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A Guide to Building Trust



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Questions

Correct Answer

Our Source

Solution: C

PLACER DEPOSITS

- Rich placer deposits of gold are found on the Ghana coast (West Africa) but the source (gold bearing veins) are in Brazil and it is obvious that the gold deposits of the Ghana are derived from the Brazil plateau when the two continents lay side by side.

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PALEOCLIMATE DATA - TILLITE DEPOSITS

- It is the sedimentary rock formed out of deposits of glaciers. The Gondwana system of sediments from India is known to have its counter parts in six different landmasses of the Southern Hemisphere.
- At the base the system has thick Tillite indicating extensive and prolonged glaciation. Counter parts of this succession are found in Africa, Falkland Island, Madagascar, Antarctica and Australia besides India.
- Overall resemblance of the Gondwana type sediments clearly demonstrates that these landmasses had remarkably similar histories.

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ROCKS OF SAME AGE & CHARACTERISTICS

- The radiometric dating methods developed in the recent period have facilitated correlating the rock formation from different continents across the vast ocean.
- The belt of ancient rocks of 2,000 million years from Brazil coast matches with those from western Africa.
- The earliest marine deposits along the coastline of South America and Africa are of the Jurassic age.
- This suggests that the ocean did not exist prior to that time.

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45. Which of the following are the evidences of the phenomenon of continental drift?

- The belt of ancient rocks from Brazil coast matches with those from Western Africa.
- The gold deposits of Ghana are derived from the Brazil plateau when the two continents lay side by side.
- The Gondwana system of sediments from India is known to have its counterparts in six different landmasses of the Southern Hemisphere.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- I and III only
- I and II only
- I, II and III
- II and III only

46. Consider the following statements :

Statement I :

The amount of dust particles in the atmosphere is more in subtropical and temperate areas than in equatorial and polar regions.

Statement II :

Subtropical and temperate areas have less dry winds.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Solution: C

Encryption Successful

Dust Particles: Atmosphere has a sufficient capacity to keep small solid particles, which may originate from different sources and include sea salts, fine soil, smoke-soot, ash, pollen, dust and disintegrated particles of meteorites.

Dust particles are generally concentrated in the lower layers of the atmosphere; yet, convectional air currents may transport them to great heights.

The higher concentration of dust particles is found in subtropical and temperate regions due to dry winds in comparison to equatorial and polar regions.

Dust and salt particles act as hygroscopic nuclei around which water vapour condenses to produce cloud

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47. Consider the following statements :

Statement I :

In January, in the Northern Hemisphere, the isotherms bend equatorward while crossing the landmasses, and poleward while crossing the oceans.

Statement II :

In January, the air over the oceans is warmer than that over the landmasses in the Northern Hemisphere.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Solution: A

Encryption Successful

Distribution of Isotherms in Winters

In continents=
bent
equatorward

In oceans=
bent pole words

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49. Consider the following statements :

- I. Without the atmosphere, temperature would be well below freezing point everywhere on the Earth's surface.
- II. Heat absorbed and trapped by the atmosphere maintains our planet's average temperature.
- III. Atmosphere's gases, like carbon dioxide, are particularly good at absorbing and trapping radiation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and III only
- (b) I and II only
- (c) I, II and III
- (d) II and III only

Solution: C

Encryption Successful

Radiation - Terrestrial radiation

- The insolation received by the earth is in short waves and heats up its surface.
- The earth after being heated itself becomes a radiating body and it radiates energy to the atmosphere in long wave form.
- This energy heats up the atmosphere from below. This process is known as terrestrial radiation.
- The long wave radiation is absorbed by the atmospheric gases particularly by carbon dioxide and the other green house gases.
- Thus, the atmosphere is indirectly heated by the earth's radiation.
- The atmosphere in turn radiates and transmits heat to the space.

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Solution: A

Encryption Successful

Cloud Seeding

How Cloud Seeding Works

- 1 Silver iodide is released by a plane
- 2 Silver iodide particles reach the targeted cloud
- 3 Silver iodide aids in the formation of ice crystals
- 4 The ice crystals descend and melt in the form of rain

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Prelims Crash

65. Artificial way of causing rainfall to reduce air pollution makes use of

- (a) silver iodide and potassium iodide
- (b) silver nitrate and potassium iodide
- (c) silver iodide and potassium nitrate
- (d) silver nitrate and potassium chloride

13. Consider the following statements :

Statement I :

Scientific studies suggest that a shift is taking place in the Earth's rotation and axis.

Statement II :

Solar flares and associated coronal mass ejections bombarded the Earth's outermost atmosphere with tremendous amount of energy.

Statement III :

As the Earth's polar ice melts, the water tends to move towards the equator.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Solution: B

Encryption Successful

Milankovitch Cycles

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97. Consider the following statements :

I. Anadyr in Siberia and Nome in Alaska are a few kilometers from each other, but when people are waking up and getting set for breakfast in these cities, it would be different days.

II. When it is Monday in Anadyr, it is Tuesday in Nome.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

Solution: A

Encryption Successful

International Date Line

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Q. The International Date Line (IDL) is where the date changes by exactly one day when crossed. When it is midnight Friday on the Asiatic side of the IDL, and a person crosses the line eastwards. What time will it be on the opposite side of the IDL?

- A. Midnight Friday
- B. Midnight Thursday
- C. Midnight Saturday
- D. Noon Thursday

A (Asiatic)
B (West)
midnight → Friday

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Solution: C

332 ★ A Brief History of Modern India

August 31, 1920 The Khilafat Committee started a campaign of non-cooperation and the movement was formally launched. (Tilak had, incidentally, breathed his last on August 1, 1920.)

September 1920 At a special session in Calcutta, the Congress approved a non-cooperation programme till the Punjab and Khilafat wrongs were removed and swaraj was established. The programme was to include—

- boycott of government schools and colleges;
- boycott of law courts and dispensation of justice through panchayats instead;
- boycott of legislative councils; (there were some differences over this as some leaders like C.R. Das were not willing to include a boycott of councils, but bowed to Congress discipline; these leaders boycotted elections held in November 1920 and the majority of the voters too stayed away);
- boycott of foreign cloth and use of khadi instead; also practice of hand-spinning to be done;
- renunciation of government honours and titles; the second phase could include mass civil disobedience including resignation from government service, and non-payment of taxes.

During the movement, the participants were supposed to work for Hindu-Muslim unity and for removal of untouchability, all the time remaining non-violent.

22. Consider the following subjects with regard to Non-Cooperation Programme :

- Boycott of law-courts and foreign cloth
- Observance of strict non-violence
- Retention of titles and honours without using them in public
- Establishment of Panchayats for settling disputes

How many of the above were parts of Non-Cooperation Programme?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All the four

lecture - 6 Progress of the Programme	
Sept 1920 Special session of INC at Calcutta	President : Lala Lajpat Rai Goals of NCM: ▪ Swaraj ▪ Removing Punjab and Khilafat wrongs
Sept 1920	Boycott of: ▪ Govt schools and colleges ▪ Law courts (justice through panchayats instead) ▪ Legislative Councils ▪ Foreign cloth (use of Khadi instead) ▪ Renunciation of government honours and titles
Dec 1920, Nagpur session of INC	President C. Vijayaraghavachariar ▪ Main resolution on non-cooperation was moved by C.R. Das and approved

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23. The irrigation device called 'Araghatta' was

- a water bag made of leather pulled over a pulley
- a large wheel with earthen pots tied to the outer ends of its spokes
- a larger earthen pot driven by bullocks
- a large water bucket pulled up by rope directly by hand

Solution: B

Gupta Trade and Economy

- Coins:** The Guptas struck a variety of coins, including gold, silver, copper and lead coins
- Irrigation:** Sudarshana Lake repaired. Ghatiyatra/araghatta use. Tank irrigation.
- Land Grants:** Salaries were paid in the form of land grants. Emergence of a feudal society.
- Craft Production and Trade:** Guilds or Guilds. Decline of Trade and Crafts.
- Agriculture:** Uncultivated land (Khila/Aprahata) was brought under cultivation. Land measures like Nivartana, Kulyavapa and Dronovapa were used.

Handwritten notes: Guilds / Association, Trade / Merchants, Profession?, unite for land.

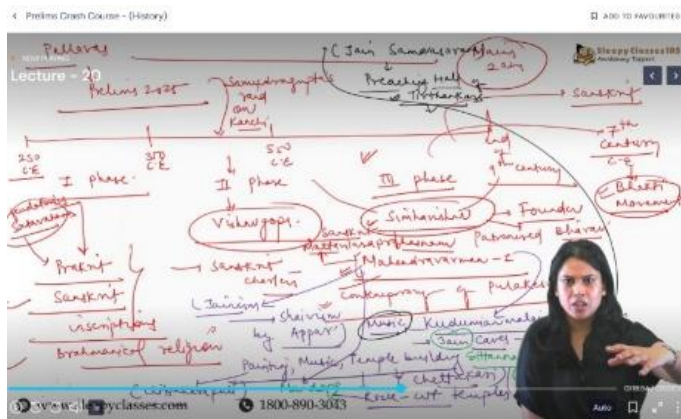
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Term	Meaning
Ghatikas	Colleges generally attached to the temples
Taniyur	A large village under Chola administrative division. Many of the agricultural villages were clubbed together with a taniyur.
Araghatta	Waterwheel used in the irrigation of land
Banjaras	Nomadic Traders in Medieval India
Hundi	The Hundis was a letter of credit
Fanam	The fanam was a small gold coin, weighed as little as 0.3 grams and had a diameter of less than a Centimetre, used in south India between the 9th and 19th centuries.

24. Who among the following rulers in ancient India had assumed the titles 'Mattavilasa', 'Vichitrachitta' and 'Gunabhara'?

- (a) Mahendravarman I
- (b) Simhavishnu
- (c) **Narasimhavarman I**
- (d) Simhavarman

Solution: A



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Pallava Art and Literature

Architecture	Sculpture	Literature	•Music and Dance	Paintings	
Mahendravarman Group - Rock Cut Temples / Mandapas	Arjuna's Penance or Descent of Ganges, Mahabalipuram Bronze Sculptures, Shiva seated in ardhparnayaka asana	Bharavi - Kiratarjuniya	The Kudumiamalai and Thirumayam music inscriptions	Sittnavasala Paintings, Jainism	
Narasimha Group - Monolithic Temples / Rathas		Appar, Sambandar - Tevaram	Temple Sculptures	Mahendravarman I - Chittirakkarapuli.	
Rajasimha Group - Structural Temples Kailashnath Temple, Kanchi		•Mattavilasa Prahasana - Mahendravarman I.			
Nandivaramana Group					

25. Fa-hien (Faxian), the Chinese pilgrim, travelled to India during the reign of

- (a) Samudragupta
- (b) Chandragupta II**
- (c) Kumaragupta I
- (d) Skandagupta

Solution: B

Gupta Empire: Last Minute Revision for UPSC Prelims 2025 | Ancient History | Sleepy Classes IAS

26. Who among the following led a successful military campaign against the kingdom of Srivijaya, the powerful maritime State, which ruled the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring islands?

