

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

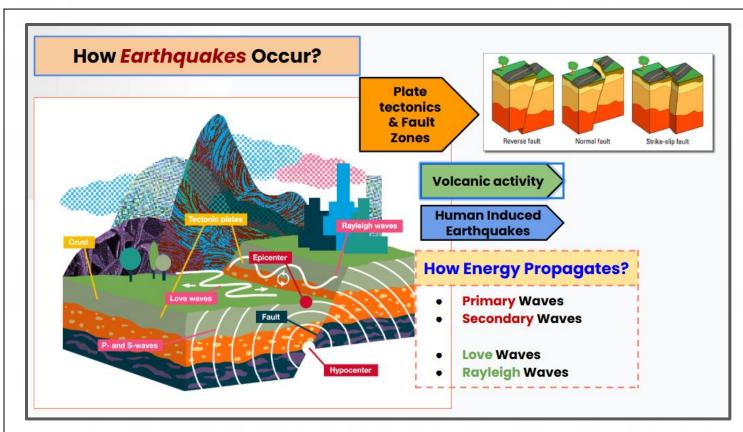
29th March 2025

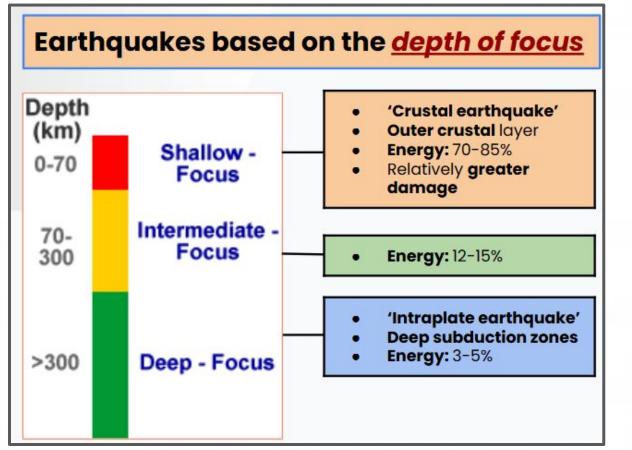


Myanmar Earthquake



CONTEXT: Myanmar struck by powerful earthquake.

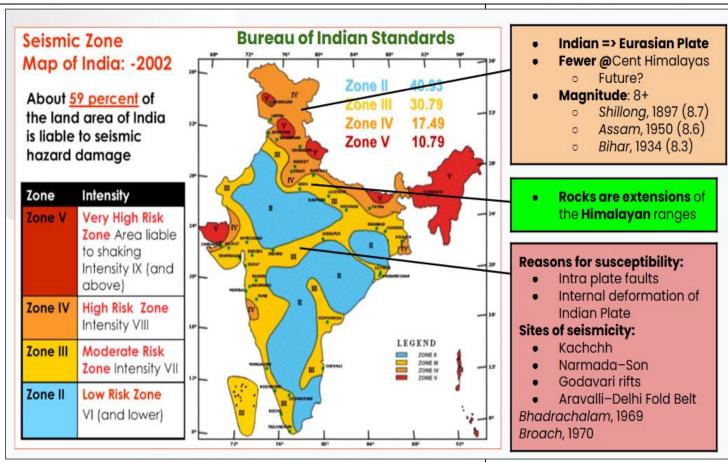


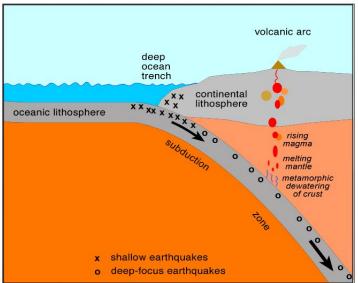


Myanmar Earthquake



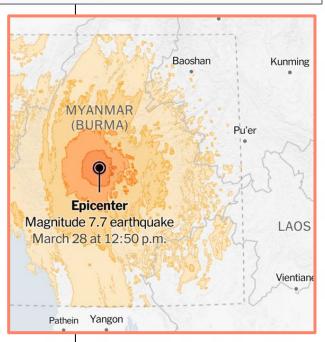
CONTEXT: Myanmar struck by powerful earthquake.





