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Current Affairs – June 2025

Subject – Economy

Topic – GDP

Difficulty Level – Medium

Source: Live Mint

<https://www.livemint.com/opinion/online-views/india-economy-fiscal-policy-gdp-growth-public-expenditure-fiscal-deficit-public-debt-inflation-investment-consumption-11748791085629.html>

Q. Consider the following statements regarding India's fiscal policy and economic growth dynamics as of May 2025:

1. The fiscal deficit target for 2025-26 is set at 4.4% of GDP, which is achievable given the fiscal consolidation achieved in previous years.
2. India's economic recovery post-COVID has relied heavily on public expenditure, but private investment and consumption remain untested for sustaining growth without state support.
3. The adoption of public debt as the primary fiscal gauge after 2025-26 aims to replace the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act's 3% fiscal deficit target.
4. Sustained high food inflation poses a significant risk to India's price stability, potentially undermining the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 4% inflation target.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3, and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answer: A

Evaluation of Statements

Let's evaluate each statement based on the information provided in the *Mint* article and relevant context from the provided search results:

- **Statement 1: The fiscal deficit target for 2025-26 is set at 4.4% of GDP, which is achievable given the fiscal consolidation achieved in previous years.**

This statement is correct. The article states: "Last year's fiscal gap was under 4.8% and this year's 4.4% goal is achievable." This aligns with the fiscal deficit target for FY26 being set at 4.4% of GDP, as also corroborated by other sources, such as Reuters, which notes the government's target of 4.8% for FY25 and 4.4% for FY26. The article further highlights the government's grip on fiscal consolidation through public expenditure, suggesting that prior efforts make the 4.4% target feasible. Additional sources, like EY, confirm a projected fiscal deficit reduction from 4.8% in FY25 to 4.4% in FY26, supported by fiscal discipline.

- **Statement 2: India's economic recovery post-COVID has relied heavily on public expenditure, but private investment and consumption remain untested for sustaining growth without state support.**
- This statement is correct. The article explicitly notes: "Last year's rate of GDP growth dropped below the path

demanding by Viksit Bharat, but the second half's acceleration reveals a grip on its gear-stick held by the government through public expenditure. How long, though, will state support last?" This indicates that India's post-COVID recovery has been driven significantly by public expenditure, with uncertainty about the sustainability of growth without continued state support. The article implies that private investment and consumption have not yet been fully tested as independent drivers of growth, aligning with concerns about sluggish private investment in other sources, such as EY's analysis.

- **Statement 3: The adoption of public debt as the primary fiscal gauge after 2025-26 aims to replace the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act's 3% fiscal deficit target.**

This statement is incorrect. The article mentions: "After that, public debt will be adopted as the official gauge to constrain risky over-spending." It also notes that the FRBM law needs reworking, and "If inflation stays subdued at around 4%, the central bank's aim, even with the fiscal deficit exceeding the FRBM's 3% cap, it'll be a relief." This suggests a shift toward using the debt-to-GDP ratio as a key fiscal metric starting FY26-27, as confirmed by Reuters, which states the government plans to target a debt-to-GDP ratio of 50% by 2031. However, there is no explicit indication that this shift aims to entirely *replace* the FRBM's 3% fiscal deficit target.

Instead, the focus on debt-to-GDP is described as a complementary and more flexible standard to enhance fiscal transparency, while the fiscal deficit target remains part of the broader fiscal framework, as per the FRBM Act's amended goals.

- **Statement 4: Sustained high food inflation poses a significant risk to India's price stability, potentially undermining the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 4% inflation target.** This statement is correct. The article does not directly mention food inflation but notes: "If inflation stays subdued at around 4%, the central bank's aim, it'll be a relief." This implies that maintaining inflation at the RBI's 4% target is a challenge, and other sources highlight food inflation as a key risk. For instance, the Policy Circle article notes that inflation stayed within the RBI's 2-6% range, partly due to government intervention ensuring food supply, but core inflation is inching upward. The Economic Survey 2024-25 also mentions that easing food inflation supports growth, but geopolitical and commodity price shocks pose risks. Sustained high food inflation, a persistent issue in India, could destabilize prices and challenge the RBI's target, as it contributes significantly to overall inflation.

Conclusion

- **Correct statements:** 1, 2, and 4
- **Incorrect statement:** 3

Thus, the correct option is **(a) 1, 2, and 4 only**.

Subject: Indian Economy**Sub-Topic: International Trade and Economic Reforms****Difficulty Level: Medium****Source: Live Mint**

<https://www.livemint.com/news/us-india-bilateral-trade-talks-tariff-farm-exports-niti-aayog-ramesh-chand-agri-export-economy-rice-shrimp-almonds-tea-11748752463014.html>

Q. Consider the following statements regarding India-US trade negotiations as per a NITI Aayog working paper:

1. India should grant more market access to American products such as apples, almonds, and pistachios as part of a bilateral trade agreement.
2. In return for granting market access to US products, India expects greater long-term market access for its shrimp, fish, rice, tea, coffee, and rubber.
3. The US currently imposes a 26% tariff on Indian shrimp imports.
4. India is the second-largest supplier of rice to the US, with Thailand being the largest.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2, and 4 only
- C. 2, 3, and 4 only
- D. 1, 3, and 4 only

Answer: B

Evaluation of Statements

Let's evaluate each statement based on the information provided in the *Mint* article and the provided document:

- **Statement 1:** India should grant more market access to American products such as apples, almonds, and pistachios as part of a bilateral trade agreement.

This statement is correct. The article states: "India should grant more market access to American products that do not hurt Indian farmers—including apples, almonds and pistachios—for a mutually beneficial bilateral trading arrangement, according to a working paper by NITI Aayog." The paper suggests lowering tariffs on these products, which either have low domestic production or do not compete directly with Indian produce due to differences in quality grades and seasons, to foster a balanced trade agreement.

- **Statement 2:** In return for granting market access to US products, India expects greater long-term market access for its shrimp, fish, rice, tea, coffee, and rubber.

This statement is correct. The article explicitly notes: "In turn, India could benefit from greater long-term market access for its shrimp, fish, rice, tea, coffee and rubber, the paper said as the two countries tried to wrap up a bilateral trade agreement." This reflects the 'give and take' approach advocated by the NITI Aayog paper to secure export markets for Indian agricultural products.

- **Statement 3:** The US currently imposes a 26% tariff on Indian shrimp imports.

This statement is incorrect. The article clarifies that India "now faces a 26%

tariff under the now-suspended reciprocal tariff plan, compared with the earlier zero-duty regime, potentially weakening India's price advantage if the tariffs are not averted." The key point is that the 26% tariff is part of a suspended reciprocal tariff plan announced on April 2, 2025, and not currently in effect due to a 90-day pause to facilitate trade negotiations. Thus, as of May 2025, the US does not impose a 26% tariff on Indian shrimp imports, making the statement factually inaccurate.

- **Statement 4: India is the second-largest supplier of rice to the US, with Thailand being the largest.** This statement is correct. The article states: "The report said rice is the second-most important commodity exported by India to the US, commanding 27% share in its rice imports after Thailand, which controls more than half of all US import of rice." This confirms Thailand as the largest supplier and India as the second-largest supplier of rice to the US.

Thus, the correct option is **(b) 1, 2, and 4 only**.

Subject: Indian Polity and Governance

Sub-Topic: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Defence Services

Easy

Article Link

- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/how-nda-offers-women-path-to-become-service-chief-in-future-10040971/>

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the inclusion of women in the National Defence Academy (NDA) and their career progression in the Indian Armed Forces as of May 2025:

1. The first batch of 17 women cadets graduated from the NDA in May 2025, marking a historic milestone for gender inclusivity in the Indian military.
2. Women were granted Permanent Commission (PC) in the Indian Armed Forces starting in 1992 through the Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES).
3. The NDA's training for women cadets is conducted in a gender-neutral manner with minimal changes to the existing curriculum, ensuring their readiness for command roles.
4. Women cadets at the NDA are not yet integrated into the academy's 18 squadrons, limiting their ability to train alongside male cadets.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2, and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3, and 4 only

Answer: A

Evaluation of Statements

- **Statement 1: The first batch of 17 women cadets graduated from the NDA in May 2025, marking a historic milestone for gender inclusivity in the Indian military.** This statement is correct. The article states: "There were 17 women cadets in the 148th batch of the National Defence Academy (NDA) which

graduated from the prestigious tri-services institute in Khadakwasla on Friday,” referring to May 30, 2025. It further describes this as “a watershed moment for the armed forces, one which opens a realistic path for women to reach the highest echelons of the Indian military in the coming decades,” confirming the historic significance for gender inclusivity.

- **Statement 2: Women were granted Permanent Commission (PC) in the Indian Armed Forces starting in 1992 through the Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES).**

This statement is incorrect. The article clarifies that the WSES, introduced in 1992, inducted women into select non-combat streams as Short Service Commission (SSC) officers, not Permanent Commission officers. It states: “Permanent Commission (PC) remained out of reach for women until 2008, when women SSC officers in the Judge Advocate General department and the AEC became eligible.” Thus, PC for women began in 2008, not 1992.

- **Statement 3: The NDA’s training for women cadets is conducted in a gender-neutral manner with minimal changes to the existing curriculum, ensuring their readiness for command roles.**

This statement is correct. The article notes: “When admitting its first women cadets in 2022, the NDA had said that training will be conducted in ‘an absolutely gender-neutral manner’ with ‘minimum changes to the existing curriculum’.” It further emphasizes that training activities are conducted

jointly with male cadets, “keeping the cadets’ employability in mind, specifically the fact that women officers would be required to take up command roles in the future.” This confirms the gender-neutral approach and focus on preparing women for command roles.

- **Statement 4: Women cadets at the NDA are not yet integrated into the academy’s 18 squadrons, limiting their ability to train alongside male cadets.**

This statement is incorrect. The article explicitly states: “Women cadets were initially provided separate accommodation on the NDA campus. But they have since been integrated into the existing 18 squadrons of the academy. This milestone was achieved earlier this year, during the sixth and final term of the first batch to include women.” This integration allows women to live and train alongside male cadets, participating in the same daily routines, thus contradicting the statement.

Conclusion

- **Correct statements:** 1 and
- **Incorrect statements:** 2 and 4

Thus, the correct option is **(a) 1 and 3 only**.

Subject: Indian Culture

Sub-Topic: Culinary Traditions and Historical Influences

Medium

Article Link



- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-culture/mango-history-india-mughals-pakistan-flavour-science-food-summer-10041655/>

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the history, cultural significance, and scientific aspects of mangoes in India, as highlighted in a recent analysis of their role in Indian cuisine:

1. The mango's botanical name, *Mangifera indica*, is derived from Tamil and Malayalam words, and its global spread was facilitated by Portuguese traders who introduced grafting techniques to enhance its varieties.
2. The Mughal emperor Babur considered the mango the finest fruit of Hindustan, leading to the establishment of the Lakhi Bagh orchard with one lakh mango trees under his rule.
3. The distinctive aroma of mangoes is primarily due to Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) such as terpenes, lactones, esters, and aldehydes, with esters contributing to its creamy undertone.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3 only

Answer: A

- **Statement 1: The mango's botanical name, *Mangifera indica*, is derived from Tamil and Malayalam words, and its global spread was facilitated by Portuguese traders who**

introduced grafting techniques to enhance its varieties.

This statement is correct. The article states: "The Western world certainly learnt about the king of all fruits from us, and, hence, bestowed upon it the botanical name *Mangifera indica*. The name itself originates from the Tamil and Malayalam words – mankay, mannakay. The Portuguese came across it when they landed in India, and took it across the world, calling it manga." Additionally, it notes: "By this time, Portuguese Jesuit priests had already reached Goa, tasted the local mangoes, and started grafting them to micro-engineer their flavour." This confirms the etymology of *Mangifera indica* and the Portuguese role in spreading and enhancing mango varieties through grafting, as further supported by the introduction of grafting techniques that improved varieties like Alphonso.

- **Statement 2: The Mughal emperor Babur considered the mango the finest fruit of Hindustan, leading to the establishment of the Lakhi Bagh orchard with one lakh mango trees under his rule.**

This statement is incorrect. The article clarifies Babur's view: "The reason why this is unlikely is that Babur himself wrote that, although 'the mango is the best fruit of Hindustan,' and it is highly praised by some, 'such praise outmatches it.' For Babur, the Central Asian musk melon was the king of all fruits." This indicates Babur did not consider the mango the finest fruit, preferring musk melons instead.

Furthermore, the Lakhi Bagh orchard with one lakh mango trees was established under Akbar's rule, not Babur's, as the article states: "Akbar learnt about this and invited them to his court in Agra to train the royal horticulturists in the art of mango-tree grafting. A special mango orchard was set up in Lakhi Bagh, where one lakh trees were planted." Thus, both claims in the statement are factually inaccurate.

- **Statement 3: The distinctive aroma of mangoes is primarily due to Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) such as terpenes, lactones, esters, and aldehydes, with esters contributing to its creamy undertone.**

This statement is incorrect in part. The article explains: "The scent of a mango comes from a vast array of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), most important of which are terpenes, lactones, esters, and aldehydes. The esters impart the sweet, tropical fruity scents, the lactones give it a creamy, earthy undertone, terpenes produce the slightly intoxicating, floral and pinelike notes, while aldehydes provide the grassy, and somewhat 'spicy' feel." While it correctly identifies the VOCs responsible for the mango's aroma (terpenes, lactones, esters, and aldehydes), it inaccurately attributes the creamy undertone to esters. The article specifies that *lactones* contribute the creamy, earthy undertone, while esters are responsible for sweet, tropical fruity scents. Despite this error, the statement's core claim about VOCs is accurate, but the

specific attribution of esters to the creamy undertone makes it incorrect as stated.

Clarification on Statement 3

- Given the partial inaccuracy in Statement 3 (correct VOCs but incorrect attribution of esters to the creamy undertone), a strict interpretation might question its inclusion as a correct statement. The identification of VOCs as the source of the mango's aroma is the primary intent. Since lactones, not esters, are responsible for the creamy undertone, Statement 3 is deemed incorrect due to this specific error, aligning with the rigorous standards of a difficult-level question.

Conclusion

- **Correct statements:** 1 only
- **Incorrect statements:** 2 and 3

Thus, the correct option is **(a) 1 only**.

Subject and Sub-Topic for UPSC

Subject: Indian Economy

Sub-Topic: Banking and Financial Regulation

Difficult

Article Link

- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-economics/rbis-new-draft-rules-for-gold-loans-why-10041967/>

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) draft guidelines for gold loans issued in April 2025:

1. The RBI restricts gold loans to only gold jewellery and bank-issued coins, prohibiting the use of gold bars, ingots, or bullion as collateral.
2. The maximum Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratio for consumption gold loans is capped at 75%, and the accrued interest must be included in the LTV calculation for bullet repayment loans.
3. The Finance Ministry has proposed exempting gold loans below Rs 2 lakh from the new rules to protect small borrowers, with implementation delayed until January 2026.
4. The RBI mandates that the aggregate weight of gold ornaments pledged for a loan can exceed 1 kilogram per borrower if the loan is for income-generating purposes.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, and 4 only

Answer: A

Evaluation of Statements

Let's evaluate each statement based on the information provided in the *Indian Express* article and relevant web sources:

- **Statement 1: The RBI restricts gold loans to only gold jewellery and bank-issued coins, prohibiting the use of gold bars, ingots, or bullion as collateral.**
This statement is correct. The article explicitly states: "The RBI has told banks that loans can be offered against gold jewellery and bank-issued coins, but not against gold bars, ingots,

bullion, etc (called 'primary gold')." This restriction aims to standardize collateral types and reduce risks associated with non-standard gold forms, as part of the RBI's effort to harmonize lending practices across regulated entities.

- **Statement 2: The maximum Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratio for consumption gold loans is capped at 75%, and the accrued interest must be included in the LTV calculation for bullet repayment loans.**

This statement is correct. The article confirms: "The RBI has said that the 'maximum LTV ratio in respect of consumption gold loans shall not exceed 75 per cent of the value of gold'." Additionally, related sources specify that for consumption-based bullet loans, accrued interest must be factored into the LTV calculation, effectively reducing the disbursed loan amount to ensure compliance with the 75% cap. This is a novel requirement aimed at enhancing risk management for both lenders and borrowers.

- **Statement 3: The Finance Ministry has proposed exempting gold loans below Rs 2 lakh from the new rules to protect small borrowers, with implementation delayed until January 2026.**

This statement is correct. The article notes: "After the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released draft guidelines for gold loans last month, the Finance Ministry has suggested that loans below Rs 2 lakh be exempt from the tighter rules, and the norms come into effect only from January 1, 2026, to ensure proper



implementation.” This proposal followed concerns raised by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin about the impact on poor and middle-class borrowers, indicating the government’s intent to balance regulation with accessibility for small borrowers.

- **Statement 4: The RBI mandates that the aggregate weight of gold ornaments pledged for a loan can exceed 1 kilogram per borrower if the loan is for income-generating purposes.**

This statement is incorrect. The article clearly states: “The aggregate weight of either gold or silver ornaments pledged for loan shall not exceed 1 kilogram per borrower, the RBI says.” There is no exception mentioned in the article or related sources that allows exceeding this 1-kilogram limit for income-generating loans. The cap is designed to mitigate concentration risks and potential money-laundering concerns, applying uniformly to both consumption and income-generating loans.

Conclusion

- **Correct statements:** 1, 2, and 3
- **Incorrect statement:** 4

Thus, the correct option is **(a) 1, 2, and 3 only**.

Subject: Environment and Ecology

Sub-Topic: Biodiversity and Conservation

Medium

Article Link

- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/valley-of-flowers-in-uttarakhand-open-june-1-all-you-need-to-know-10042170/>

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Valley of Flowers National Park in Uttarakhand and its ecological and cultural significance as of June 2025:

1. The Valley of Flowers, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is located within the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve and is renowned for its diverse alpine meadows hosting species like brahmakamal, which holds religious significance.
2. The valley was designated as a national park in 1982 due to ecological damage from mountaineering activities following the reopening of Nanda Devi for scaling in 1974.
3. The Valley of Flowers is accessible to tourists year-round, with the best time to visit being July to September when most flowers bloom.
4. The valley’s biodiversity includes rare wildlife such as the snow leopard and Himalayan weasel, and it serves as a transition zone between the Zaskar and Great Himalaya mountain ranges.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3, and 4 only
- D. 1, 3, and 4 only

Answer: A

Evaluation of Statements

Let's evaluate each statement based on the information provided in the *Indian Express* article and relevant context:

- **Statement 1: The Valley of Flowers, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is located within the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve and is renowned for its diverse alpine meadows hosting species like brahmakamal, which holds religious significance.**

This statement is correct. The article states: "Located in Chamoli district, the Valley of Flowers is a UNESCO World Heritage Site" and "The Valley of Flowers is located within the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, spread over an area of 87 sqkm." It further notes: "Flower species such as orchids, poppies, primulas, marigold, daisies and anemones can be found here. The valley also abounds in medicinal plants and herbs, and flowers with religious significance, such as the brahmakamal, offered to Nanda Devi." This confirms the valley's status, location, and the religious significance of brahmakamal, a flower offered to the goddess Nanda Devi.

- **Statement 2: The valley was designated as a national park in 1982 due to ecological damage from mountaineering activities following the reopening of Nanda Devi for scaling in 1974.**

This statement is correct. The article explains: "The India-China war of 1962 led to the border between India and Tibet being closed off, but Nanda Devi was once again opened for scaling in 1974. The resultant crowds damaged the delicate ecology of the area, and in

1982, the region was declared a national park and closed off to visitors." This directly attributes the 1982 national park designation to ecological damage caused by increased mountaineering after 1974.

- **Statement 3: The Valley of Flowers is accessible to tourists year-round, with the best time to visit being July to September when most flowers bloom.**

This statement is incorrect. The article clearly states: "The Valley of Flowers in Uttarakhand opened to tourists for this year on June 1. The valley usually stays open for four months – June, July, August, and September – and closes sometime in October, as winter and snow make it dangerous for tourists at other times of the year." This indicates that the valley is not accessible year-round, as it is closed from October to May due to harsh weather conditions. While the article confirms July to September as the best time for flower blooming, the year-round accessibility claim is factually inaccurate.

- **Statement 4: The valley's biodiversity includes rare wildlife such as the snow leopard and Himalayan weasel, and it serves as a transition zone between the Zaskar and Great Himalaya mountain ranges.**

This statement is correct. The article notes: "Situated at an altitude of around 3,600 m above the sea level, the valley is also home to such rare and amazing wildlife species like the gray langur, the flying squirrel, the Himalayan weasel, and black bear, the

red fox, the lime butterfly, the snow leopard.” Additionally, it cites UNESCO: “The gentle landscape of the Valley of Flowers National Park complements the rugged mountain wilderness of Nanda Devi National Park. Together they encompass a unique transition zone between the mountain ranges of the Zaskar and Great Himalaya.” This confirms both the presence of rare wildlife, including the snow leopard and Himalayan weasel, and the valley’s role as a transition zone.

Conclusion

- **Correct statements:** 1, 2, and 4
- **Incorrect statement:** 3

Thus, the correct option is **(a) 1, 2, and 4 only**.

Subject and Sub-Topic for UPSC

Subject: Science and Technology

Sub-Topic: Nuclear Technology and Non-Proliferation

Medium

Article Link

- <https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/knowledge-nugget-uranium-enrichment-nuclear-technology-upsc-exam-10043253/>

Q. Consider the following statements regarding uranium enrichment and its implications for nuclear technology as of June 2025:

1. Uranium-235, a rare isotope, is critical for nuclear weapons due to its ability

to sustain a chain reaction through induced fission.

2. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that Iran’s stockpile of uranium enriched to 60% is sufficient to produce a nuclear weapon without further enrichment.
3. The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) recognizes only the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom as nuclear-weapon states.
4. Enrichment facilities for nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons use identical equipment, posing challenges for non-proliferation efforts.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 3 only
- B. 2, 3, and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3, and 4 only

Answer: D

Evaluation of Statements

Let’s evaluate each statement based on the information provided in the *Indian Express* article and relevant context:

- **Statement 1: Uranium-235, a rare isotope, is critical for nuclear weapons due to its ability to sustain a chain reaction through induced fission.**

This statement is correct. The article states: “Uranium-235, an extremely rare isotope of the heavy metal uranium, is the most commonly used nuclear fuel, as it is one of the few elements that can undergo induced fission.” It further explains: “The



fission of a U-235 atom produces about 2 to 3 new neutrons on average. If these new neutrons are then absorbed by other U-235 atoms, it creates an exponentially growing chain reaction." This chain reaction is essential for nuclear weapons, which require uranium enriched to approximately 90% U-235, confirming the statement's accuracy.

- **Statement 2: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched to 60% is sufficient to produce a nuclear weapon without further enrichment.**

This statement is incorrect. The article notes: "According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as of May 17, Iran has accumulated 408.6 kilograms of uranium enriched up to 60 per cent—a 50 per cent rise from February's 274.8 kilograms. This level is just a technical step away from the 90 per cent enrichment needed for nuclear weapons." The phrase "just a technical step away" indicates that 60% enriched uranium still requires further enrichment to reach the 90% threshold necessary for weapons-grade material. Thus, Iran's current stockpile is not sufficient to produce a nuclear weapon without additional enrichment.

- **Statement 3: The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) recognizes only the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom as nuclear-weapon states.**

This statement is correct. The article explains: "The treaty defines nuclear-

weapon states as those that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before January 1, 1967 – the US, Russia (formerly USSR), the UK, France and China – and effectively disallows any other state from acquiring nuclear weapons." This confirms that the NPT recognizes only these five countries as nuclear-weapon states, excluding others like India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea, which possess nuclear weapons but are not NPT-recognized nuclear-weapon states.

- **Statement 4: Enrichment facilities for nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons use identical equipment, posing challenges for non-proliferation efforts.**

This statement is correct. The article states: "Notably, the equipment needed to enrich fuel for nuclear power generations is the same as that needed to enrich it for a bomb – leading to one of the great challenges of enforcing nuclear non-proliferation." This dual-use nature of enrichment technology complicates efforts to monitor and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as the same facilities can be repurposed for weapons-grade enrichment.

Conclusion

- **Correct statements:** 1, 3, and 4
- **Incorrect statement:** 2

Thus, the correct option is **(d) 1, 3, and 4 only**.

Subject and Sub-Topic for UPSC

Subject: Indian Polity

Sub-Topic: Constitutional Provisions and Linguistic Diversity

Easy

Article Link

- <https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/knowledge-nugget-bhojpuri-kokborok-eighth-schedule-of-constitution-upsc-10036576/>

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and the demand for inclusion of languages as of May 2025:

1. The Kokborok Sahitya Parishad has demanded the inclusion of Kokborok in the Eighth Schedule, proposing either Bengali or Devanagari as its script.
2. The Eighth Schedule initially included 14 languages, and the addition of Sindhi in 1967 brought the total to 15 languages.
3. Bhojpuri is recognized as a constitutional language in Mauritius and Nepal but not in India's Eighth Schedule.
4. The Sitakant Mohapatra Committee (2003) recommended that a language must have at least 10 million speakers to qualify for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3, and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3 only

Answer: D

Evaluation of Statements

Let's evaluate each statement based on the information provided in the *Indian Express* article:

- **Statement 1: The Kokborok Sahitya Parishad has demanded the inclusion of Kokborok in the Eighth Schedule, proposing either Bengali or Devanagari as its script.** This statement is correct. The article states: "Recently, in a letter to Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha, the Kokborok Sahitya Parishad sought the inclusion of the Kokborok language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The tribal literary body stated that the script for the Kokborok language can either be Bengali or Devanagari." This directly confirms the demand and the proposed scripts.
- **Statement 2: The Eighth Schedule initially included 14 languages, and the addition of Sindhi in 1967 brought the total to 15 languages.** This statement is correct. The article notes: "As of May 2025, 22 languages have been classified under the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. Initially, however, the Eighth Schedule included 14 languages: Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya (renamed to Odia in 2011), Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu." It further states: "Sindhi was added through the 21st Amendment Act of 1967," which increased the total to 15 languages at that time.
- **Statement 3: Bhojpuri is recognized as a constitutional language in**

Mauritius and Nepal but not in India's Eighth Schedule.

This statement is correct. The article mentions: "Notably, earlier on International Mother Tongue Day (February 21), at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, Dr Santosh Patel and a group of supporters gathered to demand the inclusion of Bhojpuri in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Spoken by millions of people across several countries, Bhojpuri holds constitutional status in both Mauritius and Nepal, but it remains constitutionally unrecognised in India." This confirms Bhojpuri's status abroad and its exclusion from India's Eighth Schedule.

- **Statement 4: The Sitakant Mohapatra Committee (2003) recommended that a language must have at least 10 million speakers to qualify for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.** This statement is incorrect. The article states: "The Sitakant Mohapatra Committee (2003) added more specific benchmarks. It recommended that a language must have at least 5 million speakers, based on census data from the previous three decades, to qualify as being spoken by a substantial population." The requirement is 5 million speakers, not 10 million, making the statement factually inaccurate.

Subject and Sub-Topic for UPSC

Subject: Science and Technology

Sub-Topic: Health and Medical Advancements

Medium

Article Link

- <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/understanding-calcified-coronary-artery-disease-and-how-to-prevent-it/article69647756.ece>

Q. Consider the following statements regarding calcified coronary artery disease (cCAD) and its prevention as of June 2025:

1. Calcified coronary artery disease results from the hardening of fatty plaques into calcium deposits within the coronary arteries, a process known as atherosclerosis.
2. Nodular calcium in cCAD is a significant risk factor for heart attacks due to its protrusion into the artery lumen.
3. Coronary artery calcium (CAC) scoring using CT scans can definitively rule out coronary artery disease in young patients if no calcium is detected.
4. Lifestyle modifications, such as controlling LDL cholesterol and maintaining physical activity, are critical for preventing calcified coronary artery disease.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 2, 3, and 4 only
- B. 1, 2, and 4 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3 only

Answer: B

Evaluation of Statements

Let's evaluate each statement based on the information provided in *The Hindu* article:

- **Statement 1: Calcified coronary artery disease results from the hardening of fatty plaques into calcium deposits within the coronary arteries, a process known as atherosclerosis.**

This statement is correct. The article explains: "Due to various risk factors... fatty deposits, known as plaques begin accumulating inside these tubes or blood vessels. This process is called atherosclerosis in medical terms. Over the years, such plaques harden themselves into calcium... This process leads to the formation of calcified coronary artery disease (cCAD)." This confirms that cCAD results from atherosclerosis, where fatty plaques harden into calcium deposits.

- **Statement 2: Nodular calcium in cCAD is a significant risk factor for heart attacks due to its protrusion into the artery lumen.**

This statement is correct. The article states: "To a certain extent, such calcified coronary vessels are not dangerous as they do not lead to heart attacks frequently as compared to non-calcified, fat-rich blockages; however, one form of calcified CAD, known as nodular calcium, in which the calcium protrudes into the lumen and touches the blood, is a proven risk factor for heart attacks." This directly supports the statement's claim about nodular calcium's risk.

- **Statement 3: Coronary artery calcium (CAC) scoring using CT scans can definitively rule out coronary artery disease in young patients if no calcium is detected.**

This statement is incorrect. The article clarifies: "Though the presence of CAC proves CAD, the absence of CAC does not rule out CAD, especially in young patients." This indicates that a negative CAC score does not definitively exclude CAD in younger individuals, as non-calcified plaques may still be present.

- **Statement 4: Lifestyle modifications, such as controlling LDL cholesterol and maintaining physical activity, are critical for preventing calcified coronary artery disease.**

This statement is correct. The article emphasizes: "The best way to prevent Calcified CAD is to prevent CAD itself. The most important culprit for CAD is bad cholesterol (LDL). Keeping it low for a long time is a proven strategy for reducing CAD." It also lists "reduced physical activity and poor eating habits" as risk factors, implying that maintaining physical activity and healthy eating are key preventive measures. Additionally, it concludes: "Putting your mind towards mindful eating with good exercise and controlling proven risk factors are the pillars of a healthy life," reinforcing the role of lifestyle modifications.

