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Best Academy for Civil Services Exam Coaching

UPSC – PRELIMS 2024 REFLECTIONS

MOKSHA MAINS TEST SERIES

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- ✓ We are proud and happy that 67 questions from our Test Series- Prestorming, Prefit, IAS Parliament & Civilspedia have been reflected in the UPSC Prelims 2024 examination this year.
- ✓ The answer keys published by Shankar IAS academy are the earliest and as accurate as the UPSC answer keys.
- ✓ Our cut-off prediction has been one of the key features and near equivalent to the actual cut-off.
- ✓ Our academy has predicted the new question pattern asked in UPSC CSE Prelims 2024.

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UPSC PRELIMINARY 2024 – PRESTORMING REFLECTIONS

Out of 100 Questions asked in UPSC Civil Service Preliminary Examination, 2024.

46 questions are reflected from the PRESTORMING TEST SERIES 2024.

- Total number of questions directly reflected – 30
- Total number of questions partially reflected – 16

Along with the Question reflections, Shankar IAS Academy has also predicted the Question Pattern asked in the UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination, 2024.



UPSC PRELIMS 2024- QUESTION PATTERN REFLECTION

UPSC 2024 - SERIES D

19. Which of the following is/are correctly matched in terms of equivalent rank in the three services of Indian Defence forces?

	Army	Airforce	Navy
1.	Brigadier	Air Commodore	Commander
2.	Major General	Air Vice Marshal	Vice Admiral
3.	Major	Squadron Leader	Lieutenant Commander
4.	Lieutenant Colonel	Group Captain	Captain

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

35. Consider the following information :

	Archaeological Site	State	Description
1.	Chandraketugarh	Odisha	Trading Port town
2.	Inamgaon	Maharashtra	Chalcolithic site
3.	Mangadu	Kerala	Megalithic site
4.	Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh	Rock-cut cave shrines

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

PRESTORMING ALL INDIA MOCK TEST

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST I – Q.NO.99 & 100

Directions:

The following two (2) questions are based on the table given below. You are to match List-I, List-II and List-III and select the correct answer using the codes given below:

List-I (Centres of the Revolt of 1857)	List-II (Leaders)	List-III (Action)
A. Faizabad	I. Khan Bahadur Khan	1. His capture and hanging signals the end of the revolt
B. Bareilly	II. Tantiya Tope	2. Fought in the famous Battle of Chinhat in which the British forces were defeated
C. Jagdishpur	III. Maulavi Ahmadullah Shah	3. Organized and resisted the British due to dissatisfaction about the pension granted to him
D. Kanpur	IV. Kunwar Singh	4. As a zamindar deprived of his estate, he unhesitatingly joined the sepoys against the British

- | | | | |
|-----|----------|------------|----------|
| | List-I | List-II | List-III |
| (a) | A | I | 3 |
| (b) | B | I | 4 |
| (c) | A | III | 2 |
| (d) | B | II | 1 |

- | | | | |
|-----|----------|-----------|----------|
| | List-I | List-II | List-III |
| (a) | C | III | 4 |
| (b) | D | IV | 3 |
| (c) | C | IV | 2 |
| (d) | D | II | 1 |

59. Consider the following information:

	Water fall	Region	River
1.	Dhuandhar	Malwa	Narmada
2.	Hundru	Chota Nagpur	Subarnarekha
3.	Gersoppa	Western Ghats	Netravati

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

60. Consider the following information:

	Region	Name of the mountain range	Type of mountain
1.	Central Asia	Vosges	Fold mountain
2.	Europe	Alps	Block mountain
3.	North America	Appalachians	Fold mountain
4.	South America	Andes	Fold mountain

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST II – Q.NO.99 & 100

Directions:

The following two (2) items are based on the Table given below. You are to match **Species, Feature** and **Habitat** and select the correct answer using the code given below.

Species	Feature	Habitat
A. Dugong	1. Feeding and excretion by this species increase sea water's alkalinity, buffering the ocean's acidification.	i. Many parts of the coastal North Pacific Ocean.
B. Sea Lion	2. Filter feeders that swim slowly through the water to consume plankton, small fish and squid.	ii. Seagrasses in shallow coastal waters of the Indian and Western Pacific Ocean
C. Sea Cucumber	3. Largest herbivore marine mammal.	iii. Warm tropical and temperate seas throughout the world
D. Whale Sharks	4. They have visible external ear flaps and are hence known as 'eared' seals.	iv. On the ocean floor in all marine environments – from shallow to deep-sea environments

	Species	Feature	Habitat
(a)	A	2	iv
(b)	B	3	I
(c)	A	3	ii
(d)	B	4	iii

	Species	Feature	Habitat
(a)	C	4	ii
(b)	D	2	iii
(c)	C	1	i
(d)	D	1	ii

UPSC PRELIMS 2024– FULLY REFLECTED QUESTIONS IN PRESTORMING

UPSC 2024 - SERIES D	PRESTORMING2023-2024 REFLEX
<p>1. How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023?</p> <p>(a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Four</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AIMT – 01 – Q.NO.38- DIRECT REFLECTION</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements with respect to the Delimitation Commission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since the commencement of the Constitution of India, the Delimitation exercise has taken place only three times. 2. The Constitution mandates that the Commission's orders are final and cannot be questioned before any court. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>The Election Commission defines delimitation as the process of drawing the boundaries of states into territorial constituencies for elections to the State Legislative Assemblies and House of the People based on the population in the most recent Census. The President of India appoints the Delimitation Commission and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India. Since the Independence of India, the census has been carried out seven times (1951-2011).</p> <p>However, the delimitation exercise was conducted four times in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952; in 1963 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1962; in 1973 under the Delimitation Act, 1972; and in 2002 under the Delimitation Act, 2002, as per the Election Commission of India. So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> </div> <p>The Commission, in consultation with State Election Commissions, examines changes in</p>



the population to redraw constituencies or create new ones. It then publishes in the Gazette of India its draft report, which is open for public feedback. After accounting for the feedback, the Commission publishes its final report.

The Delimitation Commission is to work without any executive influence. The Constitution mandates that the Commission's orders are final and cannot be questioned before any court as it would hold up an election indefinitely. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

TEST NO.19 – Q.NO.34

With reference to the Constitution of India, the amendments to which of the following provisions are **not** deemed to be amendments under Article 368?

1. Acquisition of Citizenship
2. Goods and Services Tax Council
3. Delimitation of constituencies
4. Conferment of more jurisdiction on the Supreme Court
5. Representation of states in Parliament
6. Elections to Parliament

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 3, 4 and 6 only**
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 6 only
- (d) 1, 4, 5 and 6 only

EXPLANATION:

The Constitution deals with the citizenship from Articles 5 to 11 under Part II. However, it contains neither any permanent nor any elaborate provisions in this regard. It only identifies the persons who became citizens of India at its commencement (i.e., on January 26, 1950).

It does not deal with the problem of acquisition or loss of citizenship subsequent to its commencement. It empowers the Parliament to enact a law to provide for such matters and any other matter relating to citizenship. Accordingly, the Parliament has enacted the



Citizenship Act (1955), which has been amended from time to time. Amendment related to the Acquisition of Citizenship is done by the simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368. Thus, it is not deemed to be amendments for the purposes of Article 368. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

In order to implement GST, the Constitutional (122nd Amendment) Bill was introduced in the Parliament and passed by the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha in August 2016. The Constitutional Amendment Bill was passed by more than 15 states, and after that Hon'ble President gave assent to "The Constitution (One Hundred And First Amendment) Act, 2016".

Parliament and state legislatures will have concurrent powers to make laws on GST. Therefore, Amendment to implement GST is done with special majority of Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority. Thus, the amendments to the Tax regime are deemed to be amendments for the purposes of Article 368. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Under Article 82 of the Constitution, the Parliament, by law, enacts a Delimitation Act after every census. After coming into force commencement of the Act, the Central Government constitutes a Delimitation Commission. This Delimitation Commission demarcates the boundaries of the Parliamentary Constituencies as per provisions of the Delimitation Act. The present delimitation of constituencies has been done on the basis of 2001 census figures under the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002. Notwithstanding the above, the Constitution of India was specifically amended in 2002 not to have delimitation of constituencies till the first census after 2026. Therefore, Amendment related to the delimitation of constituencies is done by the simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

According to Article 138 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall have further jurisdiction and powers with respect to any of the matters in the Union List as Parliament may by law confer.

The Supreme Court shall have such further jurisdiction and powers with respect to any

matter as the Government of India and the Government of any State may, by special agreement, confer if Parliament by law provides for the exercise of such jurisdiction and powers by the Supreme Court. Thus, the Conferment of more jurisdictions on Supreme Court provisions is not deemed to be an amendment to Article 368 as it is made through the simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

The elected members of state legislative assemblies elect the representatives of states in the Rajya Sabha. The election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The seats are allotted to the states in the Rajya Sabha on the basis of population.

The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and union territories. The amendments to the representation of states, which provisions are deemed to be amendments for Article 368 as it requires a special majority of Parliament and consent of half the states of India. **So, Statement 5 is not correct.**

In Elections to Parliament, after every census, a readjustment is to be made in the following,

- The allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha to the states.
- Division of each state into territorial constituencies.

Parliament is empowered to determine the authority and the manner in which it is to be made. **Accordingly, the Parliament enacted the Delimitation Commission Acts in 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002 for this purpose.**

Provisions concerning the Elections to Parliament, such as Delimitation of Seats etc., are done by the act of Parliament and are not deemed to be amendments to Article 368. **So, Statement 6 is correct.**



TEST NO.01 – Q.NO.59- PARTIAL REFLECTION

4. Which of the following statements are correct about the Constitutional of India?

1. Powers of the Municipalities are given in Part IX A of the Constitution.
2. Emergency provisions are given in part XVIII of the Constitution.
3. Provisions related to the amendment of the Constitution are given in Part XX of the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

The court can strike down an amendment to the Constitution of India if :

- (a) It violates a law passed by the Parliament or State Legislature
(b) It violates a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution
(c) It violates a Constitutional right mentioned outside Part III of the Constitution
(d) **It violates a basic feature of the Constitution identified by the Supreme Court**

EXPLANATION:

The Constitution of India provides for its amendment in order to adjust itself to the changing conditions and needs. The amendment procedure of the Indian Constitution is neither flexible nor rigid but a synthesis of both. The Supreme Court has been the interpreter of the Constitution and the arbiter of all amendments made by Parliament. However, the Parliament cannot amend those provisions which form the 'basic structure' of the Constitution. This was ruled by the Supreme Court in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973). Hence, the Supreme Court can strike down an amendment to the Indian Constitution when it violates the basic structure as identified by the Supreme Court. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

AMMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION	
About	In order to incorporate changes in the Constitution for the betterment of the country and to make appropriate changes as per the demand of the time, the Parliament may, in exercise of its constituent power, amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of the Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose.
Articles and Parts Associated	Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the powers of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure.
Ways of Amendment	The Constitution can be amended in three ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Amendment by a simple majority of the Parliament➤ Amendment by a special majority of the Parliament➤ Amendment by a special majority of the Parliament and the ratification of half of the state legislatures.