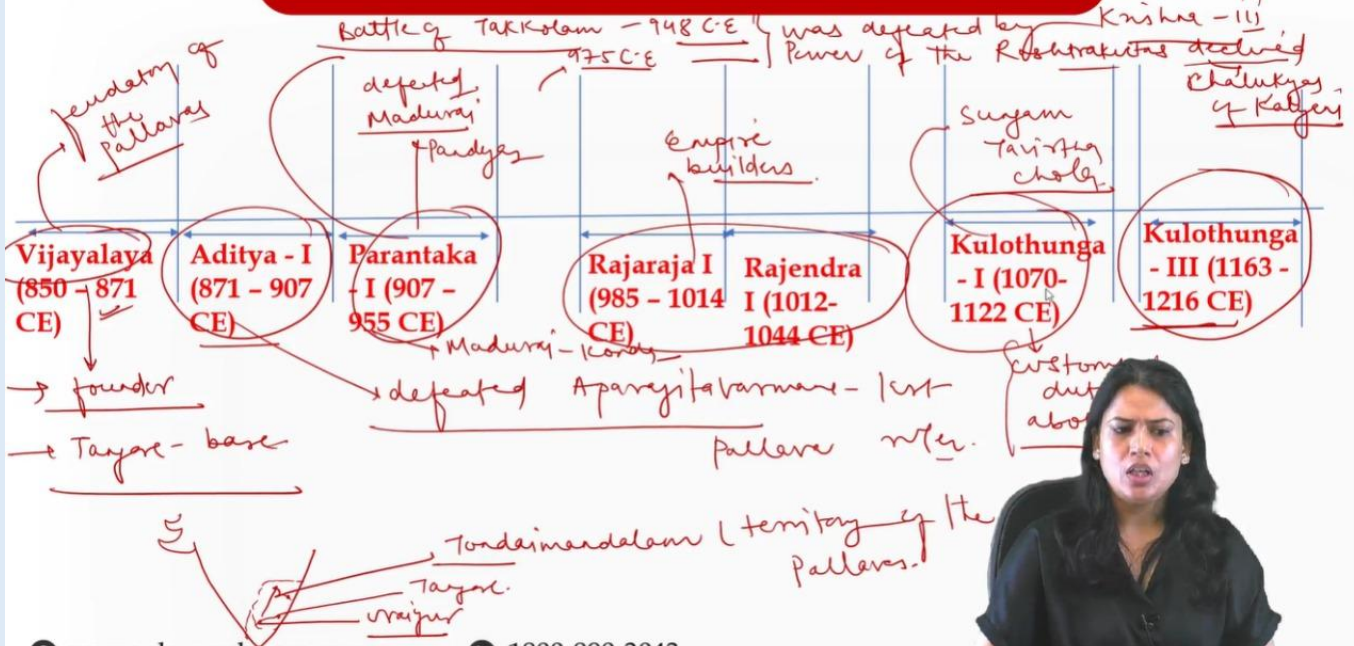
- (a) Amoghavarsha (Rashtrakuta)
- (b) Prataparudra (Kakatiya)
- (c) Rajendra I (Chola)**
- (d) Vishnuvardhana (Hoysala)

Solution: C

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**Rapid
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**YouTube (17th
May, 2025)**

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**Prelims Crash
Course 2025**
 +
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Revision 2025**

The Great Cholas



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Solution: B

27. With reference to ancient India (600-322 BC), consider the following pairs :

Territorial region	River flowing in the region
I. Asmaka	: Godavari
II. Kamboja	: Vipas
III. Avanti	: Mahanadi
IV. Kosala	: Sarayu

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

Pair	Correct/Incorrect	Explanation
I. Asmaka : Godavari	✓ Correct	Asmaka was one of the 16 Mahajanapadas, located in South India (modern Telangana/Maharashtra), near the Godavari River. It was the only one south of Vindhyas.
II. Kamboja : Vipas	✗ Incorrect	Kamboja was in the northwest near the Hindukush (modern Afghanistan/Tajikistan). Vipas (Beas River) flows in Punjab/Himachal Pradesh – not in Kamboja.

Pair	Correct/Incorrect	Explanation
III. Avanti : Mahanadi	✗ Incorrect	Avanti was in western Madhya Pradesh (around Ujjain). Rivers like Chambal and Shipra flowed there. Mahanadi flows much farther east in Chhattisgarh/Odisha.
IV. Kosala : Sarayu	✓ Correct	Kosala, with its capital Ayodhya, was in eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Sarayu River is historically and mythologically associated with this region (e.g., Ramayana).

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Mahājanapadas and janapadas (c. 500 BCE)

Lecture 1 - Part 2

Handwritten notes on the map:

- Arghasha Nikaya - Buddhist text
- Bhagavati Sutra - Jain text

01:40:38 / 03:10:23

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Lecture 1 - Part 2

Mahajanapada	Capital	Modern Location	Facts about 16 Mahajanapadas
Vatsa	Kausambi	Allahabad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also known as Vamsa There was a prosperous trade and business scenario in the 6th century BC. After the rise of Buddha, ruler Udayana made Buddhism a state religion.
Kosala	Sravasti	Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saketa and Ayodhya were other important towns. Ruled during the era of Mahabuddha.

01:52:18 / 03:19:23

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NOW PLAYING

Lecture 1 - Part 2

Mahajanapada	Capital	Modern Location	Facts about 16 Mahajanapadas
Ashmaka or Assaka	Pratisthan/ Paithan/ Potana or Potali or Podana.	Bank of Godavari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only Mahajanapada south of the Vindhya mountains. Ashmakas are mentioned by...

01:55:46 / 03:10:23

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Solution: B

Mauryan Administration

Local Administration:

- District Administration:
 - Pradeshika
 - Rajukas
 - Sthanika - Tax collector working under Pradeshikas.
 - Yuktas

City Administration:

- Nagarika / City Superintendent

Village Administration:

- Gopa → Gramani

Mauryan Administration

Local Administration

Province → Districts (Pradesh) → District Head → Pradeshika / Pradeshika

→ Rajukas → Revenue administration + Judicial duties

→ Sthanika → Tax collection

→ Yuktas → lower level officials / secretaries

29. Ashokan inscriptions suggest that the 'Pradeshika', 'Rajuka' and 'Yukta' were important officers at the

- (a) village-level administration
- (b) district-level administration
- (c) provincial administration
- (d) level of the central administration

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Test Series Revision Test - Advanced (Ancient and Medieval)
 +
FMS - Important Terms on YouTube (Date : 20th March, 2025)

Q.1 Consider the following terms,

List A (Position)	List B (Role)
Sthanika	Overall, in-charge of district administration
Rajuka	Judicial Officers
Yukta	Junior level officers
Sramanas	Ascetics linked to religious and philosophical practices

How many pair/s is/are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Ans (c)

Explanation:

Pradeshika was the overall in-charge of the district. The pradeshikas were also tasked with touring the empire every five years and perform an audit as well as keep a check on the provincial administration. Gopa and Sthanika – the two types of officers, acted as intermediaries between the district and village level administrative units. They were entrusted with the following duties: demarcating village boundaries; maintaining records of land; recording income and expenditure of people; recording taxes, revenues and fines.

Hence, pair 1 is incorrect.

Ashoka the Great appointed a class of officers known as Rajukas, in rural as well as urban areas, entrusted with the administration of justice and maintaining law and order in the empire. The judicial functions often combined with assessment of revenue. **Hence, pair 2 is correct.**

At the district level, the officials listed were Pradeshika, Rajuka and Yukta. The Yukta was a junior officer giving secretarial kind of assistance to the other two. The officials fulfilled the following duties: survey and assessment of land; tours and inspections; revenue collection; and maintaining law and order. **Hence, pair 3 is correct.**

The sramanas referred to a range of ascetic groups and sects - Buddhist, Jaina, Ajivika, etc. **Hence, pair 4 is correct.**

Q. The head of a district (Ahara), the principal coordinator of the revenue and the officer in-charge of general and military functions in his jurisdiction during Mauryan empire was known as [CDS 2008-II]

(a) Krori
(b) Rajuka
(c) Foujdar
(d) Chirastadar

Handwritten notes:
 - Medical/Anatoli...
 - Revenue/Military Power
 - Province (Janapada) → District (Ahara)
 - Ahara → Gopa, Sthanika → Clusters of villages
 - Ahara → Gramika, Gramani → Villages
 - Ahara → Pradeshta (Pradeshta)
 - Ahara → Rajuka
 - Ahara → Foujdar
 - Ahara → Chirastadar
 - Ahara → Secretary, Treasurer
 - Ahara → Judicial officials

Important Terminology - Ancient and Medieval History Part -3 | UPSC Prelims 2025

District-Level Administration

Official	Role	Function
Pradeshta	Head of the district	Overall in charge of the district
Rajuka	Revenue and Law Officer	Revenue collection, land assessment, law enforcement
Yukta	Assistant Officer	Secretarial assistance and record-keeping

Village-Level Administration

- Village Headman - Gramika
- Gopa and Sthanika, two types of officers, acting as intermediaries between the district and village level, administrative units.

Their functions included: demarcating village boundaries, maintaining records of lands used for various purposes, recording income and expenditure of people, recording taxes, revenue and fines, etc.

Important Terminology - Ancient and Medieval History Part -3 | UPSC Prelims 2025

94. Subsequent to which one of the following events, Gandhiji, who consistently opposed untouchability and appealed for its eradication from all spheres, decided to include the upliftment of 'Harijans' in his political and social programme?

- (a) The Poona Pact
- (b) The Gandhi-Irwin Agreement (Delhi Pact)
- (c) Arrest of Congress leadership at the time of the Quit India Movement
- (d) Promulgation of the Government of India Act, 1935

Solution: A

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- Second Round Table Conference - September - December, 1931
- Participation of Gandhi and the Indian National Congress
- Communal Award, August 16, 1932
 - Based on the findings of the Indian Franchise Committee (also called the Lothian Committee)
 - Award accorded separate electorates for Muslims, Europeans, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, depressed classes, and even to the Marathas for some seats in Bombay.
 - Allocations of seats were to be made for laborers, landlords, traders, and industrialists.

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Poona Pact

- Signed by B.R. Ambedkar on behalf of the depressed classes on September 24, 1932, the Poona Pact abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes.
- But the seats reserved for the depressed classes were increased from 71 to 147 in provincial legislatures and 18 percent of the total in the Central Legislature.