Impacts of Earthquake

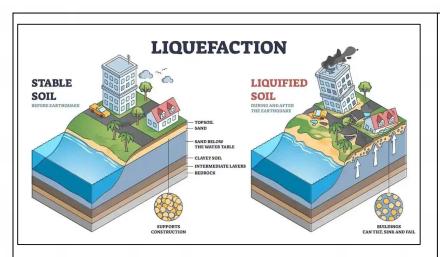
- Structural damage
- Surface Rupture & Ground Displacement
- Tsunamis
- **Liquefaction** of soil
- Fires
- Livelihood disruption



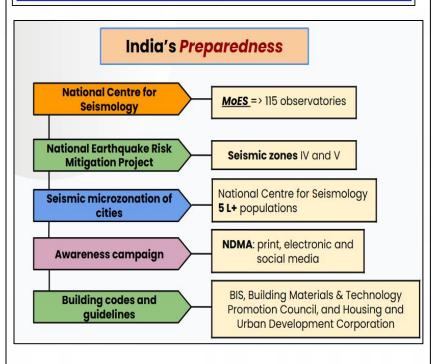
Myanmar Earthquake

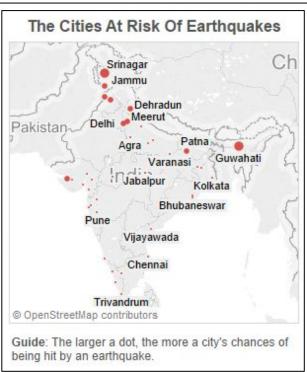


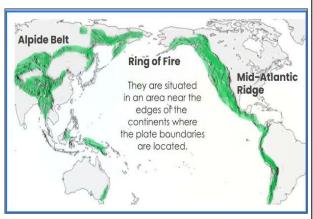
CONTEXT: Myanmar struck by powerful earthquake.



Challenges	Mitigation Strategies	
Lapse in building regulations	Building codes	
Unplanned urbanisation	Land use planning	
Rise in Tourism	Disaster preparedness	
High Seismic Activity	Assessment of high-risk cities	
Awareness and Preparedness	Technology	
Lack of Financial Resources	Japan's J-AlertAI/ML	









DROP! COVER! HOLD ON!

National Disaster Management Authority

Government of India

Myanmar Earthquake



CONTEXT: Myanmar struck by powerful earthquake.



@NDMA.in 🤟 @ndmaindia 👂 /ndmaindia Yejj Tube /ND/

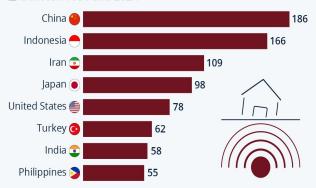
UPSC PYQ (M)

Question 1: Discuss about the vulnerability of India to earthquake-related hazards. Give examples including the salient features of major disasters caused by earthquakes in different parts of India during the last three decades. **(UPSC Mains 2021)**

Question 2: The frequency of earthquakes appears to have increased in the Indian subcontinent. However, India's preparedness for mitigating their impact has significant gaps. Discuss various aspects. **(UPSC Mains 2015)**

The Countries Hit by the Most Earthquakes

Countries with the highest number of major earthquakes between 1990 and 2024



As of Jan. 2, 2024. Earthquakes with at least \$1M in damages, 10 deaths, a magnitude of 7.5 or a tsunami (one criteria min.) Source: NOAA



statista 🗹

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Earthquakes are natural phenomena and cannot be prevented. Explain how they occur. Also comment on India's strategies in this regard.

<u>(15 Marks, 250 words)</u>

India's geopolitical vision

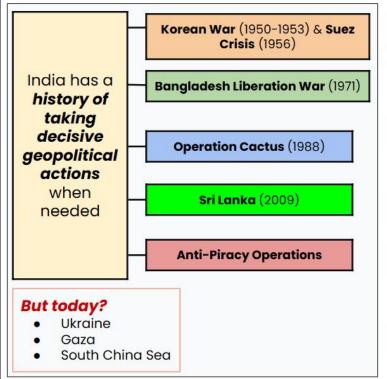


CONTEXT: In a 'Trumpian' world, India must not treat economic development and geopolitics as mutually exclusive.