	Basic Structure	The Parliament, under Article 368, can amend any part of the Constitution, including the Fundamental Rights, but without affecting the 'basic structure' of the Constitution. However, the Supreme Court has yet to define or clarify what constitutes the 'Basic Structure' of the Constitution. The term 'basic structure' is not defined in any part of the Constitution.	
	<u>TEST NO.15 – Q.NO.65- PARTIAL REFLECTION</u> If any municipality has been dissolved one year before the expiry of its original term, which among the following events succeeds ? (a) A fresh election is conducted before the expiry of its original duration. (b) A fresh election is conducted before the expiry of a period of six months from the date of dissolution. (c) It shall not be necessary to hold any election for constituting the new municipality for the remaining period. (d) The state election commission shall determine the date of election to the municipality as per the prevailing conditions. <u>EXPLANATION:</u> The 74th Amendment Act of 1992 provides for a five-year term of office for every municipality. However, it can be dissolved before the completion of its term. Further, the fresh elections to constitute a municipality shall be completed (a) before the expiry of its duration of five years; or (b) in case of dissolution, before the expiry of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution. But, where the remainder of the period (for which the dissolved municipality would have continued) is less than six months, it shall not be necessary to hold any election for constituting the new municipality for such period. Moreover, a municipality constituted upon the dissolution of a municipality before the expiration of its duration shall continue only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved municipality would have continued had it not been so dissolved. So, Option (b) is correct.		



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

74TH AMENDMENT ACT OF 1992

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ This Act has added a new Part IX-A to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled as 'The Municipalities' and consists of provisions and powers from Articles 243-P to 243-ZG.➤ In addition, the act has also added a new Twelfth Schedule to the Constitution. This schedule contains eighteen functional items of municipalities. It deals with Article 243-W.➤ The act gave constitutional status to the municipalities. It has brought them under the purview of justiciable part of the Constitution. In other words, state governments are under constitutional obligation to adopt the new system of municipalities in accordance with the provisions of the act.
Three Types of Municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The act provides for the constitution of the following three types of municipalities in every state.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A nagar panchayat for a transitional area.• A municipal council for a smaller urban area.• A municipal corporation for a larger urban area.➤ But, there is one exception. If there is an urban area where municipal services are being provided by an industrial establishment, then the governor may specify that area to be an industrial township. In such a case, a municipality may not be constituted.➤ The Governor has to specify a transitional area, a smaller urban area or a larger urban area, keeping in view the following factors:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population of the area.• Density of the population therein.• Revenue generated for local administration.• Percentage of employment in non-agricultural activities.• Economic importance.• Such other factors as he may deem fit.



TEST NO.1 – Q.NO.51- PARTIAL REFLECTION

6. Under which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India has the Supreme Court of India placed the Right to Privacy?

- (a) Article 15
- (b) Article 18
- (c) Article 19
- (d) Article 21**

Consider the following :

- 1. Right against handcuffing
- 2. Right against delayed execution
- 3. Right to form cooperative societies
- 4. Right to the road in hilly areas
- 5. Right against bar fetters
- 6. Right to speedy trial

How many of the above rights comes under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Only Three
- (b) Only four
- (c) Only five**
- (d) All Six

EXPLANATION:

In *Sunil Batra vs Delhi Administration*, (1978), the Supreme Court held that Article 21 forbids deprivation of personal liberty except in accordance with the procedure established by law. The bench stated “when accused persons are taken to and from the court the indiscriminate resort to handcuffs and forcing irons on prison inmates are illegal and shall be stopped, except in certain situations. Reckless handcuffing and chaining in public degrades the individual, and is an insult on our culture.” Thus, Right against handcuffing is a right under Article 21. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Article 21 of India's Constitution mandates that no person shall 'be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law.' In *T.V. Vaitheeswaran vs State of Tamil Nadu* (1983), the Indian Supreme Court held that prolonged detention to await the execution of a death sentence is an unjust, unfair, and unreasonable procedure, requiring that the death sentence be quashed and a sentence of life imprisonment substituted. Thus, Right against delayed execution is a right under Article 21. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**



The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011 gave constitutional status and protection to co-operative societies. In this context, it made the following three changes in the constitution:

- It made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right. In Part III of the Constitution, in Article 19, in clause (1), in sub-clause (c), the words “co-operative societies” were inserted. Thus, right to form cooperative societies is not a part of Article 21. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

In the case of State of Himachal Pradesh vs Umed Ram Sharma and others 1986, the High Court cited the ruling of the Apex Court. The Court had observed that access to roads is the access to life for residents of hilly areas. The Court further observed that the respondent is a welfare state. So it is the duty-bound under the Law to provide access to road facilities to the petitioners and other residents, upon the completion of the public road. Hence, Right to road in hilly areas is a right under Article 21. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

Bar fetter means a chain or bond fastened around the ankle. The issue of bar fettering came before the court when a prisoner of Tihar jail filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court against bar fettering. In the case, the court held that bar fetters are an act of barbarity (behaviour that is very cruel or a very cruel act) and must vanish. Thus, right against bar fetters is a right under Article 21. **So, Statement 5 is correct.**

The Hussainara Khatoon case was a significant milestone in the Indian legal system, as it recognized the right to a speedy trial as an integral part of the right to life and personal liberty. In this case, the court determined that any procedure that keeps a large part of the population incarcerated (to put somebody in prison) for an extended period of time without a fair trial cannot be deemed “reasonable, fair, and just.” Hence, Right to speedy trial comes under Article 21 of the constitution. **So, Statement 6 is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PERSONAL LIBERTY	
About	Article 21 declares that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. This right is available to both citizens and non-citizens.
Gopalan case(1950)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Supreme Court held that the protection under Article 21 is available only against arbitrary executive action and not from arbitrary legislative action.➤ This means that the State can deprive the right to life and personal liberty of a person based on a law.➤ This is because of the expression 'procedure established by law' in Article 21, which is different from the expression 'due process of law' contained in the American Constitution.➤ Hence, the validity of a law that has prescribed a procedure cannot be questioned on the ground that the law is unreasonable, unfair or unjust.
Menaka case (1978)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Supreme Court overruled its judgement in the Gopalan case by taking a wider interpretation of the Article 21.➤ Therefore, it ruled that the right to life and personal liberty of a person can be deprived by a law provided the procedure prescribed by that law is reasonable, fair and just. In other words, it has introduced the American expression 'due process of law'.➤ In effect, the protection under Article 21 should be available not only against arbitrary executive action but also against arbitrary legislative action.

		<p>➤ Further, the court held that the 'right to life' as embodied in Article 21 is not merely confined to animal existence or survival but it includes within its ambit the right to live with human dignity and all those aspects of life which go to make a man's life meaningful, complete and worth living.</p>	
<p>10. Which of the following statements about the Ethics Committee in the Lok Sabha are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Initially, it was an ad-hoc Committee Only a Member of the Lok Sabha can make a complaint relating to the unethical conduct of a member of the Lok Sabha. This Committee cannot take up any matter which is sub-judice. <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Puttaswamy v. Union of India case (2017)</p>	<p>➤ The Right to Privacy was declared a fundamental right by the Supreme Court.</p> <p>➤ The Court, in a landmark judgement on 24 August 2017, unanimously ruled that privacy is a fundamental right and that the right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty, as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution. The Bench also ruled that the right to privacy is not absolute, but is subject to reasonable restrictions</p>	
		<p align="center"><u>TEST NO.13 – Q.NO.76- DIRECT REFLECTION</u></p> <p>With reference to the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee, sometimes mentioned in the news, consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is the first such committee formed by the houses of the parliament. It functions as an ad hoc committee by ensuring compliance of the House on its ethical norms. The Committee's jurisdiction is limited to ethical misconduct involving the Members of Parliament (MP). Outsiders can also file a complaint against an MP through another MP. <p>How many of the above statements is/are correct ?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All four</p>	



EXPLANATION:

The Committee on Ethics was constituted originally as an ad-hoc Committee on 16 May 2000, during

13th Lok Sabha subsequently, during the 16th Lok Sabha, it has been made a Standing Committee w. 12 August 2015, under Rule 316A. It consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker. The Speaker appoints the Chairperson of the Committee from amongst the Members of the Committee. The Committee continues in office till a new Committee is appointed.

The Committee examines every complaint relating to unethical conduct of a member of Lok Sabha referred to it by the Speaker and makes such recommendations as it may deem fit.

So, Statement 1 is not correct.

In pursuance thereof, the Speaker 13th Lok Sabha constituted the first Ethics Committee in Lok Sabha on 16 May 2000 with the following terms of reference, namely:-

- to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of the Members and
- to examine the cases referred to it with reference to ethical and other misconduct of the Members.

Therefore, The Ethics Committee's jurisdiction is limited to ethical misconduct involving the Members of Parliament (MP), but in the case of the Privilege Committee, an MP can be examined for breach of privilege; a non-MP can also be accused of breach of privilege for actions that attack the authority and dignity of the House. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The Committee examines complaints filed against members of the House by other members, outsiders through a member, or referred by the Speaker.