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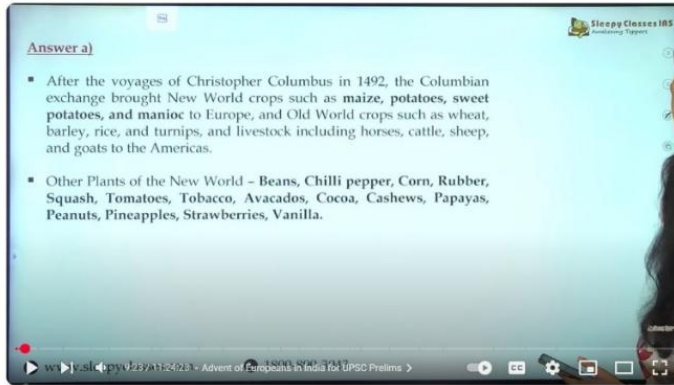
Solution: C

95. Consider the following fruits :

- I. Papaya
- II. Pineapple
- III. Guava

How many of the above were introduced in India by the Portuguese in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None



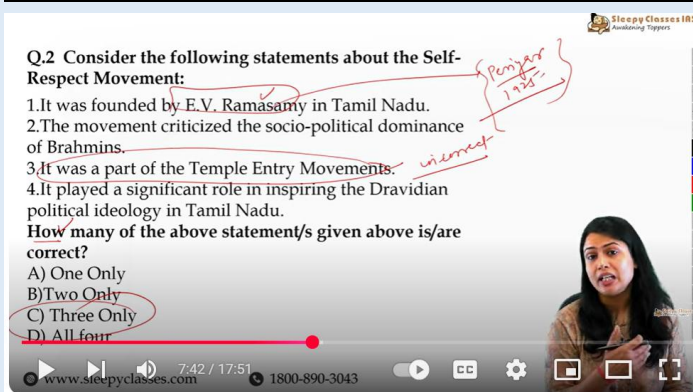
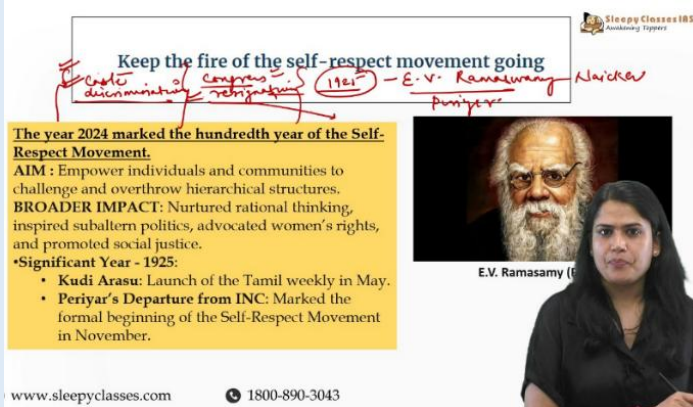
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Solution: A

98. Who among the following was the founder of the 'Self-Respect Movement'?

- (a) 'Periyar' E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker
- (b) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
- (c) Bhaskarrao Jadhav
- (d) Dinkarrao Javalkar



Most Important Socio-Religious Reforms via MCQs for UPSC Prelims 2025 | Sleepy Classes IAS | History

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(Current
Affairs)
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Test Series
2025 (23rd Feb,
CA Test)
+
YouTube
Premix (Dated
24th March,
2025)

Q.4 With reference to the Self-Respect Marriage Movement, consider the following statements: (Modern History, Socio - Religious Reform Movement, Difficult)

1. The first Self-Respect Conference was held in Chengalpattu in 1929.
2. It led to the formation of the Justice Party, which advocated for the rights of non-Brahmins in the secular arena.
3. 'Self-Respect' marriages (Suyamariyathai) were legalized in Tamil Nadu in 1928.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (a)

Context: The year 2024 marked the start of the hundredth year of the Self-Respect Movement.

The Self-Respect Movement was a social movement in South India that aimed to challenge caste-based oppression and gender inequality. It was founded by E.V. Ramasamy, also known as

Periyar, in 1925. Its goal was to challenge social hierarchies, including caste-based oppression and gender inequality. The movement advocated for social reforms such as women's rights, including equal property rights, widow remarriage, and the right to divorce. Periyar launched the *Kudi Arasu* weekly in 1925 to promote these ideas and criticize Brahminical dominance. It contributed to promoting rationalism, social justice, and regional identities in Tamil Nadu.

- The first Self-Respect Conference was held in Chengalpattu in 1929 under the leadership of E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar). The conference passed resolutions that opposed caste-based discrimination, promoted women's rights, and rejected Brahminical rituals in marriages. Hence, the statement 1 is correct.
- The South Indian Liberal Federation, more commonly known as the Justice Party, was a political party founded in 1916 in the Madras Presidency. It was established by Dr. T. M. Nair, P. Tyagaraja Chetty, and C. Natesa Mudaliar to advocate for the rights of non-Brahmin communities, who were underrepresented in government jobs and education. The Justice Party championed

social justice and affirmative action, and was instrumental in implementing reservation policies for backward classes, educational reforms, and various social initiatives. Thus, the Justice Party was formed in 1916, long before the Self-Respect Movement started (which began in the 1920s). Hence, the statement 2 is not correct.

- Self-Respect Marriages were legalized much later, in 1967, through the Hindu Marriage (Madras Amendment) Act, 1967, under C.N. Annadurai's DMK government. The claim that they were legally recognized in 1928 is inaccurate. Hence, the statement 3 is not correct.

30. Consider the following statements in respect of the Non-Cooperation Movement :

- I. The Congress declared the attainment of 'Swaraj' by all legitimate and peaceful means to be its objective.
- II. It was to be implemented in stages with civil disobedience and non-payment of taxes for the next stage only if 'Swaraj' did not come within a year and the Government resorted to repression.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

Solution: A

Date	Event
Nagpur session of INC Dec 1920	Attainment of swaraj through peaceful and legitimate means (including extra-constitutional mass struggle) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress Working Committee (CWC) of 15 members set up • Provincial congress Committees created on linguistic basis • Ward committees set up • Gandhi said that swaraj can be attained in a year
July 1921	Ali brothers gave a call for Muslims to resign from the army
Nov 1921	Visit of Prince of Wales, strikes and demonstrations

Foundation Batch 2025 (Current Affairs) + Prelims Crash Course 2025 + Rapid Revision 2025

92. The famous female figurine known as 'Dancing Girl', found at Mohenjo-daro, is made of

- (a) carnelian
- (b) clay
- (c) bronze
- (d) gold

Solution: C

Harappan Site	Special Features
Harappa (on Ravi River) Daya Ram Sahni in 1921	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Indus site to be discovered • Two rows of six granaries • The largest number of wheat grains • Red sandstone torso of nude male • Evidence of Coffin burial
Mohenjo-Daro (Indus river) (mounds of Dead) R.D Banerjee in 1922	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Indus site to be discovered • Great granary (the largest building) • Pasupati seals • Bronze dancing girl • Steatite image of bearded man said to be the first • 3 cylindrical seals of Mesopotamia • Great Bath • Hordes of Skeletons found on warfare • Multi-pillar assembly halls

Foundation Batch 2025 (Current Affairs) + Prelims Crash Course 2025 + Rapid Revision 2025 + Test Series

Q.75 Consider the following statements about Indian bronze sculptures:

1. The "Dancing Girl" from Mohenjodaro is the earliest known bronze sculpture in India.
2. The Vakataka bronze Buddha images from Phophnar show the influence of the Amaravati style.
3. The Akota Hoard shows that bronze casting was common in Gujarat from the 6th to 9th century.
4. The Sultanganj Buddha is a large bronze sculpture from the Gupta period, representing a standing Buddha

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

- a) One Only
- b) Two Only
- c) Three Only
- d) All of the above

Answer d)

Perhaps the 'Dancing Girl' in tribhanga posture from Mohenjodaro is the earliest bronze sculpture datable to 2500 BCE. The limbs and torso of this female figurine are simplified in tubular form. . **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Vakataka bronze images of the Buddha from Phophnar, Madhyapradesh, are contemporary with the Gupta period bronzes. They show the influence of the Amaravati style of Andhra Pradesh in the third century CE and at the same time there is a significant change in the draping style of the monk's robe. Buddha's right hand in abhaya mudra is free so that the drapery clings to the right side of the body contour. The result is a continuous flowing line on this side of the figure. At the level of the ankles of the Buddha figure the drapery makes a conspicuous curvilinear turn, as it is held by the left hand. . **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

The hoard of bronzes discovered in Akota near Vadodara established that bronze casting was practised in Gujarat or western India between the sixth and ninth centuries. Most of the images represent the Jaina tirthankaras like Mahavira, Parshvanath or Adinath. A new format was invented in which tirthankaras are seated on a throne; they can be single or combined in a group of three or in a group of twenty-four tirthankaras. They were often inlaid with silver and copper to highlight details. . **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

The Sultanganj Buddha is a notable bronze sculpture from the Gupta period (5th-6th century CE), discovered in Sultanganj, Bihar. This large statue, approximately 2.3 meters tall, depicts a standing Buddha and is one of the earliest and largest surviving bronze statues from ancient India. It showcases the artistic excellence of Gupta craftsmen and the period's emphasis on creating life-sized religious icons. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

Questions

Correct Answer

Our Source

58. Consider the following statements about Lokpal :

- I. The power of Lokpal applies to public servants of India, but not to the Indian public servants posted outside India.
- II. The Chairperson or a Member shall not be a Member of the Parliament or a Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory, and only the Chief Justice of India, whether incumbent or retired, has to be its Chairperson.
- III. The Chairperson or a Member shall not be a person of less than forty-five years of age on the date of assuming office as the Chairperson or Member, as the case may be.
- IV. Lokpal cannot inquire into the allegations of corruption against a sitting Prime Minister of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) III only
 (b) II and III
 (c) I and IV
 (d) None of the above statements is correct

Solution: A

Lokpal and Lokayuktas

- Provisions of the Act

 1. Multi member body - Chairperson and 8 Members
 2. Out of the 8, 50 percent judicial members and 50 % from SC/ST/OBC/Minorities
 3. Judicial Member- Either former SC Judge / Chief justice of High Court
 4. Term - 5 years/70 years
 5. Minimum Age - 45 years
 6. Selection committee -
 PM L.O.P in L.S CJI /Nominee
 Eminent Jurist
 L.S Speaker

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Jurisdiction

- Jurisdiction of Lokpal includes Prime Minister, Ministers, members of Parliament, Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of Central Government.
- Jurisdiction of the Lokpal included the Prime Minister except on allegations of corruption relating to international relations, security, the public order, atomic energy and space.
- The Lokpal does not have jurisdiction over Ministers and MPs in the matter of anything said in Parliament or a vote given there.
- Its jurisdiction also includes any person who is or has been in charge (director/ manager/ secretary) of anybody/ society set up by central act or any other body financed/ controlled by central government and any other person involved in act of abetting, bribe giving or bribe taking.

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GS
Foundation

67. Consider the following statements :

- I. On the dissolution of the House of the People, the Speaker shall not vacate his/her office until immediately before the first meeting of the House of the People after the dissolution.
- II. According to the provisions of the Constitution of India, a Member of the House of the People on being elected as Speaker shall resign from his/her political party immediately.
- III. The Speaker of the House of the People may be removed from his/her office by a resolution of the House of the People passed by a majority of all the then Members of the House, provided that no resolution shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
 (b) II and III only
 (c) I and III only
 (d) I, II and III

Solution: A

• The Supreme Court examined the pardoning power of the President under different cases and laid down the following principles:

1. The petitioner for mercy has no right to an oral hearing by the President.
2. The President can examine the evidence afresh and take a view different from the view taken by the court.
3. The power is to be exercised by the President on the advice of the union cabinet.
4. The President is not bound to give reasons for his order.
5. The President can afford relief not only from a sentence that he regards as unduly harsh but also from an evident mistake.
6. There is no need for the Supreme Court to lay down specific guidelines for the exercise of power by the President.
7. The exercise of power by the President is not subject to judicial review except where the presidential decision is arbitrary, irrational, malafide or discriminatory.
8. Where the earlier petition for mercy has been rejected by the President, stay cannot be obtained by filing another petition.

