OCTOBER 2026

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Indian Society

Topic 1: Care Economy & Social Infrastructure in India

Context & Key Statistics: Care work for children, older persons, and persons with disabilities remains largely outside formal national growth strategies, creating severe labor force distortions.

PLFS 2025 Data: 44.4% of women outside the formal workforce cited childcare and homemaking as the primary reason for non-participation.

Time Use Survey 2024: 2 in 5 working-age women perform unpaid care work, spending an average of **140 minutes per day** on uncompensated duties.

Core Concepts & Definitions:

Care Economy: Encompasses paid and unpaid labor required to look after children, the elderly, the sick, and persons with disabilities, alongside household domestic work.

ILO 5R Framework: An international benchmark comprising **Recognition** of unpaid care work, **Reduction** of care drudgery, **Redistribution** of care responsibilities (between men/women and family/State), **Reward** via fair pay, and **Representation** in policymaking.

Existing Governance Architecture:

Early childhood nutrition and care are anchored by **Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0**.

Crèche facilities are supported under **Palna** (a sub-scheme of **Mission Shakti**).

Institutional care and social security for vulnerable groups are addressed under **Mission Vatsalya**.

Four Major Structural Gaps:

Institutional Fragmentation: Governance is fragmented across distinct ministries (e.g., Women & Child Development, Housing & Urban Affairs) without a unified framework.

Deficit in Coverage: According to UNDP estimates, **9–10 million women** in low-income urban households lack access to childcare; 24% of elderly citizens face daily activity limitations.

Honorary Workforce Status: Anganwadi workers and home-based caregivers are frequently paid token honorariums rather than formal statutory wages.

Financing & Workplace Norms: Care is budgeted as a welfare expense rather than capital infrastructure. Private firms lack statutory paid paternity leave mechanisms (advocated by the EAC-PM).

Global Best Practices:

Colombia: Implemented a unified **National Care Policy (2025)** integrating 34 government entities under one umbrella.

Brazil: Enacted a National Care Policy (2024) and National Care Plan (2025) backed by inter-ministerial committees.

Nepal: Executed **Care Mapping** surveys to systematically map demand and target state funding.

Proposed Way Forward:

Establishment of a **National Caregiving Council** as recommended in NITI Aayog's report "Reimagining Care: Strategies for Empowering Caregivers in Viksit Bharat@2047".

Setting up a **National Care Economy Mission** led by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with pooled budget allocations from the Union Finance Ministry.

GS PAPER 2: Polity, Governance & International Relations

Topic 2: Inter-State Council (Article 263) & Federal Architecture

Context: Major national initiatives and legislative changes—such as impending parliamentary **delimitation under Article 82**—are frequently handled without structured, formal consultation with State Chief Ministers.

Constitutional Provision: Article 263 empowers the President to set up an Inter-State Council (ISC) to investigate, discuss, and advise on subjects of common interest between the Union and the States.

Evolution & Historical Background:

Established in **1990** following recommendations of the **Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations**, which referred to the ISC as the "**missing link**" in Indian federalism.

Supreme Court affirmation in **State of Rajasthan v. Union of India (1977)** established that Indian federalism is inherently cooperative, demanding continuous interaction between the Centre and States.

Structural Shortcomings & Present Issues:

Departmentalization: Functionally relegated to a sub-department within the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, hindering its ability to set neutral agendas.

Irregular Convening: Despite constitutional intent, the Council has met only **11 times** since 1990, remaining dormant since **2016**.

Non-Binding Nature: The Council functions purely as an advisory body, making its recommendations vulnerable to executive omission.

Reforms & Recommendations:

Reconstitute the ISC Secretariat as an independent statutory authority (modeled on **Canada's Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat**).

Implement a fixed meeting calendar as urged by the **National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC)**.

Mandatory routing of Bills related to subjects on the Concurrent List through the ISC prior to parliamentary introduction.

Topic 3: Trade Margin Rationalisation (TMR) & Pharmaceutical Pricing

Context: The **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** capped trade margins at **30%** on **137 cancer drugs** (spanning 543 formulations).

Key Findings & Price Dynamics:

Generic formulations experienced sharp price reductions (e.g., generic chemotherapy drug **thiotepa** fell by **91%**, and breast cancer drug **pertuzumab** dropped by **68%**).