The Committee makes a prima facie inquiry before deciding to examine a complaint and presents its report to the Speaker, who places it before the House for consideration. It must be noted that the term 'unethical' is not defined. It is left to the Committee to decide whether any act is unethical or not. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**



TEST NO.11 – Q.NO.100- PARTIAL REFLECTION

With reference to the Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. Any person can complain to the Committee against a Member of the Lok Sabha through another Member of the Lok Sabha.
2. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha can refer any complaint against a Member of the Lok Sabha to the Committee.
3. The Committee can take up cases of misconduct that involve any person.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Regarding the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha, Any person can complain against a Member through another Lok Sabha MP, along with evidence of the alleged misconduct and an affidavit stating that the complaint is not "false, frivolous, or vexatious." If the Member himself complains, the affidavit is not needed. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Speaker of Lok Sabha can refer to the Committee any complaint against a Member of Parliament. The Committee does not entertain complaints based only on media reports or on matters that are sub judice.

The Committee makes a prima facie inquiry before deciding to examine a complaint. It makes its recommendations after evaluating the complaint.

The Committee presents its report to the Speaker, who asks the House if the report should be taken up for consideration. There is also a provision for a half-hour discussion on the report. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

An MP can be examined for breach of privilege; a non-MP can be accused of breach of privilege for actions that attack the authority and dignity of the House.

The Ethics Committee can take up only cases of misconduct that involve MPs.

So, Statement 3 is not correct.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ETHICS COMMITTEE

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Speaker appoints the members of the Ethics Committee for a period of one year.➤ Any individual can file a complaint against a Member of Parliament (MP) by going through another Lok Sabha MP.➤ This complaint should include supporting evidence of the alleged misconduct and an affidavit confirming that the complaint is not "false, frivolous, or vexatious."➤ Meanwhile, the Committee examines every complaint relating to unethical conduct of a member of Lok Sabha referred to it by the Speaker and makes such recommendations as it may deem fit.➤ After a preliminary inquiry, if there is no prima facie case, then the matter might be dropped.➤ The Committee submits its report to the Speaker, who then seeks the House's opinion on whether the report should be deliberated.➤ Additionally, there is a provision for a 30-minute discussion on the report.
Privileges Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The work of the Ethics Committee and the Privileges Committee often overlap.➤ An allegation of corruption against an MP can be sent to either body, but usually, more serious accusations go to the Privileges Committee.➤ The mandate of the Privileges Committee is to safeguard the "freedom, authority, and dignity of Parliament."➤ These privileges are enjoyed by individual Members as well as the House as a whole.➤ An MP can be examined for breach of privilege; a non-MP can be accused of breach of privilege for actions that attack the authority and dignity of the House.



TEST NO.01 – Q.NO.65- PARTIAL REFLECTION

11. Who was the Provisional President of the Constituent Assembly before Dr Rajendra Prasad took over?

- (a) C. Rajagopalachari
- (b) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- (c) T. T. Krishnamachari
- (d) Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha**

Consider the following Statements with respect to the making of the Constituent Assembly:

1. In 1934, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar put forward the idea of a Constituent Assembly for India for the first time.
 2. The demand for a Constituent Assembly was accepted by the British Government in the 'August Offer' of 1940.
 3. The Constituent Assembly was directly elected by the people of India based on adult franchise.
 4. Mahatma Gandhi was part of the constituent assembly
- How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION:

In 1934 the idea of a Constituent Assembly for India was put forth for the first time by M.N. Roy (not Dr. B.R. Ambedkar), a pioneer of the communist movement in India. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The British government came up with its offer to get the cooperation of India in the war effort. Lord Linlithgow announced the August Offer (August 1940), which proposed the setting up of a constituent assembly after the war where mainly Indians would decide the constitution according to their social, economic and political conceptions, subject to fulfillment of the obligation of the government regarding defense, minority rights, treaties with States, all India services, and no future constitution is to be adopted without the consent of minorities. Thus, the demand for a Constituent Assembly for India was finally accepted in principle by the British Government. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

In 1938, Jawaharlal Nehru, on behalf of the INC declared that 'the Constitution of free India must be framed, without outside interference, by a Constituent Assembly elected based on adult franchise'.

The Constituent Assembly was to be a partly elected and partly nominated body. Moreover, the members were to be indirectly elected by the members of the provincial assemblies, who



themselves were elected on a limited franchise. Although the Constituent Assembly was not directly elected by the people of India based on adult franchise, the Assembly comprised representatives of all sections of the Indian society– Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Parsis, Anglo-Indians, Indian Christians, SCs, STs including women of all these sections. The Assembly included all important personalities of India at that time, with the exception of Mahatma Gandhi. **So, Statements 3 and 4 are not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

About

- The Constituent Assembly held its first meeting on December 9, 1946. The Muslim League boycotted the meeting and insisted on a separate state of Pakistan.
- Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha, the oldest member, was elected as the temporary President, Later, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President of the Assembly.
- Similarly, both H.C. Mukherjee and V.T. Krishnamachari were elected as the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly. In other words, the Assembly had two Vice-Presidents.
- On December 13, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru moved the historic 'Objectives Resolution' in the Assembly. It laid down the fundamentals and philosophy of the constitutional structure.
- In addition to making of the Constitution and enacting ordinary laws, the Constituent Assembly also performed the following functions:
 - It ratified India's membership of the Commonwealth in May 1949.
 - It adopted the national flag on July 22, 1947.
 - It adopted the national anthem on January 24, 1950.
 - It adopted the national song on January 24, 1950.
 - It elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India on January 24, 1950.



TEST NO.11 – Q.NO.34- DIRECT REFLECTION

12. With reference to the Government of India Act, 1935, consider the following statements:

1. It provided for the establishment of an All India Federation based on the union of the British Indian Provinces and Princely States.
2. Defence and Foreign Affairs were kept under the control of the federal legislature.

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

Consider the following statements with respect to the Government of India Act 1935:

1. This act was the first initiative to bring Indian states and British Indian provinces under one Constitution.
2. It removed Dyarchy at the provincial level but introduced it at the central level.
3. Federal court was established to interpret the Constitution and decide over inter-province disputes.

Select the correct answer using the given options:

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

EXPLANATION:

The Government of India Act of 1935 was passed by the British parliament in 1935 and came into effect in 1937. The Act proposed a federation of British provinces and Princely States in India. The Act, for the first time, brought Indian states and British Indian provinces under one Constitution. It also provided for the establishment of a Federal Court, which was set up in 1937 to interpret the Constitution and decide over inter-province disputes.

So, Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

In the Government of India Act of 1935, Dyarchy in the provinces was abolished but introduced at the central level, and provinces were given autonomy, i.e., the distinction between Reserved and Transferred Subjects was abolished, and full responsible government was established, subjected to certain safeguards. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT OF 1935

Features	
	➤ It provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units.
	➤ The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists Federal List (for Centre, with 59 items), Provincial List (for



		<p>provinces, with 54 items) and the Concurrent List (for both, with 36 items). Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces. Thus, the legislatures of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Assam and the United Provinces were made bicameral, consisting of a legislative council (upper house) and a legislative assembly (lower house). However, many restrictions were placed on them.➤ It further extended the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorates for depressed classes (scheduled castes), women and labour (workers).➤ It abolished the Council of India, established by the Government of India Act of 1858. The secretary of state for India was provided with a team of advisors.➤ It provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces.➤ It provided for the establishment of a Reserve Bank of India to control the currency and credit of the country.
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.19 – Q.NO.13</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>Statement-I: After the Government of India Act of 1935 came into effect, Provincial Legislatures in India possessed the features of a sovereign Legislature.</p> <p>Statement-II: As per the Government of India Act of 1935, Provinces were no longer delegates of the Central Government but were autonomous units of administration.</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I</p> <p>(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I</p> <p>(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect</p> <p>(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct</p>	

EXPLANATION:

The Government of India Act of 1935 abolished dyarchy in the provinces and introduced 'provincial autonomy' in its place. The executive authority of the Centre was vested in the Governor-General. The legislative powers of both the Central and Provincial Legislatures were subject to various limitations and neither could be said to have possessed the features of a sovereign legislature.

So, Statement-I is incorrect

The Government of India Act of 1935 introduced provincial autonomy where it allowed to act as autonomous units of administration in their defined spheres. The Act divided legislative powers between the Provincial and Central Legislatures, and within its defined sphere, the Provinces were no longer delegates of the Central Government, but were autonomous units of administration.

The Governor was required to act with the advice of ministers responsible to the provincial legislature. The executive authority of a Province was also exercised by the governor on behalf of the crown and not as a sub-ordinate of the Governor-General. **So, Statement-II is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT OF 1935

Features	
	<p>➤ It provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units. The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists such as the Federal List (for the Centre, with 59 items), the Provincial List (for provinces, with 54 items), and the Concurrent List (for both, with 36 items). Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy. However, the federation never came into being as the princely states did not join it.</p> <p>➤ It abolished dyarchy in the provinces and introduced 'provincial autonomy' in its place. The provinces were allowed to act as autonomous units of administration in their defined spheres. Moreover, the Act introduced responsible governments in provinces; that is, the governor</p>



was required to act with the advice of ministers responsible to the provincial legislature. This came into effect in 1937 and was discontinued in 1939.

- It provided for the adoption of dyarchy at the Centre. Consequently, the federal subjects were divided into reserved subjects and transferred subjects. However, this provision of the Act did not come into operation at all.
- It introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces. Thus, the legislatures of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Assam, and the United Provinces were made bicameral, consisting of a legislative council (upper house) and a legislative assembly (lower house). However, many restrictions were placed on them.
- It further extended the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorates for depressed classes (scheduled castes), women and labour (workers).
- It abolished the Council of India, established by the Government of India Act of 1858. The secretary of state for India was provided with a team of advisors.
- It extended the franchise. About 10 per cent of the total population got the voting right.
- It provided for the establishment of a Reserve Bank of India to control the currency and credit of the country.
- It provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces.
- It provided for the establishment of a Federal Court, which was set up in 1937.



TEST NO.07 – Q.NO.33- PARTIAL REFLECTION

15. Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List released by UNESCO:

1. Shantiniketan
2. Rani-ki-Vav
3. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas
4. Mahabodhi Temple complex at Bodhgaya

How many of the above properties were included in 2023?