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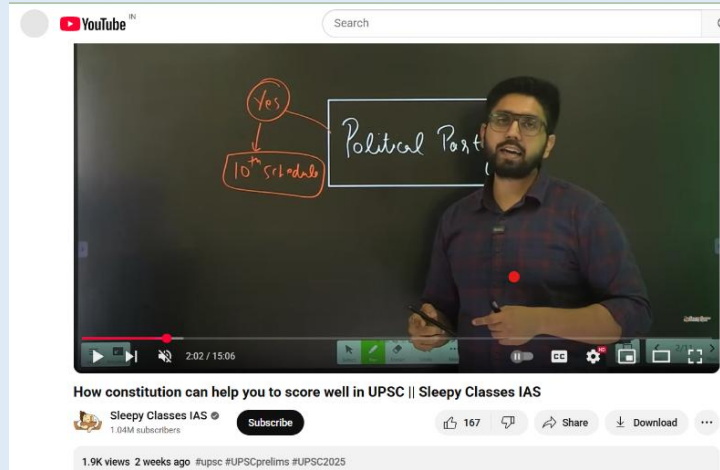
Solution: D

68. Consider the following statements :

- I. If any question arises as to whether a Member of the House of the People has become subject to disqualification under the 10th Schedule, the President's decision in accordance with the opinion of the Council of Union Ministers shall be final.
- II. There is no mention of the word 'political party' in the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
(b) II only
(c) Both I and II
(d) Neither I nor II



GS
Foundation
+
YouTube

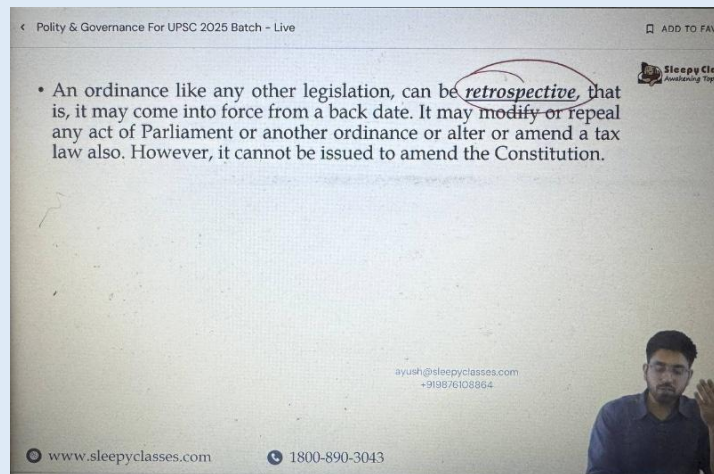
81. With reference to the Indian polity, consider the following statements :

- I. An Ordinance can amend any Central Act.
- II. An Ordinance can abridge a Fundamental Right.
- III. An Ordinance can come into effect from a back date.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
(b) II and III only
(c) I and III only
(d) I, II and III

Solution: C



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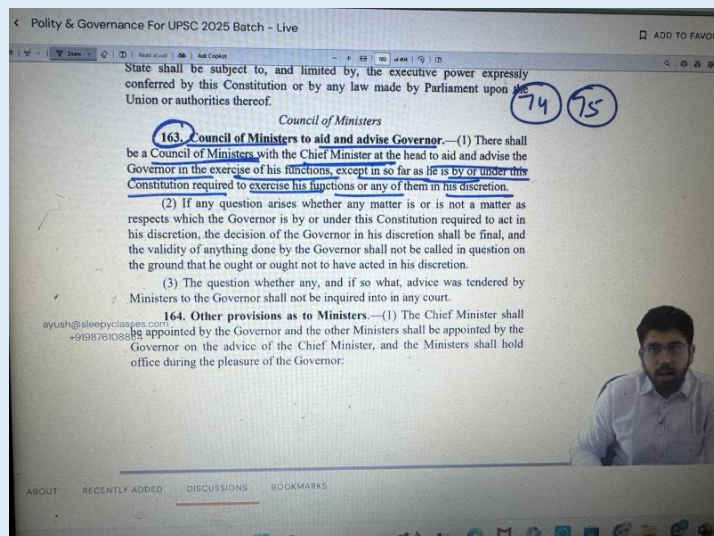
Solution: A

84. Consider the following statements :

- I. The Constitution of India explicitly mentions that in certain spheres the Governor of a State acts in his/her own discretion.
- II. The President of India can, of his/her own, reserve a bill passed by a State Legislature for his/her consideration without it being forwarded by the Governor of the State concerned.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
(b) II only
(c) Both I and II
(d) Neither I nor II



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86. Consider the following statements :

With reference to the Constitution of India, if an Area in a State is declared as Scheduled Area under the Fifth Schedule

- I. the State Government loses its executive power in such areas and a local body assumes total administration
- II. the Union Government can take over the total administration of such areas under certain circumstances on the recommendations of the Governor

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
 (b) II only
~~(c) Both I and II~~
 (d) Neither I nor II

Solution: D

Scheduled Areas (5th Schedule)

Executive Power of State and Centre: The executive power of a state extends to the scheduled areas therein. But the governor has a special responsibility regarding such areas. He has to submit a report to the president regarding the administration of such areas, annually or whenever so required by the President. The executive power of the Centre extends to giving directions to the states regarding the administration of such areas.

GS Foundation

89. With reference to the Indian polity, consider the following statements :

- I. The Governor of a State is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his/her office.
- II. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the Governor during his/her term of office.
- III. Members of a State Legislature are not liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said within the House.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
 (b) II and III only
 (c) I and III only
~~(d) I, II and III~~

Solution: D

The President or the Governor of a State, shall not be answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his office or for any act done or purporting to be done by him in the exercise and performance of these powers and duties.

Provided that the conduct of the President may be brought under review by any court, tribunal or body appointed or designated by either House of Parliament for the investigation of a charge under article 61:

Provided further that nothing in this clause shall be construed as restricting the right of any person to bring appropriate proceedings against the Government of India or the Government of a State.

(2) No criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office.

(3) No process for the arrest or imprisonment of the President, or the Governor of a State, shall issue from any court during his term of office.

(4) No civil proceedings in which relief is claimed against the President, or the Governor of a State, shall be instituted during his term of office in any court in respect of any act done or purporting to be done by him in his personal capacity, whether before or after he entered upon his office as President, or as Governor of such State, until the expiration of two months after notice in writing has been delivered to the President or the Governor, as the case may be, or left at his office stating the nature of the proceedings, the cause of action therefor, the name, description and residence of the party by whom such proceedings are to be instituted, and the relief which he claims.

105. Powers, privileges, etc., of the Houses of Parliament and of the members and committees thereof.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of Parliament, there shall be freedom of speech in Parliament.

(2) No member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or any committee thereof, and no person shall be so liable in respect of the publication by or under the authority of either House of Parliament of any report, paper, votes or proceedings.

(3) In other respects, the powers, privileges and immunities of each House of Parliament, and of the members and the committees of each House, shall be such as may from time to time be defined by Parliament by law, and, until so defined, shall be those of that House and of its members and committees immediately before the coming into force of section 15 of the Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978.]

105. Powers, privileges, etc., of the Houses of Parliament and of the members and committees thereof.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of Parliament, there shall be freedom of speech in Parliament.

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(3) In other respects, the powers, privileges and immunities of each House of Parliament, and of the members and the committees of each House, shall be such as may from time to time be defined by Parliament by law, and, until so defined, shall be those of that House and of its members and committees immediately before the coming into force of section 15 of the Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978.]

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51. Consider the following statements :

- I. Panchayats at the intermediate level exist in all States.
- II. To be eligible to be a Member of a Panchayat at the intermediate level, a person should attain the age of thirty years.
- III. The Chief Minister of a State constitutes a commission to review the financial position of Panchayats at the intermediate levels and to make recommendations regarding the distribution of net proceeds of taxes and duties, leviable by the State, between the State and Panchayats at the intermediate level.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

- (a) I and II only ✓ (b) II and III only ✓
(c) I and III only (d) I, II and III ✗

Solution: D

Polity & Governance For UPSC 2020 Batch - Live

State Finance Commission (243 I)

- Governor after every five years constitutes a finance commission to review financial position of the panchayats.

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Solution: C

77. Consider the following statements in respect of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) :

- I. It provides loans and guarantees to middle income countries.
- II. It works single-handedly to help developing countries to reduce poverty.
- III. It was established to help Europe rebuild after the World War II.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- ~~(c) I and III only~~
- (d) I, II and III

Criticisms of IMF

- On giving loans to countries, the IMF make the loan conditional on the implementation of certain economic policies. The problem is that these policies of structural adjustment and macroeconomic intervention can make difficult economic situations worse.
- The IMF has been criticised for supporting military dictatorships in Brazil and Argentina, such as Castello Branco in 1960s received IMF funds denied to other countries.
- Neo-Liberal Criticisms: There is also criticism of neo-liberal policies such as privatisation. Arguably these free-market policies were not always suitable for the situation of the country. For example, privatisation can create lead to the creation of private monopolies who exploit consumers.
- The IMF has been criticised for imposing policy with little or no consultation with the affected countries.
- Exchange rate reforms. When the IMF intervened in Kenya in the 1990s, they made the Central bank remove controls overflows of capital.
 - The consensus was that this decision made it easier for corrupt politicians to transfer money out of the economy (known as the Goldenberg scandal).
 - Critics argue this is another example of how the IMF failed to understand the dynamics of the country that they were dealing with - insisting on blanket reforms.

Reports By Imf

- World Economic Outlook
- Global Financial Stability Report
- Fiscal Monitor

World Bank Group

- The World Bank (WB) Group today consists of five closely associated institutions propitiating the role of development in the member nations in different areas.
 - IBRD
 - IDA
 - IFC
 - MIGA
 - ICSID

International Bank For Reconstruction & Development

- IBRD is the oldest of the WB institutions which started functioning (1945) in the area of reconstruction of the war-ravaged regions (World War II).
- Later it started lending for the development of middle-income & credit-worthy poorer economies of the world.
- Human development was the main focus of developmental lending with a very low interest rate (1.55 per cent per annum)—the areas of focus being agriculture, irrigation, urban development, healthcare, family welfare, dairy development, etc.
- It commenced lending for India in 1949.
- After the process of reforms started in the World Bank in 2010, India was allotted additional shares in IBRD (now holds 56,739 shares accounting to US \$ 6,844.7 million).

**RRC
+
Prelims
Crash
compilation**

World Bank



<p>IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction & Development</p>	<p>IDA International Development Association</p>	<p>IFC International Finance Corporation</p>	<p>MIGA Multilateral Investment and Guarantee Agency</p>	<p>ICSID International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes</p>
Est. 1945	Est. 1960	Est. 1956	Est. 1988	Est. 1966
Role: To promote institutional, legal and regulatory reform	Role: To promote institutional, legal and regulatory reform	Role: To promote private sector development	Role: To provide instruments for political investment risk management	Role: To provide facilities for conciliation and arbitration of international investment disputes.
Clients: Governments of member countries with per capita income between \$1,025 and \$6,055.	Clients: Governments of poorest countries with per capita income of less than \$1,025	Clients: Private companies in 183 member countries	Clients: Foreign investors in member countries	Clients: Foreign investors in member countries
Products: - Technical assistance - Loans	Products: - Technical assistance - Interest Free Loans	Products: - Equity/Quasi-Equity - Long-term Loans	Products: - Political Risk Insurance	Products: - Dispute resolution facilities



44. Consider the following statements about turmeric during the year 2022-23 :

- I. India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric in the world.
- II. More than 30 varieties of turmeric are grown in India.
- III. Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are major turmeric producing States in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

Solution: D

National Turmeric Board

- India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world.
- In the year 2022-23, turmeric production was 11.61 lakh tonnes (over 75% of global turmeric production).
- More than 30 varieties of Turmeric are grown in India and it is grown in over 20 states in the country.
- The largest producing states of Turmeric are Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- India has more than 62% share of world trade in turmeric.
- The leading export markets for Indian Turmeric are Bangladesh, UAE, USA and Malaysia.

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Rapid Revision

39. Consider the following statements :

Statement I :

Circular economy reduces the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Statement II :

Circular economy reduces the use of raw materials as inputs.