Subject and Sub-Topic for UPSC

Subject: Indian Economy

Sub-Topic: Industrial Policy and Sustainable Development

Article Link

- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2133258>

Source

- Press Information Bureau (PIB), Government of India

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI) as notified by the Ministry of Heavy Industries in June 2025:

1. The SPMEPCI allows approved applicants to import electric four-wheelers with a minimum CIF value of USD 35,000 at a reduced customs duty of 15% for five years.
2. Applicants must achieve a minimum domestic value addition (DVA) of 50% within three years from the date of approval to qualify for the scheme's benefits.
3. A minimum investment of Rs. 4,150 crore is required, with up to 5% of this investment permissible for developing charging infrastructure.
4. The scheme mandates a bank guarantee equivalent to the total duty foregone or Rs. 4,150 crore, whichever is higher, to ensure compliance.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3, and 4 only
- D. 1 and 4 only

Answer: C

Evaluation of Statements

The evaluation is based on the PIB press release and corroborated by relevant web sources and X posts where applicable.

- **Statement 1: The SPMEPCI allows approved applicants to import**

electric four-wheelers with a minimum CIF value of USD 35,000 at a reduced customs duty of 15% for five years.

This statement is correct. The press release states: "To encourage the global manufacturers to invest under the Scheme, the approved applicants will be allowed to import Completely Built-in Units (CBUs) of e-4W with a minimum CIF value of USD 35,000 at reduced customs duty of 15% for a period of 5 years from the Application Approval Date." This is further supported by web sources detailing the scheme's customs duty concessions.

- **Statement 2: Applicants must achieve a minimum domestic value addition (DVA) of 50% within three years from the date of approval to qualify for the scheme's benefits.**

This statement is incorrect. The press release specifies: "Minimum DVA of 25% to be achieved within 3 years and minimum DVA of 50% to be achieved within 5 years from date of issuance of approval letter by MHI/PMA." The 50% DVA requirement applies within five years, not three years, making the statement factually inaccurate.

- **Statement 3: A minimum investment of Rs. 4,150 crore is required, with up to 5% of this investment permissible for developing charging infrastructure.**

This statement is correct. The press release confirms: "Approved applicants would be required to make minimum investment of Rs. 4,150 crore in line with the provisions of the



scheme.” It further notes: “Expenditure incurred on Charging Infrastructure would be considered up to maximum 5% of the committed investment.” This aligns with web sources mentioning the investment criteria and infrastructure allocation.

- **Statement 4: The scheme mandates a bank guarantee equivalent to the total duty foregone or Rs. 4,150 crore, whichever is higher, to ensure compliance.**


This statement is correct. The press release states: “The Applicant’s commitment to setup manufacturing facility(ies), achievement of DVA and

compliance with conditions stipulated under the Scheme shall be backed by a Bank Guarantee from a scheduled commercial bank in India equivalent to the total duty to be foregone, or Rs 4,150 crore, whichever is higher, during the scheme period.” This is reinforced by web sources detailing the bank guarantee requirement.

Conclusion


- **Correct statements:** 1, 3, and 4
- **Incorrect statement:** 2

Thus, the correct option is (c) **1, 3, and 4 only**.



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Subject and Sub-Topic for UPSC**Subject:** International Relations**Sub-Topic:** Defence Technology and Geopolitical Implications

Medium

Article Link

- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/fpv-drones-ukraine-russia-attack-capabilities-10043994/>

Source

- The Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements regarding First-Person View (FPV) drones and their strategic use in the Ukraine-Russia conflict as of June 2025:

1. FPV drones, used in Ukraine's "Operation Spider's Web," are cost-effective, with an estimated cost of around \$500 per unit when equipped with explosives.
2. FPV drones have a long operational range of over 4,000 kilometers, enabling Ukraine to strike deep into Russian territory.
3. China dominates the global supply chain for FPV drone components, including lithium-ion batteries and chips, posing risks to countries reliant on these imports.
4. The use of FPV drones in the Ukraine-Russia conflict highlights the growing role of unmanned aerial vehicles in modern warfare, reducing the need for ground troops.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only

- B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1, 3, and 4 only
D. 1 and 4 only

Answer: C

Evaluation of Statements

- **Statement 1: FPV drones, used in Ukraine's "Operation Spider's Web," are cost-effective, with an estimated cost of around \$500 per unit when equipped with explosives.** This statement is accurate. The article cites a Reuters report stating that the cost of an FPV drone equipped with a payload, such as an explosive device, can be as low as \$500 (approximately Rs 42,000). It further confirms that FPV drones were employed in Ukraine's "Operation Spider's Web," a meticulously planned attack involving 117 drones targeting Russian military facilities. The low cost of these drones compared to conventional artillery systems underscores their cost-effectiveness, making them a viable option for asymmetric warfare strategies.
- **Statement 2: FPV drones have a long operational range of over 4,000 kilometers, enabling Ukraine to strike deep into Russian territory.** This statement is incorrect. The article explicitly notes that FPV drones have a limited operational range of "a few kilometres." While the attack targeted regions over 4,000 kilometers from the Ukraine-Russia border, such as Russia's far east, the article explains that the drones were smuggled into Russia and concealed in "mobile wooden houses" before being

launched locally. This logistical strategy, rather than the drones' range, enabled the deep strikes. The article mentions that reconnaissance drones with longer ranges were used initially to survey target areas, further indicating that FPV drones themselves lack long-range capabilities.

- **Statement 3: China dominates the global supply chain for FPV drone components, including lithium-ion batteries and chips, posing risks to countries reliant on these imports.** This statement is accurate. The article references a Center for Strategic & International Studies report highlighting China's leadership in commercial drone production, particularly through DJI Technology Company, which holds an 80% share of the global consumer drone market. It also notes China's dominance in producing essential drone components, such as small lithium-ion batteries, with Contemporary Amperex Technology Company being the largest battery maker by capacity. The article points out that many chips used in FPV drones are sourced from China, which has threatened export controls affecting Ukraine, underscoring the supply chain risks for nations dependent on these imports.
- **Statement 4: The use of FPV drones in the Ukraine-Russia conflict highlights the growing role of unmanned aerial vehicles in modern warfare, reducing the need for ground troops.** This statement is correct. The article

emphasizes the increasing use of drones in conflicts globally, stating that they "minimise the risk to human life by reducing the number of boots on the ground." In the context of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, FPV drones have been pivotal, with a NATO official cited in a 2024 Foreign Policy report noting that over two-thirds of Russian tanks destroyed recently were hit by FPV drones. The article also describes FPV drones as "one of the most potent weapons" in the conflict, highlighting their precision and effectiveness, which aligns with the broader trend of unmanned aerial vehicles reshaping modern warfare.

Subject and Sub-Topic for UPSC

Subject: International Relations

Sub-Topic: India's Foreign Policy and India-Pakistan Relations

Medium

Article Link

- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-history/us-role-in-india-pakistan-issues-history-10044015/>

Source

- The Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements regarding India's foreign policy stance and the role of the United States in India-Pakistan relations:

1. India's opposition to hyphenation with Pakistan stems from its aim to be

recognized as a global power independent of regional conflicts.

2. During the 1962 India-China war, the US provided military supplies to India but used this aid to urge India to negotiate with Pakistan on Kashmir.
3. In the 1971 India-Pakistan war, the US supported India's position, facilitating the creation of Bangladesh.
4. The US shifted towards supporting India during the 1999 Kargil war, publicly condemning Pakistan's violation of the Line of Control.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, and 4 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: C

- **Statement 1: India's opposition to hyphenation with Pakistan stems from its aim to be recognized as a global power independent of regional conflicts.**

This statement is correct. The article articulates India's resistance to being hyphenated with Pakistan, noting that such a framework equates the two nations, which India views as incompatible with its status as a democratic and economically significant state. It states: "India's objection to this treatment broadly are — such a framing puts India and Pakistan on the same level when the two parties are not comparable actors... and that India's identity, as a democratic country and significant economy, can't be tied to Pakistan's."

India's strategic objective is to engage with the international community as a global power, distinct from its regional disputes, a stance reinforced by its response to US President Donald Trump's remarks in 2025.

- **Statement 2: During the 1962 India-China war, the US provided military supplies to India but used this aid to urge India to negotiate with Pakistan on Kashmir.**

This statement is accurate. According to the article, during the 1962 India-China war, "the US helped India, airlifting military supplies. However, it used the goodwill thus generated to get together with the UK and pressure India to talk to Pakistan." This is substantiated by a quote from US Undersecretary of State Chester Bowles, who admitted: "We had... seized upon India's acute need for US assistance as a lever to force India to make concessions to the Pakistanis in regard to Kashmir." This demonstrates the US's strategic use of military aid to influence India's negotiations with Pakistan.

- **Statement 3: In the 1971 India-Pakistan war, the US supported India's position, facilitating the creation of Bangladesh.**

This statement is incorrect. The article explicitly states that during the 1971 India-Pakistan war, "the US backed Pakistan most forcefully and publicly, even dispatching warships towards the Bay of Bengal." It further notes that this support, driven by Pakistan's role in fostering US-China diplomatic relations, led to a decline in US prestige

in India, as it was perceived as endorsing “the brutality of the Pakistani regime’s actions.” Historical records from the US Department of State’s Office of the Historian confirm that the US aligned with Pakistan, not India, during this conflict, contradicting the notion that it facilitated Bangladesh’s creation.

- **Statement 4: The US shifted towards supporting India during the 1999 Kargil war, publicly condemning Pakistan’s violation of the Line of Control.**

This statement is correct. The article highlights a pivotal change in US policy during the 1999 Kargil war: “When the US determined that Pakistan had deliberately violated the Line of Control near Kargil, [President Bill] Clinton did not hesitate to blame Pakistan for risking a broader war. For the first time, an American administration was siding publicly with India against Pakistani aggression.” This marked a significant departure from previous US policies that often favored Pakistan, with President Clinton’s diplomatic intervention compelling Pakistan to withdraw its forces.

Topic: Indian Economy

Sub-Topic: Monetary Policy and Central Banking

Article Link

[https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/knowledge-](https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/knowledge-nugget-rbi-surplus-transfer-to-govt-upsc-exam-10043805/)

[nugget-rbi-surplus-transfer-to-govt-upsc-exam-10043805/](https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/knowledge-nugget-rbi-surplus-transfer-to-govt-upsc-exam-10043805/)

Source

- The Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) surplus transfer mechanism and its monetary policy framework as of May 2025:

1. The RBI’s surplus transfer to the Central Government was determined by the Economic Capital Framework, which balanced risk provisioning with surplus distribution.
2. The Malegam Committee recommended maintaining contingency reserves at 12% of the RBI’s balance sheet, leading to reduced surplus transfers until 2013.
3. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), established under the amended RBI Act, 1934, comprised eight members, including three appointed by the Central Government.
4. The RBI’s income primarily stemmed from returns on foreign currency assets, interest on government securities, and management commissions for handling government borrowings.

Which of the above statements are accurate?

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3, and 4 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: B

- **Statement 1: The RBI's surplus transfer to the Central Government was determined by the Economic Capital Framework, which balanced risk provisioning with surplus distribution.**

This statement was accurate. The article noted that the RBI's Board reviewed the Economic Capital Framework (ECF) during its May 2025 meeting, which guided the determination of risk provisioning and surplus distribution. It stated: "The board reviewed the Economic Capital Framework (ECF), which is used to determine risk provisioning and surplus distribution by the central bank to the government." This framework ensured that adequate provisions for contingencies were made before transferring the surplus, as evidenced by the record transfer of Rs 2.69 lakh crore for 2024-25.

- **Statement 2: The Malegam Committee recommended maintaining contingency reserves at 12% of the RBI's balance sheet, leading to reduced surplus transfers until 2013.**

This statement was incorrect. The article clarified that a prior committee, not the Malegam Committee, recommended building contingency reserves at 12% of the RBI's balance sheet. The Malegam Committee, formed in 2013, reviewed the adequacy of reserves and recommended a higher surplus transfer to the government. The article stated: "In 2013, a technical committee of the RBI Board, headed by Y. H.

Malegam, reviewed the adequacy of reserves and a surplus distribution policy and recommended a higher transfer to the government." Consequently, surplus transfers increased significantly in 2013-14 to 99.99% of gross income (less expenditure) from 53.40% in 2012-13, contradicting the claim of reduced transfers.

- **Statement 3: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), established under the amended RBI Act, 1934, comprised eight members, including three appointed by the Central Government.**

This statement was incorrect. The article specified that the MPC, constituted under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, consisted of six members: the RBI Governor as ex officio chairperson, the Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one RBI officer nominated by the Central Board, and three persons appointed by the Central Government. It stated: "Section 45ZB says the MPC shall consist of the RBI Governor... and three persons to be appointed by the central government." The assertion of an eight-member committee was factually inaccurate.

- **Statement 4: The RBI's income primarily stemmed from returns on foreign currency assets, interest on government securities, and management commissions for handling government borrowings.** This statement was accurate. The article outlined the RBI's primary income sources, stating: "Generally,

the central bank's income comes from the: (i) Returns earned on its foreign currency assets... (ii) Interest on its holdings of local rupee-denominated government bonds or securities, and while lending to banks... (ii) It claims a management commission on handling the borrowings of state governments and the central government." These sources aligned with the RBI's operational revenue streams, supporting the statement's validity.

Topic: Indian Economy

Sub-Topic: Monetary Policy and Central Banking

Hard

Article Link

<https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/knowledge-nugget-rbi-surplus-transfer-to-govt-upsc-exam-10043805/>

Source: The Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) surplus transfer mechanism and its monetary policy framework:

1. The RBI's surplus transfer to the Central Government was determined by the Economic Capital Framework, which balanced risk provisioning with surplus distribution.
2. The Malegam Committee recommended maintaining contingency reserves at 12% of the RBI's balance sheet, leading to reduced surplus transfers until 2013.

3. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), established under the amended RBI Act, 1934, comprised eight members, including three appointed by the Central Government.
4. The RBI's income primarily stemmed from returns on foreign currency assets, interest on government securities, and management commissions for handling government borrowings.

Which of the above statements are accurate?

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3, and 4 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: B

The accurate option was **(b) 1 and 4 only**.

- **Statement 1: The RBI's surplus transfer to the Central Government was determined by the Economic Capital Framework, which balanced risk provisioning with surplus distribution.**

This statement was correct. The article explained that the RBI's Board reviewed the Economic Capital Framework (ECF) in May 2025 to guide decisions on risk provisioning and surplus distribution. It stated that the ECF "is used to determine risk provisioning and surplus distribution by the central bank to the government." This framework facilitated the record surplus transfer of Rs 2.69 lakh crore for the 2024-25 accounting year, reflecting a structured approach to balancing



financial stability and government transfers.

- **Statement 2: The Malegam Committee recommended maintaining contingency reserves at 12% of the RBI's balance sheet, leading to reduced surplus transfers until 2013.**

This statement was inaccurate. The article clarified that a prior committee, not the Malegam Committee, recommended maintaining contingency reserves at 12% of the RBI's balance sheet. The Malegam Committee, convened in 2013, reviewed reserve adequacy and advocated for a higher surplus transfer to the government. The article noted: "In 2013, a technical committee of the RBI Board, headed by Y. H. Malegam... recommended a higher transfer to the government." As a result, the surplus transfer as a percentage of gross income (less expenditure) increased dramatically to 99.99% in 2013-14 from 53.40% in 2012-13, contradicting the claim of reduced transfers.

- **Statement 3: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), established under the amended RBI Act, 1934, comprised eight members, including three appointed by the Central Government.**

This statement was incorrect. The article specified that the MPC, formed under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, consisted of six members: the RBI Governor as ex officio chairperson, the Deputy Governor overseeing monetary policy,

one RBI officer nominated by the Central Board, and three individuals appointed by the Central Government. It stated: "Section 45ZB says the MPC shall consist of the RBI Governor... and three persons to be appointed by the central government." The claim of an eight-member committee was factually erroneous.

- **Statement 4: The RBI's income primarily stemmed from returns on foreign currency assets, interest on government securities, and management commissions for handling government borrowings.** This statement was accurate. The article outlined the RBI's main revenue sources, stating: "Generally, the central bank's income comes from the: (i) Returns earned on its foreign currency assets... (ii) Interest on its holdings of local rupee-denominated government bonds or securities, and while lending to banks... (ii) It claims a management commission on handling the borrowings of state governments and the central government." These sources accurately represented the RBI's income streams, supporting the statement's validity.

Topic and Sub-Topic

Topic: Indian Polity and Governance

Sub-Topic: Central Agencies and Federal Structure

Easy

Article Link

- <https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/sc-pulls-up-ed-what-are-the-powers-of-indias-financial-crime-watchdog-10044091/>

Source

- The Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and its role in India as of June 2025:

1. The ED was established in 1956 to enforce the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, and later expanded to handle money laundering cases.
2. The ED enforced the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, which allowed it to trace and confiscate assets linked to financial crimes.
3. The Supreme Court criticized the ED for violating the federal structure in the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) case.
4. The ED operated under the Ministry of Home Affairs, ensuring its independence from political influence.

Which of the above statements are accurate?

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, and 3 only
- D. 1 and 4 only

Answer: C

The accurate option was (c) 1, 2, and 3 only.

- **Statement 1: The ED was established in 1956 to enforce the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, and later expanded to handle money**

laundrying cases.

This statement was partially accurate but required clarification. The article stated that the ED was established on May 1, 1956, as the 'Enforcement Unit' under the Department of Economic Affairs to handle violations of exchange control laws under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA). However, FERA was enacted in 1973, so the ED initially enforced earlier exchange control laws before FERA. The article further noted that the enactment of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in 2002 expanded the ED's mandate to include money laundering cases. Given the statement's focus on the ED's establishment and later expansion, it was considered accurate in the context of its evolving role.

- **Statement 2: The ED enforced the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, which allowed it to trace and confiscate assets linked to financial crimes.**

This statement was accurate. The article explicitly stated that under the PMLA, 2002, "the ED traces assets from money laundering activities and is responsible for ensuring the prosecution of offenders and confiscation (permanent seizure of ownership, usually after conviction) of such assets." This role was central to the ED's mandate to combat financial crimes, aligning with the statement's description.

- **Statement 3: The Supreme Court criticized the ED for violating the**

federal structure in the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) case.

This statement was correct. The article reported that the Supreme Court reprimanded the ED for “crossing all limits” and “violating the federal structure” in its actions against the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC). It quoted Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, who described the ED’s raids on the state-run corporation as a breach of the Constitution’s federal principles, highlighting concerns about central overreach into state jurisdiction.

- **Statement 4: The ED operated under the Ministry of Home Affairs, ensuring its independence from political influence.**

This statement was inaccurate. The article clarified that the ED was under the administrative control of the Department of Revenue within the Ministry of Finance, not the Ministry of Home Affairs. It stated: “The ED was established... under the Department of Economic Affairs within the Ministry of Finance... and was transferred to the administrative control of the Department of Revenue.” Additionally, the article raised concerns about the ED’s operational independence, noting allegations of political influence and partisan motivations, which contradicted the claim of ensured independence.

Topic: International Relations

Sub-Topic: Territorial Disputes and International Law

Easy

Article Link

- <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/chinas-claim-on-arunachal-not-supported-by-international-law/article69650305.ece>

Source: The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements regarding China’s territorial claims over Arunachal Pradesh and their alignment with international law as of June 2025:

1. China’s claim on Arunachal Pradesh relied on historical evidence, such as the presence of the Tawang Monastery, which was rejected by the International Court of Justice as a valid basis for territorial title.
2. The principle of uti possidetis juris supported India’s claim to Arunachal Pradesh by recognizing the McMahon Line established during the 1914 Shimla Conference.
3. China’s use of maps to support its claims in Arunachal Pradesh and the South China Sea was considered legally binding by international courts.

Which of the above statements are accurate?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: A

The accurate option was **(a) 1 and 2 only**.

- **Statement 1: China’s claim on Arunachal Pradesh relied on**

historical evidence, such as the presence of the Tawang Monastery, which was rejected by the International Court of Justice as a valid basis for territorial title.

This statement was accurate. The article noted that China supported its claim over Arunachal Pradesh, referred to as Zangnan, by citing historical evidence, including “the presence of the second-most important Tibetan Buddhism monastery in Tawang and the birth of the sixth Dalai Lama in Arunachal.” However, it stated that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) rejected the concept of “consolidation by historical title” as a basis for territorial claims. Specifically, in the *Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria* case (2002), the ICJ dismissed historical consolidation, emphasizing that it “cannot replace the established modes of acquisition of title under international law” (ICJ Judgment 2002, Rep. 303, para. 65). This rejection applied to China’s historical arguments for Arunachal Pradesh.

- **Statement 2: The principle of *uti possidetis juris* supported India’s claim to Arunachal Pradesh by recognizing the McMahon Line established during the 1914 Shimla Conference.**

This statement was accurate. The article explained that the principle of *uti possidetis juris*, which holds that newly independent states should retain the boundaries of their colonial predecessors, supported India’s claim. It referenced the McMahon Line,

drawn at the 1914 Shimla Conference to demarcate the boundary between British India and Tibet. The article cited the ICJ’s *Frontier Dispute (Burkina Faso and Mali)* judgment (1986), which prioritized legal title based on colonial boundaries to ensure the stability of new states (1986 ICJ Rep. 554, para. 20). Although China rejected the McMahon Line, claiming Tibet lacked treaty-making authority, the principle of *uti possidetis juris* upheld the colonial boundary, favoring India’s position.

- **Statement 3: China’s use of maps to support its claims in Arunachal Pradesh and the South China Sea was considered legally binding by international courts.**

This statement was inaccurate. The article clarified that maps used by China, such as the nine-dash-line map for the South China Sea, lacked legal value in international law. It cited the ICJ’s *Frontier Dispute* case, which stated that “maps merely constitute information” and “of themselves, and by virtue solely of their existence, they cannot constitute a territorial title” (1986 ICJ Rep. 554, para. 54). The article emphasized that cartographic materials were extraneous evidence of varying reliability, requiring corroboration with other facts, and thus were not legally binding for China’s claims in either Arunachal Pradesh or the South China Sea.

Topic: Indian Polity and Governance

Sub-Topic: Union Territories and Reservation Policies

Medium

Article Link

- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ladakh/mha-notifies-new-policies-for-union-territory-of-ladakh-that-determine-domicile-tag/article69651171.ece>

Source: The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the new policies notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the Union Territory of Ladakh on June 3, 2025:

1. The domicile policy required a continuous 15-year residency in Ladakh, starting from 2019, for individuals to be considered domiciles.
2. The policies introduced a reservation of one-third of the seats in hill councils for women, marking a first for the region.
3. The reservation for Scheduled Tribes (ST) in government jobs was reduced from 95% to 85% following negotiations with civil society leaders.

Which of the above statements are accurate?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Answer: A

The accurate option was (a) 1 and 2 only.

- **Statement 1: The domicile policy required a continuous 15-year residency in Ladakh, starting from 2019, for individuals to be considered domiciles.**

This statement was accurate. The

article stated: "Only citizens who have had a continuous 15-year stay in the region, beginning 2019, will be considered domiciles, according to a consensus reached at a high-powered committee meeting between civil society leaders and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) officials on May 27, 2025." It further noted that any 'outsider' settling in Ladakh after the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status in 2019 would be considered a domicile only after 2034, reinforcing the 15-year requirement starting from 2019.

- **Statement 2: The policies introduced a reservation of one-third of the seats in hill councils for women, marking a first for the region.**

This statement was accurate. The article explicitly mentioned: "According to the notification released by MHA, in a first, one-third of the seats will be reserved for women in the hill councils." This policy was highlighted as a novel initiative for gender representation in Ladakh's hill councils, consistent with the MHA's announcement on June 3, 2025.

- **Statement 3: The reservation for Scheduled Tribes (ST) in government jobs was reduced from 95% to 85% following negotiations with civil society leaders.**

This statement was inaccurate. The article stated that the new policies "pave way to 85% of reservation for the Scheduled Tribes (ST) in government jobs." However, it also noted that during the December 3, 2024, talks, the MHA had *proposed* a

95% reservation for locals in government jobs, but the final policy settled at 85%. There was no indication that the ST reservation was *reduced* from 95% to 85%, as 95% was only a proposed figure, not an implemented policy. The article further mentioned that “currently, at least 80% of vacancies are reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST),” suggesting the new 85% reservation was an increase from the existing 80%, not a reduction from 95%.

Topic: Indian Polity and Governance

Sub-Topic: Constitutional Provisions and Federal Structure

Difficult

Article Link

- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/how-is-presidents-rule-imposed-explained/article69650172.ece>

Source: The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the imposition and judicial oversight of President’s Rule under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution as of June 2025:

1. The Supreme Court’s *S. R. Bommai* judgment (1994) mandated that the Legislative Assembly must remain under suspended animation until Parliament approves President’s Rule, prohibiting its dissolution during this period.
2. President’s Rule in Manipur, imposed in February 2025, was extended

beyond six months due to the ongoing suspension of the Legislative Assembly, which had a term ending in March 2027.

3. The invocation of Article 356 required a report from the Governor or evidence of a State’s failure to comply with Union directives, but lacked any provision for judicial review prior to the *S. R. Bommai* case.

Which of the above statements are accurate?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Answer: A

The accurate option was (a) 1 and 3 only.

- **Statement 1: The Supreme Court’s *S. R. Bommai* judgment (1994) mandated that the Legislative Assembly must remain under suspended animation until Parliament approves President’s Rule, prohibiting its dissolution during this period.** This statement was accurate. The article explicitly stated that in the *S. R. Bommai* case (1994), the Supreme Court ruled that “till Parliament approves the imposition of President’s Rule, the Legislative Assembly should not be dissolved, and can be only kept under suspended animation.” This ruling aimed to prevent arbitrary dissolution of elected assemblies and ensure that President’s Rule was imposed only in cases of constitutional breakdown, subject to parliamentary scrutiny,

thereby reinforcing checks against misuse of Article 356.

- **Statement 2: President's Rule in Manipur, imposed in February 2025, was extended beyond six months due to the ongoing suspension of the Legislative Assembly, which had a term ending in March 2027.** This statement was inaccurate. The article noted that President's Rule was imposed in Manipur in February 2025 due to a deteriorating security situation and that the Legislative Assembly, with a term ending in March 2027, was kept under suspended animation. However, it did not explicitly state that President's Rule had been extended beyond six months by June 2025. The article mentioned that President's Rule "continues for six months" unless revoked earlier and can be extended for additional six-month periods with parliamentary approval, but no evidence was provided to confirm an extension in Manipur's case as of the article's date. The statement's assumption of an extension was speculative and unsupported by the text.
- **Statement 3: The invocation of Article 356 required a report from the Governor or evidence of a State's failure to comply with Union directives, but lacked any provision for judicial review prior to the *S. R. Bommai* case.** This statement was accurate. The article explained that under Article 356, the President could proclaim President's Rule "based on a receipt of

report from the Governor of a State or otherwise," with the latter situation potentially arising under Article 365 due to a State's failure to comply with Union directives. It further stated that "the Supreme Court and High Courts during the first four decades after Independence refrained from interfering in the decision of the Centre to impose President's Rule," and it was only after the *S. R. Bommai* case (1994) that the imposition of President's Rule became subject to judicial review. This confirmed that prior to 1994, there was no established provision for judicial oversight of Article 356 decisions.

International Relations

International Organisations

Easy

The Hindu

Q. How many of the following countries are not members of OPEC+?

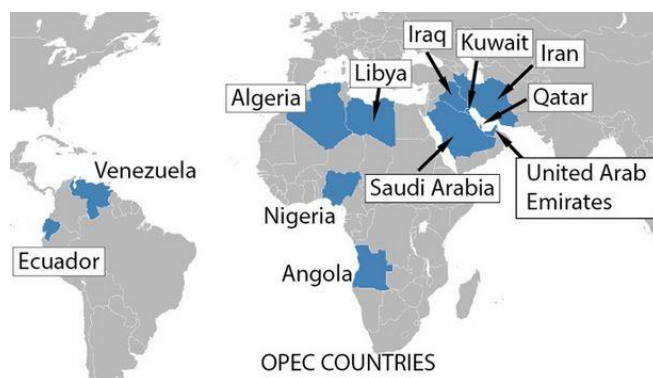
1. Oman
2. Kuwait
3. Bahrain
4. Congo
5. Libya
6. Venezuela

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. Only four

Answer - option C (Only three)

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference on September 10–14, 1960, by **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela**.
- The five Founding Members were later joined by: Qatar (1961) – terminated its membership in January 2019; Indonesia (1962) – suspended its membership in January 2009, reactivated it in January 2016, but decided to suspend it again in November 2016; Libya (1962); United Arab Emirates (1967); Algeria (1969); Nigeria (1971); Ecuador (1973) – suspended its membership in December 1992, reactivated it in October 2007, but decided to withdraw its membership effective 1 January 2020; Angola (2007) – withdrew its membership effective 1 January 2024; Gabon (1975) – terminated its membership in January 1995 but rejoined in July 2016; Equatorial Guinea (2017); and Congo (2018).
- OPEC had its headquarters in **Geneva, Switzerland**, in the first five years of its existence. This was **moved to Vienna, Austria, on September 1, 1965**.
- OPEC's objective is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.



Governance

Government Schemes

Medium

The Hindu

Q. With respect to Building Integrated Photovoltaics, consider the following:

1. PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana incorporates the installation of BIPVs.
2. BIPVs can be used in commercial areas only thereby ignoring the needs of the residential sector.

Which of the statements given above is or are incorrect?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

- Building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV) uses solar panels as a building material, generating electricity while serving a structural function like roofing, facades, or windows. This approach combines solar energy generation with architectural design, offering a sustainable energy solution and aesthetic appeal.

- The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative, is transforming India's energy landscape with a bold vision to supply solar power to one crore households by March 2027.
- Statement 1 is correct: The projects under PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana shall be commissioned as per the technical specifications given below. The vendor will be solely responsible for any shortcomings or negligence/malpractice, which may lead to the delisting/blacklisting of the firm/vendor from participation in any programme of the Ministry. A Roof Top Solar (RTS) Photo Voltaic (PV) system shall be installed on rooftops/terraces/balcony/Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) or on elevated structures. In case of installation on an elevated structure, the structure must have a minimum ground clearance of 8 feet at the lowest point, in order to be considered eligible for the CFA under the scheme.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: BIPVs can be used as a replacement for the balconies, skylights, windows etc that makes it compatible for all the buildings.