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

Consider the following statements with reference to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites :

1. To be included in the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value.
2. World Heritage sites were selected on the basis of six cultural and four natural criteria.
3. At present, India has 42 world heritage sites, including Charaideo Moidams.
4. A nominated property is solely evaluated by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

EXPLANATION

World Heritage is the designation for places on Earth that are of outstanding universal value to humanity and as such, have been inscribed on the World Heritage List to be protected for future generations.

Outstanding Universal Value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

Some of the UNESCO's World Heritage mission is to:

- Help States Parties safeguard World Heritage properties by providing technical assistance and professional training;
- Provide emergency assistance for World Heritage sites in immediate danger;
- Encourage States Parties to establish management plans and set up reporting systems on the state of conservation of their World Heritage sites.

So, Statement 1 is correct

Until the end of 2004, World Heritage sites were selected based on six cultural and four natural criteria. With the adoption of the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, only one set of ten criteria exists. To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

India has 42 world heritage properties overall, which includes 34 in the cultural category, seven in the natural category and one mixed property. India has the sixth largest number of (UNESCO) sites in the world. India has added 12 new world heritage sites since 2014. Recently Karnataka's Hoysala Temples joined UNESCO's World Heritage list, making it India's 42nd site. The Hoysala Temples in Karnataka, known for their sacred ensembles, have earned a coveted spot on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage list. Assam's Charaideo Maidam is currently nominated to the UNESCO World Heritage Site list, and thus not listed. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

A nominated property is independently evaluated by two Advisory Bodies mandated by the World Heritage Convention: the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which respectively provide the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of the cultural and natural sites nominated.

The third Advisory Body is the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), an intergovernmental organization that provides the Committee with expert advice on conservation of cultural sites, as well as on training activities. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Recently in news	Recently Karnataka's Hoysala Temples joined UNESCO's World Heritage list, making it India's 42nd site. The Hoysala Temples in Karnataka are known for their sacred ensembles that have earned a coveted spot on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage list.
Charaideo Maidam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Charaideo Maidam is the mausoleum or the burial mounds of the Ahom royals. ➤ It is home to over 90 royal burial mounds, also referred to as <i>the Pyramids of Assam</i>. ➤ If selected, Assam will have three world heritage sites, the other two being Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park.



TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.17- DIRECT REFLECTION

18. Which of the following statements are correct in respect of a Money Bill in the Parliament ?

1. Article 109 mentions special procedure in respect of Money Bills
2. A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States
3. The Rajya Sabha can either approve the Bill or suggest changes but cannot reject it
4. Amendments to a Money Bill suggested by the Rajya Sabha have to be accepted by the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

Consider the following circumstances :

1. Six months have elapsed from the date of receipt of an ordinary bill by the other House without the bill being passed by it
2. Houses have finally disagreed as to the amendments to be made in a Constitution Amendment bill
- 3. When the Lok Sabha does not accept any recommendation made by the Rajya Sabha with regard to a money bill**

For which of the above given circumstances does the Constitution of India provide for a joint sitting of the two Houses of the Parliament ?

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

EXPLANATION:

Joint sitting is an extraordinary machinery provided by the Constitution to resolve a deadlock between the two Houses over the passage of a bill. A deadlock is deemed to have taken place under any one of the following three situations after a bill has been passed by one House and transmitted to the other House:

- If the Bill is rejected by the other House,
- If the Houses have finally disagreed as to the amendments to be made in the Bill,



	<p>➤ If more than six months have elapsed from the date of the receipt of an ordinary bill by the other House without the Bill being passed by it.</p> <p>The President may call a joint sitting of the two Houses to resolve the deadlock. If, at the joint sitting of the Houses, the Bill is passed by a majority of the total number of Members of both the Houses present and voting, with the amendments, if any, accepted by them, the Bill is deemed to have been passed by both the Houses. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>The provision of joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills or financial bills only and not to money bills or Constitutional amendment bills.</p> <p>An amendment to the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either the House of Parliament not in the state legislatures. The Bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the President.</p> <p>The Bill must be passed in each House by a special majority, that is, a majority of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.</p> <p>Each House must pass the Bill separately. In case of a disagreement between the two Houses, there is no provision for holding a joint sitting of the two Houses for deliberation and passage of the Bill.</p> <p>Money Bills can be introduced only in Lok Sabha. Rajya Sabha cannot make amendments to a Money Bill passed by Lok Sabha and transmitted to it. Suppose a Money Bill passed by Lok Sabha and transmitted to Rajya Sabha for its recommendations is not returned to Lok Sabha within the said period of fourteen days. In that case, it is deemed to have been passed by both Houses of Parliament.</p> <p>Hence, in the case of a money bill, the Lok Sabha has overriding powers, while a Constitutional amendment bill must be passed by each House separately. So, Statements 2 and 3 are not correct.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.85- DIRECT REFLECTION</u></p> <p>When a Money Bill has been passed by the Houses of Parliament, it shall be presented to the President for his assent. In such a situation, the President</p> <p>(a) May give his assent or withhold his assent but cannot return the bill for reconsideration of the houses.</p> <p>(b) May give his assent but cannot his withhold assent or return the bill for reconsideration of the houses.</p>



(c) May give his assent, or withhold his assent, or return the bill for reconsideration of the houses.

(d) Does not have any option to exercise his choice other than declaring assent to the bill.

EXPLANATION:

Article 110 of the Constitution deals with the definition of money bills. The Constitution lays down a special procedure for the passing of money bills in the Parliament. **A money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha, and that too on the recommendation of the President. Every such bill is considered to be a government bill and can be introduced only by a minister.**

When a money bill is presented to the President,

- He may either give his assent to the bill or
- He may withhold his assent to the bill but
- He cannot return the bill for reconsideration by the Houses.

Normally, the President gives his assent to a money bill as it is introduced in the Parliament with his prior permission. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PASSING OF THE MONEY BILL

About

- A money bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha.
- After the Lok Sabha passes a money bill, it is transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its consideration.
- **The Rajya Sabha has restricted powers with regard to a money bill. It cannot reject or amend a money bill. It can only make the recommendations. It must return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, whether with or without recommendations.**
- **The Lok Sabha can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha.**
- If the Lok Sabha accepts any recommendation, the bill is then deemed to have been passed by both the Houses in the modified form.
- If the Lok Sabha does not accept any recommendation, the bill is then deemed to have passed by both Houses in the form originally passed by the Lok Sabha without any change.
- If the Rajya Sabha does not return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the



	<p>form originally passed by the Lok Sabha.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Thus, the Lok Sabha has more powers than the Rajya Sabha with regard to a money bill. On the other hand, both the Houses have equal powers with regard to an ordinary bill.➤ The bill is then passed to the President for his assent.
<p>24. Consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is the Governor of the State who recognizes and declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe.2. A community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are Correct ?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p><u>ALL INDIA MOCK TEST III – Q.NO.82 – DIRECT REFLECTION</u></p> <p>With reference to inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes, consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Article 342 of the Constitution of India provides that the President can include any tribe or tribal community in the list of Scheduled Tribes.2. The proposal for the amendment in the list of Scheduled Tribes is considered only after the approval of the Registrar General of India (RGI) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST). <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>Article 342 (2) of the Constitution empowers the Parliament, not the President, to include communities in the Scheduled Tribes list. Article 342(1) state that only those tribes or tribal communities who have been declared as such by the president through an initial public notification will be considered as Scheduled Tribes. Any further amendment to the list is to be done through an Act of Parliament. Thus, Article 342(2) States Parliament may, by law, include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes, any tribe or tribal community. So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> <p>According to the modalities for inclusion first framed in 1999, the proposal for inclusion must originate from the respective State or Union Territory government. Following this, the proposal is sent to the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry, which sends it to the Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI). If the ORGI approves the inclusion, the proposal is forwarded to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.</p> <p>Following this, the proposal is sent back to the Union government, which after inter-ministerial deliberations, introduces it in the Cabinet for final approval to bring in the appropriate amendment to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p>



TEST NO.25 – Q.NO.7- PARTIAL REFLECTION

Consider the following statements :

1. The Constitution of India prescribes the criteria for defining a community as Scheduled Tribes (STs).
2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria considered for determining ST status.
3. The consent of the Registrar General of India is mandatory for the inclusion of a specific community in the state-wise STs List.

Which of the above statements is/are **not** correct ?

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

EXPLANATION:

The criterion followed for specification of a community, as scheduled tribes are indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large, and backwardness. This criterion is not spelt out in the Constitution but has become well established. It subsumes the definitions contained in 1931 Census, the reports of first Backward Classes Commission 1955, the Advisory Committee (Kalelkar), on Revision of SC/ST lists (Lokur Committee), 1965 and the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes orders (Amendment) Bill 1967 (Chanda Committee), 1969. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Government of India follows the following criteria for identification of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

- Pre-agricultural level of technology
- Low level of literacy
- Economic backwardness
- A declining or stagnant population.

Thus, A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria considered for determining PVTGs not for ST status. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Only those claims for inclusion or exclusion of a community from the ST status, that have been agreed to by the concerned State Government, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes are taken up for consideration. Thus, the consent of the Registrar General of India is mandatory for the inclusion of a specific community in the state-wise STs List. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PROCEDURE FOR INCLUSION IN OR EXCLUSION FROM THE LIST OF STs

About

- Only those claims that have been agreed to by the concerned State Government, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes are taken up for consideration.
- Whenever representations are received in the Ministry for inclusion of any community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of a State/UT, the Ministry forwards that representation to the concerned State Government/UT Administration for recommendation as required under Article 342 of the Constitution.
- If the concerned State Government recommends the proposal, the same is sent to the Registrar General of India (RGI) for their comments/views.
- The RGI, if satisfied with recommendation of the State Government, recommends the proposal to the Central Government.
- Thereafter, the Government refers the proposal to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes for their recommendation.
- If the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes also recommends the case, the matter is processed for the decision of the Cabinet after consulting the concerned administrative Ministries. Thereafter the matter is put up before the Parliament in the form of a bill to amend the Presidential Order.
- Claims for inclusion, exclusion or other modifications that neither the RGI nor the concerned State Governments have supported would not be referred to the National Commission. These would be rejected at the level of the Ministry for Social Justice & Empowerment.
- In case, there is disagreement between the views of the State Government and the RGI, the views of the RGI are sent to the State Government for reviewing or further justifying their recommendation. On receipt of the further clarification from the State Government/Union Territory Administration, the proposal is again referred to the RGI for comments. In such cases, where the RGI does not agree to the point of view of the State Government/UT Administration on a second reference, the Government of India may consider rejection of the said proposal.