India's Geopolitical Vision: Why Economic Growth and Global Leadership Must Go Hand-in-Hand

Yet cautious in global geopolitics India must not exclusively focus on growth' Global power shifts demand proactive diplomacy Role of credibility in conflicts Economic ambitions need stronger clout

India's Current Approach: Reticence in Global Conflicts? Economic Prioritization & Fear(?) Bilateral Relations First (over global leadership) "Let Others Handle It" Mentality Strategic neutrality ('non-involvement is the safest policy') OTHERS: "It's more accurate to describe India's approach as: Pragmatic. Independent. Focused on dialogue.



<u>Risks of Staying Passive</u>

⚠ Rise of Alternative Mediators –

And driven by national interests"

Turkey/Saudi Arabia

▲ U.S. U.S. and parts of Europe are shifting to the right

▲ U.S.-China "Deal" Risk - India could be sidelined

▲ Quad's Relevance at Stake – India may face greater Chinese pressure.

▲ Learning from past - India left out of Troika Plus talks on Afghanistan

India's geopolitical vision



CONTEXT: In a 'Trumpian' world, India must not treat economic development and geopolitics as mutually exclusive.

What India Must Do: The Case for a More Active India

A. Global Expectations Risen World expects India to

- Mediate in conflicts
- Lead in forums
 Counterbalance China's influence in Asia
- Putin's recent praise of PM Modi shows India's potential role as a peacemaker

B. Geopolitics = Economic Strength

- "Geopolitical clout matters."
- China's dominance in trade = India must strengthen alliances beyond economics

C. Multi-Alignment Isn't Enough

<u>India NOW:</u> Friendship with all, enemies with none

<u>BUT</u>, multi-alignment must be **strategic**o India **skipped RCEP** trade pact

SOLUTION: **Balance economic ties with active diplomacy** in regions like Europe, Africa, and Indo-Pacific

Other Strategic Policy Shifts needed

- Regional Strategies (SCO + C.Asia)
- Europe is under geopolitical pressure
- Quad and Beyond
- Bilateral Trade Agreements
- Internal Reforms

The Path Forward Scenario Risk for Mitigation India Strategy **U.S. sanctions** Defense Stockpile spares, 'India must act as on India for supply diversify a swing power' **Russia ties** suppliers chain disruption China-Russia Two-front Strenathen threat (LAC Quad, EU + Arctic) partnerships alliance U.S.-China India Ruild independent détente sidelined in Conclusion (deal) Indo-Pacifi naval power (INS Vikrant) Diplomatic Tightrope Balancing economic pragmatism with

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

"In a 'Trumpian' world, let us not treat economic development and geopolitics as mutually exclusive." Analyse the statement. (15 Marks, 250 words)

"Strategic autonomy with leverage."

military preparedness

- With the U.S. → Tech & defense cooperation but avoid Cold War 2.0 traps.
- With Russia → Energy & arms trade but reduce long-term dependency.
- With China → Economic de-risking while keeping dialogue open



Judges' assets



<u>SYLLABUS</u>: Prelims: Indian Polity & Governance GS 2: Structure, organization and functioning of the Judiciary

Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number** 22

Norms Surrounding Disclosure of Judges' Assets in India

Should Judges Disclose Their Assets?

- Judges vs. Other Public Servants
 - MPs, Ministers, Bureaucrats

Current Rules for Judges

Supreme Court's Voluntary System

- 1997 Resolution by CJI JS Verma
- 2009 "Voluntary" Move: upload declarations on its website
 - o Only 28/33 sitting judges
- 2019 RTI Ruling: SC said judges' assets aren't "personal info"

High Courts

- Only 97/770 (13%) @7 HCs
- Most HCs Reject RTIs
 - Uttarakhand HC (2012)

Norms Surrounding Disclosure of Judges' Assets in WORLD

Country	Judicial Asset Disclosure	
USA	Federal judges must file public reports (since 1978).	
UK	Senior judges disclose gifts & hospitality (not full assets).	
Brazil	Full public disclosure for all judges.	
India	Voluntary, opaque system	

Other details of the article

Unlike many public servants

Public servants, unlike judges, are often mandated to declare their assets, and this information is often easily accessible to ordinary citizens.