Environment

Places in news

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to thermophiles:

1. Bacteria known as thermophiles are known as heat lovers and can tolerate temperatures above 40 degree celsius.
2. All thermophiles produce antibiotics.
3. The PCR test used to check for the COVID-19 virus needs an enzyme that was first found in a thermophile

How many statements are incorrect?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- A thermophile is a type of extremophile that thrives at relatively high temperatures, between 41 and 122 °C. Many thermophiles are archaea, though some of them are bacteria and fungi.
- Statement 1 is correct: Thermophiles can tolerate 45 degrees Celsius in hot springs, deep-sea thermal vents, and compost piles offer a mineral-rich environment with few competitors. To gain an edge, some thermophilic bacteria produce potent antibiotics as weapons to neutralise their competitors
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Not all thermophiles produce antibiotics. They are cultured with the prospective bacteria with different pathogenic strains: Escherichia coli, Salmonella typhimurium, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and Staphylococcus aureus. If the test bacteria could inhibit the growth of the

pathogenic bacteria on a culture plate, it was confirmation that an antimicrobial compound was being produced. In

- Statement 3 is correct: The potential of thermophiles goes beyond antibiotics: they have many applications across industries. For example, the PCR test - widely in use during the COVID-19 pandemic to check for the virus's presence - requires an enzyme that was first found in a thermophile called *Thermus aquaticus*. Cocktail of bacteria from a hot spring in the Chumathang area of Leh district has the ability to promote plant growth.

Environment

Air Pollution

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following is not a constituent of flu gas?

- A. Methane
- B. Particulate Matter
- C. Nitrogen oxides
- D. Water vapour

Answer: A

- Flue gas is another term for exhaust gas that is a byproduct of combustion. It is the result of burning natural gas, recovered natural gas, oil, coal, and other fuels in industrial equipment. Analysis of flue gas can significantly impact equipment performance, fuel consumption, and environmental emissions. This article will talk more

about flue gas, the importance of monitoring it, and systems that can assist with this vital process.

- Flue gas actually contains a mixture of gases, such as **carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO₂), water vapor, nitrogen oxides (NO & NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), other trace pollutants, and often some particulate matter.** This mixture can escape through long pipes, chimneys, and ducts traditionally called 'flues', hence the term 'flue gas'. The exact composition of flue gas will vary depending on the type of fuel used and the combustion conditions.

Polity

Judiciary

Hard

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. For impeachment of a judge of the Supreme Court/ High Court, the motion can originate in the Lok Sabha only.
2. Two-thirds majority of the members present and voting are required to impeach a judge of the Supreme Court or High Courts.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

- A. Statement 1 is correct
- B. Statement 2 is correct
- C. Both statement 1 and 2 are correct
- D. Neither of the statements are correct

Answer: D

- Statement 1 is incorrect: For initial complaint of the the judges of either Supreme Courts or High Courts, the motion can originate in either of the houses of the Parliament. 100 members of the Lok Sabha or 50 members of the Rajya Sabha need to sign the motion in whichever house the resolution is required to be passed.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Two-thirds majority of the total membership is required to impeach a judge of the Supreme Court or High Courts.

Environment

Places in News

Easy

Indian Express

Q. With respect to Sunderbans, consider the following:

1. Sunderbans is famous for the estuarine crocodile and the Indian python.
2. Sunderbans was designated as a biosphere reserve in the year 2001.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

- The Sundarbans mangrove forest, one of the largest such forests in the world (140,000 ha), lies on the delta of the

Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal.

- It is adjacent to the border of India's Sundarbans World Heritage site inscribed in 1987.
- The site is intersected by a complex network of tidal waterways, mudflats and small islands of salt-tolerant mangrove forests, and presents an excellent example of ongoing ecological processes.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The area is known for its wide range of fauna, including 260 bird species, the Bengal tiger and other threatened species such as the estuarine crocodile and the Indian python.
- The Sundarbans was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. Specifically, Sundarban National Park, which forms the core area of the Sundarban Tiger Reserve, received this recognition.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Sundarbans is also a designated Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, receiving that designation in 2001.

Geography

Physical Geography

Easy

Indian Express

Q. The precipitation at a place is influenced by which of the following factors?

1. Altitude of the place
2. Leeward side of the mountain

3. Prevailing Winds
 4. Atmospheric Pressure
- A. 1,2 and 3 Only
B. 2,3 and 4 Only
C. 1,3 and 4 Only
D. All of the above

Answer: D

The rainfall at a place is influenced by all of the above mentioned factors:

- Altitude of the place – Coastal areas tend to receive more rainfall than inland areas, and higher altitudes often experience more precipitation
- Leeward side of the mountain – Windward side receives more rainfall as compared to the leeward side.
- Prevailing Winds – Winds carrying moist air from oceans or other water bodies can bring significant rainfall to areas they blow over.
- Atmospheric Pressure – High atmospheric pressure receives less rainfall as compared to the low pressure areas.

Geography

Physical Geography

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs

- A. Mt. Chimborazo – Ecuador
B. Mt. Elbrus – Russia
C. Mt. Bona – Mexico

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only One
B. Only Two
C. All the three
D. None of the above

Answer: B

- Chimborazo is a stratovolcano situated in Ecuador in the Cordillera Occidental range of the Andes.
- Mount Elbrus is the highest mountain in Russia and Europe. It is a dormant stratovolcano rising 5,642 m above sea level, and is the highest volcano in the supercontinent of Eurasia, as well as the tenth-most prominent peak in the world.
- Mount Bona is one of the major mountains of the Saint Elias Mountains in eastern Alaska, and is the fifth-highest independent peak in the United States.

Economy

Markets

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The basic customs duty on crude soybean, palm and sunflower oil has been reduced by 10% by the Central government.
2. These reduced duties will negatively affect the FMCG market in India.

Which of the statements above is/are incorrect?

- A. Statement 1

- B. Statement 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

- Statement 1 is correct: The basic customs duty on crude soybean, palm and sunflower oil has been reduced by 10% by the Central government. Earlier the duties were increased for the crude oil imports which caters to almost 57% of the domestic demand. This was done as a measure to prevent dumping from the international markets via cheap imports in order to fulfill the domestic demand.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The Fast Moving Consumer Goods supply chain will further strengthen and will be positively affected as domestic demand now can be fulfilled easily via imports and domestic production of oilseeds in India.

Miscellaneous

Places in News

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

1. Aravallis is one of the oldest mountain range in India.
2. It runs parallel to the south-west monsoon winds.

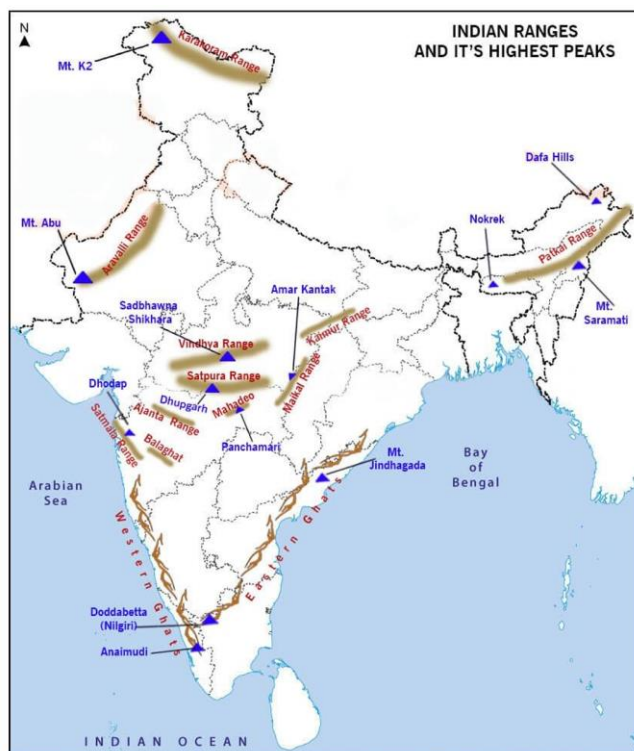
Which of the statements above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

- Statement 1 is correct: Aravalli Range is one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, and it is the oldest mountain range in India. The range is estimated to be around 670 million years old, predating the Himalayan range. The Aravalli Range stretches over 692 kilometers across multiple states in western India, including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi. The Aravalli Range formed through a process called orogeny, a form of mountain building caused by tectonic plate collisions.
- Statement 2 is correct: Aravalli Range generally runs parallel to the direction of the southwest monsoon winds. This means the mountains do not act as a barrier, and consequently, Rajasthan receives less rainfall than areas where monsoon winds encounter a perpendicular barrier.



- **Statement 1 is correct:** Rare Earth Elements (REEs), as defined by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) in 2005, are a group of 17 elements. These elements share similar properties such as high density and high conductivity. The 17 elements include 15 lanthanides plus scandium and yttrium.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The rare earth elements are not so rare. They are found in abundance in the Earth's crust. However, they are rarely found in concentrations that are economically viable for mining. Therefore, extracting and processing REEs is complex and expensive, requiring high-end techniques and specialised labour to isolate and purify them.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Monazite, the primary source of REEs in India, contains a high level of thorium, which is a radioactive material. Its extraction and processing are subject to strict regulatory control.
- However, considering the significance of REEs, the government has taken several steps to enhance the domestic production of REEs. In 2023, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, was amended, and Minerals of the "rare earths" group were classified as Critical Minerals.
- In 2025, the government launched the National Critical Mineral mission with the objective of securing the critical mineral supply. India has also entered into agreements with countries such as Australia and the US to enhance partnerships on critical minerals.

Science and Tech

Metals

Medium

Live Mint

Q. With respect to rare earth elements consider the following:

1. These elements have high density and high conductivity.
2. Rare Earth Elements are found in abundance in the Earth's crust.
3. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act classified rare earths as critical minerals.

How many of the statements above are incorrect?

- A. Only one statement is incorrect
- B. Only two statements are incorrect
- C. All the statements are incorrect
- D. None of the statements are incorrect

Answer: D

Additional Information

- Rare Earth Elements (REEs), comprising 17 elements including 15 lanthanides, scandium, and yttrium, are vital for modern technologies like smartphones, defense equipment, and green energy solutions. Despite their abundance in the Earth's crust, REEs are challenging to extract economically due to complex processing requirements. China dominates global REE production with 44 million metric tons in reserves, primarily from the Bayan Obo deposit, followed by Brazil and the US.
- India holds the fifth-largest reserves at 6.9 million metric tons, mainly in monazite sands in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and Kerala, but contributes less than 1% to global production due to limited private

sector involvement, technological constraints, and environmental concerns related to thorium's radioactivity.

- The Indian government has taken steps to boost REE production, including amending the Mines and Minerals Act in 2023 to classify REEs as Critical Minerals and launching the National Critical Mineral Mission in 2025 to secure supply chains. Scaling up production faces challenges like environmental pollution and inadequate infrastructure.
- Enhancing REE output could strengthen India's role in clean energy, electronics, and defense, while sustainable practices like recycling could address supply gaps and environmental concerns.



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Polity

Parliament

Medium

The Hindu

Q. With respect to Census in India, consider the following:

1. A constitutional amendment is required to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats.
2. The Delimitation committee can be headed by an incumbent or retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A constitutional amendment is required for the increase or decrease in the number of seats in the Lok Sabha. The Delimitation Committee based on the latest Census submits its report which is presented in the Parliament and hence sent to the President of India as per Article 82 of the Constitution of India. A majority of $\frac{2}{3}$ rd members present and voting is required for the delimitation.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Delimitation Act, 2002 explicitly mentions that the delimitation commission shall consist of 3 members out of which a Retired Supreme Court Judge will chair the commission. It shall also consist of the Chief Election Commissioner or Election Commissioner and the State Election

Commissioner of the concerned State.

Additional Information:

- **Article – 81** states that the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha cannot exceed 500 members from the states and 25 from the Union Territories to be elected by direct elections.
- **Article – 82** fixed the number of seats in the Parliament till 2026 and states that the number of seats may or may not be re-adjusted but the data of census after 2026 will be pivotal and Parliament may or may not be required to readjust the number of seats.
- **31st Constitution Amendment 1973** replaced 500 members from states to 525 members and representatives from the UTs which were earlier 25 were changed to 20 members. This was done to readjust the population equally for all the constituencies as per the clause “proportional representation” and based on 1971 census data which showed significant increase in the Indian Population.

Environment

Biosphere Reserves

Medium

Live Mint

Q. With reference to Kaziranga Park, consider the following:

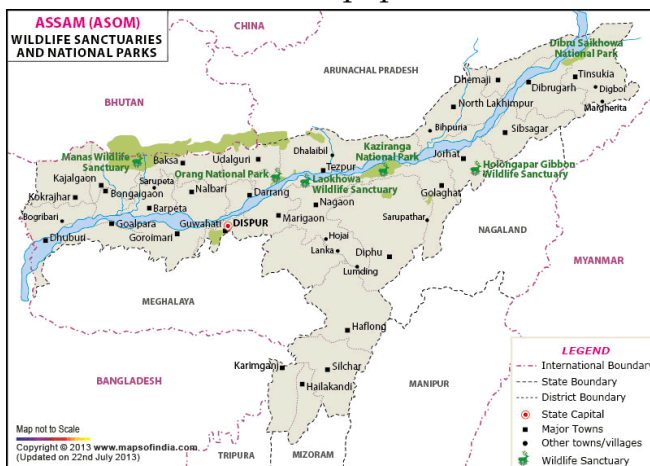
1. Kaziranga Park was formed on the recommendation of Mary Curzon.
2. It was declared as a World Heritage Site in 1980.
3. It was declared as a Tiger Reserve in 2000.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only one statement is correct
- B. Only two statements are correct
- C. All the statements are correct
- D. None of the statements are correct

Answer: A

- Kaziranga National park is a 430 square kilometer area sprinkled with elephant-grass meadows, swampy lagoons, and dense forests is home to more than 2200 Indian one-horned rhinoceros, approximately 2/3rd of their total world population.



- **Statement 1 is correct:** Formed in 1908 on the recommendation of Mary Curzon, the park is located on the edge of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspots - Golaghat and Nagaon district.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In the year 1985, the park was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. It is said when Mary Curzon, the wife of the Viceroy of India - Lord Curzon of Kedleston, visited the park to see Indian one-horned rhinoceros; she wasn't able to find even one. Then she persuaded her husband to take urgent measures to protect the

dwindling species which he did by initiating planning for their protection. After a series of meetings and documentations, the Kaziranga Proposed Reserve Forest was created with an area of 232 km² (90 sq mi) in 1905.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Along with the iconic Greater one-horned rhinoceros, the park is the breeding ground of elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer. Over time, the tiger population has also increased in Kaziranga, and that's the reason why Kaziranga was declared as a Tiger Reserve in 2006. Also, the park is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species. Birds like lesser white-fronted goose, ferruginous duck, Baer's pochard duck and lesser adjutant, greater adjutant, black-necked stork, and Asian Openbill stork specially migrate from Central Asia during the winter season.

Polity

Constitutional Bodies

Hard

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following with respect to the GST Council:

1. The GST council is a constitutional body.
2. The GST Council shall make recommendations to the Union and the States on issues related to principles of levy, principles that govern place of supply and threshold limits.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Constitution Amendment Bill was passed by more than 15 States and received Hon'ble President's assent on 8th of September, 2016 and has been enacted as the 101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016 conferring simultaneous power upon Parliament and the State Legislatures to make laws governing goods and services tax and creation of Goods and Services Tax Council.
- As per Article 279A(1) of the Constitution, the GST Council had to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and First) Amendment Act, 2016. The notification for bringing into force Article 279A with effect from 12th September, 2016 was issued on 10th September, 2016.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As per Article 279A(4), the GST Council shall make recommendations to the Union and the States on issues related to GST such as the goods and services that may be subjected to or exempted from GST, model GST Laws, principles of levy, principles that govern place of supply, threshold limits, GST rates including the floor rates with bands, special rates for raising additional resources during

natural calamities/disasters, special provisions for certain States, etc.

Additional Information:

As per Article 279A(2) of the Constitution, the GST Council shall consist of the following members: -

- The Union Finance Minister
- The Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance
- The Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State Government
- Any person nominated by the Governor of the State where there is a proclamation of emergency under Article 356 of the Constitution of India.

Geography

Transport and Communication

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs

1. NH 27 – Second longest highway in India
2. NH 44 – Longest Highway in India
3. NW 2 – Brahmaputra River

How many pairs are incorrect?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- NH 27 – Second longest highway in India
- NH 44 – Longest Highway in India
- NW 2 – Brahmaputra River

Additional Information



- NH 27 – It is an East - West National highway in India that starts in Porbandar and ends in Silchar, the highway passes through the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam.
- NH-27 was laid and is maintained by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways(MoRTH). It is the second longest National Highway (after NH-44) in India and is a part of NS-EW Corridor of NHAI.



- NH-44 National **Highway 44** (NH 44) is a major north-south National Highway in India and is the longest in the country. It passes through the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to the states of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.



- NW 2 – National Waterway 2 (NW2), also known as the Brahmaputra River, extends from Sadiya to Dhubri (Bangladesh border) in Assam, covering approximately 891 kilometers. It is a crucial inland waterway for the North East Region, facilitating connectivity with mainland India through the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route.



International Relations

International Organisations

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to BRICS:

1. The decision-making process is based on consensus.
2. BRICS Plus is a meeting between BRICS member countries and invited countries that are from the geographic region of the country currently holding the BRICS rotating presidency.

Which of the statements above is/are correct:

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** There are two participation categories at the BRICS: members and partners. The eleven members – Brasil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates – participate in all meetings, where the decision-making process is based on consensus.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** "BRICS Plus" is a meeting between BRICS member countries and invited countries that are not from the geographic region of the country currently holding the BRICS rotating presidency.

About

- The BRICS is a group formed by eleven countries: Brasil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Iran. It serves as a political and diplomatic coordination forum for countries from the Global South and for coordination in the most

diverse areas.

- The acronym BRIC was conceived in 2001 by an economist from the Goldman Sachs investment bank in recognition of the dynamic economic growth of Brasil, Russia, India, and China.
- As a cooperation and concertation forum, the BRIC was created by the political initiative of the governments of its founding countries. Its initial goal was to engage in dialogue about the major themes in the international agenda and politically strengthen their common stances in order to democratize, legitimize, and balance the global order.

Objectives

- The objectives of BRICS include strengthening economic, political, and social cooperation among its members, as well as increasing the influence of Global South countries in international governance. The group seeks to improve the legitimacy, equity in participation, and efficiency of global institutions such as the UN, IMF, World Bank, and WTO. Moreover, it aims to bolster sustainable social and economic development and promote social inclusion.

Member Countries

- The BRICS is currently composed of eleven countries: its five original members – Brasil, China, India, Russia, and South Africa –, and six new members admitted in 2024-25 – Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. The group was originally composed of

Brasil, Russia, India, and China in 2006; South Africa adhered in 2011; the new expansion, effective as of 2024, derived from the Johannesburg Declaration, from August 2023.

Members and Partners

- The discussion about the partner country modality resulted from the mandate established during the Johannesburg Declaration and its creation was announced at the **Kazan Summit, in October 2024**. Partners are generally invited to participate in the BRICS Chancellors and Leaders Summit; however, they can also be present in other meetings if there is consensus among the members.
- Throughout 2024, over 30 countries expressed interest in participating in the BRICS, either as **members or partners**.
- Other modalities of participation in BRICS meetings include the "BRICS Outreach", launched by South Africa in 2013, and the "BRICS Plus", launched by China in 2017.
- **"BRICS Outreach"** is a meeting between BRICS member countries and those from the geographic region of the country currently holding the rotating presidency who have been invited to such meetings.
- **"BRICS Plus"** is a meeting between BRICS member countries and invited countries that are not from the geographic region of the country currently holding the BRICS rotating presidency.

Governance

Schemes

Easy

Indian Express

Q. UMEED Portal stands for?

- A. Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development
- B. Unified Waqf Management, Exercise, Efficiency, and Diversification
- C. Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Embodiment, and Development
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Constitutional and Legal Reforms

- The Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025 repeals the 1923 Mussalman Wakf Act, renaming the 1995 Act to emphasize governance efficiency. It mandates gender equality by reserving seats for Muslim women on Central/State Waqf Boards and safeguards female inheritance rights in *waqf-alal-aulad* properties. The Act introduces sectarian inclusivity, requiring representation from Shia, Sunni, Bohra, and Aghakhani communities on boards. However, it abolishes the *waqf-by-user* doctrine, risking disputes over orally donated properties.

Digital Governance and Transparency

- The UMEED Portal (**Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development**) mandates centralized registration of all Waqf properties within six months, including geotagged details. This aims to curb corruption and ensure revenue

is channeled toward community welfare. However, past digitization via the WAMSI portal faced inconsistencies, with 435,000 properties unaccounted for, highlighting implementation challenges.

Judicial and Administrative Mechanisms

- The Act permits appeals against Waqf Tribunal rulings in High Courts within 90 days, strengthening judicial oversight. Over 40 petitions challenging the Act's constitutionality are pending in the Supreme Court, with critics arguing it undermines Muslim autonomy under Article 26. The Centre has temporarily paused contentious clauses like non-Muslim board appointments pending judicial review.

Social Justice and Challenges

- While promoting women's empowerment through self-help groups and scholarships, the Act faces criticism for potential misuse in targeting Muslim properties. The digital divide in rural areas and cybersecurity risks in centralized data management remain unresolved.

International Relations

International

Medium

Indian Express

Q. With reference to the Asian Development Bank, consider the following:

1. Asian Development Bank was established in 1966.

2. ADB is owned by 50 members

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

- ADB is a leading multilateral development bank supporting inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth across Asia and the Pacific.
- Working with its members and partners to solve complex challenges together, ADB harnesses innovative financial tools and strategic partnerships to transform lives, build quality infrastructure, and safeguard our planet.
- **Statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is incorrect:** Founded in 1966, ADB is owned by 69 members—50 from the region.

Origins

- ADB was conceived in the early 1960s as a financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world.
- A resolution passed at the first Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation held by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in 1963 set that vision on the way to becoming reality.
- The Philippines capital of Manila was chosen to host the new institution, which opened on 19 December 1966, with 31 members that came together to

serve a predominantly agricultural region. Takeshi Watanabe was ADB's first President. During the 1960s, ADB focused much of its assistance on food production and rural development.

- **Members:** From 31 members at its establishment in 1966, ADB has grown to encompass 69 members—of which 50 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.

Governance

Schemes

Easy

PIB

Q. Consider the following pairs

1. National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) – 2016
2. Smart Cities Mission – 2015
3. Unified Pension Scheme – 2022

How many pairs are incorrectly matched?

- A. One pair is incorrectly matched
- B. Two pairs are incorrectly matched
- C. Three pairs are incorrectly matched
- D. All pairs are correctly matched

Answer: A

- National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) – 2016 (Correct)
- Smart Cities Mission – 2015 (Correct)
- Unified Pension Scheme – 2025

Additional Information

1. National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) – **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)**

- The revival of apprenticeships under NAPS made 'learning while earning' a reality for lakhs of young Indians. Over 40 lakh apprentices were placed

with industries since 2016, with monthly stipends directly credited into their accounts. The scheme helped bridge the gap between classroom learning and workplace expectations. It also gave employers a steady stream of trained talent, strengthening India's industrial base from the ground up.

2 Smart Cities Mission – **Smart Cities Mission**

- Launched on 25 June 2015, the Smart Cities Mission gave Indian cities a new life. It reimagined how people live, move, work and spend their time. By 2025, **93 percent of the 7545 approved projects** were completed, with a total investment of over **₹1.51 lakh crore**. Each of the 100 Smart Cities now runs an Integrated Command and Control Centre. These centres support better safety, traffic control, waste collection and water management.
- Over 83,000 CCTV cameras, 1,884 emergency call boxes and 3,000 public address systems now help cities stay alert and responsive. More than 1,200 public space projects have brought back life to city parks, lakefronts and markets. Education has improved with 9,400 smart classrooms in 2,300 government schools and 41 new digital libraries. Health infrastructure got a push too with 3,100 hospital beds added and digital health records introduced in 15 cities.
- On the housing front, 23 smart cities delivered 35,000 affordable homes. Water supply, solid waste and sewerage systems were upgraded using smart technology. Transport became smoother with 1,700 km of

smart roads, 713 km of cycling lanes, 23,000 bicycles and over 1,500 buses added to public fleets. More than 50 cities turned to Public-Private Partnerships to deliver over 200 high-impact projects.

3 Unified Pension Scheme – **Unified Pension Scheme**

- In a major step to strengthen social security for government employees and their families, the Union Cabinet approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) on August 24, 2024. The scheme ensures an assured pension of 50% of the average basic pay drawn during the last 12 months before retirement, applicable to employees with at least 25 years of service. For those with shorter service tenures, the pension will be calculated proportionately, with a minimum qualifying period of 10 years. A minimum assured pension of **₹10,000 per month** will be provided upon retirement after completing 10 years of service. In case of the employee's death, their family will receive a pension equal to 60% of the assured pension.
- The Unified Pension Scheme came into effect from April 1, 2025, and it is expected to benefit around 23 lakh Central Government employees. Several State Governments have also adopted this model, extending its coverage to over 90 lakh individuals currently under the National Pension System.

Governance

Schemes

Easy

PIB

Q. With respect to the Chenab Railway Bridge, consider the following:

1. 'Tekla' software was used for structural detailing of the bridge.
2. It is a key part of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Railway Link

Which of the statements above is/ are correct?

- A. Both the statements are correct
- B. Statement 1 is correct
- C. Statement 2 is correct
- D. None of the statements are correct

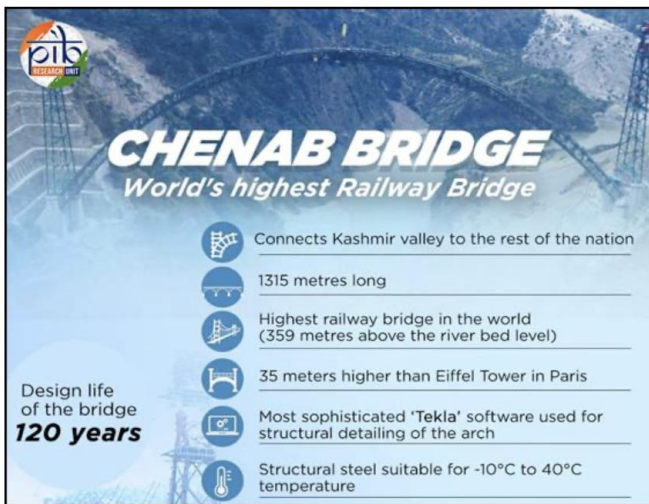
Answer: A

Chenab Rail Bridge

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Towering 359 metres above the riverbed, the Chenab Rail Bridge stands as the world's highest railway arch bridge. It rises 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower. Spanning 1,315 metres, this steel arch structure is a key part of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Railway Link and marks a significant milestone in Indian engineering.
- Designed to endure harsh terrain and extreme weather, the bridge can withstand wind speeds of up to 260 kilometres per hour and is built to last 120 years. With a project cost of ₹1,486 crore, it is not just a bridge but a symbol of India's technical prowess. Structural steel suitable for temperatures ranging from minus 10 to 40 degrees Celsius has been used, ensuring resilience across seasonal extremes.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The most

sophisticated 'Tekla' software was used for structural detailing, enabling high precision in design and execution.

- A key impact of the bridge will be in enhancing connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar. With the Vande Bharat Express running over it, travel time between Katra and Srinagar will come down to just about three hours, reducing the existing journey by two to three hours.



Environment

Air Pollution

Medium

Live Mint

Q. With respect to air pollution policies of the Indian Government, consider the following:

1. PLI-Auto scheme supports all kinds of biofuels besides EVs.
2. The ministry of heavy industries is the nodal ministry for the PLI-Auto scheme.

Which of the statements above is or are incorrect?

- A. 1 only

- B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Scheme is focused on Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) i.e. Battery Electric Vehicle and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicle.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** PLI-Auto Scheme envisages to overcome the cost disabilities to the industry for manufacturing and boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products in India and functions under the ministry of heavy industries.

Additional Information

- The Union Cabinet approved the PLI Scheme for Automobile & Auto Components on 15.09.2021 with budgetary outlay of ₹25,938 crore. PLI-Auto Scheme envisages to overcome the cost disabilities to the industry for manufacturing and boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products in India.
- The incentive structure is to encourage industry to make fresh investments for indigenous manufacturing of AAT products and create additional jobs. PLI scheme for the auto sector is being implemented as per the approved guidelines.
- The scheme offers financial incentives to boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology products and attract investments in the automotive manufacturing value chain.

- Prime objectives of the scheme include overcoming cost disabilities, creating economies of scale, generating employment, building a robust supply chain in areas of Advanced Automotive Technology products and facilitating the Automobile Industry to move up the value chain into higher value added products.
- The Scheme is focused on Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) i.e. Battery Electric Vehicle and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicle.

International Relations

International Organisation

Medium

Live Mint

Q. With respect to NATO, consider the following:

1. The Washington Treaty forms the basis of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
2. Treaty under which NATO was made was valid for a 20-year period.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Washington Treaty – or North Atlantic Treaty – forms the basis of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – or NATO.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Treaty was

made valid for a 10-year period, after which the Treaty could be reviewed (Article 12); and only after the Treaty had been in force for 20 years could a member withdraw from the Organization (Article 13).

Additional Information

- The Treaty was signed in Washington D.C. on 4 April 1949 by 12 founding members.
- The Treaty derives its authority from Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which reaffirms the inherent right of independent states to individual or collective defence.
- Collective defence is at the heart of the Treaty and is enshrined in Article 5. It commits members to protect each other and sets a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance.
- The Treaty is short – containing only 14 articles – and provides for in-built flexibility on all fronts.
- Despite the changing security environment, the original Treaty has never had to be modified and each Ally has the possibility to implement the text in accordance with its capabilities and circumstances.
- The negotiating countries disagreed on how long the Treaty should last. Some countries favoured a long-term agreement that would set the initial duration at 20 years, while others feared that anything beyond 10 years would be seen as an unnecessary extension of the war effort. Finally, at the insistence of Portugal, the Treaty was made valid for a 10-year period, after which the Treaty could be

reviewed (Article 12); and only after the Treaty had been in force for 20 years could a member withdraw from the Organization (Article 13). To date, these two provisions have never been used, i.e., the Treaty has never been reviewed nor a member withdrawn from the Organization.

Member Nations of NATO



Polity

Important Legislations and Acts

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 was enacted to consolidate and amend the laws relating to reorganisation and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals.
2. 350 days is the maximum period for resolution for the companies admitted

into the insolvency process.

Which of the following statements are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- Statement 1 is correct: An Act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to reorganisation and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner for maximisation of value of assets of such persons, to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit and balance the interests of all the stakeholders including alteration in the order of priority of payment of Government dues and to establish an Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: As per the current provisions, 330 days limit has been allowed to find a resolution for the company admitted into the insolvency process. If the company fails to find the solution, it goes into liquidation.