	<p>➤ Similarly, those cases where the State Government and the RGI favour inclusion/exclusion, but not supported by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes are also rejected.</p> <p>➤ Claims recommended suo-moto by the National Commission would be referred to RGI and the State Governments. Depending on their responses, they would be disposed of in accordance with the modalities indicated above as may be applicable.</p>
<p>25. With reference to Union Budget, consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Union Finance Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister lays the Annual Financial Statement before both the Houses of Parliament. 2. At the Union level, no demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President of India. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.91 STATEMENT 3 – PARTIAL REFLECTION</p> <p>With reference to the Indian Parliament, which of the following statements are correct ?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Appropriation Bill must be passed by both the Houses of Parliament before it can be enacted into law. 2. A Finance Bill is required for proposing new taxes, but no additional Bill/Act is required for making changes in the rates of taxes that are already under operation. 3. The Council of States cannot vote on the Demands for Grants. <p>Select the correct answer using the codes given below :</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 only</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>The Appropriation bill is introduced in the Lok Sabha (the lower house of the Indian Parliament) and then sent to the Rajya Sabha (the upper house of the Indian Parliament) for review and recommendations.</p> <p>The Lok Sabha has the power to accept or reject any amendments suggested by the Rajya Sabha. Once both houses pass the bill, it is presented to the President of India for assent and becomes Act. Thus, the Appropriation Bill must be passed by both the Houses of Parliament before it can be enacted into law. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>The Finance Bill was introduced to give effect to the financial proposals of the Government of India for the following year. It is subjected to all the conditions applicable to a Money Bill. A Finance Bill is required for proposing not only new taxes but also for making changes in the rates of taxes that are already under operation. So Statement 2 is not correct.</p> <p>The finance minister presents the budget with a speech known as the 'budget speech.' At the end of the speech in the Lok Sabha, the budget is laid before the Rajya Sabha (the council of states), which can only discuss it and has no power to vote on the demands for grants, whereby it is the exclusive privilege of the Lok Sabha. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>



	<p>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">APPROPRIATION BILL</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>About</td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 114 of the Indian Constitution says that, As soon as may be after the grants under Article 113 have been made by the House of the People, there shall be introduced a Bill to provide for the Appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund of India of all money required to meet— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the grants so made by the House of the People and • the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India but not exceeding, in any case, the amount shown in the statement previously laid before Parliament. ➤ The Appropriation Bill gives power to the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the expenditure during the financial year. ➤ This Act authorizes the payments from the Consolidated Fund of India. ➤ This means that the government cannot withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India till the enactment of the appropriation bill. </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	APPROPRIATION BILL		About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 114 of the Indian Constitution says that, As soon as may be after the grants under Article 113 have been made by the House of the People, there shall be introduced a Bill to provide for the Appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund of India of all money required to meet— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the grants so made by the House of the People and • the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India but not exceeding, in any case, the amount shown in the statement previously laid before Parliament. ➤ The Appropriation Bill gives power to the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the expenditure during the financial year. ➤ This Act authorizes the payments from the Consolidated Fund of India. ➤ This means that the government cannot withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India till the enactment of the appropriation bill. 				
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<p>27. Consider the following pairs:</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Country</th><th>Reason for being in the news</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Argentina</td><td>Worst economic crisis</td></tr> <tr> <td>2. Sudan</td><td>War between the country's regular army and paramilitary forces</td></tr> <tr> <td>3. Turkey</td><td>Rescinded its membership of NATO</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) Only one pair (b) Only two pairs (c) All three pairs (d) None of the pairs</p>	Country	Reason for being in the news	1. Argentina	Worst economic crisis	2. Sudan	War between the country's regular army and paramilitary forces	3. Turkey	Rescinded its membership of NATO	<p>TEST NO.05 – Q.NO.100 – PARTIAL REFLECTION</p> <p>“Rapid Support Forces” recently seen in the news is best described by which one of the following statements ?</p> <p>(a) A mercenary group that has conducted military operations worldwide on behalf of a foreign government (b) A Non-Governmental Organization providing humanitarian medical care in conflict zones (c) A militant movement in West Asia dedicated towards the establishment of an independent state in Palestine (d) A paramilitary group engaged in an armed conflict in Sudan</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Mercenary groups are hired professional soldiers who fight for any state or nation without regard to political interests or issues. G4S Security is a British multinational security services company and is reportedly the biggest private military group in the world. Wagner Group, officially PMC Wagner, is a Russian mercenary group that has conducted military operations around the world on behalf of the Russian government. Although private military companies are illegal in Russia, extensive ties between Wagner</p>
Country	Reason for being in the news								
1. Argentina	Worst economic crisis								
2. Sudan	War between the country's regular army and paramilitary forces								
3. Turkey	Rescinded its membership of NATO								

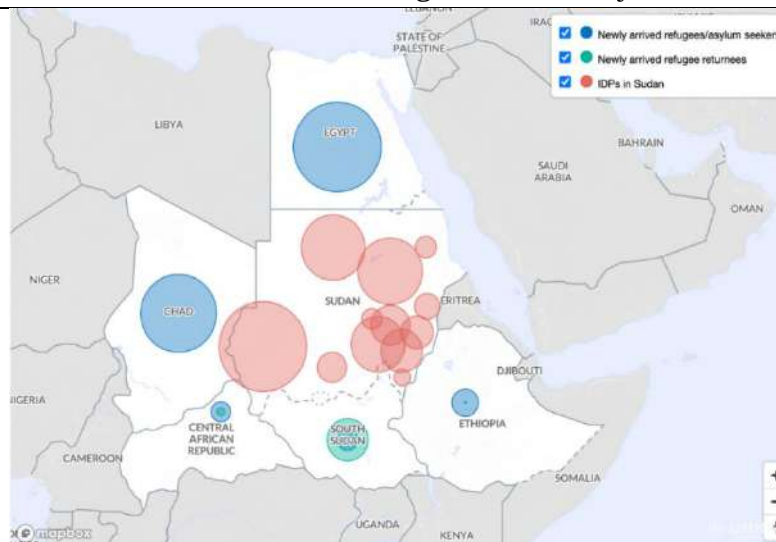
	and Russian military and intelligence structures have long been assumed. Rapid Support Forces is not a mercenary group. So, Statement 1 is not correct.
	Humanitarian NGOs like CARE, Action Against Hunger, Doctors Without Borders, Islamic Relief Worldwide, and Refugees International aid people who are suffering, particularly victims of armed conflict, famines, and natural disasters. Sometimes, these organizations are also called relief societies. Rapid Support Forces is a paramilitary group, and it is not associated with NGOs. So, Statement 2 is not correct.
	Hamas is an Islamic Resistance Movement, a militant Palestinian nationalist and Islamist movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip dedicated to establishing an independent Islamic state in historical Palestine. So, Statement 3 is not correct.
	The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) is Sudan's main paramilitary group, battling Sudan's army in a conflict that has brought open warfare to the capital, Khartoum, sparking ethnically targeted killings in Darfur and displacing millions of people. So, Statement 4 is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SUDAN CRISIS	
Recently in news	Sudan's military and a powerful paramilitary force (Rapid Support Forces) battled fiercely in the capital and other areas, dealing a new blow to hopes for a transition to democracy and raising fears of a wider conflict. At least five civilians were killed and 78 wounded.
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Before the current conflict, Sudan had already been grappling with violence and displacement since the onset of the Darfur crisis in 2003. ➤ By the end of 2022, the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) surpassed 3.7 million, with the majority residing in camps in Darfur. Approximately 800,000 Sudanese individuals were living as refugees in neighboring countries such as Chad, South Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia. ➤ The recent fighting between the SAF and RFS occurred when Sudan was already experiencing its highest levels of humanitarian need in a decade. ➤ The removal of long-time authoritarian leader Omar al-Bashir in 2019 initially sparked great optimism for returning to Sudan's civilian rule. ➤ However, a military coup two years later dissolved the transitional civilian government, triggering political and economic turmoil and

reigniting intercommunal conflicts.

- Sudan has also been heavily impacted by severe weather events linked to climate change, including floods and droughts.
- These events have adversely affected hundreds of thousands of individuals throughout the country, leading to crop and livestock destruction and exacerbating food insecurity for families.



TEST NO.04 – Q.NO.24 STATEMENT 1 EXPLANATION

With reference to Gum Arabic, which comes from acacia trees, consider the following :

1. Libya, the third-largest country in Africa, supplies about 70% of the world's demand for Gum Arabic.
2. At present, there is no alternative to gum Arabic in fizzy drinks like Pepsi and Coke, which prevents ingredients from separating.

Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct ?

- (a) 1 only**
 (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2
 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

EXPLANATION:

About 70% of the world's supply of gum Arabic, for which there are few substitutes, comes from the Sahel region's acacia trees that run through Africa's third-largest country, Sudan. It is torn apart by fighting between the army and a paramilitary force.

According to an estimate, global gum Arabic production is about 120,000 tonnes yearly, worth \$1.1 billion. Most are found in the "gum belt" that stretches 500 miles from the East to the West of Africa, where the arable land meets the desert, including Ethiopia, Chad, Somalia and Eritrea. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The gum arabic belt in Sudan

Nearly 500,000 km² in Sudan are used to cultivate gum arabic, extracted from acacia trees

■ Area of cultivation for gum arabic



Source: P. Terwase-Livam et al. in PLOS

AFP

In their manufacturing process, food and drink companies use a spray-dried version of the gum that is powder-like. Cosmetics and printing manufacturers may be able to use substitutes. There is no alternative to gum Arabic in fizzy drinks, where it prevents ingredients from separating. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

TEST NO.15 – Q.NO.44 EXPLANATION – DIRECT REFLECTION

28. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Sumed pipeline is a strategic route for Persian Gulf oil and natural gas shipments to Europe.

Statement-II: Sumed pipeline connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.

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 correct 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 incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Bab el-Mandeb' is a strategically important strait connecting which of the following pairs of water bodies ?

