DATE: 09.11.2026

1) Which of the following pollutants are monitored under India's National Air Quality Index (AQI)?
   1. PM10
   2. Lead
   3. Benzene
   4. Arsenic
   5. Nickel
   6. O3

   Select the correct option:
   (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
   (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
   (c) 1, 2 and 6 only
   (d) 2, 4 and 5 only

2) Consider the following statements regarding the functions of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):
   1. It provides free legal services to eligible persons, including legal representation, payment of court fees and other litigation expenses.
   2. It facilitates Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) through the organisation of Lok Adalats for speedy and amicable settlement of disputes.
   3. It promotes legal literacy and awareness through legal aid camps, awareness programmes and clinical legal education.
   4. It has the power to adjudicate disputes independently and function as a regular appellate court.

   Which of the statements given above are correct?
   (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
   (b) 1 and 4 only
   (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
   (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

3) Consider the following statements regarding the geographical location of Lebanon:
   1. Lebanon shares its land borders with Syria and Israel.
   2. The Mediterranean Sea lies to the west of Lebanon.
   3. Lebanon shares a maritime boundary with Cyprus.
   4. Lebanon is bordered by Jordan to the south.

   Which of the statements given above are correct?
   (a) 1 and 2 only
   (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
   (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
   (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

4) With reference to the Indian startup ecosystem, consider the following statements
   1. An entity remains recognised as a startup up to a maximum period of 5 years from its date of incorporation across all sectors.

2. According to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), India's position in the Global Innovation Index improved from 52nd in 2019 to 38th in 2025.
3. The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme provides financial assistance for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials and market entry through eligible incubators.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5) With reference to INS Amini, consider the following statements:

1. It belongs to the Arnala class of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC).
2. It is an indigenously built, nuclear-powered warship designed for coastal defence operations.
3. It is equipped with lightweight torpedoes, indigenous rocket launchers and sonars to detect and engage underwater threats.

Which of the statements given above is/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: (C)

- India's **National Air Quality Index (AQI)**, launched in 2014 under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, monitors **8 specific pollutants** for real-time air quality tracking.
- The eight pollutants monitored under India's National Air Quality Index (AQI) are PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, NO_2, SO_2, CO, O_3, NH_3, and Lead (Pb).
- **Benzene, Arsenic, and Nickel** are listed under India's broader **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**, which covers **12 pollutants** in total.
- However, because they require specialized, long-term laboratory analysis (e.g., heavy metals and volatile organic compounds) rather than continuous continuous real-time monitoring, they were **not included** in the 8-pollutant sub-index used to calculate the daily **National AQI**.
- Therefore**, option C** is the correct answer.

2) Answer: (A)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under Section 12 and Section 13 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, NALSA is mandated to provide free and competent legal services, including providing lawyers, paying court fees, drafting documents, and covering all litigation expenses for eligible individuals.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** NALSA actively promotes and organizes **Lok Adalats** across the country as an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to

ensure speedy, cost-effective, and amicable settlements outside regular court trials.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Spreading legal literacy, conducting grassroots legal awareness camps, and supporting legal aid clinics in universities and rural areas form a core part of NALSA's statutory responsibilities.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** NALSA is an administrative and facilitating body for legal aid and ADR. It **does not** function as a regular court of law or an appellate tribunal, nor does it have independent judicial powers to adjudicate disputes on merits.
- Therefore**, option A** is the correct answer.

3) Answer: (A)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Lebanon shares its land borders to the north and east with **Syria**, and to the south with **Israel**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **Mediterranean Sea** lies entirely to the west of Lebanon, giving it a long coastline.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While Lebanon and Cyprus face each other across the eastern Mediterranean Sea and share maritime boundary delimitations (exclusive economic zone agreements), Cyprus is an island nation with **no land border**.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Jordan does not share a border with Lebanon; **Syria** lies between them to the east/northeast.
- Therefore**, option A** is the correct answer.



4) Answer: (B)

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT:** Under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) guidelines, an entity is recognized as a startup for **up to 10 years** from its date of incorporation/registration for ordinary startups.
  - **Turnover & Sectoral Relaxation:** The annual turnover ceiling for ordinary startups is **₹200 crore** in any financial year since incorporation. For specialized, R&D-intensive **Deep Tech startups**, the recognition window is extended up to **20 years** with an annual turnover ceiling of **₹300 crore**.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT:** According to the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** in the Global Innovation Index (GII), India's global rank improved significantly from **52nd position in 2019** to **38th position in 2025**.

    - **Regional & Income Group Leadership:** India also retains the 1st rank among lower-middle-income economies and leads the Central and Southern Asia region in innovation performance.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT:** The **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)**, launched under the DPIIT (Ministry of Commerce and Industry), provides capital to early-stage startups specifically for:
    - Proof of concept
    - Prototype development
    - Product trials
    - Market entry and commercialization
- **Implementation Mechanism:** Funds are **disbursed through eligible, DPIIT-selected incubators** across India rather than given directly by the government to startups.

5) Answer: (C)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** INS Amini belongs to the Arnala class of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC).
    - **Objective:** These vessels are designed to replace the ageing Abhay-class ASW corvettes and undertake coastal anti-submarine warfare, mine-laying operations and shallow-water maritime patrols.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** INS Amini is conventionally powered by marine diesel engines coupled with waterjet propulsion, not nuclear-powered.
    - **Indigenous Construction:** It is indigenously built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
    - **Nuclear-powered Vessels:** India's Arihant-class submarines are nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs), unlike INS Amini, which uses conventional propulsion.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is equipped with advanced sonar systems, including hull-mounted sonar and variable-depth sonar, for detecting and tracking underwater threats.
    - **Weapons:** Its anti-submarine warfare equipment includes:
        - RBU-6000 anti-submarine rocket launchers.
        - Lightweight torpedo launchers.
- **Therefore, option C is the correct answer.**