Statement III :

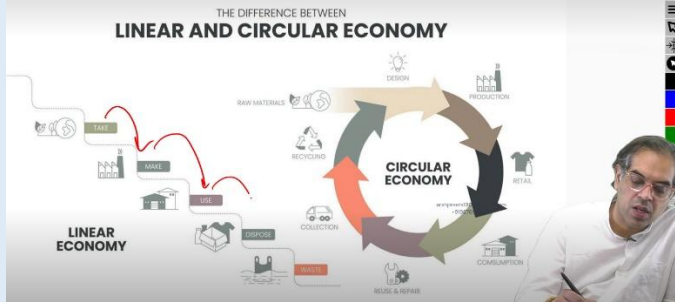
Circular economy reduces wastage in the production process.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Solution: A

Circular Economy



March 2025
Current Affairs
+
RAPID REVISION

37. Consider the following statements :

Statement I :

As regards returns from an investment in a company, generally, bondholders are considered to be relatively at lower risk than stockholders.

Statement II :

Bondholders are lenders to a company whereas stockholders are its owners.

Statement III :

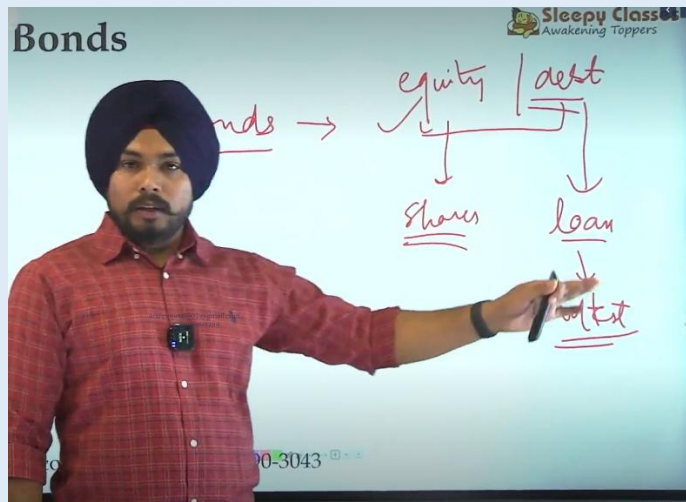
For repayment purpose, bondholders are prioritized over stockholders by a company.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Solution: B

Bonds



Foundation
+
Prelims
Crash
+
March CA
2025

Solution: A

38. Consider the following statements :

- I. India accounts for a very large portion of all equity option contracts traded globally thus exhibiting a great boom.
- II. India's stock market has grown rapidly in the recent past even overtaking Hong Kong's at some point of time.
- III. There is no regulatory body either to warn the small investors about the risks of options trading or to act on unregistered financial advisors in this regard.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

Markets

SEBI's New Rules in F&O Trading

- Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released a set of six measures to strengthen the equity index derivatives – also known as equity futures & options (F&O) – framework.
- Need: The move comes after a surge in Futures and Options (F&O) trading volumes and concerns over systemic risks to the economy.

FEATURE	FUTURES CONTRACT	OPTIONS CONTRACT
Nature of the contract	Agreement to buy/sell an underlying asset at a fixed price. Both parties are obliged to fulfil the contract.	Right to buy or sell the asset at a fixed price. Buyer has the choice to exercise. The seller is obliged to fulfil the buyer's demand.
Risk involved	Both parties bear the risk of the contract, making it potential of being profitable or loss.	Buyer can not get trading potential loss and already payment made.
Premiums	No premium payment.	Right/option contract made by buyer paying the right holder or seller. Buyer pays premium to seller. The seller has no premium cost payment.

Recalibration of Contract Size

- The minimum contract size for index derivatives is increased to ₹15 lakh from the current ₹5-10 lakh.
- Objective: To raise entry barriers and discourage excessive participation by small traders.
- Implication: Limits participation from retail investors in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, preventing them from taking undue risks.
 - Encourages responsible trading by ensuring only investors capable of managing risks participate.

Upfront Collection of Options Premium

- From February 1, 2025, Trading members must collect options premiums upfront from buyers.
- Objective: To reduce intraday leverage and ensure positions are backed by adequate collateral.
- Implication: Promotes risk management discipline at the investor level.
 - Minimizes speculative short-term trades, reducing the likelihood of default risks.

Rationalization of Weekly Index Derivatives

- Exchanges can now offer weekly expiry derivatives for only one benchmark index.
- Objective: To curb speculative trading linked to multiple weekly expiry contracts.
- Implication: Reduces market volatility caused by hyperactive trading on expiry days.

Intra-Day Monitoring of Position Limits

- From April 1, 2025, Exchanges will monitor position limits intra-day instead of only at the end of the trading day.
- Objective: To prevent position creation beyond permissible limits during the trading day.
- Implication: Ensures real-time compliance with regulatory norms, maintaining orderly market behavior.

Futures and options
October CA
2024

October 2024

SEBI's New Rules in F&O Trading

(1 Lot) → (200) (share) → ₹60/- → (1 Lac)

Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released a set of six measures to strengthen the equity index derivatives – also known as equity futures & options (F&O) – framework.

Need: The move comes after a surge in Futures and Options (F&O) trading volumes and concerns over systemic risks to the economy.

Solution: A

	2022-2023		2023-2024		2023-2024		2024-2025	
	आवधिक	बजट	अनुमानित	अनुमानित	अनुमानित	अनुमानित	अनुमानित	अनुमानित
	Actuals	Budget	Revised Estimate	Provisional Estimate	Budget	Revised Estimate	Budget	Revised Estimate
1. Fiscal Deficit	137793	178854	175273	145370	145370	145370	145370	145370
2. Revenue Deficit	6840	6750	6750	6750	6750	6750	6750	6750
3. Effective Revenue Deficit	146954	172104	168523	138620	138620	138620	138620	138620
4. Primary Deficit	100138	126845	126845	107936	107936	107936	107936	107936

Q. Consider the following statements:

- Tax revenue as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.
- Fiscal deficit as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Deficits

Fiscal Deficit

- It is the difference between the Revenue Receipts plus Non-debt Capital Receipts (NDCR) and the total expenditure.
- FD is reflective of the total borrowing requirements of Government.

Revenue Deficit

- It refers to the excess of revenue expenditure over revenue receipts.
- Such a deficit implies the government's need to borrow funds to meet expenses which may not provide future returns.

Primary Deficit

It is measured as Fiscal Deficit less interest payments.

Effective Revenue Deficit

It is the difference between Revenue Deficit and Grants for Creation of Capital Assets.

Monetised Deficit

- The part of the fiscal deficit which is provided by the RBI to the government in a particular year is Monetised Deficit, a new term adopted since 1997-98 in India.
- This is shown in both the forms—in quantitative and a percentage of the GDP for that particular financial year.
- To finance its expenditures, the Government of India depends on short- and long-term borrowings.
- To borrow, Government issues short-term (Treasury Bills) and long-term (G-Secs) securities.
- Monetisation of deficit was in practice in India till 1997, whereby the *central bank automatically monetised government deficit through the issuance of ad-hoc treasury bills*.
- Two agreements were signed between the government and RBI in 1994 and 1997 to completely phase out funding through ad-hoc treasury bills.
- And later on, with the enactment of FRBM Act, 2003, RBI was completely barred from subscribing to the primary issuances of the government from April 1, 2006.

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Crash
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Monthly
Current
Affairs
DEC. 2024

Fiscal Reforms by States

$$\text{Fiscal deficit?} = (TE - RR) + \text{Non debt creating loans borrowing}$$

Report on State Finances 2024 - Fiscal Consolidation and Emerging Challenges

Report calls for states to balance welfare spending with prudence, highlighting the urgent need for reforms in management and subsidy policies to sustain long-term stability.

71. Suppose the revenue expenditure is ₹ 80,000 crores and the revenue receipts of the Government are ₹ 60,000 crores. The Government budget also shows borrowings of ₹ 10,000 crores and interest payments of ₹ 6,000 crores. Which of the following statements are correct?

- I. Revenue deficit is ₹ 20,000 crores.
- II. Fiscal deficit is ₹ 10,000 crores.
- III. Primary deficit is ₹ 4,000 crores.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

Solution: D

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Tax revenue as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.
2. Fiscal deficit as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Deficits

Fiscal Deficit

- It is the difference between the Revenue Receipts plus Non-debt Capital Receipts (NDCR) and the total expenditure.
- FD is reflective of the total borrowing requirements of Government.

Revenue Deficit

- It refers to the excess of revenue expenditure over revenue receipts.
- Such a deficit implies the government's need to borrow funds to meet expenses which may not provide future returns.

Primary Deficit

It is measured as Fiscal Deficit less interest payments.

Effective Revenue Deficit

It is the difference between Revenue Deficit and Grants for Creation of Capital Assets.

	2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025	
	Actuals	Budget	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
1. Fiscal Deficit	173796	176856	173477	165267	161327	161327
2. Revenue Deficit	640	679	679	679	679	679
3. Effective Revenue Deficit	74362	74362	74362	74362	74362	74362
4. Primary Deficit	167396	176177	166798	158588	154648	154648

Monetised Deficit

- The part of the fiscal deficit which is provided by the RBI to the government in a particular year is Monetised Deficit, a new term adopted since 1997-98 in India.
- This is shown in both the forms—in quantitative and a percentage of the GDP for that particular financial year.
- To finance its expenditures, the Government of India depends on short- and long-term borrowings.
- To borrow, Government issues short-term (Treasury Bills) and long-term (G-Secs) securities.
- Monetisation of deficit was in practice in India till 1997, whereby the central bank automatically monetised government deficit through the issuance of ad-hoc treasury bills.
- Two agreements were signed between the government and RBI in 1994 and 1997 to completely phase out funding through ad-hoc treasury bills.
- And later on, with the enactment of FRBM Act, 2003, RBI was completely barred from subscribing to the primary issuances of the government from April 1, 2006.

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Solution: B

79. Consider the following countries :

- I. United Arab Emirates
- II. France
- III. Germany
- IV. Singapore
- V. Bangladesh

How many countries amongst the above are there other than India where international merchant payments are accepted under UPI?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All the five

Q3. With reference to the BHIM 3.0 app and the role of NPCI, choose the incorrect statements:

- a) BHIM 3.0 includes features like Split Expenses, Spend Analytics, and a reminder system called Action Needed Assistant.
- b) BHIM Vega is a feature within BHIM 3.0 that allows merchants to process payments within the app without switching platforms.
- c) The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was established under the Companies Act.
- d) NPCI International Payments Ltd. has enabled UPI transactions in countries like Bhutan, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, and France.

Solution: C

Explanation:

BHIM 3.0

The NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL), a subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) 3.0 app.

BHIM 3.0: It is an upgraded version of BHIM.

- BHIM Unified Payment Interface (UPI) was launched in 2016 to provide a simple, fast, and secure method for cashless payments using UPI technology.
- It enabled users to send and receive money instantly through mobile phones, without requiring bank account details.

Key Features of BHIM 3.0:

- BHIM 3.0 has enhanced accessibility and security with support for 15+ languages, low-internet optimization, and improved security features for safer transactions.
- For users, it offers Split Expenses, Spend Analytics, and an Action Needed Assistant (reminders for pending bills) for better expense tracking and financial management. So, Statement A is correct
- For merchants, BHIM Vega offers a seamless in-app payment system, enabling seamless transactions without switching platforms. So, Statement B is correct

NPCI: NPCI was founded in 2008 by the RBI and Indian Banks' Association under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, to oversee and manage retail payments and settlement systems in India. So, Statement C is incorrect

NPCI International Payments Ltd. has expanded UPI to 7 countries, including Bhutan, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and France with 20 apps like Bhoggy, Paytm, and Google Pay supporting international transactions. So, Statement D is correct

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Key Features of BHIM 3.0

NPCI: NPCI was founded in 2008 by the RBI and Indian Banks' Association under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, to oversee and manage retail payments and settlement systems in India.