- (a) Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba
- (b) Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez
- (c) Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden**
- (d) Red Sea and the Gulf of Kutch

EXPLANATION:

The Strait of Bab el-Mandeb links the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

It is just 29 km wide at its narrowest point and is a strategically important strait. The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, also known as the "Gate of Tears" in Arabic, is a crucial trade route that connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean via the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

Most exports of petroleum and natural gas from the Persian Gulf that transit the Suez Canal or the SUMED Pipeline pass through both the Bab el-Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz.

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait is a sea route chokepoint between the Horn of Africa and the Middle East. Chokepoints are narrow channels along widely used global sea routes that are critical to global energy security. **So, Option (c) is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BAB EL-MANDEB STRAIT	
Recently in News	Houthi attacks on tankers passing through the narrow Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb have disrupted one of the busiest global shipping lanes, dragging the U.S. deeper into the conflict.
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Red Sea opens into the Gulf of Aden, which joins the Arabian Sea and then the Indian Ocean through Bab el-Mandeb. ➤ Throughout the 19th and until the mid-20th century, Britain offered protection to these routes through its control of the island of Perim (Mayyum) in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. ➤ In 1967, the island became part of South Yemen, and after Yemen's unification in 1990, it came under the control of Sana'a, the capital of the United country. ➤ The Houthis, who captured Sana'a in 2015, came close to Bab el-Mandeb after their takeover of the port of Hodeidah, which is some 250 km north of the Strait. ➤ Now, the Houthis, who have drones, short-range rockets and even ballistic missiles, mostly supplied by Iran, can target any vessel passing through the Strait.

33. Consider the following statements in respect of the digital rupee:

1. It is a sovereign currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in alignment with its monetary policy.
2. It appears as a liability on the RBI's balance sheet.
3. It is insured against inflation by its very design.
4. It is freely convertible against commercial bank money and cash.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

TEST NO.21 – Q.NO.34 – DIRECT REFLECTION

With reference to Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), consider the following statements:

1. CBDC would appear as a liability on the balance sheet of the Reserve Bank of India.
2. Like cash in the hands of people, CBDC will not earn any interest.
3. The use of CBDC in the wholesale segment is expected to make the interbank market more efficient.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), is the same as money issued by a central bank, except it doesn't come in paper form (or polymer). It is a sovereign currency in electronic form and would appear as a liability (currency in circulation) on the balance sheet of the Reserve Bank of India. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Like cash, the CBDC will not earn any interest and can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks. **The RBI issues only one digital currency on behalf of Government of India, Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), which is a liability of the Central Bank. So, Statement 2 is correct.**

RBI has launched pilots of CBDC in both Wholesale and Retail segments. The pilot in wholesale segment, known as the Digital Rupee -Wholesale (₹-W), was launched on November 1, 2022, with use case being limited to the settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities. Use of (₹-W), is expected to make the inter-bank market more efficient. Settlement in central bank money would reduce transaction costs by pre-empting the need for settlement guarantee infrastructure or for collateral to mitigate settlement risk. The pilot in retail segment, known as digital Rupee-Retail (₹-R), was launched on December 01, 2022, within a closed user group (CUG) comprising participating customers and merchants. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY (CBDC)

About

- CBDC is a legal tender issued by the RBI in digital form. It is the same as the fiat currency, and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency.
- Only its form is different — it is not paper (or polymer) like physical cash. It is a fungible legal tender, for which holders need not have a bank account.
- CBDC will appear as 'liability' (currency in circulation) on the RBI's balance sheet.
- **The e-rupee will be in the form of a digital token representing a claim on the central bank, and will effectively function as the digital equivalent of a banknote that can be transferred electronically from one holder to another.**



	<p>➤ A token CBDC is a “bearer-instrument” like a banknote, meaning whoever ‘holds’ the tokens at a given point in time will be presumed to own them.</p>
<p>34. With reference to ancient India, Gautama Buddha was generally known by which of the following epithets?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Nayaputta2. Shakyamuni3. Tathagata <p>Select the correct answer using the codes given below :</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) None of the above are epithets of Gautama Buddha</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ALL INDIA MOCK TEST 1 – Q.NO.83- DIRECT REFLECTION</u></p> <p>In the context of Buddhism, ‘Prajna Paramita’ refers to which of the following?</p> <p>(a) Six spiritual qualities that help the practitioner see the truth face-to-face. (b) Fourteen questions on which Buddha kept silent and did not express his views. (c) Four noble truths that summarize Buddha’s teachings (d) Twelve elements that explain how the origins of rebirth lay in ignorance</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>Prajna Paramita refers to the culmination of six spiritual qualities that help the practitioner for seeing the truth face to face (vipasyana). They are dana (charity), sila (withdrawing from all evil deeds), ksanti (forbearance), virya (enthusiasm), dhyana (concentration) and prajna (transcendental insight). The state of Bodhisattva, the realization of tathata, tathagata or tathagata-garbha, Dharma-kaya, bodhicitta, realization of sunyata, Nirvana - all these refer to one or other aspect of prajna paramita in Madhyamaka which is also the Absolute. So, Option (a) is correct.</p> <p>‘Avyakrtas’ (inexpressible) are the questions about which Buddha kept silent. They are traditionally enumerated as 14 questions. They are,</p> <p>➤ Whether the world is a) eternal, b) or non-eternal, c) or both eternal and non-eternal, and d) or neither eternal nor non-eternal. ➤ Whether the world is a) finite, b) or infinite, c) or both, d) or neither, ➤ Whether the Tathagata a) exists after death, b) or does not, c) or both d) or neither ➤ Whether the soul is identical with the body or different from it.</p> <p>So, Option (b) is not correct.</p> <p>Everyone who accepts Buddha agrees on one thing that his basic teaching is four noble truths. The Four noble truths (chatvari arya satyani) are,</p> <p>➤ ‘sarvam dukkam’(everything is suffering), ➤ ‘dukkha samudaya’(cause of suffering), ➤ ‘dukkha nirodha’(cessation of suffering),</p>



	<p>➤ 'dukka nirodha marga' (path for cessation of suffering). This is actually ethical-religious teaching. This is exposed in the first discourse, the 'Dhammacakkapavattana-sutta'. So, Option (c) is not correct.</p> <p>Buddhism explains suffering through a chain of twelve causes and effects, commonly known as the Doctrine of Dependent Origination (pratityasamutpada). Pratitya-samutpada is a middle path between sasvatvada (the principle of eternity) and uchedvada (the principle of annihilation). According to sasvatvada, some things are eternal, uncaused, and independent.</p> <p>The twelve links of pratitya-samutpada are Ignorance (avidya), Impression (samskara), Initial Consciousness in the embryo (vijnana), Mind-body embryonic organism (nama rupa), The six fields viz., the five senses and the mind together with their objects (sadayatana), Contact between the senses and the objects (sparsa), Sense experience (vedana), Strong Desire (trishna), Clinging to existence (upadana), Will to be born (bhava), Rebirth (jati) and Pain, old age and death (jara-marana).</p> <p>So, Option (d) is not correct.</p>
	<p><u>TEST NO.14 – Q.NO.71 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - PARTIAL REFLECTION</u></p> <p>With reference to the religious practices of ancient India, the “Nyingma” sect belongs to:</p> <p>(a) Buddhism (b) Jainism (c) Shaivism (d) Vaishnavism</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>The Nyingma sect is the oldest of all Buddhist sects in Tibet. Nyingma sect is the second largest out of the 4 Buddhist sects in Tibet. The sect emphasizes the mystical aspects of the Vajrayana tradition. They closely follow Padmasambhava's teachings, emphasizing Tantric ritual, worship, and Yoga. Guru Padmasambhava is the founder of the Nyingma Lineage of Tibetan Buddhism, who came to Tibet in the 8th century C.E. The followers of the sect are spread across Tibet, Bhutan, Ladakh, Sikkim and other Himalayan Buddhist pockets. The</p>



4 schools of Tibetan Buddhism are Nyingma, Kagyu, Sakya, and Gelug or Gelugpa. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

TIBETAN BUDDHISM

**Nyingma
Buddhism
School**

The oldest of the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism is the Nyingma. It was established in the 8th century because of the earliest Tibetan-to-Sanskrit translations of Buddhist texts and is frequently referred to as "the ancient translation school."

To spread Buddhism among the Tibetan people, the Tibetan king Trisong Detsen invited Guru Rinpoche and Shantarakshita, two Indian Buddhist masters, to the "Land of Snows" in the year 760.

Thus started a vast effort to translate all Buddhist writings into the recently developed Tibetan language.

**The Kagyu
Buddhism
School**

The origin of the Kagyu ("Whispered Transmission") School can be traced back to Shakyamuni Buddha.

The legendary Indian yogi Tilopa (988–1069) is credited as being a key influence on the Kagyu's methods. He came to this realization through the techniques that the Gautama Buddha had taught.

It is the 3rd -largest school of Tibetan Buddhism.

Milarepa is the most well-known member of this institution. He is the greatest yogi in Tibet. He was the master of every type of spiritual practice, meditation, and achievement. In addition to being Tibet's finest poet, he was an exceptional teacher.

**The Sakya
Tibetan
School**

Sakya in Tibetan means 'tawny earth' in the fallow or unploughed field. It is also the name of this school's main monastery, known as 'the region of tawny earth.'

The school was founded in 1073CE by the great teacher Drokmi, who had spent years studying under numerous spiritual teachers in India.

However, Konchok Gyelpo who was a student of Drokmi, is usually noted as the founder rather than a monk.

In the present context, the smallest of the four Tibetan Buddhist schools



		is Sakyapa. The Sakya ("Gray Earth") monastery in southern Tibet is the source of the name.
	Gelug Buddhism (The Yellow Hats) Tibetan School	<p>Gelugpa means "the righteous one." Although the disciples of the other schools were also moral people, the Gelupas were mainly focused on virtue; it was their focal point of strength. Tsongkhapa (1357–1419), arguably Tibet's greatest philosopher and best-known religious reformer, established the Gelug School.</p> <p>Tsongkhapa was an avid supporter of the Kadam School's focus on the Mahayana ideals of universal compassion as a fundamental spiritual orientation.</p> <p>He was a great admirer of the Kadam teachings. Along with this, he placed a heavy emphasis on developing a profound understanding of the idea of emptiness as advanced by Chandrakirti and the great Indian teacher Nagarjuna in the 2nd century CE (7th century CE).</p>

35. Consider the following information :

Archaeological Site	State	Description
Chandraketugarh	Odisha	Trading Port town
Inamgaon	Maharashtra	Chalcolithic site
Mangadu	Kerala	Megalithic site
Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh	Rock-cut cave shrines

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

TEST NO.16 – Q.NO.57 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - PARTIAL REFLECTION

Which of the following is a pre-Harappan Chalcolithic culture that might have contributed to the making of the mature Harappan culture?