Additional Information:

- The IBC, enacted in 2016, introduced a time-bound mechanism shifting control from debtors to creditors, with a 330-day limit to resolve insolvency cases.
- It has changed the underlying credit culture by injecting discipline in credit allocation, prompting early action by

borrowers, and reducing gross Non performing Assets from 11.2% (2018) to 2.8% (2024).

- Despite rescuing companies and emerging as the dominant recovery route, the IBC faces judicial delays, post-resolution uncertainty, and concerns over handling new-age business models.

Environment

Biosphere Reserves

Easy

The Hindu

Q. With respect to Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, consider the following:

1. It lies on the Coromandel coast in India.
2. The biosphere covers the coasts of Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Rameswaram and Kanyakumari.

Which of the statements given are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Coromandel coast in India is one of the most bewitching coastal areas in the world. There's a lot to see here and a whole lot more to dive into and experience for yourself. Of the lot, the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park has a very significant position. The first marine biosphere reserve in South Asia, the Mannar marine park is also one of the richest regions on Earth in

terms of biodiversity.

- Comprising 21 islands in total, the Mannar marine park includes estuaries, beaches and mudflats that make this region amazingly beautiful. Also a part of this biosphere are marine components including algae communities, sea grasses, coral reefs, salt marshes and mangroves.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Spread across an area of 560 sq.kms., the biosphere covers the coasts of Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Rameswaram and Kanyakumari. Home to an affluent diversity of aquatic plants and animals, the national park has identified the presence of around 3600 plant and animal species. These even include endangered species including the sea cow and 6 mangrove species. One can find five species of turtles and several other marine species like dolphins, whales, sea cucumber and dugongs.
- The national park also includes 11 species of seagrass and 117 species of hard coral. The coral reefs in this area are stunningly beautiful and have often been referred to as the 'underwater tropical rainforest'. Given all this, there is no wonder this area is also a favourite among regional and international travellers. Glass bottom boats are employed to take tourists down to watch these breathtaking visuals.

Economy

Banking

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. NBFCs perform functions which are the same as a normal bank providing online banking services.
2. The minimum profits of a company for the last 3 consecutive years must be at least Rs 15 crores for it to be listed in India.
3. Overdraft facility accounts for one of the major sources of income of RBI.

How many statements are correct?

- A. one only
- B. Two only
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** NBFCs do not function as a normal bank. They can only offer loans and advances but cannot accept principal deposits or deposits as one can in the banks.
- **Non-Banking Financial Companies – A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or Companies Act, 2013, and engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by Government or local authority or other marketable securities of a like nature, leasing, hire-purchase, etc., as their principal business, but does not include any institution whose principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, purchase or sale of any goods (other than securities) or providing any services and

sale/purchase/construction of immovable property. A non-banking institution which is a company and has the principal business of receiving deposits under any scheme or arrangement in one lump sum or in installments by way of contributions or in any other manner, is also a non-banking financial company (Residuary non-banking company).

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** For an IPO, the company's minimum profits must be at least Rs 15 crores in the last 3 out of 5 consecutive years.
- In India, Sebi has mandated that companies need to meet the following criteria before approaching the public for funds:
 - The company must have net tangible assets of at least Rs 3 crore and a net worth of Rs 1 crore in each of the preceding three full years.
 - The company must have a minimum average pre-tax profit of Rs 15 crore in at least three of the immediately preceding five years.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Overdraft facilities of the RBI are short term loans offered to the commercial banks and the government as ways and means of advances. The interest rates are high which in return acts as a profitable deal for the RBI

International Relations

International Organisations

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. A permanent member abstaining to vote in UNSC will require the resolution to be adopted if it obtains the required number of nine favourable votes.
2. Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- A. statement 2 is correct
- B. statement 1 is correct
- C. Both statements are correct
- D. None of the statements are correct

Answer: B

- **Statement 1 is correct:** All five permanent members have exercised the right of veto at one time or another. If a permanent member does not fully agree with a proposed resolution but does not wish to cast a veto, it may choose to abstain, thus allowing the resolution to be adopted if it obtains the required number of nine favourable votes.
- **The Right to Veto** -The creators of the United Nations Charter conceived that five countries – China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) [which was succeeded in 1990 by the Russian Federation], the United Kingdom and the United States –, because of their key roles in the establishment of the United Nations, would continue to play important roles in the maintenance of international peace and security.
- They were granted the special status of Permanent Member States at the Security Council, along with a special voting power known as the "right to

veto". It was agreed by the drafters that if any one of the five permanent members cast a negative vote in the 15-member Security Council, the resolution or decision would not be approved.

- All five permanent members have exercised the right of veto at one time or another. If a permanent member does not fully agree with a proposed resolution but does not wish to cast a veto, it may choose to abstain, thus allowing the resolution to be adopted if it obtains the required number of nine favourable votes.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Article 27 of the UN Charter states that:
 - Each member of the Security Council shall have one vote.
 - Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members.
 - Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members; provided that, in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph 3 of Article 52, a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting.

Environment

Biodiversity

Easy

Live Mint

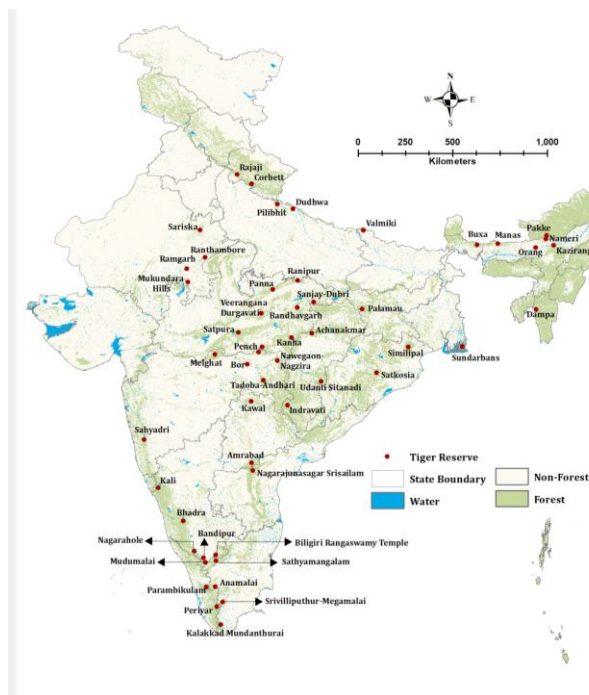
Q. Consider the following pairs (Tiger Reserves and States)

1. Dampa – Assam
2. Kawal – Maharashtra
3. Palamau – Rajasthan

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. One pair only
- B. Two pairs only
- C. All three pairs
- D. None of the pairs are correctly matched

Answer: D



Geography

Drainage System

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following with respect to Brahmaputra River:

1. The Brahmaputra Valley has an average width of about 80 Km.
2. The Brahmaputra ranks fourth with respect to its average discharge of

water.

Which of the following statements are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Brahmaputra Valley has an average width of about 80 Km.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The main river of the valley, Brahmaputra is one of the largest rivers in the world and rank fifth with respect to its average discharge.

Additional information

- The river originates from the Kailash ranges of Himalayas at an elevation of 5300 M. After flowing through Tibet it enters India through Arunachal Pradesh and flows through Assam and Bangladesh before it joins Bay of Bengal.
- The tributaries namely Subansiri, Ronganadi, Dikrong, Buroi, Borgong, Jiabharali, Dhansiri (North) Puthimari, Manas, Beki, Aie, Sonkosh are the main tributaries on the North while the Noadehing, Buridehing, Desang, Dikhow, Bhogdoi, Dhansiri (South), Kopilli, Kulsi, Krishnai, Dhdhnoi, Jinjiran are the main tributaries on the south bank of the river Brahmaputra.

Polity

Miscellaneous

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Catch the Rain campaign is a part of Jal Jeevan Mission
2. 'Nal Jal Mitra Programme' ensures the availability of skilled personnel at the village level under JJM.

Which of the following statements are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019**, with the ambitious goal of providing tap water supply to every rural household by 2024.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain** - Recognizing the importance of sustainable water management, the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign was launched in 2019, focusing on water conservation through people's participation.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In 2023, the campaign emphasized 'Source Sustainability for Drinking Water,' and in 2024, it was implemented with the theme 'Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti,' highlighting the crucial role of women in water conservation.

Objectives

The broad objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission include:

- Providing Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural

household.

- Prioritizing FHTC provision in quality-affected areas, drought-prone regions, desert areas, and Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) villages.
- Ensuring functional tap connections in schools, Anganwadi centers, gram panchayat buildings, health and wellness centers, and community buildings.
- Monitoring the functionality of tap connections.
- Promoting voluntary ownership among the local community through contributions in cash, kind, or labor (shramdaan).
- Ensuring the sustainability of water supply systems, including water sources, infrastructure, and funding for regular operations and maintenance.
- Empowering and developing human resources in the water sector, covering construction, plumbing, electrical work, water quality management, water treatment, catchment protection, and more.
- Raising awareness about the significance of safe drinking water and involving stakeholders to make water everyone's responsibility.

Geography

Minerals in India

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following pairs (Minerals and their ores)

1. Hematite - Aluminium

2. Galena – Lead
3. Cinnabar – Mercury

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- Hematite is an ore that is used to obtain Iron.
- Galena is an ore that is used to obtain Lead.
- Cinnabar is an ore that is used to obtain Mercury.
- Bauxite is an ore that is used to obtain Aluminium.

Geography

Physical Geography

Medium

Live Mint

Q. With reference to Critical minerals, consider the following.

1. Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 omitted Six Minerals from the list of Twelve Atomic Minerals.
2. Only the Central Government can auction mineral concessions for critical minerals.
3. National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) was established under Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957

How many statements above is/are incorrect?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two

- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- Parliament Passes Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 with focus on Critical Minerals, the amendment introduces Major Reforms in Mining Sector
 - Six Minerals omitted from list of Twelve Atomic Minerals **(statement 1 is correct)**
 - Central Government to exclusively auction Mineral Concessions for Critical Minerals; State Governments to get revenue **(statement 2 is correct)**
 - Introduces Exploration Licence for deep-seated and Critical Minerals
 - Amendment expected to provide conducive legal environment for attracting FDI and junior mining companies
- The MMDR Act, 1957 was comprehensively amended in 2015 to bring several reforms in the mineral sector, notably, mandating method of auction for grant of mineral concessions to bring transparency in allocation of mineral resources, for establishing **District Mineral Foundation (DMF) for the welfare of the people and areas affected by mining and for establishing National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)** to give thrust to exploration and for ensuring stringent penalty for illegal mining. **(statement 3 is incorrect)**

Miscellaneous

Current Affairs

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following pairs:

1. SDG 5 – Clean Water and Sanitation
2. SDG 13 – Climate Action
3. SDG 16 – Life on Land

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Science and Technology

Defence

Easy

The Hindu

Q. With respect to Arnala, consider the following:

1. It is named after the historic fort 'Arnala' located in Maharashtra.
2. It has been designed for underwater surveillance propelled by a Diesel Engine-Waterjet combination

Which of the statements given is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

- 'Arnala', the first of the eight ASW SWCs (Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft), indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, was delivered to the Indian Navy on 08 May 25 at M/s L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli.
- The warship has been designed and constructed as per the Classification Rules of **Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)** under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** of GRSE with M/s L&T Shipyard, thus demonstrating the success of collaborative defence manufacturing.
- *Arnala* is named after the historic fort 'Arnala' located off **Vasai, Maharashtra**, a reflection of India's rich maritime heritage. **(statement 1 is correct).**
- The **77 m** long warship is the largest Indian Naval warship propelled by a Diesel Engine-Waterjet combination. The ship has been designed for **underwater surveillance, search & rescue operations** and **Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO)**. **(statement 2 is correct).**
- The ship is capable of undertaking ASW operations in coastal waters, along with advanced mine laying capabilities. The induction of ASW SWC ships would significantly boost shallow water Anti-Submarine Warfare capabilities of the Indian

Navy.

- *Arnala's* delivery is yet another milestone in the Indian Navy's quest for indigenous shipbuilding and upholding the Government's vision of '*Aatmanirbhar Bharat*' with over 80% indigenous content.

International Relations

International Organisations

Medium

The Hindu

Q. With reference to G7, consider the following:

1. It is an informal grouping of 7 developed nations.
2. Canada was originally not a part of the G7.

Which of the statements given is or are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

- The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal grouping of 7 of the world's advanced economies and the European Union. Its members meet annually at the G7 Summit to discuss global economic and geopolitical issues. **(statement 1 is correct).**

Timeline of G7

- **1975** – In 1975, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States formed the Group of Six to discuss how to respond to major economic concerns following the crisis.

- **1976** – A year later, Canada was invited to join the Group of Seven. **(statement 2 is correct).**
- **1980s** – Starting in the 1980s, the G7 expanded its focus to international security, human rights and global stability.
- **Present** – By the early 21st century, the G7 prioritized engagement with developing countries. The G7 has played a crucial role in strengthening international economic policies. It has advanced discussions on global issues such as climate change and gender equality, brought donors together and notably, supported disarmament programs. This commitment underscores the G7's dedication to promoting global peace and security.



Economy

Banking

Medium

The Hindu

Q. With respect to the banking system in India, consider the following:

1. A decreased repo rate will also cut the interest earned on savings by depositors.
2. The decision of the Monetary Policy

Committee is binding on the Central Bank.

Which of the statements given is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

- The interest rate that the RBI charges when commercial banks borrow money from it is called the **repo rate**. The interest rate the central bank pays commercial banks when they park their excess cash is called the **reverse repo rate**. A decreased RR will increase the cash flow in the market, cut the interest rate on loans and also decrease interest earned on savings by the depositors. **(statement 1 is correct)**.
- **Section 45ZB of the RBI Act 1934:** states that the Monetary Policy Committee shall determine the Policy Rate required to achieve the inflation target, and the decision of the Monetary Policy Committee shall be binding on the Bank. **(statement 2 is correct)**.

Additional Information:

- Under **Section 45ZB** of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the central government is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to determine the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target.
- Section 45ZB states that the Monetary Policy Committee shall determine the Policy Rate required to achieve the inflation target, and the decision of the

Monetary Policy Committee shall be binding on the Bank.

- Section 45ZB says the **MPC shall consist** of the RBI Governor as its ex officio chairperson, the Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, an officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board and three persons to be appointed by the central government.
- The last category of appointments must be from “persons of ability, integrity, and standing, having knowledge and experience in the field of economics or banking or finance or monetary policy”. (Section 45ZC)

Geography

Infrastructure

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The first railway line in the Princely state of Jammu was laid between Jammu and Sialkot
2. The USBRL was initially proposed in 1990

Which of the statements given is or are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

- The first railway line in the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir was built by the British in 1897 over a distance of 40-45 km between Jammu

and Sialkot in the plains. **(statement 1 is correct).**

- In 1902 and 1905. A railway line was proposed between Rawalpindi and Srinagar along the course of the Jhelum, which would have connected the Kashmir Valley with the railway network of undivided India. But Maharaja Pratap Singh of Jammu and Kashmir was in favour of a Jammu-Srinagar line via Reasi, and neither project progressed.
- After Partition, Sialkot went to Pakistan, and Jammu was disconnected from the rail network of India. Until the inauguration of the Pathankot-Jammu line in 1975, the railway station nearest to Jammu and Kashmir was Pathankot in Punjab.

- In 1983, work began on a railway line between Jammu and Udhampur. This 53-km line was supposed to be completed in five
- years, but ultimately took 21 years. With work still underway, the central government announced, in 1994, the extension of this line from Udhampur to Srinagar, and onward to Baramulla.
- This was the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project, which was approved in March 1995 at an estimated cost of Rs 2,500 crore. **(statement 2 is incorrect)**
- In 2002, the USBRI was declared as a national project and sections of the line became operational over the years that followed.





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Science and Technology | Basic Science | Medium | Live Mint

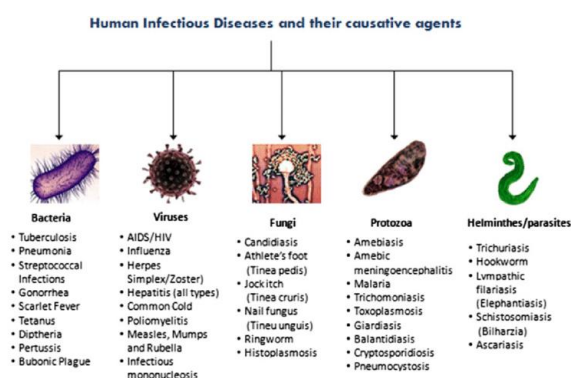
Q. Considering the following pairs (Diseases and Causative Agents)

1. Jock Itch – Virus
2. Pertussis – Fungi
3. Hepatitis – Bacteria

How many are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D



International Relations

International Organisations

Medium

Indian Express

Q. With respect to International Criminal Court, consider the following statements:

1. It was established under the Rome Statute in a United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 1999.
2. ICC consists of the Presidency; an Appeals Division; a Trial Division and a Pre-trial Division; the Office of the Prosecutor; and the Registry.

Which of the statements given is or are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was adopted on 17 July 1998 at a United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. The Statute establishes an international criminal court to try individuals for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole and seeks to establish a fair and just international criminal justice system with competent and impartial judges and an independent prosecutor. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Statute establishes a Court composed of the following organs: the Presidency; an Appeals Division; a Trial Division and a Pre-trial Division; the Office of the Prosecutor; and the Registry. Its judges are persons of high moral character and integrity and in their selection the States Parties take into account the need for the representation of the principal legal systems of the world, equitable geographical distribution and a fair representation of female and male judges. **Statement 2 is correct.**

Miscellaneous

Current Affairs

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Considering the following pairs (GI Tags and States)

1. Pithora – Gujarat
2. Kinhal Toys – Karnataka
3. Karen Musley Rice – Andhra Pradesh

How many are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- Pithora – Gujarat
- Kinhal Toys – Karnataka
- Karen Musley Rice – Andaman and Nicobar

Environment

Laws

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following species is not a part of Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972?

- A. Himalayan Brown bear
- B. Himalayan Ibex
- C. Pig-tailed macaque
- D. Malabar Civet

Answer: C

Science and Technology

Vaccines

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following pairs

1. Typhoid vaccine – Inactivated Vaccine
2. Polio vaccine – Live attenuated vaccine
3. Tetanus vaccine – Toxoid Vaccine

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Live attenuated vaccines

- Pathogens like viruses or bacteria are weakened by genetic manipulations to limit its growth and thus do not cause disease to the host. In some modified versions of live vaccine an organism that is related to the pathogen is used that naturally grows poorly in humans. The weakened pathogen generates a broad immune response in the host similar to that shown by an infected individual with a natural pathogen.
- Examples:
 - Oral Sabin polio vaccine
 - MRV Vaccine (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella)
 - Nasal influenza vaccine
 - Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine
 - Varicella vaccine
 - Rotavirus vaccine

Inactivated or Dead vaccines

- The disease-causing pathogen is killed or inactivated, usually through a thermal (application of high temperature) or chemical (formalin etc.) process. Such vaccines, when

administered, elicit a robust immune response that mimics most of the responses seen during an infection.

- Examples:
 - Typhoid vaccine
 - Influenza vaccine
 - Salk polio vaccine
 - Hepatitis A vaccine

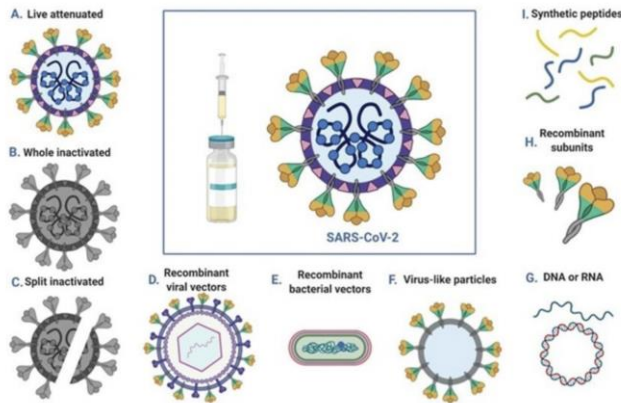
Acellular or Subunit vaccines

- Acellular means not containing the whole cells. Acellular vaccines do not contain the whole bacteria or viruses. Instead, they contain polysaccharides or proteins from the surface of the bacteria or virus. These polysaccharides or proteins are the parts that our immune system recognizes as 'foreign' and evoke immune response against them. There are many types of a cellular vaccines:
 - Toxoid Vaccine: Some pathogenic bacteria release toxins or poisonous proteins when they attack the body. Some vaccines are made by inactivating these toxins chemically and called 'toxoids', because they look like toxins but not poisonous. They trigger a strong immune response.
 - Examples:
 - Diphtheria vaccine
 - Tetanus vaccine
 - Pertussis vaccine
- Conjugate Vaccine: Earlier polysaccharide vaccines were made using sugar molecules present on the surface of the bacteria but it was found to be less effective in babies and young

children. Researchers discovered that these vaccines can work better if the bacterial polysaccharide molecules are chemically linked or conjugated to a carrier protein. Addition of other proteins confers the immunological attributes of the carrier to the antigen and thus induces a stronger immune response effective enough for younger children also.

- Examples:
 - Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine
 - Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
 - Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine
- Recombinant Vaccine: A small piece of the DNA is taken from the disease-causing bacterium or virus. The particular gene is incorporated into plasmid or a carrier vehicle which enables production of large quantities of well-defined proteins, which are then used as vaccines.
- Examples:
 - Hepatitis B vaccine
 - Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine
- DNA/RNA Vaccine: Genetic material, either DNA or RNA, from the pathogenic bacteria or virus is introduced into the human cells and then the cell machinery is employed to produce the protein encoded by the inserted gene(s) of the pathogen. Our body's immune system detects such protein as a foreign agent and produces an immune response against the whole pathogen. At present, different types of nucleic-acid vaccines

are in developmental, pre-clinical and clinical evaluation phases e.g. HIV vaccine.



Governance

Schemes

Medium

PIB

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched as the National Mission for Financial Inclusion
2. It aims to provide at least one basic bank account to every household.

Which of the statements above is or correct

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

PM Jan Dhan Yojana PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched as the **National Mission for Financial Inclusion**, with the aim to provide **universal access to banking facilities** with at least one basic bank account to every household.

Key highlights, as of March 2025, include:

- PM Jan Dhan Accounts: **55.17 crore**

- Deposit in accounts: Rs. 2,61,461.25 crore
- Women accounts: **30.80 crore**

Governance

Schemes

Medium

PIB

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
2. India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) declined to 80 per lakh live births in 2021-23 under PMSMA

Which of the statements above is or correct

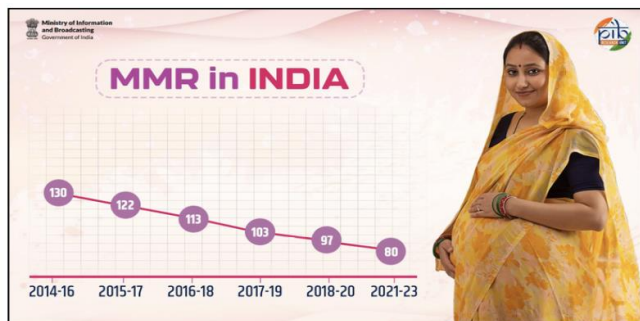
- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Statement 1 is incorrect: Launched in **June 2016**, the **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** is a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**. It was designed to provide **assured, comprehensive, and quality antenatal care (ANC)** services free of cost to all pregnant women on the **9th of every month**, particularly during the **second and third trimesters**. The core aim is to **reduce maternal and neonatal mortality** by facilitating **early detection and prompt management of high-risk pregnancies**.

Statement 2 is correct: The government's combined efforts to provide antenatal care and ensure proper nutrition for pregnant

women have led to a significant improvement in India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), which declined from 130 per lakh live births in 2014-16 to 80 per lakh live births in 2021-23 – a notable reduction of 50 points.



Governance

Schemes

Easy

PIB

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA prioritizes sustainable development and environmental stewardship.
2. In April 2025, the demand for MNREGA rose to 20.12 million as compared to the previous year.

Which of the statements above is or correct

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- The vision of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of rural households across the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do

unskilled manual work. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA recognizes the importance of strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor by reaching the most vulnerable sections of rural areas, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women-headed households, and other marginalized groups.

- The scheme encourages a sense of community and collective responsibility by strengthening Panchayat Raj institutions. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA promotes a bottom-up approach to planning and execution, empowering local communities to take charge of their development. Through the creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability, the scheme addresses immediate economic needs while laying the foundation for long-term prosperity.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mahatma Gandhi NREGA prioritizes sustainable development and environmental stewardship, striving to create a greener, more sustainable future for generations to come by prioritizing works that contribute to ecological conservation and rural infrastructure development. Central to the scheme's vision is a commitment to transparency and accountability, ensuring that funds are utilized efficiently and beneficiaries' rights are upheld through mechanisms such as social audits, grievance redressal, and proactive public disclosure.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In April 2025, the demand for MNREGA fell to 20.12

million from 21.52 million compared to a year earlier.



line is the minimum spending level needed for basic nutrition, clothing and shelter.

Economy

Inclusive Growth

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The global poverty line is actually the median for only low-income countries (LIC) and so, indicates "extreme poverty".
2. The global poverty line is adjusted based on the Purchasing Power Parity of the people in different countries.
3. This data is based on the Wholesale Price Index data collected by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

How many statements are correct?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- **Statement 1 is correct:** This poverty line is actually the median for only low-income countries (LIC) and so, indicates "extreme poverty". There are two more poverty lines: for lower-middle income countries (revised from \$3.65 to \$4.20 a day), and for middle-income ones (revised from \$6.85 to \$8.30). By the \$4.20 poverty line, 23.9% of Indians were poor in 2022, versus 28.1% earlier. This will be more relevant for India moving forward as extreme poverty seems to have shrunk a lot.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The poverty

- Deciding this level globally is tricky: a simple exchange rate adjustment of India's poverty line wouldn't make it comparable with say, the US or Kenya. For this, researchers in 1990 created a global poverty line which was adjusted for "purchasing power parity" or PPP—an adjustment that helps a dollar buy the same goods and services in all countries. That gave us the first global poverty line: \$1 a day (at 1985 PPP). But inflation trends vary, so this needs to be updated.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The World Bank has used India's 2022-23 consumption expenditure survey (CES), the first in 11 years. So far, it had used alternative sources: its best possible estimate was 12.9% for 2021 (\$2.15/day line). Now, it's 5.3%: the change comes both from the new line and from the new official data. At the old benchmark (\$2.15/ day), 2.4% of Indians were poor in 2022.

Additional Information

- Household Consumer Expenditure Survey (HCE)S is designed to collect information on consumption and expenditure of the households on goods and services. The survey provides data required to assess trends in economic well-being and to determine and update the basket of consumer goods and services and weights used for the calculation of the Consumer Price Index. Data collected in HCES is also used to measure poverty, inequality, and social

exclusion. The Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) compiled from HCES is the primary indicator used for most analytical purposes.

Governance

Laws

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Bismuth
2. Cobalt
3. Copper
4. Gallium
5. Graphite
6. Tin

How many of the minerals stated above are critical minerals as per the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act of 1957.

- A. Only three
- B. Only four
- C. Only five
- D. Only six

Answer: D

- The government has released a list of 30 critical minerals for India. These minerals are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

Science and Technology

Genetics

Medium

The Hindu

Q. With respect to gene-editing technique, consider the following:

1. CRISPR-Cas9 technology can only remove the sections of the DNA sequence.
2. The Cas9 follows the guide RNA to the same location in the DNA sequence.

Which of the statements above is or correct

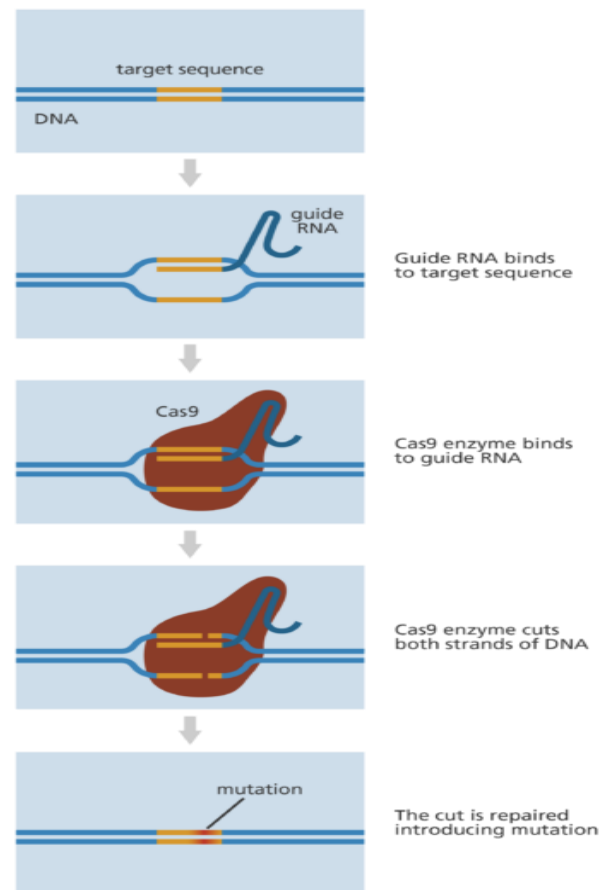
- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** CRISPR-Cas9 is a unique technology that enables geneticists and medical researchers to edit parts of the genome **by removing, adding or altering sections of the DNA sequence.**
- It is currently the simplest, most versatile and precise method of genetic manipulation and is therefore causing a buzz in the science world.
- The CRISPR-Cas9 system consists of two key molecules that introduce a change (mutation) into the DNA. These are:
 - an enzyme called Cas9. This acts as a pair of 'molecular scissors' that can cut the two strands of DNA at a specific location in the genome so that bits of DNA can then be added

or removed.

- a piece of RNA called guide RNA (gRNA). This consists of a small piece of pre-designed RNA sequence (about 20 bases long) located within a longer RNA scaffold. The scaffold part binds to DNA and the pre-designed sequence 'guides' Cas9 to the right part of the genome. This makes sure that the Cas9 enzyme cuts at the right point in the genome.
- The guide RNA is designed to find and bind to a specific sequence in the DNA. The guide RNA has RNA bases that are complementary to those of the target DNA sequence in the genome. This means that, at least in theory, the guide RNA will only bind to the target sequence and no other regions of the genome.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Cas9 follows the guide RNA to the same location in the DNA sequence and makes a cut across both strands of the DNA.
- At this stage the cell recognises that the DNA is damaged and tries to repair it.
- Scientists can use the DNA repair machinery to introduce changes to one or more genes in the genome of a cell of interest.