- NPCI International Payments Ltd. has expanded UPI to 7 countries including Bhutan, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and France with 20 apps like PhonePe, Paytm, and Google Pay supporting international transactions.

31. With reference to investments, consider the following :

- I. Bonds
- II. Hedge Funds
- III. Stocks
- IV. Venture Capital




How many of the above are treated as Alternative Investment Funds?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

Solution: B

Types of Alternative investment funds

According to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), AIFs are classified into three broad categories:

Category I	Category II	Category III
Investment in Startups, SMEs and projects which are socially and economically viable	Investment in Equity and Debt Securities	Investment aimed at short-term returns achieved by employing complex trading strategies
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Venture Capital Fund• Infrastructure Fund• Angel Fund• Social Venture Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private Equity (PE) Fund• Debt Fund• Fund of Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hedge Fund• Private Investment in Public Equity Fund (PIPE)



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Solution: A

40. Consider the following statements :

- I. Capital receipts create a liability or cause a reduction in the assets of the Government.
- II. Borrowings and disinvestment are capital receipts.
- III. Interest received on loans creates a liability of the Government.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
 (b) II and III only
 (c) I and III only
 (d) I, II and III

भारत का वार्षिक Deficit Statistics

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
	₹ Crores	₹ Crores	₹ Crores	₹ Crores	₹ Crores
1. Fiscal Deficit	117113	176613	175413	161413	161113
2. Revenue Deficit	4640	(87)	(58)	(74)	(47)
3. Effective Revenue Deficit	14079	8084	8027	7954	7829
4. Primary Deficit	88518	12848	12746	12679	12673

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Tax revenue as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.
2. Fiscal deficit as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Deficits

Fiscal Deficit

- It is the difference between the Revenue Receipts plus Non-debt Capital Receipts (NDCR) and the total expenditure.
- FD is reflective of the total borrowing requirements of Government.

Revenue Deficit

- It refers to the excess of revenue expenditure over revenue receipts.
- Such a deficit implies the government's need to borrow funds to meet expenses which may not provide future returns.

Primary Deficit

It is measured as Fiscal Deficit less interest payments.

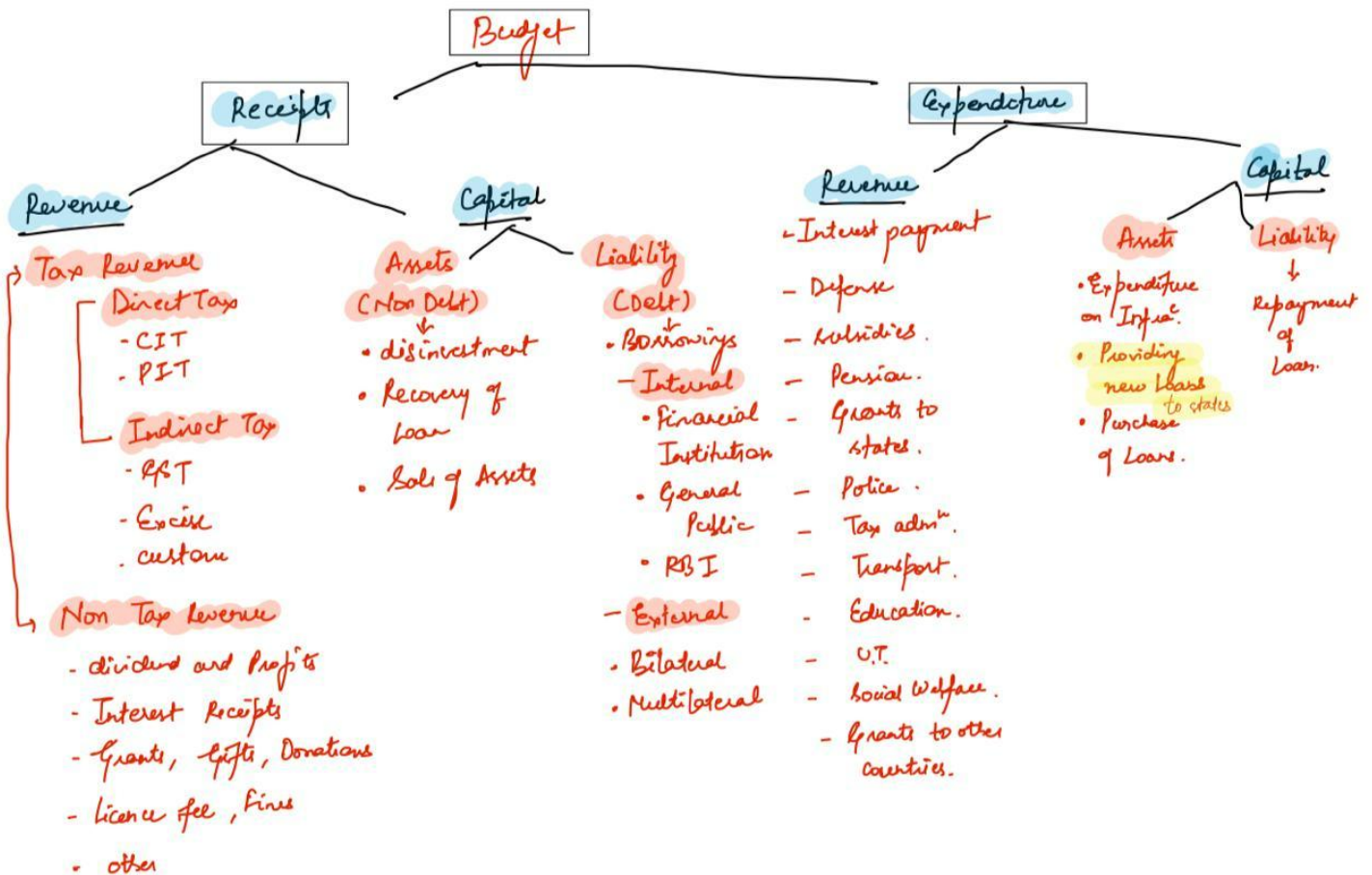
Effective Revenue Deficit

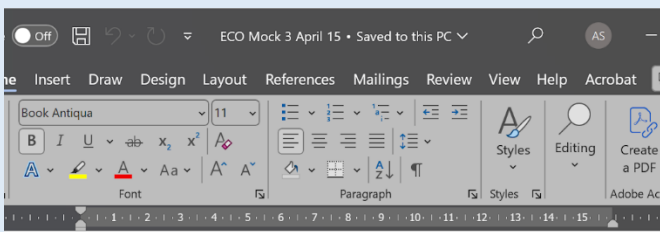
It is the difference between Revenue Deficit and Grants for Creation of Capital Assets.

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- The part of the fiscal deficit which is provided by the RBI to the government in a particular year is Monetised Deficit, a new term adopted since 1997-98 in India.
- This is shown in both the forms—in quantitative and a percentage of the GDP for that particular financial year.
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- To borrow, Government issues short-term (Treasury Bills) and long-term (G-Secs) securities.
- Monetisation of deficit was in practice in India till 1997, whereby the central bank automatically monetised government deficit through the issuance of ad-hoc treasury bills.
- Two agreements were signed between the government and RBI in 1994 and 1997 to completely phase out funding through ad-hoc treasury bills.
- And later on, with the enactment of FRBM Act, 2003, RBI was completely barred from subscribing to the primary issuances of the government from April 1, 2006.

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Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. Capital receipts are non-redeemable; they cannot be reclaimed from the government.
2. Capital expenditure is the Government expenditure which results in the creation of physical or financial assets.
3. Revenue receipts include all those receipts of the government, which create liability or reduce financial assets.
4. Revenue expenditure is the expense incurred for the normal functioning of the government.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Revenue receipts are non-redeemable i.e. they cannot be reclaimed from the government. Revenue Receipts are current incomes of government, which neither create liabilities nor cause any reduction in the assets of the government. So, **Statement 1 is incorrect**

Capital expenditure is the government expenditure which results in the creation of physical or financial assets. they are those receipts of the government which either create liability or cause any reduction in the assets of the government. So, **Statement 2 is correct**

Capital receipts include all those receipts of the government, which create liability or reduce financial assets. So, **Statement 3 is incorrect**

Revenue expenditure is the expense incurred for the normal functioning of the government. So, **Statement 4 is correct**

Capital and revenue receipts

Revenue Receipts are current incomes of government, which neither create liabilities nor cause any reduction in the assets of the government. These receipts are classified into Tax Revenue and Non-tax Revenue.

• **Tax Revenue:** A tax is a legal compulsory payment by the people and firms to the government of a country without reference to any direct benefit in return. It is imposed on the people by the government. A government collects revenue from various taxes like income tax, sales tax, service tax, excise duty, custom duty etc. Traditionally the revenue from taxes has been the primary source of government income. Income tax is imposed on those who earn income such as wages, salaries, rent, interest and profit. Sales tax is the tax on the sale of goods. Whenever we purchase a good, a part of our payment goes to the government as sales tax. Service tax is the tax we pay when we use a service such as telephone service. Excise duty is a tax paid by the producer manufacturing a good. Custom duty is paid when a good is imported or exported.

Capital Receipts are those receipts of the government which either create liability or cause any reduction in the assets of the government. The major sources of capital receipts of the central government are:

Borrowings

Recovery of Loans and Disinvestment – Resale of shares of public sector undertakings.

Borrowings: There are two sources from which the central government borrows. They are:

• **Domestic Borrowings:** The government borrows from domestic financial market by issuing securities and treasury bills. It also borrows from people through various deposit schemes such as Public Provident Fund, Small Savings Schemes, and National Savings Scheme etc. These are borrowings of the government within the country. **External Borrowings:** In addition to domestic borrowings the government also borrows from foreign governments and international bodies like International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank etc. Foreign borrowings by the government bring in foreign exchange into the domestic economy.

• **Recovery of Loans:** Quite often state and local governments borrow from the central government. The loans recovered by the central government from state and local governments are capital receipts in the budget because recovery of loans reduces debtors (assets).

• **Disinvestment – Resale of shares of public sector undertakings:** This is a very recent source of capital receipts by which the central government has been mobilizing financial resources

since 1991. Prior to 1991, the central government owned 100 percent of the shares of public sector undertakings. From 1991, the government adopted the policy of privatisation of public sector undertakings. Consequently, it started selling its shares to general public and to financial institutions. This selling of shares of public sector undertakings by the government is known as 'disinvestment of public sector undertakings.'

Solution: A

Topic: Payment Systems

5. Electronic money transfer systems, such as IMPS, RTGS, and NEFT, are utilised to make payments. How many of the following statements is/are correct with respect to these systems?

1. There is no limit imposed by the RBI for funds transfer through NEFT system.
2. Both NEFT and RTGS are both credit-pull systems for electronic fund transfers in India.
3. IMPS is offered by National Payments Corporation of India.
4. Individuals without bank accounts cannot transfer funds by IMPS.

Select the correct code.

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 3
- D. All statements are correct.