(a) Ganeshwar culture

- (b) Kayatha culture
- (c) Malwa culture
- (d) Jorwe culture

EXPLANATION:

Ganeshwar is located close to the rich copper mines of the Khetri copper belt in Rajasthan. The copper objects excavated from this area include arrowheads, spearheads, fish hooks, colts, bangles, chisels, etc. Some of their shapes are similar to those discovered at Indus sites. Many microliths are characteristic of the Chalcolithic culture are found here.

The OCP (Ochre- Coloured Pottery) is a red-slipped ware often painted in black and largely in vase forms. The Ganeshwar people partly lived on agriculture and largely on hunting. Although their principal craft was the manufacture of copper objects, they were



unable to urbanize. The Ganeshwar assemblage was neither urban nor a proper OCP/Copper Hoard Culture. With its microliths and other stone tools, much of the Ganeshwar culture can be considered pre-Harappan Chalcolithic culture that contributed to the making of the mature Harappan culture. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

OTHER IMPORTANT CULTURES

Kayatha culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Over forty settlements of the Kayatha culture have been so far discovered in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh, most of them being located on the tributaries of the Chambal River.➤ Use of both copper and stone tools was found. A cache of copper has been found, as well as two exquisitely made copper axes cast in molds.➤ Ornaments like two-bead necklaces have been found. Beads were manufactured from semi-precious stones.➤ People lived in small huts with well-rammed floors and wattle and daub walls supporting a thatched roof.➤ A mixed economy was practiced, as seen from evidence on subsistence farming, stock raising and hunting-fishing.➤ Barley and wheat were grown. Domesticated animals included cattle and sheep/goats. Interestingly, horse remains have been found from the Chalcolithic level at Kayatha.
Malwa culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Malwa culture is the most predominant chalcolithic culture of central India, with a wide distribution of sites almost all over the Malwa region.➤ It was first identified in the excavations at Maheshwar, on river Narmada.➤ On the basis of calibrated dates, the Malwa culture is placed in the bracket of 1900-1400 BC.➤ Sites are mostly found on the banks of the tributaries. They were



		<p>not affected by flood, unlike those on the main river.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A sort of two level settlement pattern existed, consisting of a large number of small villages and a few large villages.➤ The Malwa culture spread into Maharashtra by 1700 BC, and some of the Malwa Chalcolithic culture sites, like Prakash in the Tapi Valley, Daimabad in the Godavari Valley, and Inamgaon in the Bhima Valley, were quite extensive.
	Jorwe culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Jorwe culture is the most important and characteristic chalcolithic culture of Maharashtra, extending almost all over the present state, except the coastal strip on the west and Vidarbha in the northeast.➤ The culture is named after the type site of Jorwe in Ahmednagar district, Gujrat. The culture was discovered in 1950.➤ A variety of crops were grown, and the Jorwe farmers have also been credited for practicing crop rotation. The principal crops were barley, wheat, jowar, rice, ragi, green pea, grass pea, lentil, and green and black gram.➤ A noteworthy feature of the Jorwe culture is the mode of disposal of the dead.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A substantial number of burials were exposed in Inamgaon and Daimabad.• Many child burials were found in urns laid in pits.• In the case of adults, the portion below the ankles was chopped off.• Among the Inamgaon burials, the most important and unique is a four-legged urn burial with an adult skeleton inside.



TEST NO.04 – Q.NO.61 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – DIRECT REFLECTION

37. With reference to revenue collection by Cornwallis, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Ryotwari Settlement of revenue collection, the peasants were exempted from revenue payment in case of bad harvests or natural calamities.
2. Under the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, if the Zamindar failed to pay his revenues to the state, on or before the fixed date, he would be removed from his Zamindari.

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

Which of the following revenue settlement systems in Colonial India was inspired by the argument to eliminate the zamindars and appropriate a larger share of income from the new acquisition of land ?

- (a) Mahalwari Settlement
- (b) Quinquennial Settlement
- (c) Permanent Settlement
- (d) Ryotwari Settlement**

EXPLANATION:

David Ricardo's theory of rent, which argued to eliminate the zamindars and appropriate a larger share of the increasing income from the new land acquisitions, inspired Ryotwari revenue settlement systems in Colonial India.

The most important reason for adopting this system, from the Company's point of view, was that it brought in a larger revenue than any other system could have, as no intermediaries were involved, and whatever was extracted from the cultivator went directly to the government. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

REVENUE SETTLEMENTS

Permanent Settlement

➤ **Permanent Settlement or Zamindari System was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in 1793.**

➤ It covered around 19 percent of the territory under British rule. It was introduced in Bengal and Bihar and extended to Orissa, Banaras (Varanasi), and northern Madras.

Features:

- The zamindars were given proprietary rights over their land.
- In 1790, a ten-year settlement of tax to be paid was made with the zamindars, and in 1793, the settlement was made permanent.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The zamindar had to pay a fixed tax on the land, and the revenue was to be collected by him from the cultivators who had now become tenants (the ryots or raiyyats).➤ The zamindar was allowed to keep one-tenth to one-eleventh of the revenue and give the rest to the Company government.➤ As the owner of the land, the zamindar could sell, mortgage, or transfer it; his heirs could inherit the land along with rights and liabilities. But, under the 'sunset clause' introduced in 1794, if the tax due was not paid by sunset of a certain date, the zamindari would be taken over by the government and auctioned, and the rights would be transferred to the new owner.➤ Regulations made in 1793, 1799, and 1812 empowered the zamindar to seize the tenants' property if the rent had not been paid and for this, he did not need the permission of any court of law.
	Ryotwari System	<p>Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Ownership and occupancy rights were vested in the ryot, and there was no limit on the extent of land they could own. They were free to sublet, transfer, or sell their land.➤ Ryots paid the tax directly to the Company. Based on an estimated land production, the revenue to be paid was 45 percent to 55 percent.➤ Revenue was not fixed, so it could be raised when production was higher.➤ The settlement was not permanent and could be revised periodically.➤ In theory, the ryot were allowed to cultivate the land of their choice, but in practice, they were more or less forced to cultivate land even if they did not want to.➤ Barren land under government control was allowed to be cultivated, and the revenue generated would have to be shared with the government.
	Mahalwari System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ This system came to be known as a modified zamindari system because the village headman was a link between the individual cultivator and the government; however, he did not have the rights that the zamindar had.➤ The system was a dual system in which settlement was done collectively with the community and the individual landlords.



	<p>Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mahal, a Hindi word denoting a house or, by extension, an estate, was the basis of revenue assessment in this system; in the mahalwari system, a mahal could be a village or a group of villages and was considered the unit for tax assessment. ➤ Revenue was determined based on the production of a mahal. ➤ The village community was considered the owner of the land. Individual ownership rights lay with the cultivator. ➤ Each farmer gave their share of the tax. ➤ The responsibility of collection of the tax and payment of that tax to the Company government lay with the village headman (called lambardar) or a community of village leaders. ➤ Under Bentinck, the state's revenue share was 66 percent of the rental value; later, this was modified to 50 percent. ➤ The concept of average rents for different soil classes was introduced. ➤ In the Mahalwari regions, the land revenue was revised periodically. 										
<p>40. Which one of the following was the latest inclusion in the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO?</p> <p>(a) Chhau dance (b) Durga puja (c) Garba dance (d) Kumbh mela</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.13 – Q.NO.36 - DIRECT REFLECTION</u></p> <p>Consider the following pairs :</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>List of Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>State it belongs to</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Sankirtana art form</td> <td>- Meghalaya</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Garba dance</td> <td>- West Bengal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Ramman festival</td> <td>- Uttarakhand</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making</td> <td>- Telangana</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>How many of the above pairs are correct ?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p>	<i>List of Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO</i>	<i>State it belongs to</i>	1. Sankirtana art form	- Meghalaya	2. Garba dance	- West Bengal	3. Ramman festival	- Uttarakhand	4. Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making	- Telangana
<i>List of Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO</i>	<i>State it belongs to</i>										
1. Sankirtana art form	- Meghalaya										
2. Garba dance	- West Bengal										
3. Ramman festival	- Uttarakhand										
4. Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making	- Telangana										



EXPLANATION:

Sankirtana is a ritual art form from Manipur, India, that involves singing, drumming, and dancing. It is performed in temples and homes to mark religious occasions and life stages of the Vaishnava people. Sankirtana practices centre on the temple, where performers narrate the lives and deeds of Krishna through song and dance. It was inscribed in 2013 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. **So, Pair 1 is not correct.**

Garba dance of Gujarat has been inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO, under the provisions of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage during the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 5th -9th December 2023 in Kasane, Botswana.

Garba of Gujarat is the 15th ICH element from India to join this list. This inscription underscores Garba's pivotal role as a unifying force that fosters social and gender inclusivity.

Garba, as a dance form, is entrenched deeply in ritualistic and devotional roots, involving people from all walks of life, and it continues to thrive as a vibrant living tradition, bringing communities together. **So, Pair 2 is not correct.**

Ramman, a religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, Uttarakhand, is the honor of the tutelary god, Bhumiya Devta, a local divinity whose temple houses most of the festivities. This event is made up of highly complex rituals: the recitation of a version of the epic of Rama and various legends and the performance of songs and masked dances. Villagers organize the festival, and each caste and occupational group has a distinct role. It was inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. **So, Pair 3 is correct.**

The traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making by the Thathera community in Jandiala Guru, Punjab, was inscribed in 2014 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The metals used – copper, brass and certain alloys – are believed to be beneficial for health. The process begins with procuring cooled cakes of metal that are flattened into thin plates and then hammered into curved shapes, creating the required small bowls, rimmed plates, to larger pots for water and milk, huge cooking vessels, and other artifacts. Heating the plates while hammering and curving them into

different shapes requires careful temperature control, which is achieved by using tiny wood-fired stoves (aided by hand-held bellows) buried in the earth. **So, Pair 4 is not correct.**

TEST NO.10 – Q.NO.60- PARTIAL REFLECTION

41. Consider the following statements :

Statement I:

There is instability and worsening security situation in the Sahel region.