Single-source, patented oncology medicines (e.g., **pembrolizumab/Keytruda** priced at ₹2.16 lakh/vial, and **ribociclib**) registered zero price reduction.

Why TMR Fails for Single-Source Patented Drugs:

TMR limits the markup between the manufacturer's **first point of sale price** to the distributor and the final Maximum Retail Price (MRP).

Single-source patent holders face no market competition and set an artificially high first sale price, rendering the 30% margin cap ineffective.

Loopholes: Companies utilize "free goods billing" (billing distributors at inflated rates while compensating via free drug vials) to keep MRPs high within legal caps.

Regulatory Body Profile – NPPA:

Established in **1997** under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers).

Enforces ceiling prices for essential scheduled formulations under the **Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO)**.

Way Forward:

Calculate trade margin caps based on actual **manufacturing or import costs** rather than the manufacturer's first point of sale price.

Exercise price-control provisions under the **Patents Act, 1970**, including **Compulsory Licensing** (granted only once in India's history in 2012 to Natco for Bayer's cancer drug sorafenib).

Topic 4: India–Mexico Bilateral Trade Relations

Context: India and Mexico signed the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** in Mexico to officially initiate negotiations for a **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)**.

Understanding Terms of Reference (ToR): Ground rules agreed upon prior to negotiating specific tariffs, establishing the overarching framework, scope, modalities, and roadmap of trade negotiations.

Strategic & Economic Significance:

Gateway to Latin America: Mexico is Latin America's **second-largest economy** and a core member of the **Pacific Alliance** trade bloc (alongside Chile, Peru, and Colombia).

Regional Trade Coverage: Expands India's footprint beyond existing partial PTAs with **Chile** and **MERCOSUR**.

Energy & Pharma Focus: Latin America supplies **15–20% of India's crude oil imports**, providing a strategic buffer against West Asian supply disruptions; it also serves as a key export market for Indian generics.

Trade Pact Dynamics (PTA vs. FTA):

PTA: Partners cut tariffs on a selective, agreed list of tariff lines (narrow scope).

FTA: Eliminates tariffs on substantially all trade between member states.

Both operate under an authorized exception to the World Trade Organization's (WTO) **Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN)** rule.

Key Challenges: Mexico's imposition of tariffs up to 50% on imports from countries lacking formal trade agreements; significant freight distance; and trade competition with China.

Topic 5: India–US Major Defence Partnership & Regional Security

Context: At the **ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)** in Cebu, Philippines, India raised concerns over Washington's ongoing military sustainment packages for Pakistan's **F-16 fighter fleet**.

Strategic Friction Points:

Risk of advanced US defense technology transferring to third parties or causing regional proliferation.

Historical deployment of Pakistan's F-16 fleet against India (e.g., the February 2019 aerial engagement following the Balakot air strike).

Imposition of US secondary sanctions risk under **CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, 2017)** regarding India's procurement of Russian S-400 systems.

Core Defense Architecture – The Four Foundational Agreements:

GSOMIA (2002): General Security of Military Information Agreement — Protects classified military intelligence shared between defense establishments.

LEMOA (2016): Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement — Enables mutual access to military facilities for fuel, supplies, and maintenance.

COMCASA (2018): Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement — Facilitates encrypted, real-time communication hardware transfers.

BECA (2020): Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement — Allows exchange of high-precision geospatial and satellite intelligence.

GS PAPER 3: Environment, Internal Security & Economy

Topic 6: Human-Wildlife Conflict Management & Project Antelope

Context: The Madhya Pradesh State Forest Department executed a large-scale capture and translocation program under **Project Antelope** in Shajapur district, relocating over 1,200 **blackbucks** and **nilgai** to forest sanctuaries to alleviate agricultural damage.

The Boma Method:

Uses helicopters to track and herd wild antelopes into funnel-shaped capture enclosures (**Bomas**), after which they are transported in

specialized vehicles. Technical support was sourced from South African experts.

Destination Sanctuaries: Translocated to Sheopur, **Rani Durgavati Forest Sanctuary**, and **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**.

Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary: Notified in 1974 along the Chambal River (Mandsaur and Neemuch districts); features open savanna grasslands and was designated in April 2025 as India's second cheetah reintroduction site.