International Relations

Maps

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following countries does not share its border with Turkey?

- A. Armenia
- B. Georgia
- C. Greece
- D. Serbia

Answer: D



Polity

Elections

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

1. Part XVI of the Constitution deals with Elections.
2. The words Rajpramukh was omitted by the seventh constitution amendment.

Which of the statements above is or correct

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Part XV of the Constitution deals with Elections.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The words "or Rajpramukh" omitted by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956.

Environment

Climate Change

Medium

The Hindu

Q. With respect to Stratospheric aerosol injection, consider the following statements:

1. SAI was inspired by volcanic eruptions.
2. Higher altitude injection is less effective because particles stay for a shorter period.

Which of the statements above is or correct

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** SAI aims to cool the planet and reduce the impact of climate change by adding a layer of tiny reflective particles to the high atmosphere. The method was inspired by volcanic eruptions, which have been known to have a cooling effect by spewing aerosols into the air.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Higher altitude injection is more effective because particles stay for longer. At lower altitudes particles are more likely to be caught in clouds and washed out by rain. Despite this, researchers are exploring low-altitude spraying because it is technically less challenging.
- Researchers found that 12 million tonnes of sulphur dioxide every year at an altitude of 13 km could cool the planet 0.6 degrees Celsius.
- The spray quantity is comparable to the amount added to the atmosphere by the Mount Pinatubo volcano in 1991.

Economy

MSP

Medium

Live Mint

Q. With respect to Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses, consider the following:

1. The Mission emphasises on management and assuring remunerative prices to the farmers only.
2. Central agencies (NAFED and NCCF) are responsible for the procurement of the pulses.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The 6-year “Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses” focuses on Tur, Urad and Masoor. The Mission emphasises on development and commercial availability of climate resilient seeds; enhancing protein content; increasing productivity; improving post-harvest storage and management and assuring remunerative prices to the farmers.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Central agencies (NAFED and NCCF) will procure these 3 pulses, as much as offered during the next 4 years from farmers who register with these agencies and enter into agreements.



Miscellaneous

Current

Easy

Live Mint

Q. With reference to rare earth elements, consider the following:

1. China controls over 60% of the global lithium refining.
2. PLI Schemes provide an incentive to the local manufacturers.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** China controls over 90% of the production of rare earth magnets. It also dominates the refining of global lithium refining with more than 65% of the resources under it. T
- **Statement 2 is correct:** PLI stands for Production Linked Incentive which in simple terms mean that for every

product sold in the market, there will be incentive given to the manufacturer. It means an incentive for the local manufacturers to produce more to earn incentives.

Polity

Judiciary

Medium

The Hindu

Q. With respect to the judges of the High Court, consider the following statements:

1. The judges of the High Court can be impeached by either the legislative assemblies or the Parliament.
2. The judges of the High Court before entering upon the office make and subscribe before the President of India.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** A judge of the SC or HC may be impeached on the basis of proven misbehavior and incapacity. For the impeachment of the SC or HC judge, the motion can originate only in the Parliament (either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha). The motion if proposed in the Rajya Sabha has to be signed by at least 50 members and if proposed in Lok Sabha has to be signed by at least 100 members.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Article 219** states the **Oath or affirmation** by

Judges of High Courts. Every person appointed to be a Judge of a High Court shall, before he enters upon his office, make and subscribe before the Governor of the State, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule.

Geography

Water and

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following pairs:

1. Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project - Arunachal Pradesh
2. Dagmara Hydro-Electric Project - Bihar
3. Srisaillam Right Bank Power Station Project - Andhra Pradesh

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project - Arunachal Pradesh
- Dagmara Hydro-Electric Project - Bihar
- Srisaillam Right Bank Power Station Project - Andhra Pradesh

Polity

Tribunals

Medium



The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Foreigners Tribunal was created as a result of the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, of 1964.
2. The tribunal for foreigners is a quasi-judicial institution unique to Assam.
3. Central Government has the authority to establish a foreigners tribunal.

How many statements are correct?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. only three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has provided explicit rules to locate, imprison, and deport foreign nationals who are residing illegally throughout the country. The Foreigners Tribunal was created as a result of the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, of 1964.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The tribunal for foreigners is a quasi-judicial institution unique to Assam.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It allowed state administration (District Collector/District Magistrate) to send a person suspected of being a foreigner to the Tribunals. The Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, of 1964 was passed by the Central government by the exercise of powers provided under Section 3 of the Foreigners Act, of 1946. The MHA revised the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, granting district magistrates in all States and UTs the power to set up tribunals to decide whether someone is living in

India illegally classified as a foreigner or not. Before, only the Center had the authority to establish a tribunal.

Science and Technology

Basic Sciences

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following pairs: (Nickel Alloys)

1. Monel – nickel and copper
2. Hastelloy – nickel-iron-chromium alloy
3. Incoloy – nickel, molybdenum, and chromium

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- Monel – nickel and copper (corrosion resistance)
- Hastelloy – nickel, molybdenum, and chromium (high resistance to corrosion, especially in harsh chemical environments)
- Incoloy – nickel-iron-chromium alloy (high-temperature applications and resistance to oxidation and carburization)

International Relations

IMEC

Easy

The Hindu

Q. With respect to IMEC, consider the following:

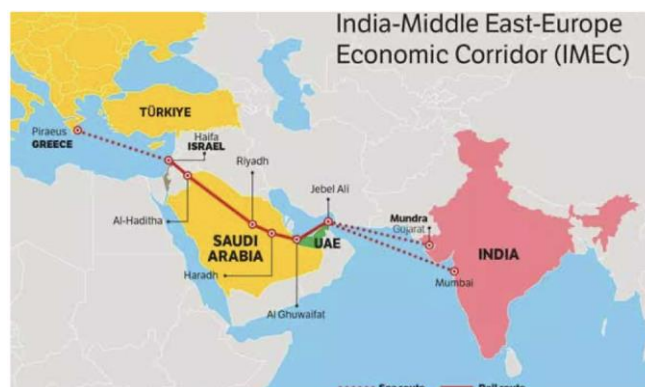
1. The India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was launched at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Italy.
2. The United States and the European Union are signatories of IMEC.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was launched at the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi on 9 September 2023 with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the leaders of India, the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The relevance and timeliness of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was reiterated by its constituents at the G7 Summit in Italy in June 2024, which called for the establishment of a credible roadmap for the coming 36 months.



Environment

Biodiversity

Medium

Indian Express

Q. With respect to Tardigrades, consider the following:

1. Tardigrades are aquatic animals
2. Tardigrades can undergo cryptobiosis and anhydrobiosis
3. These are mainly found in the lentic areas.

How many statements are correctly matched?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- Tardigrades, also known as "water bears", are robust aquatic animals that have been around for roughly 600 million years, 400 million years before dinosaurs walked the planet. They have survived all the five major mass extinction events to have taken place thus far, and scientists believe they could be around long after humanity has died out.
- Typically about 0.5 mm long when

fully grown, tardigrades have four pairs of legs, with 4-6 claws on each foot. They also have a specialised mouth which helps them suck nutrients from plant cells, algae, and other small invertebrates.

- Tardigrades can be found almost everywhere - from the highest mountains to the deepest oceans. Their most common habi-tat, however, is the thin film of water found on mosses and lichens, which bestows upon these animals the moniker of "moss piglets".
- This is because tardigrades are remarkably resilient creatures, known to survive in the harshest of conditions. Water bears have been known to withstand temperatures as low as minus 272.95 degrees Celsius or as high as 150 degrees Celsius; endure ultraviolet radiation of space and pressures of 40,000 kilopascals (equivalent to what can be experienced at a depth of 4 km under the ocean's surface); and live after being stored in a freezer for 30 years, tardigrades owe their incredible resilience to cryptobiosis, a state in which organisms bring their metabolism to a near-complete standstill in the face of adverse environmental conditions. Tardigrades can reduce their metabolism to less than 0.01% of normal, and drop their water levels by more than 95%, a state called anhydrobiosis.
- Both anhydrobiosis and cryptobiosis result in the emergence of a durable shrunken state, called tun, in which tardigrades are able to withstand extreme conditions.

Geography

International Trade (NCERT)

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs:

1. Visakhapatnam Port - Natural harbour
2. Mumbai Port - Satellite Port
3. Jawaharlal Nehru Port - Landlocked Port

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- Visakhapatnam Port - Landlocked Port
- Mumbai Port - Natural harbour
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port - Satellite Port

Environment

Conservation

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs:

1. Project Elephant - 1992
2. Project Hangul - 1970
3. Project Crocodile - 1975

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- **Project Elephant** – 1992 Elephant is a National Heritage animal of India and has been protected under Schedule I species of Indian Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. Concerned at the primary need to restore the elephant habitats and reduce suffering of both elephants as well as the human population, the Government of India launched the “Project Elephant” in 1991-92 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. It was intended to provide financial and technical support to the elephant range states of India for the protection of elephants, their habitats and corridors and address issues of human- animal conflict. It also sought to promote welfare of captive elephants.
- **Project Hangul** – 1970 Project Hangul, initiated in the 1970s, was a conservation initiative focused on protecting the Kashmir stag, also known as Hangul. This project, spearheaded by the Jammu & Kashmir Government with support from the IUCN and World Wildlife Fund, aimed to reverse the declining population of the Hangul due to habitat loss, overgrazing, and poaching.
- **Project Crocodile** – 1975 Crocodile Conservation Project was launched in 1975 in different States. Since Odisha is recognized for the existence of all the three species of Indian crocodilians, the Gharial and Saltwater crocodile conservation programme was first implemented in Odisha in early 1975 and subsequently, the Mugger

conservation programme was initiated. The UNDP/ FAO provided funds and other technical support through the Government of India.

Economy

Markets

Medium

Indian Express

Q. With respect to association of mutual funds in India, consider the following:

1. It is a non-profit industry body.
2. It manages all Mutual Funds in India that are registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
3. The ‘Mutual Funds Sahi Hai’ campaign was initiated by AMFI.

How many statements are correct?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. only three
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- **Statement 1 and 2 are correct:** Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) is a non-profit industry body of the asset management companies (AMCs) of all Mutual Funds in India that are registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The ‘Mutual Funds Sahi Hai’ campaign, a nationwide investor awareness media outreach in various languages initiated by AMFI in 2017 under SEBI’s guidance, is one of the key efforts of AMFI to spread awareness about mutual funds as a distinct asset class.

Additional Information

- Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) is a non-profit industry body of the asset management companies (AMCs) of all Mutual Funds in India that are registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- AMFI was incorporated on August 22, 1995 under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (corresponding Section 8 of the new Companies Act, 2013), as a non-profit organisation.
- AMFI is dedicated to developing the Indian Mutual Fund industry on professional, healthy and ethical lines, and to enhance and maintain standards in all areas in the best interest of investors and other stakeholders.
- The role of AMFI, inter-alia, is to (i) address the issues and challenges concerning the mutual fund industry to facilitate ease of doing business for its members, unitholders and various stakeholders; (ii) liaison / advocacy with the SEBI/ Reserve bank of India, Government of India etc. with regard to the issues and policy matters concerning the mutual fund industry; (iii) introduce best practices and standardised operational guidelines for being uniformly followed by all AMCs (iv) disseminate important information pertaining to mutual funds on AMFI's website, such as displaying daily NAVs of all MF schemes , performance of all MF Schemes and other useful and informational data pertaining to MF Industry; and (v) creating awareness about mutual funds through mass media.
- AMFI functions under the broad guidance of the AMFI Board, comprising fifteen Directors, elected from various categories of AMCs and operates on a co-operative model with the help of various standing committees and working groups.
- AMFI has evolved an effective approach for introducing best practices using collective knowledge and expertise of members on various subjects pertaining to the Mutual Fund Industry by setting up various standing committees, namely, (i) Financial Literacy Committee; (ii) Operations & Compliance Committee (iii) Risk Committee; (iv) Committee on Certified Distributors (ARN Committee; (v) Equity CIOs Committee; (vi) Valuation Committee (comprising fixed income CIOs); and (vii) ETF Committee.
- Since the time it was established, AMFI has evolved as a highly respected representative body of the MF industry, owing to active involvement of its members and has strived towards introducing several best practices across various areas, such as disclosures, operations and risk management, valuation of securities, streamlining the customer service and investor protection and communication, to be uniformly followed by all its members in the best interest of the investors.
- The 'Mutual Funds Sahi Hai' campaign, a nationwide investor awareness media outreach in various languages initiated by AMFI in 2017

under SEBI's guidance, is one of the key efforts of AMFI to spread awareness about mutual funds as a distinct asset class. The MFSH campaign with simple, but very clear messaging through advertisements in different languages has helped dispel the myths associated with mutual funds and popularise mutual fund investments among retail investors and has helped the industry in adding a significant number of investor accounts as well as investments.

International Relations

Look West

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Which of the following seas does not border Turkey?

- A. Aegean Sea
B. Mediterranean Sea
C. Black Sea
D. Caspian Sea

Answer: D



Geography

Important Passes

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following pairs (Mountain pass and State)

1. Debsa Pass – Assam
2. Chankan Pass – Himachal Pradesh
3. Mana Pass – Jammu and Kashmir

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. only one
B. only two
C. only three
D. None of the above

Answer: D

Debsa Pass – Himachal Pradesh

Chankan Pass – Arunachal Pradesh

Mana Pass – Uttarakhand



Geography

Demography

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements

1. The fertility rate refers to the number of live births per 1000 women in the child-bearing age group
2. Maternal mortality rate is the number of women who die in childbirth per 1,00,000 live births.
3. High fertility rate means low births in a given area.

How many statements are incorrect?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. only three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The fertility rate refers to the number of live births per 1000 women in the child-bearing age group.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Maternal mortality rate is the number of women who die in childbirth per 1,00,000 live births.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** High fertility rate means high birth rate in a given area. It means the women are producing more children and births are above the replacement ratio of 2.1. It means increased or constant population growth but no negative population growth.

Environment

Acts

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 provides for the Constitution of the National Board for Wild Life.
2. Hunting of wild animals under schedule I is permitted under certain cases.

Which of the statements above is or are incorrect?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Section 5 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 provides for the constitution of the National Board for Wildlife.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Section 11 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 provides for the Hunting of wild animals to be permitted in certain cases but the Chief Wildlife Warden's permission is required and he/she must be satisfied that the animal is a threat to the human life and is beyond recovery and cannot be captured, tranquilised or translocated.

Science and technology

Space

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Falcon 9 is faster to reach the International Space Station than Russia's Soyuz.
2. The rockets fly in a circular trajectory and not in a straight and vertical trajectory.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Falcon 9 is slower to reach the International Space

Station than Russia's Soyuz. Falcon 9 will take approximately 28 hours to reach the ISS which the Russian Soyuz can do in eight hours.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The rockets fly in a circular trajectory and not in a straight and vertical trajectory. This is done to avoid the expenses of the project as the straight trajectory will take more fuel to act against the gravity of the earth which is economically not viable. Therefore, a circular trajectory is considered.

International Relations

International Treaties

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The high seas treaty was adopted by the United Nations in 2023.
2. The treaty is legally binding on the nations
3. The treaty derives its powers from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

How many statements are correct?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. only three
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- **Statement 1 and 3 are correct:** The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ

Agreement) was adopted on 19 June 2023 by the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction convened under the auspices of the United Nations. The BBNJ Agreement becomes the third implementing agreement to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The treaty is legally binding on the nations and is aimed to fulfill the SDG 14 for a better and sustainable marine ecosystem.

Geography

Drainage System

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following pairs: (Rivers and Tributaries)

1. Jhelum – Lidder
2. Chenab – Budhil
3. Ravi – Kalnai

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. only three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- Jhelum – Lidder
- Chenab – Kalnai
- Ravi – Budhil
- **Jhelum Tributaries** – The Jhelum River's major tributaries include the Kishanganga (Neelum) River, Lidder River, and Sandran River. Other tributaries mentioned include the Bringi River, Arapath River, Watlala

River, Vishaw River, and Rambhara River.

- **Chenab Tributaries** – The Chenab River is formed by the confluence of the Chandra and Bhaga rivers. Its major tributaries include Marusudar, Miyar Nalla, Thirot, Bhut Nalla, Lidrari, Kalnai, Neeru, and Tawi.
- **Ravi Tributaries** – The Ravi River, originating in the Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh, India, has several tributaries that join it along its course. Some key tributaries include Budhil, Dhona (Nai), Seul, Seva, and Tant Gari. In addition, the Ravi is joined by streams in the Himalayan zone like Sai, Panjpula, Chand, and Naini. Within Punjab, Purani Ravi and Saki are notable tributaries, along with seasonal nallahs like Kiran and Niomi.

International Relations

International

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The original countries who formed the European Union were Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Britain, and the Netherlands.
2. EU accounts for 5.6 % of the world's population.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

The EU and its Member States

- **Founded:** in 1951 after the Second World War by six countries (Belgium, France, Germany, **Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands**).
- **Current Member States:** 27 countries.
- **Applicants for future membership:** 9 candidate countries and 1 potential candidate.
- **Institutional setup:** the EU has a unique setup of institutions, bodies and agencies who all work for the common interests of the EU and European people. 7 European institutions, 9 EU bodies and over 30 decentralised agencies with specific roles are spread across the EU.
- **Elections:** European elections are held every five years to elect new Members of the European Parliament.
- **People, size and open borders**
- **Population:** more than 448 million inhabitants who account for 5.6 % of the world's population.
- **Population evolution:** experts estimate that the EU population will grow steadily until the year 2026, after which it is projected to fall back to 420 million by 2100.
- **Multicultural societies:** around 41 million EU residents are foreign citizens. Almost 14 million of them are citizens of EU Member States other than the one in which they reside. The rest are citizens of non-EU countries. On average, 3.1% of the people who live in an EU country are from another EU country, and 6.1% have the nationality of a non-EU country.
- **Geographical size:** 4 million km². Germany has the EU's largest

population and France is the largest EU country in terms of area. Malta is the smallest EU country both in terms of inhabitants and surface area.

- **Urbanisation:** 39% of the EU population lives in a city, 36% in towns and suburbs, and 25% in rural areas.
- **Open borders:** the Schengen area allows people to move around without border checks since 1985. It underpins the EU's free movement principle, thanks to which every EU citizen can travel, work and live in any EU country without special formalities. All EU Member States, except for Cyprus and Ireland, are members of the Schengen area. Bulgaria and Romania joined most recently, in March 2024. 4 non-EU countries (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein) are also part of Schengen.

International Relations

International Organisations

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs: (Organisations and HQs)

1. World Trade Organisation – New York
2. UNICEF – Washington DC
3. World Bank – Geneva

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. only one
- B. only two
- C. only three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- World Trade Organisation – Geneva
- UNICEF – New York
- World Bank – Washington DC


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International Relations

Maritime Exercises

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs

1. Exercise Ekuverin - India and Maldives
2. DUSTELIK - VI Military Exercise - India and Myanmar
3. Varuna - India and USA

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- Exercise Ekuverin - India and Maldives
- DUSTELIK - VI Military Exercise - India and Uzbekistan
- Varuna - India and France

Miscellaneous

Demographic Data and Policy Making

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

1. Census helps the policymakers in setting the baseline for the policies.
2. The biggest rate of migration taking place in India is rural-urban migration

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. None of the above

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Census helps the policymakers like the government and the RBI to make policies. The census data is the complicated calculations based on which the consumer patterns can be recognised e.g. Consumer Price Index will help formulate the consumption pattern of the consumer as per which the policies can be formulated.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The rural to rural migration is at 48% whereas urban to urban migration is stated at 46%.

Geography

The Solar System

Easy

Indian Express

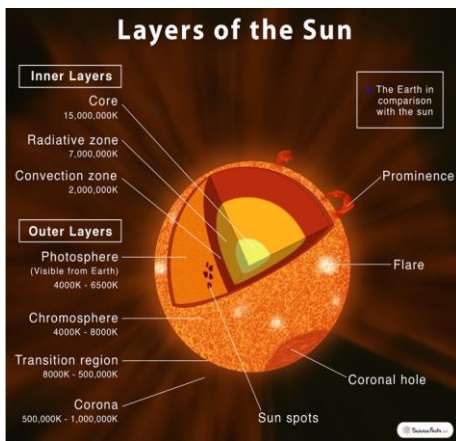
Q. Arrange the layers of the sun from the innermost to the outermost regions:

1. Photosphere
2. Radiative Zone
3. Chromosphere
4. Convection Zone

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- A. 2,4,1,3
- B. 2,3,1,4
- C. 2,1,4,3
- D. 1,2,4,3

Answer: A



Environment

Biodiversity

Medium

Indian Express

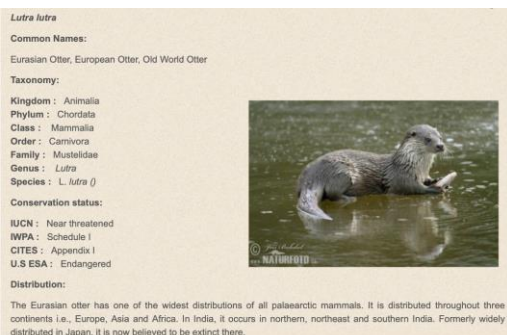
Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Eurasian Otter is distributed throughout Europe, Asia and Africa.
2. It belongs to the order carnivora
3. It falls under appendix – I of CITES.

How many statements is or are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All the three
4. None of the above

Answer: C



Polity

Reservation

Easy

Indian Express

Q. With respect to reservation, consider the following:

1. Article 333 of the Indian Constitution provides for reservation of seats and special representation to cease after certain period.
2. The OBC's were originally a part of the reservation system in India.

Which of the statements is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- Article 334 of the Indian Constitution provides for reservation of seats and special representation to cease after a certain period.
- The OBC's were not originally a part of the reservation system in India. They were given representation in 1992 after 27% reservation was opined by the Mandal Commission.

Polity

Legislations

Hard

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to the New Income Tax Bill:

1. The Bill proposes April 1, 2026 as the date of its commencement.
2. The Bill proposes to include virtual digital assets for undisclosed income.

3. The Bill empowers the state governments also to frame new schemes for greater efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

How many statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- The Income-Tax Bill, 2025 was introduced in Lok Sabha on February 13, 2025. It seeks to replace the Income-Tax Act, 1961. The Bill retains most of the provisions of the 1961 Act. It primarily aims to simplify the language and remove redundant provisions. Tax rates and regimes for individuals and corporations remain unchanged. Most definitions have also been retained. There are no changes in offences and penalties. The Bill proposes April 1, 2026 as the date of its commencement. Key changes include:
- **Power to frame schemes:** The Act provides for faceless collection of information and assessment of tax cases. The Bill retains these provisions. It also seeks to empower the central government to frame new schemes for greater efficiency, transparency, and accountability. This can be done by: (i) eliminating the interface with the assessee through technology and (ii) optimising resource utilisation through economies of scale and functional specialisation. The schemes framed by the central government must be laid before Parliament.

- **Undisclosed income:** Under the Act, undisclosed income for assessing search cases is defined to include money, bullion, jewellery, or other valuable articles. The Bill expands this definition to include virtual digital assets. These include any code, number, or token generated cryptographically and provide a digital representation of value exchanged. This change has also been proposed in the Finance Bill, 2025.

Environment

Climate Change

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. India has pledged net zero carbon emission by 2070.
2. Pressurised heavy water reactor uses deuterium oxide as both coolant and moderator.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- Statement 1 is correct: India has pledged net zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- Statement 2 is correct: Pressurised heavy water reactor uses deuterium oxide as both coolant and moderator. Deuterium oxide, also known as

"heavy water," is a form of water (H_2O) where all hydrogen atoms are replaced by deuterium (D), a heavy isotope of hydrogen. Its chemical formula is D_2O . Heavy water is primarily used as a neutron moderator and coolant in certain types of nuclear reactors.

- Due to this uranium enrichment is not required in the nuclear power plant to generate electricity.

International Relations

International Organisations

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following:

1. Nigeria is the 101st member of the World Trade Organisation.
2. WTO annually publishes a Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report.

Which of the statement is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Nicaragua became the 101st member of WTO on 2nd June 2025.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report is published biannually.

Current Affairs

Miscellaneous

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements

1. Global Gender Gap report is being published since 2006.
2. Global Gender Gap report considers data based on 4 parameters to assess gender parity.
3. Global Gender Gap report published by World Economic forum is a bi-annual report.

How many statements is or are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- Statements 2 is correct and 3 is incorrect: The Global Gender Gap Index annually benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions (subindexes): Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment.
- Statement 1 is correct: Since launching in 2006, it is the longest-standing index tracking the progress of numerous countries' efforts towards closing these gaps over time.

Science and Technology

Defence

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Space Based Surveillance works on a Public Private Partnership Model.

2. SBS 3 model will deploy 52 spy satellites to secure the Indian defence system.

Which of the following statements is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** To bolster national security, India has fast-tracked its ambitious Space Based Surveillance (SBS-3) program, slashing the timeline for deploying 52 spy satellites from four years to just one. Approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security in October 2024, this Rs 22,500-crore (\$3 billion) initiative aims to enhance India's ability to monitor its borders, particularly activities in Pakistan, and provide critical support during natural disasters like floods and earthquakes.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The SBS-3 program involves a collaborative effort between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and private industry. ISRO will develop 21 of the satellites, while three private companies- Anant Technologies, Centum Electronics, and Alpha Design-have been tasked with producing the remaining 31. These firms have been directed by the Ministry of Defence to compress their development timelines to 12-18 months, with the satellites now targeted for deployment by the end of 2026 or earlier, compared to the original 2028 schedule. This

accelerated timeline follows the recent Operation Sindoor, a response to the Pahalgam massacre, highlighting the urgency of enhancing India's surveillance capabilities amid heightened regional tensions.

- The satellites, which will leverage artificial intelligence to interact with each other in space, are designed to gather geo-intelligence with unprecedented precision. This capability will significantly strengthen India's monitoring of adversarial movements, particularly along its volatile borders with Pakistan and China. Beyond security, the satellites will also play a vital role in disaster management, providing real-time data to aid in relief efforts during natural calamities.

International Relations

International Organisations

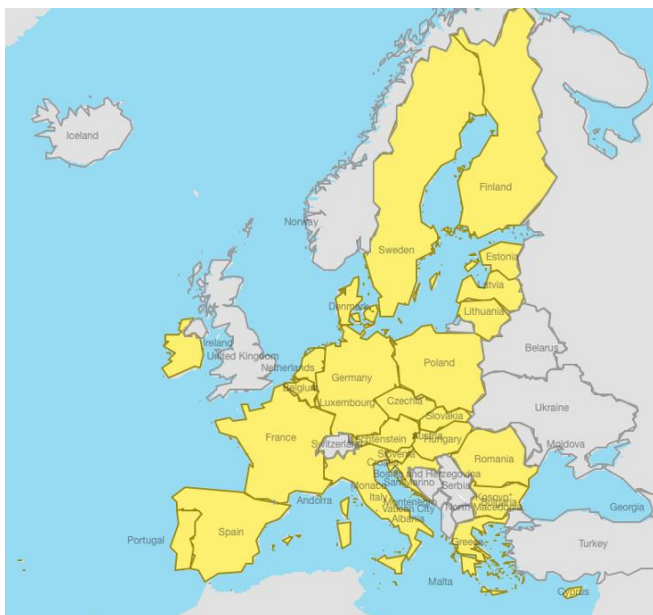
Easy

Live Mint

Q. Which of the following are not the members of the European Union?

- A. Malta
- B. Croatia
- C. Cyprus
- D. Switzerland

Answer: D



Polity

Acts and Legislations

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to Central Consumer Protection Authority:

1. The CCPA is a statutory body.
2. CCPA functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Which of the following statements is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

THE CENTRAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY (CCPA)

The CCPA has been established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and has come in to force w.e.f 24th July 2020 to regulate matters relating to violation of rights of consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements which are prejudicial to the interests of consumers as class and public at large.

POWERS OF CENTRAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY (CCPA) -

- protect, promote and enforce the rights of consumers as a class, and prevent violation of consumers rights under this Act;
- prevent unfair trade practices and ensure that no person engages himself in unfair trade practices;
- ensure that no false or misleading advertisement is made of any goods or services which contravenes the provisions of this Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder;
- ensure that no person takes part in the publication of any advertisement which is false or misleading.

Miscellaneous

GI Tags

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs (Mango variety and GI Tags)

1. Fazli – Odisha
2. Jardalu – Uttar Pradesh
3. Banganapalle – Kerala

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- Fazli – West Bengal
- Jardalu – Bihar
- Banganapalle – Andhra Pradesh

Economy

Markets

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. NPCI is a joint initiative of the RBI and

Indian Banks' Association

2. NPCI has been incorporated as a Not for Profit Company
3. NPCI focuses on both retail and corporate payments.

How many statements is or are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- Statements 1 is correct and statement 3 is incorrect: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.
- Statement 2 is correct: Considering the utility nature of the objects of NPCI, it has been incorporated as a "Not for Profit" Company under the provisions of Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956 (now Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013), with an intention to provide infrastructure to the entire Banking system in India for physical as well as electronic payment and settlement systems. The company is focused on bringing innovations to retail payment systems through the use of technology to achieve greater efficiency in operations and widen the reach of payment systems.

Science and Technology

Basic Science

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. RREs consists of 15 lanthanides.
2. Heavy rare-earth elements have large radius
3. RREs are metallic in nature

How many statements is or are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct: RREs are 17 metallic elements out of which 15 are lanthanides. Due to this nature it is used in modern technology like EVs, defence equipments etc.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Heavy RREs have a small radius. In the periodic table, if the elements have the same number of electron shells, increasing the number of proton (go from left to right on the periodic table) will lead to a decrease in the radius of element. The reason is that the inner core will hold all the electrons more tightly with more protons.

International Relations

Places in news

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Which of the following does not border Iran?

- A. Uzbekistan
- B. Turkmenistan
- C. Afghanistan
- D. Pakistan

Answer: A



Explore the energy system by country or region

Member countries

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Canada
Czechia
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Korea

Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Mexico
New Zealand
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Slovak Republic
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
The Netherlands
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States

Accession countries

Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Israel

Association countries

Argentina
Brazil
China
Egypt
India
Indonesia
Kenya
Morocco
Senegal
Singapore
South Africa
Thailand
Ukraine

Economy

Finance

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The 14th Finance Commission recommended the establishment of a GST Compensation Fund.
2. The 15th Finance Commission increased the share of states in the central taxes to be 41%.