The passage of the RTI Act in 2005, which seeks to promote transparency and accountability in the working of the government, has played a key role in this regard.

For instance, the RTI Act has pushed government officials to annually declare their assets to their respective cadre controlling authorities. In the majority of cases, these are available in the public domain.

Several states, such as Gujarat, Kerala, and Madhya Pradesh, have strict provisions to ensure state-level bureaucrats declare their assets. These too can be often found in the public domain, or can be accessed through RTI applications.

The Indian Express had earlier filed an RTI application requesting information regarding the assets and liabilities of the judges of the Allahabad High Court. The court rejected the request, saying that such information fell outside the ambit of the RTI Act.

This newspaper received similar responses to its RTI applications from a number of other High Courts, including the Rajasthan, Bombay, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gauhati, and Sikkim HCs.

In view of this situation, Parliament's Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, and Law and Justice had recommended in 2023 that legislation should be introduced to ensure the mandatory disclosure of assets and liabilities of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts. But there has been no progress on the recommendation yet.

Judges' assets



<u>SYLLABUS</u>: Prelims: Indian Polity & Governance GS 2: Structure, organization and functioning of the Judiciary

Newspaper The Indian Express Page Number 22

HC	Total judges at present	Assets in Public domain	For others what website state
Delhi High Court	39	11	"File not uploaded"
Punjab and Haryana	55	31	No mention
Himachal Pradesh	12	10	No mention
Chhattisgarh	17	2	No mention
Karnataka	50	2	No mention
Kerala	39	37	No mention
Madras	62	5	No mention
Rajasthan HC	33	None	No mention
Calcutta	44	None	No mention
Gauhati	24	None	No mention
Gujarat	29	None	No mention
Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh	15	None	No mention
Jharkhand	18	None	No mention
Allahabad	84	None	No mention
Andhra Pradesh	26	None	No mention
Bombay	66	None	No mention
Madhya Pradesh	34	None	No mention
Manipur	4	None	No mention
Meghalaya	3	None	No mention
Orissa	20	None	No mention
Patna	33	None	No mention
Sikkim	3	None	No mention
Telangana	27	None	No mention
Tripura	5	None	No mention
Uttarakhand	7	None	No mention
TOTAL	749	98	

Total number of judges includes chief justices of respective high courts as well as additional judges. (Source: Websites of all 25 High Courts and Department of Justice, as on Sept 18, 2024)



Declaration of assets by judges

2007-2008/09 >>

Quest for openness & transparency

In 2007, RTI activist
Subhash Agarwal sought
to know from SC's Public
Information Office (PIO)
whether judges declared assets (as per
the 1997 resolution).
PIO denied request

Commission (CIC) in 2009 that asked the SC PIO to furnish the information. It held CJI's office within the transparency law's ambit. SC moved Delhi HC against CIC's order saying the 1997 resolution was voluntary

Agarwal moved Central Information

Impact | Aug 2009: Bringing chief justices under RTI

Justice Ravindra Bhat, Delhi HC, upheld CIC's order; held that CJI is a 'public authority' under RTI; SC challenged this in HC

➤ In 2010, division bench held SC bound by 1997 resolution, and CJI's office within RTI ambit. Chief Justice A P Shah, on the bench, said: "Democracy expects openness and openness is the concomitant of free society"

➤ Before this, in Aug 2009, SC adopted resolution to disclose personal assets, place details on website

Contempt of the court

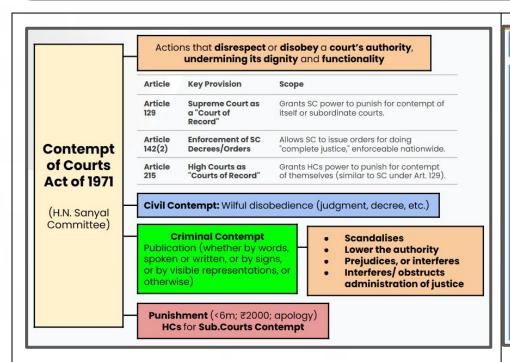


29th March 2025

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Indian Polity & Governance **GS 2:** Structure, organization and

functioning of the Judiciary

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 10



UPSC PYQ (P) 2022

Consider the following statements:

- Pursuant to the report of H.N. Sanyal Committee, the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 was passed.
- The Constitution of India empowers the Supreme Court and the High Courts to punish for contempt of themselves.
- The Constitution of India defines Civil Contempt and Criminal Contempt.
- In India, the Parliament is vested with the powers to make laws on Contempt of Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 3 only

Details of the article

More than 1,800 contempt cases are pending in the Supreme Court while another 1.43 lakh cases are pending in the High Courts, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal told the Lok Sabha in a written reply on Friday.

"The reasons for non-compliance with the orders in contempt cases pending before the Supreme Court and various High Courts are not available with the government," Mr. Meghwal said.

"As far as the Government of India is concerned, the responsibility of implementation of court orders rests with the respective administrative Ministries," he added.



Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024



29th March 2025

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Current events of National & International importance GS 3:

Infrastructure: Ports

Newspaper: The Indian Express Page Number: 11

Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024 Aspect Old Act (1925) New Bill (2024) Legal Language Complex, Simplified, business-friendly colonial-era phrasing Allows Centre to amend rules as **Powers** flexibility needed Based on 1924 Retains Hague Rules but Compliance Hague Rules streamlines implementation Stakeholder Ambiguities in Clearer rights, duties, and Clarity liabilities for shippers/carriers

What is a <u>"Bill of Lading"</u>?

- Legal document by shipping co to cargo owner
 - Type, quantity, and condition of goods.
 - Origin and destination details.
 - Terms of transport (liabilities, insurance, etc.)



Key details

The Ports, Shipping & Waterways minister told the House during the debate on the Bill that it aims to provide clear responsibilities, liabilities, rights and immunities for carriers in the shipping industry.

"We have taken all stakeholders on board and our main intention is to make the law simpler and better understood," Sonowal said. "The Act is applicable when ships are carrying goods from an Indian port to foreign port or from an Indian port to any other Indian port, thereby covering international carriers of goods from India as well as domestic carriers of goods by sea."

Flagging concerns over the powers granted to the Union government, Congress MP Vijay Vasanth called for better protection for shippers and consignees and pointed out that the Bill does not adequately address risks related to discrepancies in weight declarations.

Other Benefits

- √ Faster Dispute Resolution
- √ Lower Compliance Burden
- √ Global Trade Confidence
- √ Modernized Logistics

Other Criticisms

▲ Implementation Delays

△ Carrier vs. Shipper Conflicts

▲ Bills of lading still **largely**

paper-based

Electronics Component Scheme



29th March 2025

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Economic & Social Development **GS 3:** Changes in industrial

policy

Newspaper: The Indian Express Page Number: 01



Scheme to help in developing a robust ecosystem by attracting large investments (global/domestic)

Benefits

- To attract Investment of Rs.59,350 crore resulting in production of Rs. 4,56,500 crore worth of products
- To generate direct employment of 91,600 persons and many indirect jobs during its tenure

Incentive Structure

- Financial support based on turnover
- Target: 91,600 direct jobs

Production & Investment Targets: ₹4.56 lakh crore + ₹59,350 crore in investments

Focus on "Bare Components"

- Circuit boards, lithium-ion batteries, hardware enclosures.
- Sub-assemblies (display controllers, camera modules)

Capital Goods Boost

- Supports machinery used to manufacture components
- Existing hubs: Coimbatore, Bengaluru, Pune, Rajkot, Vadodara

How is This Different from Previous Schemes?

Feature	Earlier PLI Schemes	New Component Scheme
Incentive Basis	Incremental Turnover & Employr Capital expenditure (output-based)	
Focus	Finished goods (phones, IT hardware)	Components & sub-assemblies
Duration	4-5 years	6 years
Investment Target	Varies by sector	₹59,350 crore

Other details

The components incentive scheme is a crucial next step as the PLI scheme for smartphone manufacturing is nearing its sunset. Despite getting companies like Apple and Samsung to localise some of their overall assembly in India, the domestic value addition has been relatively low -- around 15-20 per cent — with the government hoping to raise it to at least 30-40 per cent.

