry 27 of the Union List, whereas Non-Major Ports fall under Entry 31 of the Concurrent List.
Designating Mundra Port as a Mega Port automatically transfers its regulatory and tariff jurisdiction from the Gujarat Maritime Board to the Union Major Port Authority.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only

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

Q9. With reference to the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021, consider the following statements:

It replaced the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 and converted Port Trusts into Port Authority Boards.
Each Port Authority Board is empowered to fix its own scale of rates and tariffs rather than following a central tariff authority.
The Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 governs all commercial maritime ports in India, including private non-major ports.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only

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

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding rare diseases and orphan drugs in India:

Orphan drugs are specialized medicines designed to treat rare diseases, which individually affect small populations but collectively impact millions globally.
Endogamous marriage patterns in certain Indian communities contribute to higher clustering of specific rare genetic disorders such as Beta-thalassemia.
Under Rule 101 of the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019, drugs approved in specified foreign jurisdictions can be granted local clinical trial waivers by the CDSCO.

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Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only

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

Q11. With reference to the pharmaceutical sector and US Orphan Drug legislation, consider the following statements:

The US Orphan Drug Act of 1983 granted 7 years of market exclusivity to approved orphan drug products alongside tax credits and fee waivers.

Indian generic pharmaceutical manufacturers currently supply nearly 47% of US generic prescriptions and 15% of US biosimilars.

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

Q12. Regarding the Green Highways Policy, 2015 and sustainable highway guidelines, consider the following statements:

The Green Highways Policy covers plantation, tree transplantation, beautification, and roadside maintenance along National Highways.

The Miyawaki plantation method, also known as the pot plantation method, is used to create dense afforestation in space-constrained urban areas.

NHAI guidelines issued in September 2026 mandate a minimum 90% sapling survival rate during inspection and O&M periods.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only

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

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Q13. Consider the following statements regarding sustainable highway construction materials and monitoring:

Bio-bitumen developed jointly by CSIR-CRRI and CSIR-IIP utilizes post-harvest rice straw through pyrolysis.

A 100-metre trial stretch of bio-bitumen was laid on the Jorabat-Shillong Expressway (NH-40) in Meghalaya.

The National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI) is prepared by NHAI in collaboration with ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q14. With reference to Large Language Models (LLMs) and Artificial Intelligence, consider the following statements:

Computer scientists describe LLMs as "stochastic parrots" that predict language tokens based on probabilistic data patterns without genuine understanding.

The Information Technology Act, 2000 contains comprehensive statutory frameworks specifically enacted to govern generative AI models.

A major share of revenues in the global LLM ecosystem currently accrues to semiconductor hardware manufacturers such as Nvidia.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q15. Regarding the "IndiaAI Mission" approved in 2024, consider the following statements:

It is implemented under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with an outlay of ₹10,371 crore.

The IndiaAI Compute pillar aims to establish a national compute infrastructure of over 38,000 GPUs to support AI startups and researchers.

The IndiaAI Safety Institute acts as a national trust framework working on bias mitigation, privacy, and explainability.

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Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer Key

(b) | 2. (a) | 3. (a) | 4. (c) | 5. (b) | 6. (a) | 7. (d) | 8. (a)

(a) | 10. (d) | 11. (c) | 12. (d) | 13. (d) | 14. (a) | 15. (d)

Detailed Explanations

Q1. Correct Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Statement 1 is INCORRECT: Political parties have **no independent constitutional standing**, nor are they statutory corporations. They exist as voluntary "associations" under Article 19(1)(c), with their only constitutional reference appearing in the Tenth Schedule.

Statement 2 is CORRECT: Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 grants **100% income tax exemption** to registered political parties on voluntary contributions, house property, and interest.

Statement 3 is CORRECT: Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 requires reporting all individual donations exceeding **₹20,000** annually to the ECI.

Q2. Correct Answer: (a) 2 only

Statement 1 is INCORRECT: Under a 2002 Supreme Court ruling, the **ECI lacks statutory power to routinely deregister political parties** for non-performance or inactivity.

Statement 2 is CORRECT: Paragraph 3(xxiii) of ECI guidelines mandates that a party failing to contest elections continuously for **6 years** shall be removed from the list of recognised parties.

Statement 3 is INCORRECT: Delisting does not remove a party from the register. Delisted and unrecognised political parties **remain legally eligible to receive contributions under Section 29B of RPA, 1951**.

Q3. Correct Answer: (a) 2 only

Statement 1 is INCORRECT: The French-Mexican initiative is a **voluntary self-restraint pledge**, NOT a formal UN Charter amendment.

Statement 2 is CORRECT: The 2022 Liechtenstein Initiative requires the UNGA to convene within **10 working days** whenever a veto is cast, obligating the vetoing permanent member to explain its vote.