Species Profile – Blackbuck (Antilope cervicapra):

Native antelope inhabiting open grasslands and scrub forests.

Legal Status: Listed under **Schedule I** of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (highest protection).

IUCN Status: Classified as **Least Concern**.

State Animal: Official state animal of Punjab, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh.

Policy Alternatives & Risks:

Declaring crop-damaging wildlife as **vermin** under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 allows legal culling (as permitted for nilgai in Bihar).

Translocation avoids culling but carries risks of **capture stress** (post-release mortality) and ecological carrying capacity strain at recipient sites.

Topic 7: Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) & Air Quality Governance

Context: The **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** invoked Stage I of GRAP across Delhi-NCR following deteriorating winter air quality metrics. Studies by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) indicate lack of consistent multi-year winter air improvement.

GRAP Four-Stage Matrix:

Stage I ('Poor', AQI 201–300): Strictly enforces dust suppression and bans diesel generator sets used as regular power sources.

Stage II ('Very Poor', AQI 301–400): Enhanced alert level measures and parking fee hikes.

Stage III ('Severe', AQI 401–450): Ban on non-essential construction/demolition; prohibition of **BS-III petrol** and **BS-IV diesel** passenger cars in Delhi and 5 high-density traffic districts.

Stage IV ('Severe+', AQI >450): Strict entry bans limiting truck access exclusively to **BS-VI, EV, CNG, and LNG** heavy vehicles.

Institutional Evolution:

Formulated in 2017 under Supreme Court orders and initially implemented by the non-statutory **EPCA** (Environment Pollution Authority).

EPCA was replaced in 2021 by the **CAQM**, a statutory regional body created under the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.

Delhi Standalone Measures (2026): In addition to GRAP, Delhi notified season-long measures banning non-BS-VI outside passenger vehicles from November 1 to January 31 and doubling parking fees. Where conflicts arise, GRAP directives take legal precedence.

Topic 8: Suspension of Operations (SoO) Pact & Internal Security in Manipur

Context: Security checks at **Sinai Camp** (Semol village) revealed that 17 out of 18 checked cadres were using fabricated identities ("ghost cadres"), leading security forces to take control of the camp. The check followed ethnic violence triggered by a tree-felling dispute in the Khongbal Sunulok Hills.

SoO Agreement Mechanics:

A tripartite ceasefire signed in **2008** between the Centre, the Manipur State Government, and Kuki armed umbrella groups (**KNO** and **UPF**). Cadres are legally required to remain in designated camps with weapons secured in monitored armories in exchange for monthly state stipends.

Current Status & Security Vulnerabilities:

The formal SoO agreement **lapsed recently** without extension. Inspections revealed that physical cadre presence in camps ranged between only **30% and 40%**, indicating that armed cadres are operating unmonitored outside designated facilities.

Policy proposals include mandatory **biometric verification** of all camp inmates and locking stipend disbursements directly to physical headcount verification.

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(MCQs)

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding 'Project Antelope' and wildlife conservation efforts in India:

The Boma method involves using aerial tracking and helicopters to drive wild antelopes into capture enclosures for translocation.

The Blackbuck (Antilope cervicapra) is listed under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, located along the Chambal River, serves as India's second habitat for cheetah reintroduction.

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. With reference to the Blackbuck (Antilope cervicapra), consider the following statements:

It is classified as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

It is the official state animal of Punjab, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh.

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

Q3. Which of the following global frameworks or strategy reports is/are correctly matched with its issuing organization or context?

5R Framework for Care Economy — International Labour Organization (ILO)

Reimagining Care Strategy Report — NITI Aayog

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) — National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) / MoSPI

Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q4. With reference to social sector initiatives and care infrastructure in India, consider the following statements:

Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 anchor early childhood care and nutrition in India.

The Palna scheme, implemented under Mission Shakti, primarily focuses on operationalizing crèche facilities.

According to the PLFS 2025, over 40% of women outside the labour force cited childcare and homemaking as the primary reason for non-participation.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q5. With reference to the Inter-State Council (ISC) under the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

It is a permanent constitutional body directly created by Article 263 without requiring presidential orders.

It was formally constituted in 1990 based on the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations.

The recommendations and decisions of the Inter-State Council are legally binding on both Union and State governments.