Which of the statements above is or correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The 14th Finance Commission recommended the establishment of a GST Compensation Fund which will provide the state governments a compensation in case there is any loss with respect to GST.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The 15th Finance Commission decreased the share of states in the central taxes to be 41%. The 14th finance commission originally provided for 42% share of the states which was decreased to 41%.

Environment

Climate Change

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following with respect to International Energy Agency?

1. IEA headquarters is in New York
2. India is a member country of IEA
3. Oil Market Report is published by IEA

How many statements is or are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** IEA headquarters is located in Paris
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** India is an associate member
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Oil Market Report is published by IEA

International Relations

Treaties

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Non-compliance with NPT results in de-nuclearization of the nation.
2. Iran was one of the original signatories of the NPT.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** NPT was signed in 1970, and non-compliance does not lead to de-nuclearization but enhanced checks and increased diplomatic talks. The last resort leads to the confiscation of the assets produced by the defaulting nation by the International Atomic Agency.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** NPT was first a treaty between the USA, Soviet Union and UK in 1968. It was open to signatures and ratifications and Iran was one of the original signatories of the NPT in 1970, one of the first nations to verify and ratify the treaty.

Economy

Markets

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Deep discount bonds offer a longer maturity period.
2. Deep discount bonds are riskier than other bonds.
3. Deep discount bonds provide tax advantages.

How many statements is or are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- Deep discount bonds are bonds sold at a price significantly below their face value, for a period more than 5 years, often at a discount of 20% or more. They are typically zero-coupon bonds, meaning they don't pay regular interest payments. Instead, investors earn a return by buying the bond at a discount and redeeming it at its face value upon maturity. **Statement 1 is correct.**

Key Characteristics of Deep Discount Bonds:

- **Issued at a Discount:** The defining feature is their issuance at a price lower than their face value.
- **Zero-Coupon:** They usually don't pay periodic interest payments.
- **Maturity Value:** The investor receives the full face value of the bond when it matures.
- **Higher Risk/Higher Return:** Deep discount bonds can offer higher potential returns due to the discounted price and the potential for capital appreciation. **Statement 2 is correct.**

- **Interest Rate Sensitivity:** Deep discount bonds can be more sensitive to interest rate fluctuations. Their prices can fluctuate more significantly than traditional bonds.

Deep Discount Bonds in the Indian Context

- The bonds are available in denominations of ₹1,000 with a minimum investment of ₹5,000. Unlike other bonds, the income from these bonds is **tax-exempt under the Income Tax Act, 1961**. This structure makes them appealing to long-term investors. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Economy

Trade

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. India directly imports oil from Iran leading to the supply chain disruption.
2. Global supply decreased in a single day after Israel-Iran conflict.
3. Gold prices dropped too due to decreased demand.

How many statements is or are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India imports crude oil from UAE, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Global supply of oil decreased by 8% in a single day

after the Israel-Iran conflict.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Gold prices increased over 1 lakh for 10 grams in India as gold is an asset and easy to hedge the price.

Science and Technology | Space | Easy | The Hindu

Q. How many pairs are correctly matched?

1. Roscosmos – Russia
2. CNES – Germany
3. CONAE – Spain

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- Roscosmos – Russia
- CNES – France
- CONAE – Argentina

Environment | Acts | Medium | Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

1. FRA provides for local self-governance.
2. The Nodal Agency under FRA is notified by the state governments individually in each state.

Which of the statements above is or correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A



- **Statement 1 is correct:** Objective of the Forest Rights Act:
- To empower and strengthen the local self-governance.
- To address the tenurial security and the livelihood security of the people, leading to poverty alleviation and pro poor growth.
- To address the issues of Conservation and management of the Natural Resources and secure the ecosystem.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Section 11 of FRA deals with Nodal agency which states that** *"The Ministry of the Central Government dealing with Tribal Affairs or any officer or authority authorised by the Central Government on this behalf shall be the nodal agency for the implementation of the provisions of this Act."*

International Relations

International Organisations

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements: (UNGA committees)

1. Economic and Financial Committee – First Committee
2. Legal Committee – Fifth Committee
3. Disarmament & International Security – Second Committee

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

MAIN COMMITTEES

- First Committee (Disarmament & International Security)
- Second Committee (Economic & Financial)
- Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural)
- Fourth Committee (Special Political & Decolonization)
- Fifth Committee (Administrative & Budgetary)
- Sixth Committee (Legal)

Science and Technology

Nuclear Energy

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. U-235 is stable, and U-239 is unstable.
2. Uranium hexafluoride is volatile, white solid used for uranium enrichment.
3. Uranium is highly explosive similar to RDX.

How many statements is or are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** U-235 is unstable, and U-239 is stable. For a chain reaction to begin, U-235 is used so that a single thermal neutron may collide with U-235 releasing 3 neutrons and by-products. These 3 neutrons further collide with U-235 and the

chain reaction begins.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Uranium hexafluoride is a volatile, white solid used for uranium enrichment. The ideal percentage of enrichment is 90% for the uranium to be used in chain reactions.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** U-235/239 is not explosive like RDX or TNT. It is just in its stable or unstable form. In its unstable form, it only requires a proton to begin the chain reaction to release nuclear energy. All the nuclear equipment and devices comes with a safety net (like boron 10) to stop the reaction.



International Relations

Places in News

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

1. Cyprus will chair the EU Council in the later part of 2025.
2. Capital of Cyprus is Nicosia.
3. Cyprus is an island nation in the Mediterranean Sea.

How many statements are incorrect?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Science and Technology

Genetics (NCERT)

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following with respect to DNA.

1. DNA as an acidic substance present in nucleus
2. The backbone of a polynucleotide chain is formed due to sugar and phosphates.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** DNA is considered an acidic substance. This is due to the presence of phosphate groups in its structure, which are acidic and become negatively charged at cellular pH. These negatively charged phosphate groups contribute to DNA's overall acidic nature.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The backbone of a polynucleotide chain, like DNA or RNA, is formed by the alternating sugar and phosphate groups of the nucleotides. These components are linked together by covalent bonds, specifically phosphodiester bonds, creating a continuous sugar-phosphate backbone.

International Relations

Places in News

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following countries does not surround the Strait of Hormuz?

- A. Oman
- B. Israel
- C. Iran
- D. UAE

Answer: B



Governance

Schemes

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

1. MGNREGA is applicable to whole of India including Jammu and Kashmir.
2. Under NREGA, state governments were directed to provide for jobs withing six months.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- Statement 1 is correct: The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) was initially launched in Jammu & Kashmir in three backward districts (Doda, Kupwara, and Poonch) in 2006. It was later extended to two more districts (Anantnag and Jammu) in a second phase, and finally to the entire state in 2008-09.

- Statement 2 is correct:

4. (1) For the purposes of giving effect to the provisions of section 3, every State Government shall, within six months from the date of commencement of this Act, by notification, make a Scheme, for providing not less than one hundred days of guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in the rural areas covered under the Scheme and whose adult members, by application, volunteer to do unskilled manual work subject to the conditions laid down by or under this Act and in the Scheme:

Economy

Inflation

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following pairs: (CPI and their weightage in CPI Basket)

1. Housing – 10.07
2. Fuel and Light – 3.56

3. Oils and Fats – 6.84

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- Housing – 10.07
- Fuel and Light – 6.84
- Oils and Fats – 3.56

Miscellaneous

RRE

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following pairs: (RREs and their use)

1. Scandium – Super Alloys
2. Cerium – Catalysts
3. Lanthanum – Optical Glass

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Here is a list of 17 rare earth elements and what they are used for

Scandium:	Super alloys, ultra-light aerospace components, X-ray tubes, baseball bats, lights, semiconductors
Yttrium:	Ceramics, metal alloys, rechargeable batteries, TV phosphors, high-temperature superconductors
Lanthanum:	Batteries, optical glass, camera lenses, petroleum refining catalysts
Cerium:	Catalysts, metal alloys, radiation shielding, water purifier
Praseodymium:	Magnets, lasers, pigments, cryogenic refrigerant
Neodymium:	High-strength permanent magnets, lasers, infrared filters, hard disc drives
Promethium:	Batteries, lighting, instruments
Samarium:	High temperature magnets, nuclear reactor control rods and shielding, lasers, microwave filters
Europium:	LCDs, fluorescent lighting, red and blue phosphors
Gadolinium:	MRI contrast agent, memory chips, nuclear reactor shielding, CDs
Terbium:	Green phosphors, lasers, fluorescent lamps, optical computer memories
Dysprosium:	Permanent magnets, lasers, catalysts, nuclear reactors
Holmium:	Lasers, nuclear reactors, catalysts, magnets
Erbium:	Lasers, vanadium steel, infrared absorbing glasses, optical fibres
Thulium:	Portable X-ray machines, microwaves
Ytterbium:	Infrared lasers, chemical reducing agent, rechargeable batteries, fibre optics
Lutetium:	PET scan detectors, superconductors, high refractive index glass, X-ray phosphor

Polity

Comptroller and Auditor General of India

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The CAG and his roles are laid in part VI of the constitution of India.
2. A resolution to remove the CAG needs to be passed by a 2/3rd majority of either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Part V of the constitution deals with The Union which includes establishment of CAG and roles and functions.
- Statement 2 is correct: Article – 148. Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. – (1) There shall be a Comptroller and Auditor-General of India who shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal and shall only be removed from office in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Environment

Climate Change

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Which of the following is not found in Flue Gas?

- A. Nitrogen oxide
- B. Sulphur dioxide
- C. Methane
- D. Carbon dioxide

Answer: C

- Flue Gas contains Carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, Sulphur dioxide, Nitrogen oxides and PM 2.5 and 10.

Miscellaneous

Special Economic Zones

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Number of notified SEZs in India as of now are 350.
2. Exports from SEZs as of March 2025 accounts for 172.28 Billion dollars.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Fact Sheet on Special Economic Zones as on 31.03.2025
 (Dedicated website: www.sezindia.nic.in)

Number of Formal approvals (As on 31.03.2025)	416				
Number of notified SEZs (As on 31.03.2025)	368 (Including 7 Central Govt.+10 State Govt. / Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005)				
Number of In-Principle Approvals (As on 31.03.2025)	36				
Operational SEZs (As on 31 st January, 2025)	276				
Units approved in SEZs (As on 31 st March, 2024)	6279				
Land for SEZs (As on 31.03.2025)	7 Central Govt. + 12 State Govt. / Pvt. SEZs notified before SEZ Act, 2005.	Notified SEZs under the SEZ Act, 2005	Total Notified SEZs Area (1+2)	Formally Approved SEZs (416-351)	Total Area (3+4)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	2080.28 Ha	36264.22 Ha	38344.50 Ha	5429.74 Ha	43774.24 Ha
	Land is a State subject. Land for SEZs is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments.				
INVESTMENT	Investment (As on February, 2006)	Incremental Investment	Total Investment (As on 31 st March, 2024)		
Central Government SEZs	Rs. 2,279.20 cr.	Rs. 30,059.82 cr.	Rs. 32,339.02 cr.		
State/Pvt. SEZs set up before 2006	Rs. 1,756.31 cr.	Rs. 19,086.84 cr.	Rs. 20,843.15 cr.		
SEZs Notified under the Act	-	Rs. 6,54,159.43 cr.	Rs. 6,54,159.43 cr.		
Total	Rs.4,035.51 cr.	Rs. 7,03,306.09 cr.	Rs. 7,07,341.60 cr.		
EMPLOYMENT	Employment (As on February, 2006)	Incremental Employment	Total Employment (As on 31 st March, 2024)		
Central Government SEZs	1,22,236 person	89,258 person	2,11,494 person		
State/Pvt. SEZs set up before 2006	12,468 person	1,10,801 person	1,23,269 person		
SEZs Notified under the Act	0 person	28,59,341 person	28,59,341 person		
Total	1,34,704 person	30,59,400 person	31,94,104 person		
Exports in 2022-23	Rs. 12,63,578 Crore [157.24 Billion USD] (Growth of 28% over of FY 2021-22)				
DTA Sale (Deemed exports)	Rs. 28,955 Crore (2% of total production)				
DTA Sale(Not counted for +ve NFE)	Rs. 2,49,761 Crore (16% of total production)				
Exports in 2023-24 (As on 31 st March, 2024)	Rs. 13,55,220 Crore [163.69 Billion USD] (Growth of 7% over the FY 2022-23)				
DTA Sale (Deemed exports)	Rs. 31,397 Crore (2% of total production)				
DTA Sale(Not counted for +ve NFE)	Rs. 2,72,742 Crore (16% of total production)				
Exports in 2024-25 (As on 31 st March, 2025)	Rs. 14,56,930 Crore [172.28 Billion USD] (Growth of 7.51% over the exports of the corresponding period of FY 2023-24)				

Geography

Places in News

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following with respect to Muzaffarpur-Baharampur-Bheramara transmission line:

1. The duration of trilateral agreement is six years.

2. This agreement was signed in 2023.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- Statement 2 is incorrect: India, Nepal and Bangladesh entered into a trilateral agreement on 3rd April 2024 wherein Nepal will supply electricity to Bangladesh using the Muzaffarpur-Baharampur-Bheramara transmission line.
- Statement 1 is incorrect: The duration of the agreement is five years wherein Nepal will charge 6.4 US cents per unit of electricity.

Economy

Agriculture

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Government of Punjab has banned rice transplantation.
2. Lodging is a challenge in Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR)

Which of the statements is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Statement 1 is correct: Government of Punjab banned rice transplantation in order to promote direct seeding of rice. This was done to reduce the input costs and also to reduce the harvesting cycle of production of rice.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Direct Seeding of Rice omits the initial step of growing saplings in the nursery. It offers several advantages over traditional transplanting, including water and labor savings, as well as potential for higher yields and reduced costs.
- **Benefits of DSR:**
- **Water Conservation:** Reduces water consumption compared to transplanting.
- **Labor Efficiency:** Reduces the need for manual labor.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Lower operational costs and potential for higher net returns.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Contributes to more sustainable rice production.
- **Adaptability to Changing Conditions:** Can be adapted to various weather conditions and soil types.
- **Potential Challenges of DSR:**
- **Weed Management:** Greater crop-weed competition can occur in DSR systems.
- **Seed Exposure:** Seeds are more exposed to birds, rats, and snails in DSR.
- **Lodging:** Plants may be more prone to lodging in DSR due to less root anchorage.

Economy

Markets

Medium

Live Mint

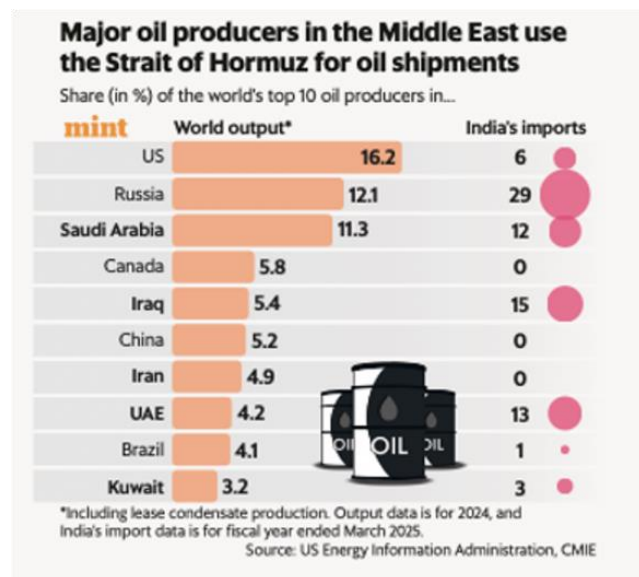
Q. Arrange the following countries (from lowest to highest) by their share of oil trade in the Strait of Hormuz:

1. Russia
2. China
3. UAE
4. Canada

Choose the correct answer:

- A. 1,2,3,4
- B. 1,2,4,3
- C. 2,1,3,4
- D. 3,2,4,1

Answer: D



Miscellaneous

NHAI

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements: (as of 31.12.2024)

1. NHAI is a non-statutory body.

2. The total length of highways in India is around 1,30,445 kms

Which of the statements is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** NHAI Act, 1988 "An Act to provide for the constitution of an Authority for the development, maintenance and management of national highways and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto".
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:**

State/UT wise National Highway Length as on 31st Dec 2024

Sr. No.	Name of State/UT	Length (in km)
1	Andhra Pradesh	8,683
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4,367
3	Assam	4,077
4	Bihar	6,132
5	Chandigarh	15
6	Chhattisgarh	3,620
7	Delhi	157
8	Goa	299
9	Gujarat	8,111
10	Haryana	3,347
11	Himachal Pradesh	2,607
12	Jammu & Kashmir	1,935
13	Jharkhand	3,633
14	Karnataka	8,191
15	Kerala	1,858
16	Ladakh	806
17	Madhya Pradesh	9,160
18	Maharashtra	18,462
19	Manipur	1,840
20	Meghalaya	1,156
21	Mizoram	1,499
22	Nagaland	1,670
23	Odisha	5,897
24	Puducherry	64
25	Punjab	4,264
26	Rajasthan	10,733
27	Sikkim	709
28	Tamil Nadu	7,000
29	Telangana	4,926
31	Tripura	889
30	Uttar Pradesh	12,123
32	Uttarakhand	3,664
33	West Bengal	3,910
34	A & N Islands	331
35	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	37
36	Daman & Diu	22
	Total	1,46,195

International Relations

International Organisations

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The FATF was established by the G7 in 1988.
2. Countries under High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action of FATF includes Iran and Myanmar.
3. South Africa falls under the grey list of the FATF.

How many statements is or are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was established in 1989 by the G7 to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering. It originally included the G7 countries, the European Commission and eight other countries.
- Statement 2 is correct: Countries under High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action of FATF (Black list) includes Iran and Myanmar and North Korea.

- Statement 3 is correct: South Africa falls under the grey list of the FATF. South Africa was greylisted by the global financial crime watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in February 2023 for not complying with international standards around the prevention of money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

International Relations

International Organisations

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following pairs

1. 47th G7 Summit – Germany
2. 48th G7 Summit – UK
3. 49th G7 Summit – Japan

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- **Kananaskis Summit**, Canada, June 15-17, 2025
- G7 virtual summit, February 24, 2025
- **Apulia Summit**, Italy, June 13-15, 2024
- **G7 virtual meeting**, December 13, 2024
- **G7 virtual meeting**, December 6, 2023 (under Japan's presidency)
- **Hiroshima Summit**, Japan, May 19-21, 2023 (includes statements throughout the year)

- **G7 virtual meeting**, February 24, 2023 (under Japan's presidency)
- **G7 virtual meeting**, December 12, 2022 (under German presidency)
- **G7 and NATO meeting** on the sidelines of the G20 Bali Summit, November 16, 2022 (under Germany's presidency)
- Videoconference, with Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky, October 11, 2022 (under Germany's presidency)
- **Elmau Summit**, Germany, June 26-28, 2022 (includes statements throughout the year)
- **G7 virtual summit** to discuss Ukraine, May 8, 2022 (under Germany's presidency)
- **G7 summit** to discuss Ukraine, Brussels, March 24, 2022 (under Germany's presidency)
- **G7 virtual summit** to discuss Ukraine, February 24, 2022 (under Germany's presidency)
- **G7 virtual summit** to discuss Afghanistan, August 24, 2021 (under UK presidency)
- **Cornwall Summit**, England, United Kingdom, June 11-13, 2021
- **G7 virtual meeting**, February 19, 2021 (under UK presidency)
- **U.S. Summit**, United States, scheduled to be held at Camp David on June 10-12, 2020, changed on March 19, 2020, to a videoconference from an in-person meeting and then postponed indefinitely [see also **Road to the U.S. Summit**]

- **Virtual summit to respond to COVID-19**, hosted by the United States, March 16, 2020
- **Biarritz Summit**, France, August 24-26, 2019

Miscellaneous

Indian Railways

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Darjeeling Himalayan Railways attained the World Heritage Status from UNESCO.
2. In south the first line was opened on 1st July, 1856 by the Madras Railway Company.

Which of the statements is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- Statement 1 is correct: Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), also known as the Toy Train, attained World Heritage status from UNESCO in 1999. Specifically, it was inscribed on the World Heritage List at the 23rd session of the World Heritage Committee held in Marrakesh, Morocco.



- Statement 2 is correct: In south the first line was opened on 1st July, 1856 by the Madras Railway Company. It ran between VyasarpadiJeeva Nilayam (Veyasarpandy) and Walajah Road (Arcot), a distance of 63 miles. In the North a length of 119 miles of line was laid from Allahabad to Kanpur on 3rd March 1859. The first section from Hathras Road to Mathura Cantonment was opened to traffic on 19th October, 1875.



International Relations

Places in News

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Which of the following country does not border Red Sea?

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Yemen
- C. Eritrea
- D. Egypt

Answer: A

Environment

Climate Change

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs

1. Minamata Convention – 1992
2. Basel Convention – 2013
3. Rio Summit – 1989

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- Minamata Convention – 2013
- Basel Convention – 1989
- Rio Summit – 1992

Disaster Management

Acts

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to the Disaster Management Act:

1. The Home Minister Acts as the chairperson of the NDMA.
2. The NDMA members must not exceed nine members.

Which of the statements is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Establishment of National Disaster Management Authority.—(1) With effect from such date as

- the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette appoint in this behalf, there shall be
- established for the purposes of this Act, an authority to be known as the National Disaster Management Authority.
- The National Authority shall consist of the Chairperson and such number of other members, not exceeding nine, as may be prescribed by the Central Government and, unless the rules otherwise provide, **Statement 2 is correct.**


the National Authority shall consist of the following:—

- the Prime Minister of India, who shall be the Chairperson of the National Authority,
- *ex officio*; Statement 1 is incorrect.

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Geography

Physical Geography of India

Medium

The Hindu

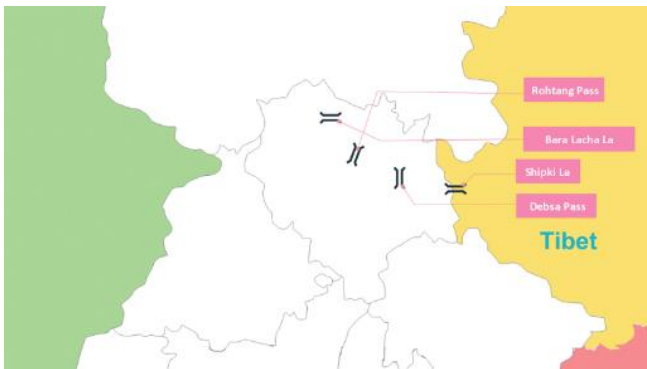
Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Shipki La pass was first closed in 1962.
2. Passes in Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh carry out more trade than Shipki La.
3. Shipki La is situated at a height of 3390 metres above the sea level.

How many statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A



Economy

RBI Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following with respect to CBDC:

1. CBDC is not a legal tender.
2. CBDC is of two types

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- In terms of Section 26 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934, every ₹ bank note shall be legal tender at any place in India in payment or on account for the amount expressed therein and is guaranteed by the Central Government. e₹, being a digital form of the ₹ bank note, is legal tender and is the liability of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The CBDC exists in two forms: Retail (CBDC-R) for the general public and Wholesale (CBDC-W) for interbank transactions.

Science and Technology

Basic Science

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following:

1. Non-Communicable diseases are also called chronic diseases.
2. NCB diseases are the result of a combination of genetic and physiological factors.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), also known as chronic diseases, tend to be of long duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behavioural factors.
- The main types of NCDs are cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes.
- NCDs disproportionately affect people in low- and middle-income countries, where nearly three quarters of global NCD deaths (32 million) occur.

Source: WHO

International Relations

Conventions

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Chicago convention was signed in 1943.
2. ICAO is the specialized agency of Economic and Social Council.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Convention on International Civil Aviation (also known as Chicago Convention), was signed on 7 December 1944 by 52 States. Pending ratification of the Convention by 26 States, the Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization (PICAO) was established. It functioned from 6 June 1945 until 4 April 1947. By 5 March 1947 the 26th ratification was received.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** ICAO came into being on 4 April 1947. In October of the same year, ICAO became a specialized agency of the United Nations linked to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Additional information:

- The Convention on International Civil Aviation set forth the purpose of ICAO:
- "WHEREAS the future development of international civil aviation can greatly help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world, yet its abuse can become a threat to the general security; and
- WHEREAS it is desirable to avoid friction and to promote that co-operation between nations and peoples upon which the peace of the world depends;

- THEREFORE, the undersigned governments having agreed on certain principles and arrangements in order that international civil aviation may be developed in a safe and orderly manner and that international air transport services may be established on the basis of equality of opportunity and operated soundly and economically;
- Have accordingly concluded this Convention to that end."

Environment

Climate Change

Medium

Indian Express

Q. As per ISFR 2023, Consider the following:

1. Mangrove cover of the country accounts for 0.15 % of the country's total geographical area.
2. In comparison to the 2021 assessment, there has been a net increase in the country's Mangrove coverage.
3. Notable increase in Mangrove forest cover is observed in Gujarat.

How many statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The total Mangrove cover of the country is 4,991.68 km², which accounts for 0.15 % of the country's total geographical area.

- Among this, Very Dense Mangrove comprises 1,463.97 km² (29.33%) of the total Mangrove cover, Moderately Dense Mangrove is 1,500.84 km² (30.07%) while Open Mangroves constitute an area of 2,026.87 km² (40.60%).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In comparison to the 2021 assessment, there has been a net decrease of 7.43 km² in the country's Mangrove coverage. Gujarat has a notable decrease of 36.39 km².
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Notable increase in Mangrove forest cover is observed in Andhra Pradesh (13.01 km²), followed by Maharashtra (12.39 km²).

Governance

PVTG

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category.
2. PVTGs are mostly homogenous.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups.

Statement 1 is correct

- In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- PVTGs have some basic characteristics - they are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, social institutes cast in a simple mould, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc. **Statement 2 is correct**

International Relations

Places in News

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Which of the following countries does not border the Caspian Sea?

- A. Iran
- B. Azerbaijan
- C. Russia
- D. Georgia

Answer: D



Science and Technology

Genetics

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

- The system of gene regulation without altering the DNA sequence is called epigenetics
- ACT, a gene involved in plant growth and development, is normally expressed at low levels in rice.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- One important method involves small chemical tags added to the DNA that help cells decide whether a gene should be switched on or off. This system of gene regulation without altering the DNA sequence is called epigenetics. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- They found that ACT1, a gene involved in plant growth and development, is normally expressed at high levels in rice. But when exposed to cold, its expression is switched off by the addition of a methyl group, an epigenetic tag that tells the plant's cells not to produce the protein. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**

Science and Technology

Space

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Match the following pairs: (Satellites and their countries/continents)

1. MMSAT 1 – South Africa
2. SUNSAT – Europe
3. Sentinel 2B – Burma

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- MMSAT 1 – Burma
- SUNSAT – South Africa
- Sentinel 2B – Europe

International Relations

SIPRI

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following:

1. SIPRI was established in 1966
2. SIPRI is an independent international institute
3. SIPRI HQs is in Sweden.

How many statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- SIPRI is & think tanks world wide.
Statement 3 is correct.

International Relations

International Treaties

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following:

1. Abraham Accords led to the formation of the West Asia Quad.
2. Morocco was the first Arab country to agree on the Abraham Accords.

Which of the following statement is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- I2U2 is a strategic and economic grouping that includes India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. It's sometimes referred to as the "West Asian Quad" or "Middle East Quad". The initiative focuses on joint investments and collaboration in areas like water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.
Statement 1 is correct.

About:

- The **Abraham Accords** are a series of agreements signed in **2020** between Israel and several Arab states, marking a historic shift in diplomatic relations in the Middle East.

- The Accords were named 'Abraham Accords' in reference to the supposed common ancestor of the Jews and the Arabs, the biblical Abraham, and as an expression of brotherhood.

The primary countries involved in the Abraham Accords include:

- **Israel:** As a key party to the Accords, Israel agreed to normalize diplomatic relations with the participating Arab nations, marking a significant departure from the historically hostile relationships it had with many Arab states.
- **United Arab Emirates (UAE):** The UAE was the first Arab country to formally announce its normalization of relations with Israel under the Abraham Accords. This historic agreement includes the establishment of full diplomatic relations, as well as economic, technological, and cultural exchanges. Statement 2 is incorrect.
- **Bahrain:** Bahrain followed the UAE's lead by signing a similar agreement with Israel. The Bahrain-Israel Peace Agreement also encompasses diplomatic relations and cooperation in various sectors.
- **Sudan:** Sudan joined the Abraham Accords by agreeing to normalize relations with Israel. This marked a major shift in Sudan's foreign policy and led to the removal of Sudan from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism.

- **Morocco:** Morocco, another Arab nation, joined the Accords with a commitment to normalize relations with Israel. This agreement included the United States' recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara in exchange for Morocco's engagement with Israel.

Miscellaneous

Acts

Hard

Live Mint

Q. With reference to Customs and Tariffs Act 1975, consider the following:

1. The First Schedule of the Act deals with Export Tariff.
2. Only the Central Government has the power to amend the first schedule.

Which of the following statement is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

10. Rules to be laid before Parliament.
11. Power of Central Government to alter duties under certain circumstances.
- 11A. Power of Central Government to amend First Schedule.
12. Repeal and saving.
13. Consequential amendment of Act 52 of 1962.

FIRST SCHEDULE-Import Tariff.

SECOND SCHEDULE-Export Tariff.

International Relations

Exercise

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following pairs Evacuation programmes and Country)

1. Operation Devi Shakti – Ukraine
2. Operation Ganga – Haiti
3. Operation Indravati – Afghanistan

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- Operation Devi Shakti: A total of 669 individuals have been evacuated from Afghanistan under "Operation Devi Shakti" by 6 IAF and Air India flights. This comprises 448 Indians and 206 Afghans, which includes members of the Afghan Hindu/Sikh community and 15 foreign nationals. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Operation Ganga: 18,282 Indian nationals, mainly students, were brought back to India from Ukraine at Government of India's cost by 90 flights, of which 76 were commercial flights and 14 IAF flights in February and March 2022. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Operation Indravati: The operation was launched in March 2024 to evacuate Indian nationals from Haiti amidst civil unrest. A total of 17 Indian nationals were safely evacuated from Haiti to Dominican Republic by helicopters. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Source: Ministry of External Affairs

Governance

Schemes

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following with respect to PM Awaas Yojana – Urban:

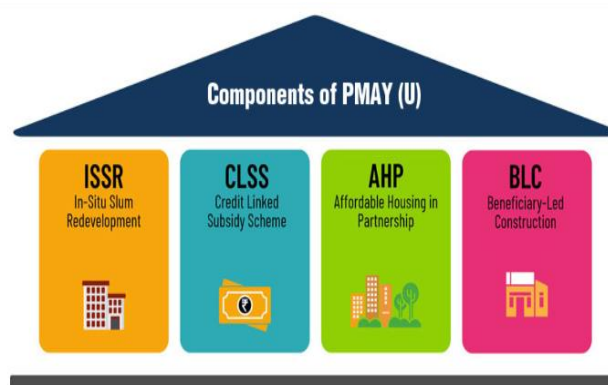
1. It is a Centrally sponsored scheme completely.
2. A beneficiary family under the Mission comprises husband or wife only.