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78. Consider the following statements in respect of RTGS and NEFT :

- I. In RTGS, the settlement time is instantaneous while in case of NEFT, it takes some time to settle payments. ✓
- II. In RTGS, the customer is charged for inward transactions while that is not the case for NEFT.
- III. Operating hours for RTGS are restricted on certain days while this is not true for NEFT. ✓

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) I and II
- (c) I and III
- (d) III only

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Solution: C

36. Consider the following statements :

- I. India has joined the Minerals Security Partnership as a member.
- II. India is a resource-rich country in all the 30 critical minerals that it has identified.
- III. The Parliament in 2023 has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowering the Central Government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite license for certain critical minerals.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only (b) II and III only
(c) I and III only ~~(d) I, II and III~~

Critical Minerals? Li

Tech.

In July 2023, the government identified 30 minerals as Critical Minerals by amending the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023, empowering the Central Government to auction blocks of these minerals.

- The 30 critical minerals are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorus, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

The bidding is based on the highest percentage of mineral dispatch value quoted by bidders. Post this auction, a second tranche of critical mineral block auctions is anticipated.

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is actively exploring critical mineral reserves across the country.

Critical Minerals Sunaa Hai Kabhi ?? Cathode Anode mein Difference Pataa Hai ?? Let me Simplify

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Questions

Correct Answer

Our Source

1. Consider the following types of vehicles :
- Full battery electric vehicles
 - Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles
 - Fuel cell electric hybrid vehicles
- How many of the above are considered as alternative powertrain vehicles?
- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All the three (d) None

Solution: C

Types

- There are four types of electric vehicles available:
 - Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV)**: Fully powered by electricity. These are more efficient compared to hybrid and plug-in hybrids.
 - Hybrid Electric Vehicle:**
 - Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV)
 - Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)
 - Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV)**: Electric energy is produced from chemical energy. For example, a hydrogen FCEV.

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5. Consider the following substances :
- Ethanol
 - Nitroglycerine
 - Urea
- Coal gasification technology can be used in the production of how many of them?
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All the three
(d) None

Solution: B

Coal Gasification

- Coal gasification is a process in which coal is partially oxidised with air, oxygen, steam or carbon dioxide to form a syngas.
- In-situ gasification of coal or Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) is the technique of converting coal into gas while it is still in the seam and then extracting it through wells.
- The Ministry of Coal has prepared a National Mission document to achieve 100 MT (Million Tonnes) Coal Gasification by 2030.

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11. Consider the following statements :
- Statement I :
Studies indicate that carbon dioxide emissions from cement industry account for more than 5% of global carbon emissions.
- Statement II :
Silica-bearing clay is mixed with limestone while manufacturing cement.
- Statement III :
Limestone is converted into lime during clinker production for cement manufacturing.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
(b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Solution: B

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Decarbonization of the Cement Industry

- As the world strives to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 to combat climate change effectively, rapid decarbonisation of the cement and concrete industry becomes imperative.
- With cement and steel together accounting for 15-20% of India's total emissions and heavily reliant on fossil fuels, these "hard-to-abate" sectors pose significant challenges in achieving the nation's net-zero target by 2050.
- The carbon-intensive nature of cement production arises from the chemical process of turning limestone (calcium carbonate) into clinker (calcium oxide), a key ingredient in cement.
- This process releases CO₂ as a byproduct, known as process emissions, contributing to a significant portion of the industry's carbon footprint.
- Clinker, responsible for approximately 90% of emissions in cement production, is a primary focus of the industry's decarbonisation efforts.
- Cement manufacturers can explore alternatives such as fly ash, metal slag, or calcined clay to replace clinker in their production processes.
- Innovative construction designs, material mixes, and the development of low-binder cement and reusable concrete modules can also help reduce the amount of clinker required.

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12. Consider the following statements :

Statement I :

At the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), India refrained from signing the 'Declaration on Climate and Health'.

Statement II :

The COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health is a binding declaration; and if signed, it becomes mandatory to decarbonize health sector.

Statement III :

If India's health sector is decarbonized, the resilience of its health-care system may be compromised.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Solution: C

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- The United Arab Emirates is one of the **most climate-vulnerable countries** in the world, due to its very hot and humid climate.
- The observed annual average mean surface air temperature in the UAE has risen by 1.27 °C (2.29 °F) between 1990 and 2022.
- Without a reduction in emissions, **wet-bulb temperatures in the region** are expected to cross 35 °C (95 °F) for a prolonged period of time by the 2070s

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14. Consider the following statements :

Statement I :

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change is frequently discussed in global discussions on sustainable development and climate change.

Statement II :

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change sets out the principles of carbon markets.

Statement III :

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change intends to promote inter-country non-market strategies to reach their climate targets.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Solution: A

Key Provisions

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- **Market mechanisms**
- Article 6 allows parties to implement their NDCs through **cooperation with other parties.**
- It provides for **two such voluntary cooperation mechanisms:**
- First, article 6.2 allows parties on a voluntary basis to internationally transfer mitigation outcomes (i.e., emission reductions) and to use these internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) to achieve their NDCs - in essence, a form of **emissions trading.**
- Article 6.2 requires that parties, when engaging in ITMOs, promote sustainable development, ensure environmental integrity and transparency, and **apply robust accounting rules to ensure no double counting.**
- Second, article 6.4 establishes an **offset mechanism, similar to the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism.**

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16. With reference to Direct Air Capture, an emerging technology, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- I. It can be used as a way of carbon sequestration.
- II. It can be a valuable approach for plastic production and in food processing.
- III. In aviation, it can be a source of carbon for combining with hydrogen to create synthetic low-carbon fuel.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) I and II only
(b) III only
(c) I, II and III
(d) None of the above statements is correct

Solution: C

Climate Engineering - Carbon dioxide removal (CDR)

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- **Biochar** - Biochar is a high-carbon, fine-grained residue that is produced via pyrolysis
- **Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS)** - the process of extracting bioenergy from biomass and capturing and storing the carbon, thereby removing it from the atmosphere.
- **Direct air capture and carbon storage (DACCS)** - a process of capturing carbon dioxide (CO₂) directly from the ambient air (as opposed to capturing from point sources, such as a cement factory or biomass power plant) and generating a concentrated stream of CO₂ for sequestration or utilization or production of carbon-neutral fuel and windgas.
- **Enhanced weathering (EW)** - a process that aims to **accelerate the natural weathering** by spreading finely ground silicate rock, such as basalt, onto surfaces which speeds up chemical reactions between rocks, water, and air.
- It also removes carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere, permanently storing it in solid carbonate minerals or ocean alkali
- The latter also slows ocean acidification.

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18. Consider the following statements :

- I. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in India are less than 0.5 t CO₂/capita.
- II. In terms of CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion, India ranks second in Asia-Pacific region.
- III. Electricity and heat producers are the largest sources of CO₂ emissions in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and III only
(b) II only
(c) II and III only
(d) I, II and III

Solution: C

Carbon Footprint

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- A carbon footprint is the **total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** caused by an individual, event, organization, service, place or product, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e).
- India emits about **3 gigatonnes (Gt) CO₂e of greenhouse gases each year.**
- According to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)'s projections based on the median annual rate of change in the past decade 2010-2019, India's generation in a **business-as-usual scenario will be 4.48 Gt in 2030.**
- Emissions from **India rank third** in the global list, accounting for **3 Gt of carbon or 7% of the total global emissions.**
- India's **per capita carbon emissions** are, however, **still low** at 2.9 tonnes compared to the United States 16.21 tonnes.

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Carbon Footprint - Fossil

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- In 2023, the largest absolute contributions to global fossil CO₂ (carbon dioxide) **emissions were from China (31%), the United States (13%), India (8%), and the EU 27 (7%).**
- These four regions account for **59% of global fossil CO₂ emissions**, while the rest of the world contributed 41%.
- The global per-capita fossil CO₂ emissions in 2023 were **1.3 tonnes of carbon per person per year.**
- They were 3.9 in the U.S., 2.3 for China, 1.5 for the EU-27 and 0.6 for India.

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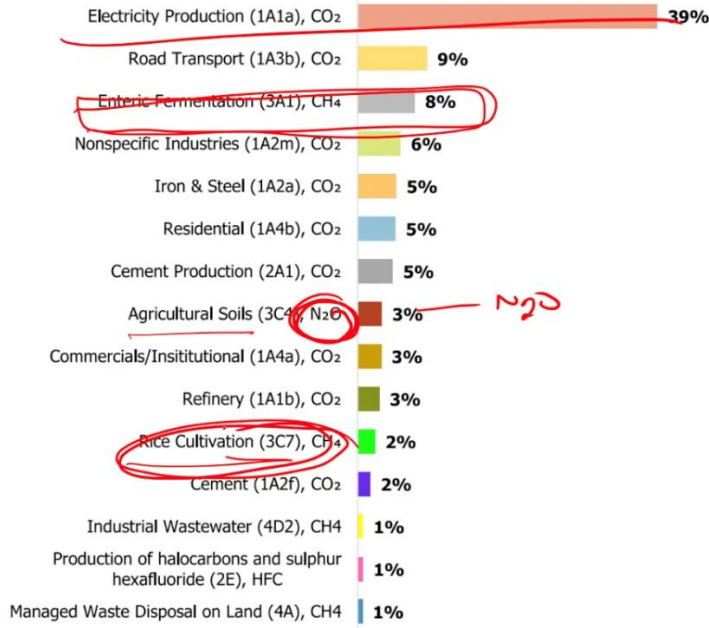


Figure ES 2: Percentage share of greenhouse gas emissions by category, 2020



20. With reference to the planet Earth, consider the following statements :

- I. Rain forests produce more oxygen than that produced by oceans.
- II. Marine phytoplankton and photosynthetic bacteria produce about 50% of world's oxygen.
- III. Well-oxygenated surface water contains several folds higher oxygen than that in atmospheric air.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I and II

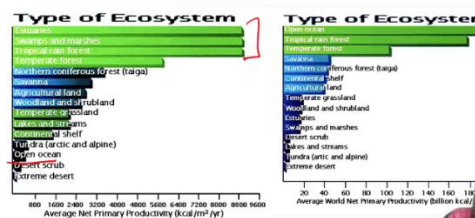
(b) II only

(c) I and III

(d) None of the above statements is correct

Solution: B

PRODUCTIVITY IN DIFFERENT ECOSYSTEMS



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DO

- The presence of **organic and inorganic wastes** in water decreases the dissolved Oxygen (DO) content of the water.
- They vary with **water temperature and altitude**.
- **Cold water holds more oxygen than warm water** and water holds less oxygen at higher altitudes.
- Water having **DO content below 8.0 mg/L** may be considered as contaminated.
- Water having **DO content below 4.0 mg/L** is considered to be highly polluted.
- DO content of water is **important for the survival of aquatic organisms**.
- A **number of factors** like surface turbulence, photosynthetic activity, O₂ consumption by organisms and decomposition of organic matter are the factors which determine the amount of DO present in water.
- The **higher amounts of waste** increase the rates of decomposition and O₂ consumption, thereby **decreasing the DO content of water**.

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Cloud Storage

65. Artificial way of causing rainfall to reduce air pollution makes use of

- (a) silver iodide and potassium iodide
- (b) silver nitrate and potassium iodide
- (c) silver iodide and potassium nitrate
- (d) silver nitrate and potassium chloride

66. Consider the following statements with regard to pardoning power of the President of India :

- The exercise of this power by the President can be subjected to limited judicial review.
- The President can exercise this power without the advice of the Central Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

Solution: A

Encryption Successful

Cloud Seeding Methods

- There are **three** cloud seeding methods-
 - **Hygroscopic cloud seeding** disperses salts through flares or explosives in the lower portions of clouds. The salts grow in size as water joins with them. Sodium chloride (NaCl), Potassium chloride (KCl), Calcium chloride, etc.
 - **Static cloud seeding** involves spreading a chemical like silver iodide into clouds. The silver iodide provides a crystal around which moisture can condense. Silver iodide (AgI), Dry ice (solid CO₂), etc.
 - **Dynamic cloud seeding** aims to boost vertical air currents, which encourages more water to pass through the clouds, translating into more rain.