The assessment acknowledged that <mark>while the PLI scheme</mark> for smartphones has resulted in a near tapering of imports of finished products, import of key components and sub-assemblies, including integrated circuits, increased from \$29 billion in FY21 to \$46.5 billion in FY23.

ried out by the IT Ministry last year, the government had identified a "huge" demand-supply gap in the electronic components sec tor -- to the tune of \$100 billion for domestic consumption alone, and \$140 billion if India wants to export some components. That would be almost 10 times of India's current domestic capacity. In 2022-23, the country's electronic components production stood at \$10.75 billion, accounting for only about 10 per cent of total electronics production.

According to the assessment, which The Indian Express reported last August, the government has identified three key challenges in terms of electronic components manufacturing. First, the current lack of domestic scale in the country. Second, a high investment to turnover ratio -- in terms of finished products such as smartphones, which is what India is currently focusing on, every rupee of investment can bring it around Rs 20. However, in the case of electronic components, every rupee of investment will bring around Rs 2-4. Third, India has high domestic demand, because of which a large chunk of components are being imported: electronics is the second largest import commodity after oil, accounting for nearly

UPSC PYQ (P) 2023

Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India accounts for 3.2% of global export of

Statement-II: Many local companies and some foreign companies operating in India have taken advantage of India's 'Production-linked Incentive' scheme

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

Core sector slowdown



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Economic & Social Development GS 3: Indian Economy and

issues

Newspaper: The Indian Express Page Number: 19

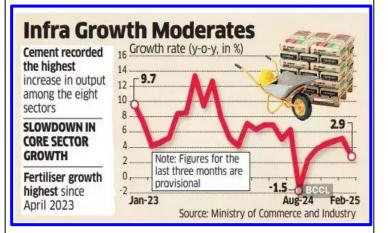
What is the Core Sector?

- 8 key infrastructure industries
- Index of Eight Core Industries (OEA, DPIIT, MoC&I)
 - Petroleum Refinery Products (28.04%)>
 Electricity (19.85%) > Steel (17.92%) > Coal (10.33%) > Crude Oil (8.98%) > Natural Gas (6.88%) > Cement (5.37%) > Fertiliser (2.63%).
- Index of Industrial Production
 - Released monthly by the NSO
 - Base year for IIP: 2011-12.
 - Components of IIP
 - Mining (weightage of 10.93%)
 - Manufacturing (weightage of 77.45%)
 - Electricity (weightage of 11.62%)
- IoECI = 40.27% of IIP

UPSC PYQ (P) 2015

In the 'Index of Eight Core Industries', which one of the following is given the highest weight?

- (a) Coal production
- (b) Electricity generation
- (c) Fertilizer production
- (d) Steel production





Daily Quiz



29th March 2025

Q1. Consider the following types of seismic waves:

- 1. Primary waves
- 2. Secondary waves
- 3. Love waves
- 4. Rayleigh waves

Which of the waves given above are classified as Surface waves?

- a) 1 and 3 Only
- b) 1 and 4 Only
- c) 3 and 4 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c

Q2. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, was enacted to define and limit the powers of courts related to contempt.
- 2. The H.N. Sanyal Committee was set up in 1991 to review the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 provisions.
- 3. The Act distinguishes between civil and criminal contempt.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:

- 1. The PLI Scheme was introduced to promote domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence.
- 2. The scheme provides incentives based only on increased turnover of the company.
- 3. The PLI Scheme is implemented solely by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 2 and 3 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Q4. Which of the following represents the correct decreasing order of components based on their weightage in the Index of Eight Core Industries?

- a) Coal > Crude Oil > Natural Gas>Cement >
- b) Crude Oil > Coal > Natural Gas > Cement
- c) Coal > Cement > Crude Oil > Natural Gas
- d) Crude Oil > Natural Gas > Coal > Cement

Answer: a

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024:

- 1. The new Bill retains the 1924 Hague Rules but streamlines their implementation.
- 2. The new Bill introduces clearer rights, duties, and liabilities for shippers and carriers.

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

Answer: c





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