Which of the following statement is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- The Mission is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) except the CLSS vertical of PMAY-U which is implemented as a Central Sector Scheme. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**



BENEFICIARY FAMILY

- A beneficiary family under the Mission comprises husband, wife, unmarried sons and/or unmarried daughters.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

- The beneficiary family should not own a pucca house (an all-weather dwelling unit) either in his/her name or in the name of any member of his/her family in any part of India. An adult earning member (irrespective of marital status) is treated as a separate household provided that:
- He/she does not own a pucca (an all-weather dwelling unit) house in his/her name in any part of India.
- In case of a married couple, either of the spouses or both together in joint ownership will be eligible for a single house, subject to income eligibility of the household under the scheme. An eligible beneficiary can take advantage of only one of the four verticals of the Mission.
- Further, such a person with a pucca house having built-up area less than 21 sq.m may be included for enhancement of existing dwelling units up to 30 sq.m. However, if enhancement is not possible on account of lack of availability of land/space or any other reason, she/he may get a house under PMAY(U) elsewhere.

International Relations

International Organisations

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. UNOC in 2022 took place in Portugal.
2. UNOC aims at catering SDG -12.
3. UNOC needs 60 participating nations in order to implement the BBNJ agreement.

How many statements is or are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

UNOC 2022

- Theme: Scaling up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of SDG Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions. Statement 2 is incorrect.
- The Ocean Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, came at a critical time as the world is seeking to address the many of the deep-rooted problems of our societies laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic and which will require major structural transformations and common shared solutions that are anchored in the SDGs. **Statement 1 is correct.**

UNOC 2025

Theme: “Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”.

- The high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (the 2025 UN Ocean Conference) was held in Nice, France, from 9 - 13 June 2025, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica.

BBNJ Agreement:

- Purpose:**
The BBNJ Agreement addresses the growing biodiversity crisis in the high seas, which are areas outside of any country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). It aims to protect marine life and ecosystems in these vast areas through measures like area-based management tools, environmental impact assessments, and the sharing of marine genetic resources.
- Adoption and Entry into Force:**
The agreement was adopted on June 19, 2023, after two decades of negotiations. It will enter into force 120 days after at least 60 countries ratify it. Statement 3 is correct.
- India's Status:**
India signed the BBNJ Agreement in September 2024 and is currently in the process of ratifying it.

International Relations

Places in news

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following does not border Iran?

- A. Armenia
- B. Pakistan
- C. Georgia
- D. Azerbaijan

Answer: C



Economy

GDP

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following will not be impacted directly by revised GDP base year:

- A. Index of Industrial Production
- B. Consumer Price Index
- C. Rate of Inflation
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a crucial economic indicator in India that tracks the growth of various industrial sectors like mining, manufacturing, and electricity. It measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period compared to a base period. The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) (now part of MoSPI) compiles and publishes the IIP monthly, providing insights into the industrial performance of the Indian Economy. This crucial indicator is directly linked to the production which is the core aspect of GDP.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a basket of consumer goods and services. It's a key indicator of inflation and is used to track the cost of living and make adjustments to wages, benefits, and tax brackets. CPI impacts price and inflation directly affects GDP.
- The rate of inflation is the percentage increase in the general price level of goods and services in an economy over a specific period, usually a year. It indicates how quickly prices are rising and how much the purchasing power of money is decreasing. Inflation is dependent on demand and supply which plays a key role in determining the price based on the product. Hence it impacts GDP too.

Miscellaneous

Acts

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act provides for unlimited monetary liability in India.
2. The Atomic Energy Act restricts private companies from establishing nuclear power plants in India.

Which of the following statements is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010

- The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010, in India, establishes a legal framework for compensating victims of nuclear incidents and defines liability for nuclear damage. It aims to ensure prompt compensation to victims through a no-fault liability regime and facilitates India's participation in the international nuclear liability regime.

Key aspects of the Act:

- **No-fault liability:** The operator of a nuclear installation is held liable for damages resulting from a nuclear incident, regardless of fault. **Statement 1 is correct.**

- **Liability limits:** The Act caps the operator's liability for damages, currently at Rs 1,500 crore. If damages exceed this limit, the government is expected to intervene.

Right of recourse: The Act allows the operator, after paying compensation, to seek recourse against suppliers in cases where the incident was caused by a supplier's defective equipment or services.

- **Compensation mechanism:** The Act provides a mechanism for adjudicating claims and compensating victims through a Claims Commissioner and a Nuclear Damage Claims Commission.
- **Financial security:** The operator is required to maintain financial security, such as insurance, to cover potential liability.
- **International alignment:** The Act is designed to align with international conventions on nuclear liability, such as the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention.
- **Time limit for claims:** The Act specifies a time limit for filing claims, which has been criticized as potentially inadequate for long-term damages.
- **Potential amendments:** There are ongoing discussions about amending the Act to address concerns regarding the liability of suppliers and to attract foreign investment in the nuclear energy sector

The Atomic Energy Act

- The Atomic Energy Act, in general, refers to legislation that regulates the development, control, and use of atomic energy. In India, the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, specifically focuses on developing atomic energy for peaceful purposes and related matters. It provides the framework for controlling substances like uranium and thorium, and for establishing safety regulations for nuclear facilities and activities.

Key Aspects of the Indian Atomic Energy Act, 1962:

- **Purpose:** The Act aims to promote the peaceful development and use of atomic energy for the welfare of the Indian people.
- **Control over Substances:** It grants the Central Government control over substances like uranium and thorium, which can be used in atomic energy.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Individuals who discover or believe uranium or thorium deposits must report this to the Central Government.
- **Safety Regulations:** The Act, along with other rules and regulations, establishes a framework for ensuring safety in nuclear facilities and activities.
- **Regulatory Body:** The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) is constituted under the Act to oversee and enforce safety regulations.
- **Offences and Penalties:** The Act outlines various offenses related to contravention of its provisions and prescribes penalties, including imprisonment and fines.

Other Important Points:

- **International Agreements:**The Act allows for international cooperation in peaceful uses of atomic energy.
- **Amendments:**The Act has been amended over time to address evolving needs and technologies.
- **Relationship with other Laws:** The Act is considered alongside other relevant laws like the Environmental Protection Act, 1986, and the Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004

Private Participation under the Act

- The Atomic Energy Act, 1962, in India, does indeed restrict private sector participation in nuclear power generation, but it does not completely prohibit it. While the Act grants the government exclusive control over nuclear resources and their development, it does allow for exceptions and amendments.
- **Exclusive Control:**The Atomic Energy Act, 1962, primarily assigns the responsibility of nuclear power generation to the government, specifically to entities like the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).
- **Limited Private Sector Involvement:** Although the Act initially prohibited private companies from directly operating nuclear power plants, it doesn't completely exclude them from the sector. **Statement 2 is correct.**

- **Joint Ventures:**The Act has been amended to permit joint ventures between NPCIL and other public sector undertakings (PSUs). This allows for collaboration and resource sharing to facilitate nuclear projects, as seen with the formation of Anushakti Vidhyut Nigam Limited (ASHVINI).
- **Supply Chain Participation:**Private companies can participate in the nuclear power sector through the supply chain, providing goods and services, but not as direct operators of nuclear power plants

Environment

Climate Change

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following are a part of the eight National Mission on climate change launched by NAPCC:

- A. National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
- B. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
- C. National Mission for a Green India
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

The Government of India launched National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) on 30th June, 2008 outlining eight National Missions on climate change. These include:

- National Solar Mission
- National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
- National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
- National Water Mission

- National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system
- National Mission for a Green India
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change

The Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology was entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating **two** out of these eight national missions on climate change. These are:

- National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) and
- National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC)

Miscellaneous

Current Affairs

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

1. FASTag is a RFID passive tag.
2. As per the new scheme, the number of trips is limited to 100 per vehicle.

Which of the following statement is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** RFID stands for Radio Frequency Identification. It's a technology that uses radio waves to automatically identify and track tags attached to objects. These tags, also known as transponders, contain digitally stored information that can be read by a reader without physical contact or line of sight. RFID is commonly used for inventory management, asset tracking, and access control.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: SINGLE TRIP:** For point-based fee plazas, each crossing of the plaza will be counted as one trip; a round trip (to and fro) will be counted as two trips. For closed tolling fee plazas, a pair of entry and exit will be counted as one trip.

Geography

Soil

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs:

1. Black Soil – Citrus fruits
2. Red Soil – Sugarcane
3. Alluvial Soil – Maize

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Alluvial Soil:

Characteristics:

- This is the most common type of soil in India, characterized by its loamy texture and high fertility due to its nutrient-rich composition.

Crops:

- Suitable for a wide variety of crops, including: Rice , Wheat, Sugarcane , Cotton , Oilseeds (like groundnut and mustard) , Pulses (like chickpeas and lentils)

Black Soil:**Characteristics:**

- Also known as regur soil, it's characterized by its high clay content and good water-retention capacity.

Crops:

- Ideal for: Cotton (considered one of the most suitable crops for black soil) , Pulses, Millets , Sugarcane , Citrus fruits

Red Soil:

- **Characteristics:** This soil is reddish in color due to the presence of iron oxide and is found in areas with warm and humid climates.
- **Crops:** Maize, Groundnut, Rice, Fruits (like mango and orange) , Vegetables, Pulses

Culture**Western Education in India****Medium****Indian Express****Q. Consider the following:**

1. Magna Carta established rule of law completely.
2. The woods dispatch is considered as the magna carta of Indian education system.

Which of the following statement is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Magna Carta, signed in 1215, is a foundational document in the development of the rule of law, particularly in English-speaking countries. It established the principle that even a monarch is subject to the law, limiting the arbitrary exercise of power and promoting principles of due process and equality before the law.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Wood's Dispatch of 1854, often called the "Magna Carta of English Education in India," is a significant document that shaped the development of the education system in British India. It was a comprehensive plan for the spread of education, recommending a system of graded schools, the establishment of universities, and the use of both English and vernacular languages in education.

Environment**Climate Change****Easy**

Indian Express

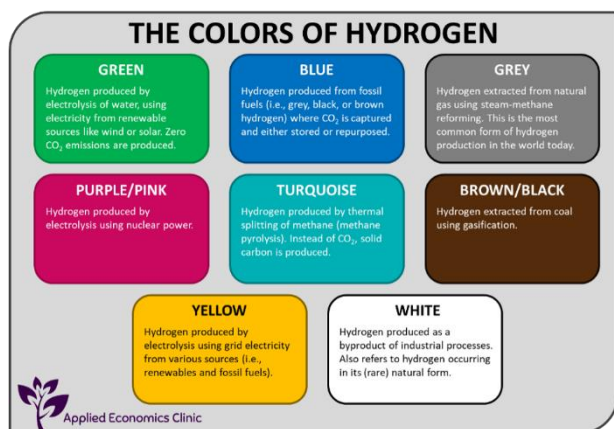
Q. Consider the following pairs:

1. Blue Hydrogen – Coal
2. Brown Hydrogen – Nuclear power plant
3. Pink Hydrogen – Fossil Fuels

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D



Science and Technology

Basic Science

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following:

1. Crude oil is a mixture of hydrocarbons.
2. Crude oil is refined to produce lubricants; asphalt; ethane, propane etc.

Which of the following statement is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only

- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Crude Oil

- Crude oil means a mixture of hydrocarbons that exists in liquid phase in natural underground reservoirs and remains liquid at atmospheric pressure after passing through surface separating facilities.

Depending upon the characteristics of the crude stream, it may also include any of the following

- Small amounts of hydrocarbons that exist in gaseous phase in natural underground reservoirs but are liquid at atmospheric conditions (temperature and pressure) after being recovered from oil well (casing-head) gas in lease separators and are subsequently commingled with the crude stream without being separately measured. Lease condensate recovered as a liquid from natural gas wells in lease or field separation facilities and later mixed into the crude stream is also included.
- Small amounts of nonhydrocarbons, such as sulphur and various metals.
- Drip gases, and liquid hydrocarbons produced from tar sands, oil sands, Gil Sonite, and oil shale.
- Petroleum products that are received or produced at a refinery and subsequently injected into a crude supply or reservoir by the same refinery owner or operator. Liquids produced at natural gas processing plants are excluded. Crude oil is refined to

produce a wide array of petroleum products, including heating oils; gasoline, diesel and jet fuels; lubricants; asphalt; ethane, propane, and butane; and many other products used for their energy or chemical content.

Polity

Judiciary

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following:

1. Number of judges in the Supreme Court were increased in 2019.
2. The oath of the Judges of the Supreme Court and CAG is the same.

Which of the following statement is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Now “thirty-three” vide the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019 (37 of 2019), s. 2 (w.e.f. 9-8-2019).
- **Statement 2 is correct:**

Form of oath or affirmation to be made by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India:—

“I, A.B., having been appointed Chief Justice (or a Judge) of the Supreme Court of India (or Comptroller and Auditor-General of India) do swear in the name of God that I will bear true faith and solemnly affirm

faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, [that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India,] that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my ability, knowledge and judgment perform the duties of my office without fear or favour, affection or ill-will and that I will uphold the Constitution and the laws.”

International Relations

Places in News

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Iran and Iraq jointly developed Arak nuclear facility.
2. Heavy water has a dual purpose in Heavy water reactors.

Which of the following statement is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Statement 1 is correct:

- After Iran’s devastating 1980s war with Iraq, it began a secret military program to seek a nuclear weapon and approached four nations to purchase a heavy water-moderated reactor. After getting turned down, Iran decided to build its own.
- Heavy water is water in which hydrogen is replaced by deuterium and is used as a coolant for heavy water reactors.
- The reactors can be used for scientific purposes, but plutonium is a byproduct of the process. Before the centrifuge technology that enriches uranium to levels high enough for use in weapons became widespread, many states used heavy water reactors to pursue plutonium-fueled bombs.

Statement 2 is correct: In nuclear reactors, heavy water (deuterium oxide, D₂O) serves as both a coolant and a moderator. It's used to

cool the reactor core, removing heat generated by nuclear fission, and to slow down neutrons, making them more likely to induce further fission reactions.

- This dual role is crucial for maintaining a controlled chain reaction and efficient energy production.

Governance

Schemes

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

1. PM Gram Sadak Yojana phase 1 was launched in the year 2006
2. Ministry of Roads is the nodal agency for PMGSY.

Which of the following statement is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- PM Gram Sadak Yojana phase 1 was launched in the year 2000.
- The Ministry of rural development is the nodal agency for PMGSY.

International Relations

Maps

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following does not fall around Nicaragua:

- A. Honduras
- B. Mexico
- C. Costa Rica
- D. Pacific Ocean

Answer: B



Geography

India - Location and Extent

Easy

Indian Express

Q. How many pairs are correctly matched? (State/UT and Coastline in kms approx.)

1. Andaman and Nicobar – 3100 kms approx.
2. Goa – 194 kms approx.
3. Andhra Pradesh – 1100 kms approx.

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Length of India's coastline along states	
State/UT	Coastline length (in km)
Gujarat	2,340.62
Maharashtra	877.97
Goa	193.95
Karnataka	343.3
Kerala	600.15
Tamil Nadu	1,068.69
Andhra Pradesh	1,053.07
Odisha	574.71
West Bengal	721.02
Daman and Diu	54.38
Pondicherry	42.65
Lakshadweep	144.8
Andaman and Nicobar	3,083.50
Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways	

Governance

Schemes

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following is not the core principle of DhartiAaba Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan?

- A. Janbhagidari – People's Participation
- B. Whole-of-Government Approach
- C. Grassroots Impact – Last-Mile Delivery
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- The DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, a large-scale outreach campaign for the implementation of its tribal welfare schemes in over 500 districts of the country, aiming to cover 1 lakh tribal dominated villages and habitations. The outreach has been pegged around 'benefit saturation' camps, aimed at doorstep delivery of two key flagship schemes – Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN), launched in 2023, and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), which was launched in 2024.

Core Principles of the Mission:

- ↪ Janbhagidari – People's Participation
- ↪ Whole-of-Government Approach
- ↪ Grassroots Impact – Last-Mile Delivery

International Relations

India and Neighbourhood

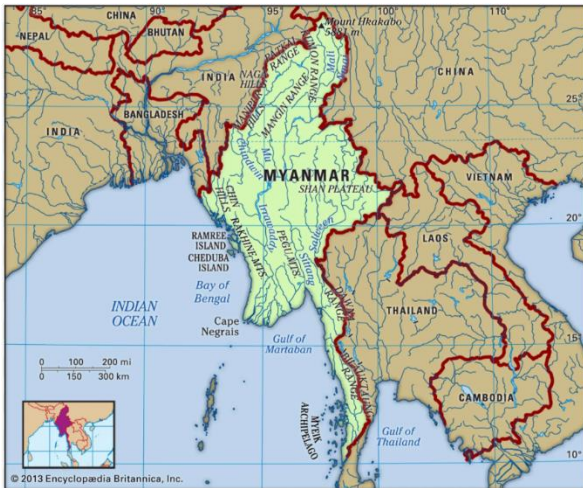
Easy

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following countries does not border Myanmar?

- A. Vietnam
- B. Laos
- C. Thailand
- D. Bangladesh

Answer: A



- KI is a pill or liquid that can be used in radiation emergencies that involve radioactive iodine. KI contains non-radioactive iodine. Non-radioactive iodine helps prevent radioactive iodine from being absorbed by the thyroid gland.

Governance

Statutory Bodies

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. DGCA is a constitutional body.
2. DGCA is the regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation primarily dealing with safety issues.

Which of the following statements is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is the regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation primarily dealing with safety issues. It is responsible for regulation of air transport services to/from/within India and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards. It also co-ordinates all regulatory functions with the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Miscellaneous

Places in news

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Bushehr is West Asia's first civilian nuclear reactor.
2. Potassium iodide is used during nuclear emergencies.

Which of the following statements is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- Bushehr is West Asia's first civilian nuclear reactor 1970

- The headquarters are located in New Delhi with regional offices in the various parts of India.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India is a statutory body formed under the Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020. It operates as an attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The DGCA's primary function is to regulate civil aviation in India, focusing on safety issues and enforcing civil air regulations.

Governance

Schemes

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Ayushman Bharat was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017.
2. Ayushman Bharat underlining commitment is to "leave no one behind."
3. National Organ Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) is a top body which manages organ transplantation under the health ministry.

How many statements are incorrect?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- Ayushman Bharat, a flagship scheme of Government of India, was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This initiative has been designed to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its underlining commitment, which is to "leave no one behind."
- Ayushman Bharat is an attempt to move from sectoral and segmented approach of health service delivery to a comprehensive need-based health care service. This scheme aims to undertake path breaking interventions to holistically address the healthcare system (covering prevention, promotion and ambulatory care) at the primary, secondary and tertiary level. Ayushman Bharat adopts a continuum of care approach, comprising of two inter-related components, which are -
 - Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)
 - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

International Relations

Interpol

Medium

Indian Express

Q. With respect to Interpol, how many pairs are correct:

1. Orange Notice – Unidentified Bodies
2. Purple Notice – Imminent Threat
3. Black Notice – Modus Operandi

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Types of Notice

- **Red Notice:** To seek the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.
- **Yellow Notice:** To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
- **Blue Notice:** To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.
- **Black Notice:** To seek information on unidentified bodies.
- **Green Notice:** To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.
- **Orange Notice:** To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
- **Purple Notice:** To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.
- **Silver Notice (pilot phase):** To identify and trace criminal assets

INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notice: Issued for entities

and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council Sanctions Committees.

Economy

Employment

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to Women LFPR:

1. India ranks at 131 out of 148 countries on its Gender Gap Index.
2. India's female LFPR is lower than Sri Lanka
3. The increase is more in urban areas as compared to rural areas.

How many statements is or are correct:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B



India is seeing more women in the labour force, but it's still low globally

Labour force participation rate (15+ years of age) (in %)

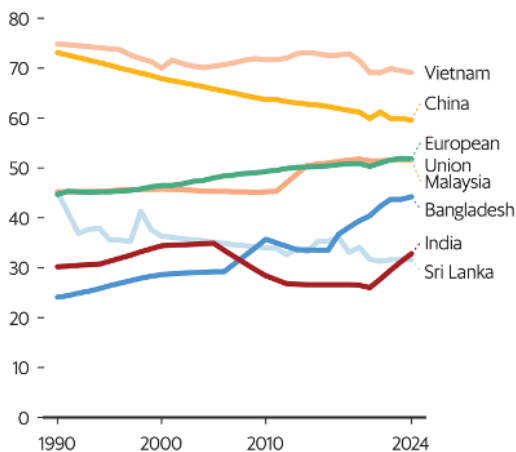
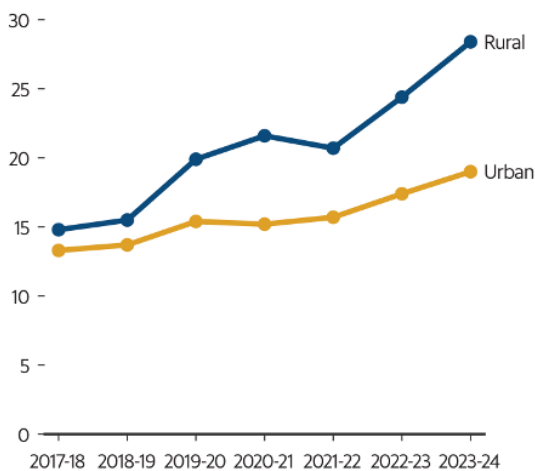


Chart: howindialives.com • Source: World Bank • [Get the data](#)



Data for the July-June period and based on current weekly status criterion.

Chart: howindialives.com • Source: Ministry of statistics and programme implementation • [Get the data](#)



- India has slipped to 131st out of 148 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index for 2025. This indicates a decline from its previous position of 129th in 2024.

International Relations

International Organisations

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

- The SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Tajikistan are one of the founding members of the SCO.

Which of the following statements is or correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- None of the above

Answer: C

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a permanent intergovernmental international organization established on June 15, 2001 in Shanghai (PRC) by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.
- Its predecessor was the mechanism of the Shanghai Five.

Economy

World Trade

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

- India is the world's second highest importer of crude oil.
- 20% of the world's oil trade is carried out from the Strait of Hormuz.

Which of the following statements is or correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- India is the world's third highest importer of crude oil.
- 20% of the world's oil trade is carried out from the Strait of Hormuz.

International Relations

Places in News

Easy

Indian Express

Q. How many pairs are correctly matched:

1. Natanz – Plutonium by-product
2. Bushehr – Nuclear Enrichment
3. Arak – monitored by IAEA

How many pairs are correctly matched:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- Natanz – Nuclear Enrichment
- Bushehr – monitored by IAEA
- Arak – Plutonium by-product



International Relations

NPT

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Which of the following countries was not a part of the P5+1 group?

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. India
- D. Germany

Answer: C

- The P5+1 refers to a group of six world powers that engaged in negotiations with Iran regarding its nuclear program.

- The group consists of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) plus Germany.
- This group was instrumental in the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal.

Geography

Precipitation

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Dark bands often indicate periods of higher sediment.
2. Light bands represent periods of increased snowfall.

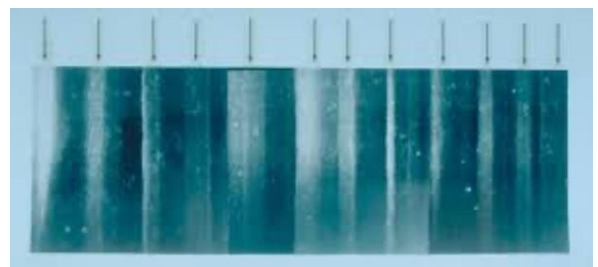
Which of the following statements is or correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- Dark bands in sedimentary rock formations often signify periods where higher amounts of organic matter or fine-grained sediments were deposited, potentially indicating a lower-energy, possibly oxygen-poor, depositional environment.

- While the presence of light bands in a snowpack can be related to periods of increased snowfall, the relationship is not always direct and can vary. Light bands within the snowpack often represent variations in snow density, crystal structure, or the presence of impurities. These variations can be influenced by weather patterns, temperature fluctuations, and other factors, but they don't always directly correlate with the amount of snowfall.



Internal Security

Kashmir

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. NIA investigates and prosecutes offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India.
2. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been constituted under the NIA Act, 2010.

Which of the following statements is or correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above



Answer: A

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been constituted under the NIA Act, 2008 to investigate and prosecute offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of State, friendly relations with foreign States and offences under Acts enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other International organisations and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.



International Relations

Places in News

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following pairs

1. Bahrain – US Navy's fleet
2. Ain-al-Assad – US troops
3. Al Udeid – Air Operations Center

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer – C

Geography

Maps

Easy Live Mint

Q. Which of the following water body does not border Iran?

- A. Caspian Sea
- B. Gulf of Oman
- C. Black Sea
- D. Persian Gulf

Answer – C



Economy

Taxation

Medium

Live Mint

Q. With respect to Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), consider the following:

1. ITAT is a quasi judicial institution.
2. ITAT specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes.

Which of the following statements is or correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- ITAT is a quasi judicial institution set up in January, 1941 and specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Acts. The orders passed by the ITAT are final, an appeal lies to the High Court only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.

- Starting in 1941 with six Members constituting three Benches - one each at Delhi, Kolkata (Calcutta) and Mumbai (Bombay), the numbers of Benches have progressively increased and presently ITAT has 63 Benches at 27 different stations covering almost all the cities having a seat of the High Court.

Environment

Agriculture

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following:

1. MoP contains chloride as an additional element.
2. It is more expensive than SoP

Which of the following statements is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

MURIATE OF POTASH VERSUS SULPHATE OF POTASH

Visit www.PEDIAA.com

MURIATE OF POTASH	SULPHATE OF POTASH
Muriate of potash is potassium chloride (KCl)	Sulphate of potash is potassium sulfate (K_2SO_4)
Contains chloride as an additional element	Contains sulfur as an additional element
Has a high chloride content	Chloride-free
Generally less expensive	More expensive

- It will be implemented from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2026. The primary objective of the PM E-DRIVE scheme is to accelerate the adoption of EVs by providing incentives for their purchase, setting up EV charging infrastructure and developing EV manufacturing ecosystem in the country.
- It is implemented by the Ministry of Heavy Industries and will be in effect until March 31, 2026

Environment

Renewable Energy

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following:

1. PM-eDRIVE was launched in 2023.
2. The ministry of heavy industries is the nodal ministry.
3. One of the main objectives of E-DRIVE is developing the EV manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

How many statements is or are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Geography

Places in News

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Peer-ki-Gali Tunnel will provide all year accessibility to areas near the LoC.
2. Sadhana Tunnel will provide all year accessibility to Srinagar.

Which of the following statements is or correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- Peer-ki-Gali Tunnel will provide all year accessibility to Srinagar
- Sadhana Tunnel will provide all year accessibility to Karnah district near LOC.

International

Relations

International Organisations

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Which of the following are not the members of ASEAN:

- A. Philippines
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Vietnam
- D. Darussalam

Answer: B

- On 8th August 1967, five leaders – the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand founded ASEAN.

ASEAN Member States



International Relations

India-Pakistan (IWT)

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following is not an Eastern River of the Indus Water System:

- A. Chenab
- B. Sutlej
- C. Chenab
- D. Ravi

Answer: A

- Western Rivers: Indus, Jhelum, Chenab (Pakistan)
- Eastern Rivers: Sutlej, Ravi, Beas (India)



Environment

Climate Change

Medium

Indian Express

Q. State of Climate in Asia Report is prepared by?

- A. WMO
- B. IMO
- C. Both A and B
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- The year 2024 was the warmest year on record in Asia, with widespread and prolonged heatwaves, the World Meteorological Organisation's (WMO) State of the Climate in Asia 2024 report states. In 2024, heatwaves gripped a record area of the ocean.
- This report is published by WMO in collaboration with the nations meteorological organisations.

- ILO Convention 182, formally known as the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999, is a key international treaty focused on eliminating the most exploitative and dangerous forms of child labor.
- ILO Convention 138, the Minimum Age Convention, 1973, focuses on the effective abolition of child labor. It requires member states to establish a minimum age for employment or work and to develop national policies to eliminate child labor.

International Relations

International Organisations

Difficult

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs:

1. ILO Convention 182 – Child Labour
2. ILO Convention 169 – Tribal Rights
3. ILO Convention 138 – Minimum Age Convention

How many of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- ILO Convention 169 is a landmark international treaty focused on the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples.

Environment

Agriculture

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest exporter of rice in the world.
2. Higher the MRL residue lower is the rate of rejection.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- India is the leading producer and exporter of rice in the world accounting for 40% exports globally.

- MRL stands for the residue of the pesticides and veterinary drugs which have uses in agriculture. Higher the residue, higher will be the rate of rejection.

Science and technology

Basic Science

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following pairs:

1. Thulium – microwaves
2. Terbium – LCDs
3. Europium – optical computer memories

How many pairs are correctly matched:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Here is a list of 17 rare earth elements and what they are used for	
Scandium:	Super alloys, ultra-light aerospace components, X-ray tubes, baseball bats, lights, semiconductors
Yttrium:	Ceramics, metal alloys, rechargeable batteries, TV phosphors, high-temperature superconductors
Lanthanum:	Batteries, optical glass, camera lenses, petroleum refining catalysts
Cerium:	Catalysts, metal alloys, radiation shielding, water purifier
Praseodymium:	Magnets, lasers, pigments, cryogenic refrigerant
Neodymium:	High-strength permanent magnets, lasers, infrared filters, hard disc drives
Promethium:	Batteries, lighting, instruments
Samarium:	High temperature magnets, nuclear reactor control rods and shielding, lasers, microwave filters
Europium:	LCDs, fluorescent lighting, red and blue phosphors
Gadolinium:	MRI contrast agent, memory chips, nuclear reactor shielding, CDs
Terbium:	Green phosphors, lasers, fluorescent lamps, optical computer memories
Dysprosium:	Permanent magnets, lasers, catalysts, nuclear reactors
Holmium:	Lasers, nuclear reactors, catalysts, magnets
Erbium:	Lasers, vanadium steel, infrared absorbing glasses, optical fibres
Thulium:	Portable X-ray machines, microwaves
Ytterbium:	Infrared lasers, chemical reducing agent, rechargeable batteries, fibre optics
Lutetium:	PET scan detectors, superconductors, high refractive index glass, X-ray phosphor

Science and Technology

Basic Science

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Which of the following is not a use of nuclear energy?

