DATE: 14.11.2026

1) Consider the following statements regarding the QUAD:
   1. QUAD is a grouping of four countries – India, USA, Japan and Australia.
   2. It is a formal military alliance with a collective defence commitment.
   3. It aims to promote a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

   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

2) Consider the following statements regarding the evolution and membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):
   1. The SCO evolved from the "Shanghai Five" mechanism established in 1996.
   2. Turkmenistan is a founding permanent member of the SCO.
   3. Belarus became the most recent country to be inducted as a full member of the SCO.

   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

3) With reference to the seat and benches of the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:
   1. The Constitution of India declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court.
   2. The President is authorised to appoint other place or places as the seat of the Supreme Court after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
   3. No court can give any direction either to the President or to the Chief Justice of India to appoint any other place as a seat of the Supreme Court.

   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

4) With reference to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and drug price regulation in India, consider the following statements:
   1. All medicines listed under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) are automatically included in Schedule-I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO).
   2. The NPPA functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
   3. The NPPA revises the ceiling prices of scheduled formulations annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

   How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
   (a) Only one
   (b) Only two
   (c) All three

(d) None

5) Consider the following statements regarding Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2026:
   1. It is a joint military exercise conducted between India and Sri Lanka.
   2. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and cooperation between the two armies in counter-terrorism operations.
   3. It is a tri-service exercise involving the armies, navies and air forces of both countries.

   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

Explanation

1) Answer: (B)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) is a strategic grouping comprising four democracies: **India, the United States, Japan, and Australia**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The QUAD is an **informal strategic forum**, not a formal military alliance like NATO. It does not have a mutual or collective defence treaty/commitment, nor does it maintain a permanent secretariat.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The primary stated objective of the grouping is to uphold a **free, open, stable, and inclusive Indo-Pacific** region, anchored by democratic values and a rules-based international order.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

2) Answer: (B)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The SCO originated from the "**Shanghai Five**" mechanism formed in **1996** by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan to resolve border disputes and build military trust. With the inclusion of Uzbekistan in June 2001, it was formally established as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Turkmenistan** is **not** a member of the SCO. Owing to its constitutionally mandated policy of "permanent neutrality" recognized by the UN, Turkmenistan participates in SCO summits strictly as a **guest attendee**. The six founding members were China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Following the accession of India and Pakistan (2017) and Iran (2023), **Belarus** became the 10th and most recent country to be inducted as a full member of the SCO in July 2024.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

3) Answer: (C)

- **Statement 1 is correct: Article 130** of the Constitution provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The President is not independently authorised to appoint other places. Under Article 130, the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** may appoint another place or places for the Supreme Court to sit, **with the approval of the President**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** No court can issue a direction either to the President or to the CJI to appoint another place as the seat of the Supreme Court. The decision under Article 130 is not subject to such a judicial direction.
- Hence, statements 1 and 3 only are correct
- **Therefore, option (C) is the correct answer**

4) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) medicines are **not automatically included in Schedule-I merely upon their inclusion in NLEM**. The NLEM is incorporated into Schedule-I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013 through notification by the Department of Pharmaceuticals. For example, NLEM 2022 was notified as the revised Schedule-I on 11 November 2022.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The NPPA functions under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**, not the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The latter ministry publishes the NLEM.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The NPPA revises the ceiling prices of scheduled formulations annually based on the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**, not the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- Hence, all three statements are incorrect.
- **Therefore, option (D) is the correct answer**

5) Answer: (A)

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is an annual bilateral joint military exercise conducted alternately between **India and Sri Lanka**. The 12th edition is scheduled from November 13 to 26, 2026, at the Army Training School in Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The exercise aims to strengthen interoperability and enhance the joint capability of both armies to conduct **counter-terrorism operations** in a semi-urban environment under a United Nations mandate.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is primarily an **Army-to-Army exercise** rather than a full tri-service exercise. While the 2026 Indian contingent—led mainly by a battalion of the Rajputana Rifles—includes supporting personnel from the Indian Air Force for air-land coordination, naval forces do not participate (India and Sri Lanka conduct a separate bilateral naval exercise called **SLINEX**).
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**