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Statement 3 is INCORRECT: The ACT Code of Conduct applies to **all members of the Security Council** (both permanent and non-permanent).

Q4. Correct Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Statement 1 is CORRECT: Article 108 of the UN Charter requires adoption by **2/3rd of the UNGA and ratification by 2/3rd of UN members, including all 5 permanent members (P5)**.

Statement 2 is CORRECT: The **G4 grouping** consists of India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan, mutually supporting permanent seats for one another.

Q5. Correct Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Statement 1 is INCORRECT: Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 is a **multilateral AIR EXERCISE conducted by the Indian Air Force** at Air Force Station Jodhpur, not a naval exercise.

Statement 2 is CORRECT: It features **7 participating Friendly Foreign Countries:** Australia, USA, UAE, France, Germany, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

Statement 3 is CORRECT: The 2026 theme is **"Power in Partnership"**.

Q6. Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Statement 1 is CORRECT: NIMHANS Bengaluru serves as the coordinating center for the BRICS Mental Health Support Network.

Statement 2 is CORRECT: NIMHANS was declared an **Institute of National Importance in 2012** and is the nodal center for **Tele-MANAS**.

Statement 3 is INCORRECT: Cooperation spans **technical expertise, joint research, capacity building, and knowledge exchange rather than monetary grants**.

Q7. Correct Answer: (d) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C and 4-D

All pairs are correctly matched based on source disclosures: China (educational manga), Indonesia (24x7 helpline), UAE (VR clinical simulations), and Russia (non-invasive biofeedback/GSR).

Q8. Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Statement 1 is CORRECT: The Indian Ports Act, 2025 grades ports into Mega Ports based on **handling volume and scale criteria**, moving away from ownership classification.

Statement 2 is CORRECT: Major Ports fall under **Entry 27 of the Union List**, while Non-Major Ports fall under **Entry 31 of the Concurrent List**.

Statement 3 is INCORRECT: Grading Mundra as a Mega Port **changes no statutory regulator**; it remains regulated by the Gujarat Maritime Board.

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Q9. Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Statement 1 is CORRECT: Replaced the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 and created Port Authority Boards.

Statement 2 is CORRECT: Boards now fix their own scale of rates rather than following a central tariff authority.

Statement 3 is INCORRECT: The Act governs **only Union-administered Major Ports**, not non-major or private ports in State jurisdiction.

Q10. Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Statement 1 is CORRECT: Orphan drugs target rare diseases affecting small individual groups but large collective populations (~8,000 rare diseases).

Statement 2 is CORRECT: Endogamous marriages lead to genetic clustering in India (e.g., Beta-thalassemia affecting up to 10.5% in specific communities).

Statement 3 is CORRECT: Rule 101 of the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019 empowers CDSCO to **grant local clinical trial waivers** for drugs approved in specified foreign jurisdictions.

Q11. Correct Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Statement 1 is CORRECT: The US Orphan Drug Act, 1983 granted **7 years of market exclusivity**, tax incentives, and fee waivers.

Statement 2 is CORRECT: Indian generic manufacturers fulfill **47% of US generic prescriptions** and **15% of US biosimilars**.

Q12. Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Statement 1 is CORRECT: Covers plantation, transplantation, beautification, and roadside maintenance.

Statement 2 is CORRECT: The Miyawaki method (pot plantation method) promotes rapid growth (up to 10x faster) in space-constrained urban settings.

Statement 3 is CORRECT: September 2026 guidelines require at least **80% RoW coverage** and a **90% sapling survival benchmark**.

Q13. Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Statement 1 is CORRECT: Bio-bitumen is produced via **post-harvest rice straw pyrolysis** developed by CSIR-CRRI and CSIR-IIP.

Statement 2 is CORRECT: Trial stretch laid on **NH-40 (Jorabat-Shillong Expressway)** in Meghalaya.

Statement 3 is CORRECT: The National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI) is developed jointly with **ISRO's NRSC** using satellite imagery.

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SEPTEMBER 2026

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Q14. Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Statement 1 is CORRECT: Emily Bender coined "stochastic parrots" to describe LLMs predicting language probabilities without understanding.

Statement 2 is INCORRECT: India **lacks an AI-specific statute**; the IT Act, 2000 predates generative AI.

Statement 3 is CORRECT: Most revenues in the LLM hardware boom accrue to hardware chipmakers like Nvidia.

Q15. Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Statement 1 is CORRECT: IndiaAI Mission outlay is ₹10,371 crore under MeitY.

Statement 2 is CORRECT: IndiaAI Compute is building a national grid of over 38,000 GPUs.

Statement 3 is CORRECT: IndiaAI Safety Institute acts as a trust framework for bias mitigation, privacy, and explainability



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