- A. Therapy
- B. Tracers
- C. Hydrogen Production
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- Radioactive tracers are used to visualize organs and detect abnormalities.
- Radiation therapy is used to target and destroy cancer cells.

- Electrolysis is a promising option for carbon-free hydrogen production from renewable and nuclear resources. Electrolysis is the process of using electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. This reaction takes place in a unit called an electrolyser.

- Less supply of money in the market will lead to higher rates of interests for taking up loans. Loans will be expensive to take.

Economy

Banking

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following:

- Higher the Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR), less the supply of money in the market.
- Less supply of money in the market means a high rate of interests for loans.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- None of the above

Answer: C

- In VRRR, banks deposit surplus funds with RBI through auctions. The interest rate is again determined by competitive bidding, usually close to or above the reverse repo rate. RBI also uses the Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) to absorb excess liquidity from the banking system.

Geography

Places in News

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Which of the following water bodies does not lie around Japan?

- Yellow Sea
- Aral Sea
- Pacific Ocean
- Philippine Sea

Answer: B



Environment

Climate Change

Difficult

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs: (Paris Convention and articles)

- Article 4.3 – New and additional financial resources

2. Article 9.1 – Financial Aid by the developed nations
3. Article 9.3 – Mobilising Climate finance

How many pairs are correctly matched:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- The Paris Agreement was signed in 1970 according to which the nations pledged to reduce the earth's temperature by 1.5-degree Celsius pre-industrial levels by 2070.
- It urges the developed nations to support the developing and under-developed nations in achieving the set goals thereby achieving sustainability.
- Article 4.3 – New and additional financial resources
- Article 9.1 – Financial Aid by the developed nations
- Article 9.3 – Mobilising Climate finance

Environment

Climate Change

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs: (SDG and Number)

1. SDG 3 – Decent work and Economic Growth
2. SDG 8 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

3. SDG 11 – Good Health and well being

How many pairs are correctly matched:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D



Geography

Places in News

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Which of the following water bodies does not lie around Aegean Islands?

- A. Adriatic Sea
- B. Ionian Sea
- C. Crete Sea
- D. Mediterranean Sea

Answer: A



Science and Technology

Defence

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. The B-2s are service intensive.
2. The B-2s can be easily detected but not attacked due to their high speeds.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- The B-2s are extremely maintenance intensive. According to a detailed account in The Atlantic on the B-2s employed in Libya in 2018, 100 hours of maintenance were required for every hour of flight. This is mainly because the advantage of stealth is B-2's edge, and it is achieved by design and radar-absorbing materials. To maintain them, the aircraft needs temperature controlled hangers to protect against changes in temperature, humidity, and dust.
- The B-2 has always inspired awe with its bat-like shape. It is a dual capable multi-role heavy bomber, powered by four engines. The B-2's low observability is derived from a combination of reduced infrared, acoustic, electromagnetic, visual and radar signatures. These signatures make it difficult for sophisticated defensive systems to detect, track and engage the B-2.



Environment

Climate Change

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following with respect to the outcomes of the Green Hydrogen mission:

1. India will reduce nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
2. Cumulative reduction in fossil fuel imports over Rs. two lakh crore

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

MISSION OUTCOMES

The Mission will result in the following likely outcomes by 2030:

- Development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in the country
- Over Rs. Eight lakh crore in total investments
- Creation of over Six lakh jobs
- Cumulative reduction in fossil fuel imports over Rs. One lakh crore
- Abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions

At least 5 MMT GH₂ annual Production	60-100 GW Electrolyser capacity	125 GW RE Capacity for GH ₂ Generation & associated Transmission network
₹ 1 lakh crore Import Savings	50 MMT CO₂ Annual Emissions Averted	6 lakh Jobs
		₹ 8 lakh cr Investment

International Relations

Places in news

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following:

1. Power of Siberia -- pipeline became operational in December 2019.
2. Power of Siberia -- pipeline will supply natural gas from Yamal peninsula to China.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C



International Relations

International Organisations

Medium

Indian Express

Q. With respect to NATO's military committee, consider the following:

1. Military Committee (MC) is the oldest permanent body in NATO.
2. The Military Committee meets three times a year at the level of Chiefs of Defence.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

- C. Both 1 and 2
D. None of the above

Answer: B

- The Military Committee (MC) is the senior military authority in NATO and the oldest permanent body in NATO after the North Atlantic Council, both having been formed only months after the Alliance came into being. It is the primary source of military advice to the North Atlantic Council and the Nuclear Planning Group, and gives direction to the two Strategic Commanders.

- The Military Committee is the primary source of consensus-based advice to the North Atlantic Council and the Nuclear Planning Group on military policy and strategy, and it provides guidance to the two Strategic Commanders – Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Supreme Allied Commander Transformation.
- As such, it is an essential link between the political decision-making process and the military structure of NATO.
- The Military Committee is responsible for translating political decision and guidance into military direction, and for recommending measures considered necessary for the defence of the NATO area and the implementation of decisions regarding military operations.
- It also develops strategic policy and concepts, and prepares an annual long-term assessment of the strength and capabilities of countries and areas posing a risk to NATO's interests.
- The Military Committee, headed by its Chair, meets frequently at the level of national Military Representatives, and three times a year at the level of Chiefs of Defence.



Science and Technology

Space

Easy

Live Mint

Q. Which of the following does not constitute the criteria for determination of a planet?

- A. Orbit a star
B. Sufficient Mass for Hydrostatic Equilibrium
C. Cleared its Orbital Neighbourhood
D. Presence of atmosphere

Answer: D

- Orbit a Star:** The object must orbit a star, like our Sun. This distinguishes planets from other celestial bodies like moons, which orbit planets, or rogue planets, which are not gravitationally bound to a star.
- Sufficient Mass for Hydrostatic Equilibrium:** The object's gravity must be strong enough to overcome its own rigidity, causing it to assume a roughly spherical shape. This means it's massive enough to be pulled into a rounded form by its own gravity.
- Cleared its Orbital Neighbourhood:** The object's gravity must have cleared away any other objects of comparable size in its orbital path. This criterion is what separates planets from dwarf planets like Pluto, which share their orbital space with other objects in the Kuiper Belt.

Science and Technology

Health and Diseases

Medium

Live Mint

Q. Consider the following:

1. Alzheimer's disease is thought to be caused by the abnormal build-up of proteins in and around brain cells.
2. Amyloid protein causes tangles within brain cells.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- Alzheimer's disease is thought to be caused by the abnormal build-up of proteins in and around brain cells.
- One of the proteins involved is called amyloid, deposits of which form plaques around brain cells.
- The other protein is called tau, deposits of which form tangles within brain cells.

Governance**Laws****Medium****Indian Express****Q. Consider the following:**

1. The Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 replaced the Civil Procedure Code.
2. Advocate can reveal the client's information if any illegal activity is being carried out during employment.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- The Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
- An advocate can reveal the client's information based on 3 circumstances – on the client's permission, an illicit activity and misinformation.

Economy**Taxation****Medium****Indian Express****Q. Consider the following:**

1. The GST council meets four times a year.
2. Currently soap and toothpaste are taxed at 18%

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- The GST Council meets at the end of every quarter i.e., four times a year

- Currently items like soap and toothpaste are under 18% GST slab, shampoo at 28% etc.

Science and Technology

Health and Diseases

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Malaria is an infection caused by a plasmodium parasite.
2. Blood transfusion and contaminated needles may also transmit malaria.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- An infection caused by a plasmodium parasite transmitted by the bite of infected mosquitoes.
- Malaria mostly spreads to people through the bites of some infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- Blood transfusion and contaminated needles may also transmit malaria. Left untreated, P. falciparum malaria can progress to severe illness and death within 24 hours.

Miscellaneous

Maps

Easy

The Hindu

Q. With respect to Turkiye, consider the following:

1. It joined NATO in 1952.
2. The city of Istanbul was previously known as Constantinople.
3. Mediterranean Sea lies to the North of Turkiye.

How many statements are correct:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- The city now known as Istanbul was indeed previously called Constantinople. It was originally founded as Byzantium, then renamed Constantinople by the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great in 330 AD when it became the new capital of the Roman Empire. Later, after the fall of the Western Roman Empire, it became the capital of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire and remained Constantinople until 1930 when it was officially renamed Istanbul.

Sort alphabetically		or	Sort by date
ALBANIA (2009)	GREECE (1952)	POLAND (1999)	
BELGIUM (1949)	HUNGARY (1999)	PORTUGAL (1949)	
BULGARIA (2004)	ICELAND (1949)	ROMANIA (2004)	
CANADA (1949)	ITALY (1949)	SLOVAKIA (2004)	
CROATIA (2009)	LATVIA (2004)	SLOVENIA (2004)	
CZECHIA (1999)	LITHUANIA (2004)	SPAIN (1982)	
DENMARK (1949)	LUXEMBOURG (1949)	SWEDEN (2024)	
ESTONIA (2004)	MONTENEGRO (2017)	TÜRKIYE (1952)	
FINLAND (2023)	NETHERLANDS (1949)	UNITED KINGDOM	
FRANCE (1949)	NORTH MACEDONIA	UNITED STATES (1949)	
GERMANY (1955)	NORWAY (1949)		



Polity

Preamble

Easy

Indian Express

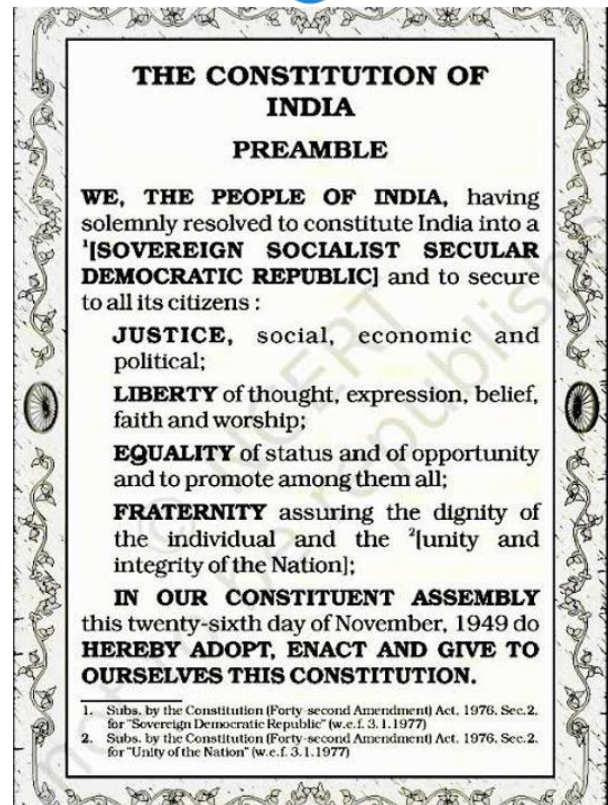
Q. Arrange the following words (from first to last) of the preamble of the constitution:

1. Equality
2. Fraternity
3. Sovereign
4. Republic

Choose the correct order:

- A. 3,4,2,1
- B. 3,4,1,2
- C. 3,2,1,4
- D. 3,1,2,4

Answer: B



Environment

Biodiversity

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Project elephant was launched in 1990 to safeguard the elephants, their habitat & corridors.
2. There are currently 33 elephant reserves in India with the first reserve being in Odisha.

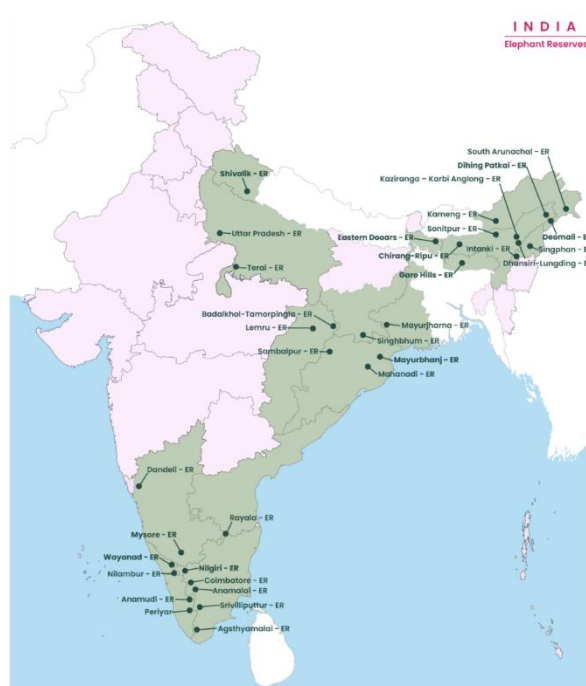
Which of the statements above is or are correct?


- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- Project elephant was launched in 1992 to safeguard the elephants, their habitat & corridors.
- Project Elephant was launched by the Government of India in the year 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with following objectives:
 - To protect elephants, their habitat & corridors
 - To address issues of man-animal conflict
 - Welfare of captive elephants
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides financial and technical support to major elephant range states in the country through Project Elephant.

- There are currently 33 elephant reserves in India with the first reserve being in Jharkhand.





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Economy

Markets

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

1. SEBI was initially established as a non-statutory body.
2. The Securities and Exchange Board of India consists of seven members inclusive of the Chairman.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India was constituted as a non-statutory body on April 12, 1988 through a resolution of the Government of India.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established as a statutory body in the year 1992 and the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992) came into force on January 30, 1992.

Management of the Board.

4. (1) The Board shall consist of the following members, namely:—

- (a) a Chairman;
- (b) two members from amongst the officials of the ⁵[Ministry] of the Central Government dealing with Finance ⁶[and administration of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956)];
- (c) one member from amongst the officials of ⁷[the Reserve Bank];
- ⁸[(d) five other members of whom at least three shall be the whole-time members,] to be appointed by the Central Government.

Polity

Elections

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

1. The electoral college for the Election of the President of India does not include National Capital Territory of Delhi and UT of Puducherry.
2. The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

54. Election of President.—The President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of—

(a) the elected members of both Houses of Parliament; and

(b) the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

¹[Explanation.—In this article and in article 55, “State” includes the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union territory of *Puducherry.]

243K. Elections to the Panchayats.—(1) The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats shall be vested in a State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor.

(2) Subject to the provisions of any law made by the Legislature of a State, the conditions of service and tenure of office of the State Election Commissioner shall be such as the Governor may by rule determine:

Provided that the State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court and the conditions of service of the State Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

International Relations

International Organizations

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

1. The Presidency of the UN Security Council rotates every 6 months.
2. Issues like admission of new states in the General Assembly are taken by a simple majority.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members). Each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. The Security Council has a Presidency, which rotates, and changes, every month.

- The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation. Each year, in September, the full UN membership meets in the General Assembly Hall in New York for the annual General Assembly session, and general debate, which many heads of state attend and address. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly. Decisions on other questions are by simple majority. The General Assembly, each year, elects a GA President to serve a one-year term of office.

Environment

Conservation

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Tigers outside of tiger reserve is a pilot scheme.
2. The scheme will be implemented by the Chief Wildlife Wardens.
3. Budget outlay of 88 crores has been sanctioned for the scheme.

How many statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three

D. None of the above

Answer: C

- The executive committee of the National CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority), under the environment ministry, approved in-principle funding for the scheme on a pilot basis for one year
- National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), under the Environment Ministry, approved in-principle funding on a pilot basis for one year for the scheme, under which 80 forest divisions across 10 states, identified initially on the basis of data of recurring human-tiger conflict.
- On ground, the scheme will be implemented by the Chief Wildlife Wardens of state forest departments, in close collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- The scheme's proposed outlay till 2026-27 is ₹88 crore and it was initially announced and discussed on March 3 during the National Board for Wildlife meeting chaired by Prime Minister

Polity

Constitution

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following pairs (Constitutional Amendment bills and context)

1. 126th CA Bill – Women Reservation Bill



T.me/Sleepy Classes

2. 127th CA Bill – Socially and educationally backward classes
3. 128th CA Bill – Reservation of Seats for SC's and ST's

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- The 126th Constitutional Amendment Bill, introduced in 2019, extended the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for another 10 years, until January 25, 2030. It also removed the provision for nominating Anglo-Indians to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.
- The 127th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2021, clarifies the powers of states and union territories to identify and prepare lists of socially and educationally backward classes (OBCs). It essentially restores the power of states to maintain their own OBC lists, which was previously impacted by a Supreme Court ruling related to the 102nd Constitutional Amendment. The bill amends Articles 342A, 366, and 338B of the Constitution to achieve this.
- It attempts to bring in 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and all state Legislative Assemblies and extends the quota to the seats reserved for SC/STs.

Polity

Elections

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. Political parties are registered under the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act 1951.
2. The Election Commission is authorised to de-register a party.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

De-recognition/Delisting of political parties

- De-recognition refers to the withdrawal of recognition of a political party by the ECI.
- Such parties are simply declared as registered-unrecognized parties (RUPP).
- The ECI has the power to derecognize a political party if it violates the provisions of the IC or the RPA, 1951.
- The ECI can only delist the inactive parties and refer the matter to the Central Government for further action.

Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPP)

- Newly registered parties.
- Those who have not secured enough percentage of votes in the assembly or general elections to become a state party.
- Those who have never contested elections since being registered are considered unrecognized parties.
- Such parties don't enjoy all the benefits extended to the recognised parties.

Geography

Maps

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following countries does not border China?

- A. Kyrgyzstan
- B. South Korea
- C. Kazakhstan
- D. North Korea

Answer: B



International Relations

Maps

Easy Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The border between India and Bangladesh is primarily called the Durand Line.
2. The India-Bangladesh border is the fifth-longest land border in the world.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

- The border between India and Bangladesh is primarily called the Radcliffe Line. It was established in 1947 during the partition of India, originally separating India from East Pakistan, which later became Bangladesh.
- The India-Bangladesh border is the fifth-longest land border in the world, stretching for 4,096.7 kilometres (2,545 miles). This border is shared by five Indian states: West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

Miscellaneous

Agriculture

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following:

1. China is the world's top potato producer followed by USA.
2. Potato is the third most available food crop after rice and wheat.
3. Sweet potato is the fifth most available food crop.

How many statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- China is the world's top potato producer followed by India.
- Potatoes are the third most available food crop after rice and wheat.
- Sweet potato is the sixth most available food crop after maize and Cassava.

Geography

Landforms

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs: (Intrusive volcanic forms and their names)

1. Perpendicular solidification to the ground – Lacolith
2. Dome-shaped intrusive bodies connected by a pipe-like conduit – Dyke
3. Granitic bodies – Batholiths

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one

- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

- Perpendicular solidification to the ground – Dyke
- Dome-shaped intrusive bodies connected by a pipe-like conduit – Lacolith
- Granitic bodies – Batholiths

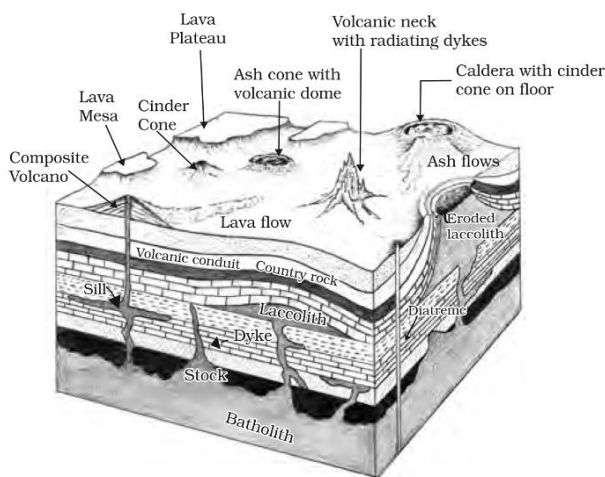


Figure 3.4 : Volcanic Landforms

History

Mughals

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following pairs: (Akbar's Navratnas & Contributions)

1. Raja Todar Mal: Home Minister
2. Fakir Aziao-Din: Finance minister
3. Mulla Do Piazza: Religious Minister

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one

- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- Raja Todar Mal: Finance minister
- Fakir Aziao-Din: Religious Minister
- Mulla Do Piazza: Home Minister

Navratnas of Akbar: Abu'l-Fazl, Faizi, Birbal, Todar Mal, Raja Man Singh, Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana, Tansen, Fakir Aziao-Din, and Mullah Do-Piyaza.

Environment

National Parks

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following pairs: (National Parks and State)

1. Nokrek NP – Mizoram
2. Shirui NP – Meghalaya
3. Murlen NP – Manipur

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- Nokrek NP – Meghalaya
- Shirui NP – Manipur
- Murlen NP – Mizoram



Governance

Laws

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Which of the following states does not border Bangladesh?

- A. Assam
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Manipur
- D. Tripura

Answer: C

International Relations

SAARC

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following with respect to South-Asian Free Trade Area:

1. The free trade arrangement of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.
2. The agreement came into force in 2006.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

- The South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) is the free trade arrangement of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- The agreement came into force in 2006, succeeding the 1993 SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement.
- SAFTA signatory countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- HQs- Kathmandu, Nepal



International Relations

Maps - Places in News

Easy

Indian Express

Q. Which of the following countries does not border Afghanistan:

- China
- Kyrgyzstan
- Uzbekistan
- Tajikistan

Answer: B

International Relations

Conventions

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Ottawa Convention was concluded by the Diplomatic Conference on an International Total Ban on anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines.
2. Ottawa Convention came into force in the year 1999.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

A. Answer: B

- The Convention was concluded by the Diplomatic Conference on an International Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Land Mines at Oslo on 18 September 1997.
- In accordance with its article 15, the Convention was opened for signature at Ottawa, Canada, by all States from 3 December 1997 until 4 December 1997, and remained open thereafter at the United Nations Headquarters in New York until its entry into force on 1 March 1999.
- Landmines come predominantly in two varieties: anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines. Both have caused great suffering in the past decades and continue to kill and injure civilians and by-standers long after conflicts have ended.
- Anti-personnel mines are prohibited under the Ottawa Convention.

Polity

Making of Indian Constitution

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following pairs (Features of Indian Constitution and Borrowed from which country)

1. Ideals of Justice – Japan
2. Rajya Sabha Members Nominations – USSR
3. Procedure established by law – Ireland

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two

- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Table 4.4 Sources of the Constitution at a Glance

Sources	Features Borrowed
1. Government of India Act of 1935	Federal Scheme, Office of governor, Judiciary, Public Service Commissions, Emergency provisions and administrative details.
2. British Constitution	Parliamentary government, Rule of Law, legislative procedure, single citizenship, cabinet system, prerogative writs, parliamentary privileges and bicameralism.
3. US Constitution	Fundamental rights, Independence of judiciary, judicial review, impeachment of the president, removal of Supreme Court and high court judges and post of vice-president.
4. Irish Constitution	Directive Principles of State Policy, nomination of members to Rajya Sabha and method of election of president.
5. Canadian Constitution	Federation with a strong Centre, vesting of residuary powers in the Centre, appointment of state governors by the Centre, and advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
6. Australian Constitution	Concurrent List, freedom of trade, commerce and inter-course, and joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament.
7. Weimar Constitution of Germany	Emergency provisions relating to suspension of Fundamental Rights.
8. Soviet Constitution (USSR, now Russia)	Fundamental duties and the ideal of justice (social, economic and political) in the Preamble.
9. French Constitution	Republic and the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity in the Preamble.
10. South African Constitution	Procedure for amendment of the Constitution and election of members of Rajya Sabha.
11. Japanese Constitution	Procedure established by Law.

Environment

Agriculture

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following with respect to NPK fertilisers:

1. The NPK are micro-nutrients which the crops require for development.
2. The ideal NPK ratio for the development of crops is 4:1:2.

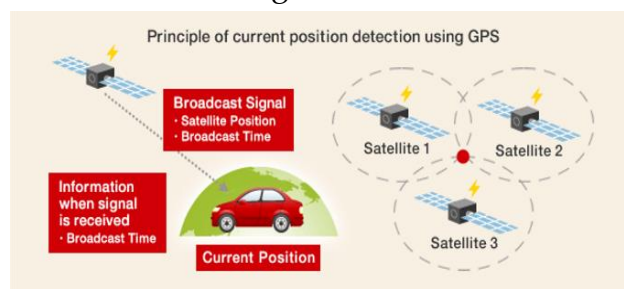
Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

- NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium) are macronutrients, not micronutrients, and they are essential for plant growth and development. Micronutrients, like zinc, iron, and boron, are also important but needed in smaller quantities.
- A NPK ratio of 4:2:1 (N:P₂O₅:K₂O) is generally considered ideal and accepted for macro-level monitoring of consumption of plant nutrients for the country as a whole.

- GPS devices use trilateration to determine a user's location. Trilateration involves calculating a position by measuring the distances from multiple known points (satellites) to an unknown point (the GPS receiver). By determining the distances from at least three satellites, a GPS receiver can pinpoint its location on Earth.
- Coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and solar flares can indeed disrupt the operation of GPS (Global Positioning System). These space weather events release large amounts of radiation and charged particles that can interfere with the signals transmitted between GPS satellites and ground-based receivers.



Science and Technology

Technology

Medium

Indian Express

Q. Consider the following with respect to Global Positioning System:

1. The GPS located a person using trilateration.
2. Coronal mass ejections and solar flares can disrupt the working of GPS.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Polity

Constitution

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following:

1. The reserved areas for the STs are notified in the fifth schedule.
2. Chamba area under HP is fully reserved for the STs.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only

- B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. None of the above

Answer: C

- The administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes are governed by the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Specifically, Article 244(1) of the Constitution read with the Fifth Schedule, outlines the provisions for these areas. These areas are primarily located in ten states: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh.

State-wise details of notified Fifth Schedule Areas			
S.No.	States	Districts	
		Fully covered	Partially covered
1.	Andhra Pradesh		East Godavari West Godavari Vishakhapatnam Srikakulam Visakhapatnam
2.	Chhattisgarh	Surguja Korea Bastar Dantewada Korba Jashpur Kanker Bilaspur Surguja Narayanpur Bilaspur Sukma Kondagaon	Balod Dhamtari Raigarh Rajnandgaon Garaband Bilaspur
3.	Gujarat	Dang Dahod Narmada Tapi	Surat Bharuch Valsad Vadodra Panchmahal Sabarkantha Navsari
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Lahaul & Spiti Kinnaur	Chamba

Polity

Constitution

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following pairs: (PVTGs and state)

- Kolam – Maharashtra
- Bondo – Rajasthan

3. Sahariya – Odisha

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None of the above

Answer: A

State-wise list of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)					
Name of States/Union Territory	S.No	Name of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group	Name of States/Union Territory	S.No	Name of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group
Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana)	1	Chenchu	Maharashtra	41	Katkaria /kathodi
	2	Bodo Gadaba		42	Kolam
	3	Gutob Gadaba		43	Maria Gond
	4	Dongaria Khond	Manipur	44	Maram Naga
	5	Kutia Kondha	Orissa	45	Chukutia Bhunjia
	6	Kolam		46	Birhore
	7	Konda Reddi		47	Bondo
	8	Kondasavara		48	Didayi
	9	Bondo Porja		49	Dongaria Khond
	10	Khond Porja		50	Juang
	11	Parengi Porja		51	Kharia
	12	Tothi		52	Kutia Kondha
Bihar (including Jharkhand)	13	Asur		53	Lanjia Saura
	14	Birhor		54	Lodha
	15	Birjia		55	Mankirdia
	16	Hill Kharia		56	Paudi Bhuiya
	17	Korwa		57	Saura
	18	Mal Paharia	Rajasthan	58	Saharia
	19	Parhaiya	Tamil Nadu	59	Irular
	20	Sauria Paharia		60	Kattunayakan
Gujarat	21	Savara		61	Kota
	22	Kolgha		62	Korumba
	23	Kathodi		63	Paniyan
	24	Kotwalia	Tripura	64	Toda
Karnataka	25	Padhar		65	Raing
	26	Siddi	Uttar Pradesh (including Uttrakhand)	66	Buksa
Kerala	27	Jenu Kuruba	West Bengal	67	Raji
	28	Koraga		68	Birhor
	29	Cholanaikayan		69	Lodha
	30	Kadar		70	Totos
Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	31	Kattunayakan	Andaman & Nicobar island	71	Great Andamanies
	32	Koraga		72	Jarawa
	33	Kurumbas		73	Onge
	34	Abujh Maria		74	Sentinelese
	35	Baiga		75	Shom Pen
	36	Bharja			
	37	Birhor			
	38	Hill Korba			
	39	Kamar			
	40	Sahariya			

Environment

Conservation

Easy

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following pairs: (Tiger reserves and States)

1. Manas – Assam
2. Melghat – Maharashtra
3. Indravati – Chattisgarh

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

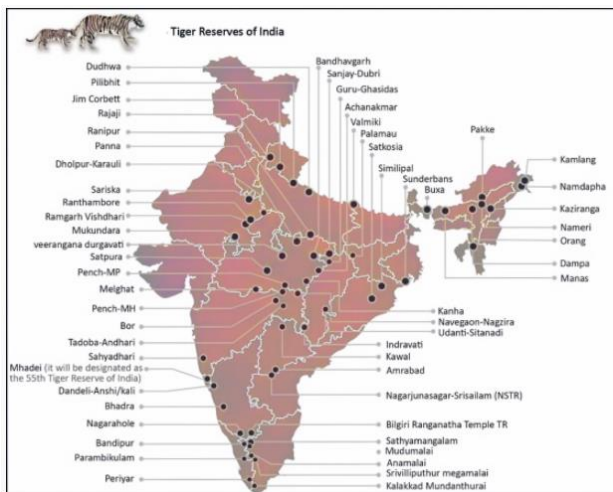
Answer: C

- Electric cars are heavier than traditional petrol or diesel cars due to their large battery packs. These battery packs weigh around 450kg on average and make up as much as 25% of the car's total weight.
- Electric vehicles (EVs) can contribute to particulate matter (PM) pollution, primarily through tire and brake wear, even though they eliminate tailpipe emissions. While EVs don't produce PM from exhaust like gasoline or diesel cars, their heavier weight can lead to increased tire wear and brake dust, releasing PM into the atmosphere.

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Answer: C



Environment

Climate Change

Medium

The Hindu

Q. Consider the following with respect to EVs:

1. EVs are heavier than the conventional vehicles.
2. EVs produce particulate matter as a pollutant.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

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