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

Q6. In which of the following landmark cases did the Supreme Court of India explicitly hold that Indian federalism is scouted around cooperative principles requiring continuous interaction between the Centre and States?

(a) Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)
(b) State of Rajasthan v. Union of India (1977)
(c) S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)
(d) Minerva Mills v. Union of India (1980)

Q7. With reference to international trade agreements and negotiation frameworks, consider the following statements:

Terms of Reference (ToR) in trade talks establish the ground rules, scope, and roadmap prior to specific tariff negotiations.

A Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) eliminates tariffs on substantially all trade between member countries, whereas a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) covers only a narrow list of goods.

The Pacific Alliance is a trade bloc comprising Mexico, Chile, Peru, and Colombia.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding India's trade and economic ties with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC):

Latin America and the Caribbean supply approximately 15% to 20% of India's crude oil imports.

India maintains full-fledged Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) covering all goods and services with both MERCOSUR and Mexico.

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

Q9. With reference to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and Trade Margin Rationalisation (TMR), consider the following statements:

The NPPA is a statutory body established under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Capping trade margins automatically reduces the initial manufacturing price set by single-source patented drug makers.

Under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, the NPPA sets ceiling prices primarily for scheduled formulations listed in essential drug lists.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q10. With reference to Intellectual Property Rights and drug accessibility in India, consider the following statements:

A Compulsory Licence allows a third party to manufacture and market a patented product without the consent of the patent owner under the Patents Act, 1970.

India has issued over twenty compulsory licences for patented cancer medications in the past decade.

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

Q11. Match List-I (Foundational Defence Agreement) with List-II (Primary Objective/Domain):

List-I (Agreement)	List-II (Primary Domain)
A. GSOMIA	1. Real-time sharing of geospatial intelligence and mapping data
B. LEMOA	2. Mutual access to military facilities for fuel, supplies, and repairs
C. COMCASA	3. Protection of classified military information shared between defense establishments
D. BECA	4. Transfer of encrypted communication compatibility hardware

Select the correct code: (a) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1
(b) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4
(c) A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1
(d) A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3

Q12. Consider the following statements regarding the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus):

ADMM-Plus is a platform for ASEAN and its official dialogue partners to strengthen regional defense and security cooperation.

India, the United States, Japan, and Pakistan are all full dialogue partners and members of the ADMM-Plus forum.

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

Q13. With reference to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi-NCR, consider the following statements:

GRAP was originally notified in 2017 following orders issued by the Supreme Court of India.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) is a statutory regional body created under an Act of Parliament in 2021.

Under Stage III ('Severe') of GRAP, all electric and CNG commercial trucks are completely banned from entering Delhi.

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. Which of the following vehicular restrictions are correctly matched with their implementation parameters under winter air pollution control measures in Delhi?

Stage III GRAP — Prohibition of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel light motor vehicles in Delhi and select NCR districts.

Stage IV GRAP — Truck entry restricted strictly to BS-VI, EV, CNG, and LNG vehicles.

Standalone Delhi Notification — Season-long prohibition on non-BS-VI outside passenger vehicles entering the capital.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q15. With reference to the Suspension of Operations (SoO) Agreement in Manipur, consider the following statements:

1. It is a tripartite ceasefire pact involving the Central Government, the Manipur State Government, and Kuki insurgent umbrella groups.
2. Under the SoO pact, registered cadres are required to live in designated camps with weapons secured under locked storage.
3. The SoO agreement is a permanent constitutional arrangement that does not require periodic extension or headcount verification.

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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Answer Key & Detailed Explanations

Q1. Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: All three statements are correct. Statement 1 is correct: The Boma capture technique uses helicopters to lure and herd wild animals into capture enclosures for translocation. Statement 2 is correct: The Blackbuck (Antilope cervicapra) is listed in **Schedule I** of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, receiving the highest level of legal protection. Statement 3 is correct: Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (along the Chambal River in Mandsaur and Neemuch) features open savanna grasslands and was designated in April 2025 as India's second cheetah habitat.

Q2. Correct Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: The Blackbuck is classified as **'Least Concern'** on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, not Critically Endangered. Statement 2 is correct: The Blackbuck is the official state animal of Punjab, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh.