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73. Consider the following statements :

Statement I :

Of the two major ethanol producers in the world, i.e., Brazil and the United States of America, the former produces more ethanol than the latter.

Statement II :

Unlike in the United States of America where corn is the principal feedstock for ethanol production, sugarcane is the principal feedstock for ethanol production in Brazil.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Solution: D

Global Biofuel Alliance

- Launched on the side-lines of the 18th G20 summit held in Delhi.
- Brazil, India, and the US, being some of the largest producers and consumers of biofuels, are the founding members of the GBA.
- 19 countries and 12 international organizations, both members and non-members of G20, have agreed to be a part of the union.



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80. Consider the following statements about 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana' :

- I. It targets installation of one crore solar rooftop panels in the residential sector.
- II. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy aims to impart training on installation, operation, maintenance and repairs of solar rooftop systems at grassroot levels.
- III. It aims to create more than three lakhs skilled manpower through fresh skilling, and upskilling, under scheme component of capacity building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) I and III only
- (c) II and III only
- (d) I, II and III

Solution: D

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

- Solar panels are installed in houses under this scheme to supply power to households and additional money for excess electricity output.
- The Central Government will provide substantive subsidies directly to people's bank accounts and heavily concessional bank loans to ensure that there is no cost burden on the people.
- This scheme will help poor and middle-class households save up to Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 18,000 crores annually by getting free solar electricity and selling surplus power to electricity distribution companies.
- Under this scheme, the government aims to install solar panels in one crore homes throughout the country.



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Questions

Correct Answer

Our Source

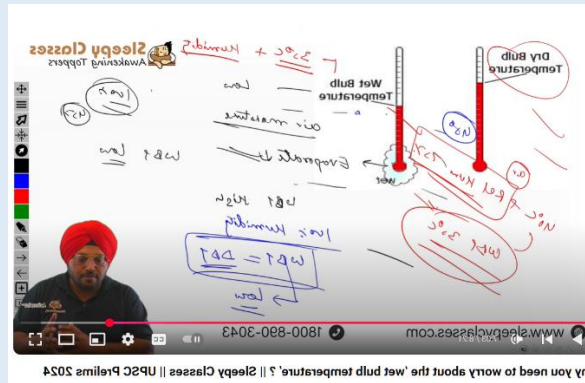
74. The World Bank warned that India could become one of the first places where wet-bulb temperatures routinely exceed 35 °C. Which of the following statements best reflect(s) the implication of the above-said report?

- I. Peninsular India will most likely suffer from flooding, tropical cyclones and droughts.
- II. The survival of animals including humans will be affected as shedding of their body heat through perspiration becomes difficult.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) I only
 (b) II only
 (c) Both I and II
 (d) Neither I nor II

Solution: C



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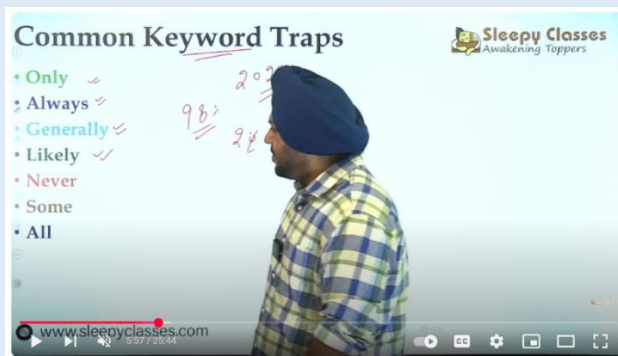
Solution: D

2. With reference to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), consider the following statements :

- I. All types of UAVs can do vertical landing.
- II. All types of UAVs can do automated hovering.
- III. All types of UAVs can use battery only as a source of power supply.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
 (c) All the three (d) None



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3. In the context of electric vehicle batteries, consider the following elements :

- I. Cobalt
- II. Graphite
- III. Lithium
- IV. Nickel

How many of the above usually make up battery cathodes?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

Solution: C

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7. Consider the following statements :

- I. It is expected that Majorana 1 chip will enable quantum computing.
- II. Majorana 1 chip has been introduced by Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- III. Deep learning is a subset of machine learning.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

Solution: C

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9. Consider the following statements :

- I. No virus can survive in ocean waters.
- II. No virus can infect bacteria.
- III. No virus can change the cellular transcriptional activity in host cells.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

Solution: D

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66. With reference to coal-based thermal power plants in India, consider the following statements :

1. None of them uses seawater.
2. None of them is set up in water-stressed district.
3. None of them is privately owned.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans D

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62. Consider the following statements :

- I. Indian Railways have prepared a National Rail Plan (NRP) to create a 'future ready' railway system by 2028.
- II. 'Kavach' is an Automatic Train Protection system developed in collaboration with Germany.
- III. 'Kavach' system consists of RFID tags fitted on track in station section.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

Solution: A

Kavach

4. Science - Day 2 - Part 1

Kavach, an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection System showcased on South Central Railway recently, is earmarked for aggressive rollout on 2,000 km in 2022-23, according to the Budget proposals

Kavach

- It is India's very own automatic protection system in development since 2012, under the name Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), which got rechristened to Kavach or "armour".
- It is a set of electronic devices and Radio Frequency Identification devices installed in locomotives, in the signalling system as well the tracks, that talk to each other using ultra high radio frequencies to control the brakes of trains and also alert drivers, all based on the logic programmed into them.
- One of its features is that by continuously refreshing the movement information of a train, it is able to send out triggers when a loco pilot jumps signal, called Signal Passed at Danger (SPAD), a grave offence in railway operations with respect to safety, and the key to accidents like collision.

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63. Consider the following space missions :

- I. Axiom-4
- II. SpaDeX
- III. Gaganyaan

How many of the space missions given above encourage and support micro-gravity research?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

Solution: C

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Microgravity

- **Micro** - very small
- condition where gravity seems to be very small
- Astronauts can float in their spacecraft - or outside, on a spacewalk.
- Heavy objects move around easily.
- Sometimes called "zero gravity," but this is misleading.

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ADD TO FAVOURITES

Gaganyaan (GSLV MK III)

Re-entry & Recovery tech (Tested)

- Came back to Earth after being taken to an altitude of 126 km into space. This is known as **Crew module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment (CARE)**.

Crew Escape System

- **Emergency escape measure** to quickly pull the astronaut crew out to a safe distance from launch vehicle.

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SpaDex mission



Significance for India

- With its vision of setting up a **space station by 2035** and sending humans to the moon by 2040, ISRO has been working on key technologies to realise the vision, such as a new heavy-lift launch vehicle capable of carrying up to 30 tonnes to low earth orbit (an altitude of 2,000 km or less). The missions, however, would require docking capability. Take, for example, the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station**, which will be built by bringing together five modules in space. The first robotic module is slated to be launched in 2028.
- Docking capability will also be required for the next lunar mission **Chandrayaan-4**, which aims to bring back samples from the moon.



Axiom-4 mission



Context-The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has **shortlisted two of its four trained Gaganyaan astronauts** for a mission to the **International Space Station (ISS)** in **collaboration with United States' NASA**. The mission is named as **Axiom-4 mission**

The Axiom-4 mission

- It will take the **Indian astronauts to the ISS**, is the **fourth private astronaut mission** of NASA and a private US company **Axiom Space**.
- The mission is expected to **dock with the ISS for fourteen days**.
- The Ax-4 crew members **will train with NASA, international partners, and SpaceX** for their flight.
- Axiom Space has **contracted SpaceX as launch provider** for transportation to and from the space station, and to familiarize the private astronauts with systems, procedures, and emergency preparedness for the Dragon spacecraft
- **India's own human spaceflight** is unlikely to take place before 2025, with the first unmannned flight still to take off. The **first flight carrying humans will be launched after two successful unmannned flights**.



Questions

Correct Answer

Our Source

41. Consider the following countries :

- I. Austria .
- II. Bulgaria .
- III. Croatia
- IV. Serbia
- V. Sweden .
- VI. North Macedonia

How many of the above are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization?

- (a) Only three (b) Only four ~~3~~
 (c) Only five (d) All the six

Solution: B

Context

- For a new country to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), all the existing members have to approve it.
- Turkey and Hungary had been opposing Sweden's entry for almost the past two years.

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52. Consider the following statements in respect of BIMSTEC :

- I. It is a regional organization consisting of seven member States till January 2025.
- II. It came into existence with the signing of the Dhaka Declaration, 1999.
- III. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal are founding member States of BIMSTEC.
- IV. In BIMSTEC, the subsector of 'tourism' is being led by India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and II (b) II and III ~~✓~~
 (c) I and IV (d) I only

Solution: C

BIMSTEC- Takeaways

- Bangkok Vision 2030:** The summit marked a turning point with the unanimous adoption of the Bangkok Vision 2030, a comprehensive framework designed to guide BIMSTEC's future.
- The vision document provides a roadmap for a prosperous, resilient, and open Bay of Bengal region.
- It emphasises the need to build regional capacities to address common challenges, including those arising from natural disasters, economic shocks, and geopolitical uncertainties.

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55. Consider the following statements regarding AI Action Summit held in Grand Palais, Paris in February 2025 :

- I. Co-chaired with India, the event builds on the advances made at the Bletchley Park Summit held in 2023 and the Seoul Summit held in 2024.
- II. Along with other countries, US and UK also signed the declaration on inclusive and sustainable AI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only (b) II only
 (c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

Solution: A

AI Action Summit 2025

- Co-chaired by France and India, the AI Action Summit convened 58 countries, including GPAI members such as France, Canada, Germany, and India.
- The summit resulted in the "Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet," emphasizing principles like accessibility, ethical development, and international cooperation.

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Bletchley Park Declaration

- In November 2023, Twenty-eight major countries including the United States, China, Japan, the United Kingdom, France, and India, and the European Union agreed to sign on a declaration saying global action is needed to tackle the potential risks of AI.
- The Declaration incorporates an acknowledgment of substantial risks from potential intentional misuse of unintended issues of control of frontier AI – especially cybersecurity, biotechnology, and disinformation risks according to the UK government which was the host.

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57. Consider the following statements with regard to BRICS :

- I. 16th BRICS Summit was held under the Chairship of Russia in Kazan.
- II. Indonesia has become a full member of BRICS.
- III. The theme of the 16th BRICS Summit was Strengthening Multiculturalism for Just Global Development and Security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and II (b) II and III
~~(c) I and III~~ (d) I only

Solution: A

BRICS

- The 16th BRICS Summit was held in Kazan (Russia) from 22 to 24 October, 2024. The Kazan Summit was the first-ever meeting of BRICS+ and leaders from Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE participated.
- Saudi Arabia has yet to formalise its membership, but its foreign minister participated in the Summit.
- The theme of the summit was 'Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security'.

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72. India is one of the founding members of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a multimodal transportation corridor, which will connect

- (a) India to Central Asia to Europe via Iran
(b) India to Central Asia via China
(c) India to South-East Asia through Bangladesh and Myanmar
~~(d) India to Europe through Azerbaijan~~

Solution: A

What is the International North-South Transport Corridor?



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