Q3. Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: All three matches are correct. Statement 1: The 5R framework (Recognition, Reduction, Redistribution, Reward, Representation) is developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO). Statement 2: "Reimagining Care: Strategies for Empowering Caregivers in Viksit Bharat@2047" is a strategic report authored by NITI Aayog. Statement 3: The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is released by MoSPI/NSSO.

Q4. Correct Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 anchor early childhood care and nutrition. Statement 2 is incorrect: Palna (under Mission Shakti) supports **crèche services** for children, not housing loans. Statement 3 is correct: PLFS 2025 data shows 44.4% of non-working women cite childcare and homemaking as their main reason for staying outside the labour force.

Q5. Correct Answer: (a) 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: Article 263 states that the President may by order establish an Inter-State Council; it is not automatically constituted or permanently operational. Statement 2 is correct: The ISC was formally constituted in 1990 on the advice of the **Sarkaria Commission**. Statement 3 is incorrect: The Inter-State Council is purely an **advisory body**; its recommendations do not legally bind either the Union or the States.

Q6. Correct Answer: (b) State of Rajasthan v. Union of India (1977)

Explanation: In **State of Rajasthan v. Union of India (1977)**, the Supreme Court explicitly observed that the Constitution of India is scouted around the principle of cooperative federalism requiring continuous coordination between the Centre and States.

Q7. Correct Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Terms of Reference (ToR) set out the framework, scope, modalities, and roadmap before specific tariff lines are discussed. Statement 2 is incorrect: A **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** removes tariffs on substantially all trade, whereas a **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** is a narrower pact cutting tariffs only on an agreed list of

goods. Statement 3 is correct: The Pacific Alliance consists of Mexico, Chile, Peru, and Colombia.

Q8. Correct Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Latin America and the Caribbean supply about 15% to 20% of India's crude oil imports. Statement 2 is incorrect: India holds only limited Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) with MERCOSUR and Chile, and has signed ToR to start PTA talks with Mexico—it does not have comprehensive FTAs with them.

Q9. Correct Answer: (a) 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: The NPPA functions under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers), not Health. Statement 2 is incorrect: Capping trade margins caps the markup between the first sale price and the MRP; it does not alter the company's initial manufacturing price, which is why single-source patented drug prices remained high. Statement 3 is correct: Under the DPCO 2013, ceiling prices apply strictly to scheduled drugs.

Q10. Correct Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Under the Patents Act, 1970, a Compulsory Licence allows third parties to manufacture patented products without patent owner consent under specific statutory conditions. Statement 2 is incorrect: India has granted **only one compulsory licence** in its history (in 2012 to Natco for Bayer's sorafenib).

Q11. Correct Answer: (a) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1

Explanation: Correct matching:

GSOMIA (2002): Protects classified military information.

LEMOA (2016): Allows mutual access to military facilities for fuel, supplies, and repairs.

COMCASA (2018): Enables encrypted communications compatibility hardware transfers.

BECA (2020): Shares real-time geospatial intelligence and satellite mapping.

Q12. Correct Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: ADMM-Plus is the defense forum for ASEAN and its dialogue partners. Statement 2 is incorrect: Pakistan is **not** a member or dialogue partner of ADMM-Plus (members include ASEAN 10 plus 8 dialogue partners: India, US, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Russia).

Q13. Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Environment Ministry notified GRAP in January 2017 following Supreme Court orders. Statement 2 is correct: CAQM is a statutory body established under the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021. Statement 3 is incorrect: Under Stage III, BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel cars face bans; electric and CNG trucks are explicitly **permitted**. Under Stage IV, only BS-VI, EV, CNG, and LNG trucks are allowed.

Q14. Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: All three matches are correct. Statement 1: Stage III bars BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel light motor vehicles. Statement 2: Stage IV restricts truck entries exclusively to BS-VI, EV, CNG, and LNG vehicles.

Statement 3: Delhi's standalone notification bars non-BS-VI outside passenger vehicles from November 1 to January 31.

Q15. Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: SoO is a tripartite ceasefire pact between the Centre, Manipur State, and Kuki groups (KNO and UPF). Statement 2 is correct: Cadres must remain in designated camps with weapons stored under monitoring. Statement 3 is incorrect: SoO runs for **fixed terms**, requires periodic extension, and lapsed recently due to compliance failures regarding cadre headcounts