Statement II:

There have been military takeovers/coups d'état in several countries of the Sahel region in the recent past.

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 incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

The Liptako-Gourma Charter, recently seen in the news, is a mutual defense pact signed between which of the following countries in the Sahel region of Africa ?

- (a) Mauritania, Mali and Senegal
(b) Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger
 (c) Niger, Nigeria and Chad
 (d) Guinea, Gambia and Sengal

EXPLANATION:

The military leaders of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger signed a mutual defense pact called the Liptako-Gourma Charter.

The ministerial delegations from the three Sahel countries were announced in Mali's capital, Bamako. It aims to establish an architecture of collective defense and mutual assistance for the benefit of their populations.

In the Liptako-Gourma region, the Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger borders meet. This region has been ravaged by jihadism in recent years. A jihadist insurgency that erupted in northern Mali in 2012 spread to Niger and Burkina Faso in 2015.

All three countries have undergone coups since 2020, most recently Niger, where soldiers in July overthrew President Mohamed Bazoum. Thus, the main priority of this alliance is to fight against terrorism in the three countries. This alliance will be a combination of military and economic efforts between the three countries(Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger). **So, Option (b) is correct.**





TEST NO.10 – Q.NO.40- PARTIAL REFLECTION

43. With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:
While any resolution for the removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is under consideration

1. He/She shall not preside
2. He/She shall not have the right to speak
3. He/She shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

With reference to the panel of Vice-Chairpersons in the Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. Under the rules of the Rajya Sabha, the members of the panel are elected by proportional representation with a single transferable vote.
2. Not more than six persons can be nominated for the panel.
3. They hold office until a new panel of vice-chairpersons is selected.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

As per Rajya Sabha rules, the Chairman shall, from time to time, nominate from amongst the members of the Council a panel of not more than six vice-chairman, one of whom may preside over the Council in the absence of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman when so requested by the Chairman, or in his absence, by the deputy chairman. Thus, the members of the panel are not elected by proportional representation with a single transferable vote. **So, Statement 1 is not correct, and Statement 2 is correct.**

The panel of Vice-Chairpersons in the Rajya Sabha has the same powers as the Chairman when presiding. He holds office until a new panel of vice-chairpersons is nominated. When a member of the panel of vice-chairpersons is also not present, any other person, as determined by the House, acts as the Chairman. It must be emphasized here that a member of the panel of vice-chairpersons cannot preside over the House when the office of the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman is vacant. During such time, the Chairman's duties are to be performed by such members of the House as the President may appoint for the purpose. The elections are held as soon as possible to fill the vacant posts. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PANEL OF VICE-CHAIRPERSONS IN THE RAJYA SABHA

Recently in News	Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar reconstituted the panel of Vice-Chairpersons comprising 13 women RS Members for the day as Rajya Sabha discusses the Nari Shakti Vandan Vidheyak Bill, 2023.
Chairman of Rajya Sabha	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The presiding officer of the Rajya Sabha is known as the Chairman. The vice-president of India is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.➤ During any period when the Vice President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President, he does not perform the duties of the office of the Chairman of Rajya Sabha.➤ The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha can be removed from his office only if he is removed from the office of the Vice President.
Powers and Functions of the Chairman in the Rajya Sabha	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ As a presiding officer, the powers and functions of the Chairman in the Rajya Sabha are similar to those of the Speaker in the Lok Sabha.➤ However, the Speaker has two special powers which are not enjoyed by the Chairman:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Speaker decides whether a bill is a money bill or not and his decision on this question is final.• The Speaker presides over a joint sitting of two Houses of Parliament.➤ Unlike the Speaker (who is a member of the House), the Chairman is not a member of the House. But like the Speaker, the Chairman also cannot vote in the first instance. He too can cast a vote in the case of an equality of votes.➤ The Vice-President cannot preside over a sitting of the Rajya Sabha as its Chairman when a resolution for his removal is under consideration.➤ However, he can be present and speak in the House and can take part in its proceedings, without voting, even at such a time (while the Speaker can vote in the first instance when a resolution for his removal is under consideration of the Lok Sabha).



ALL INDIA MOCK TEST 2 – Q.NO.57- DIRECT REFLECTION

44. With reference to the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements :

1. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its dissolution.
2. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha and pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha
3. A bill in regard to which the President of India notified his/her intention to summon the Houses to a joint sitting lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

On the dissolution of Lok Sabha, which of the following bills does **not** lapse ?

- (a) Bills pending before Lok Sabha or its committees, except those that are to be examined by Committee on Government Assurances
- (b) A bill, whether originating in the Lok Sabha or transmitted to it by the Rajya Sabha, pending in the Lok Sabha
- (c) A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha
- (d) A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha

EXPLANATION:

Rajya Sabha, being a permanent House, is not subject to dissolution. Only the Lok Sabha is subject to dissolution. Unlike a prorogation, a dissolution ends the very life of the existing House, and a new House is constituted after general elections are held. When the Lok Sabha is dissolved,

- All business, including bills, motions, resolutions, notices, petitions, and so on pending before the Lok Sabha or its committees lapse. They must be reintroduced in the newly constituted Lok Sabha. However, some pending bills and all pending assurances that are to be examined by the Committee on Government Assurances do not lapse on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**
- A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses (whether originating in the Lok Sabha or transmitted to it by the Rajya Sabha). **So, Option (b) is not correct.**
- A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**
- A bill not passed by the two Houses due to disagreement and if the President has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of Lok Sabha does not lapse.
- A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha does not lapse. **So, Option (d) is correct.**
- A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the President does not lapse.
- A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the President for reconsideration of Houses does not lapse.



TEST NO.13 – Q.NO.61- DIRECT REFLECTION

46. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The European parliament approved the Net-Zero Industry Act recently.

Statement-II:

The European Union intends to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and therefore aims to develop all of its own clean technology by that time.

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 incorrect**
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

Recently, the 'Fit for 55 agenda' has been adopted by the European Union for

- (a) promoting a global framework to safeguard tiger's natural habitats
- (b) achieving carbon neutrality by lowering greenhouse gas emissions**
- (c) reiterating its commitment to the Cartagena Protocol
- (d) attracting investments to support the sustainable use of ocean resources

EXPLANATION:

Global Tiger Forum is an international intergovernmental body exclusively set up for the conservation of tigers in the wild in a range of countries. Out of the 13 tiger range countries, seven are currently members of GTF: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam, besides non-tiger range country U.K. The secretariat is based in New Delhi, India. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

Fit for 55 is a set of proposals by the European Commission to revise and update European Union (EU) legislation with the goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Recently, the European Council adopted five laws that will enable the EU to cut greenhouse gas emissions within the main sectors of the economy while making sure that the most vulnerable citizens and micro-enterprises, as well as the sectors exposed to carbon leakage, are effectively supported in the climate transition. The laws are part of the 'Fit for 55' package, which sets the EU's policies in line with its commitment to reduce its net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels and to achieve climate neutrality in 2050. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

India reiterated its commitment to ratify the supplementary protocol to the 2000 Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and urged other countries to fast-track the process. The supplementary protocol was adopted at the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur meeting in October 2010, mainly to supplement the Cartagena treaty by providing additional rules and procedures on liability and redress for damage to biodiversity resulting from living modified organisms (LMOs). LMOs are organisms that are genetically modified through modern biotechnology. The supplementary protocol provides for administrative procedures and requirements regarding response measures that need to be taken in the event of damage by LMOs that adversely affect the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

	<p>Ocean finance deals with the demand for and supply of financial capital for investing in ocean-related economic activities and governance. For a sustainable ocean economy, ocean finance must be adequate and directed toward sustainable use and governance of the ocean and its resources. Key elements of financing a Sustainable Ocean Economy (SOE; the development of the ocean economy in a way that balances the needs of people, planet and prosperity) include generating, investing, aligning and accounting for financial capital. This encompasses local, national and international level financial instruments that are provided by and accessed by individuals, public and private companies, governments and other non-governmental/inter-governmental institutions. Fit for 55 agenda does not deal with the sustainable use of ocean resources. So, Option (d) is not correct.</p>
<p>49. Which reference to the 'Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan', consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This scheme guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their second and third trimesters of pregnancy and six months post-delivery health care service in any government health facility. 2. Under this scheme, private sector health care providers of certain specialities can volunteer to provide services at nearby government health facilities. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p><u>TEST NO. 5 – Q.NO.72- DIRECT REFLECTION</u></p> <p>The scheme aims to increase the prevalence of ante-natal checkups, especially in 2nd and 3rd trimester. On the 9th day of every month, various quality maternal health services are provided to pregnant women as part of ante-natal care. Which of the following schemes provides the above-described services ?</p> <p>(a) Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (b) Janani Suraksha Yojana (c) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandhana Yojana (d) Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India.</p> <p>The program aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month.</p> <p>PMSMA guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd/3rd trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities.</p> <p>The program follows a systematic approach to engagement with the private sector, which includes motivating private practitioners to volunteer for the campaign, developing strategies for generating awareness, and appealing to the private sector to participate in the Abhiyan at government health facilities.</p>



Objectives of the program:

- Ensure at least one antenatal checkup for all pregnant women in their second or third trimester by a physician/specialist.
- Improve the quality of care during ante-natal visits. This includes ensuring the provision of the following services:
 - All applicable diagnostic services.
 - Screening for the applicable clinical conditions.
 - Appropriate management of any existing clinical condition such as Anaemia, Pregnancy-induced hypertension, Gestational Diabetes etc.
 - Appropriate counseling services and proper documentation of services rendered.
 - Additional service opportunities for pregnant women who have missed ante-natal visits.
- Identify and line-list high-risk pregnancies based on obstetric/ medical history and existing clinical conditions.
- Appropriate birth planning and complication readiness for each pregnant woman, especially those identified with any risk factor or comorbid condition.
- Special emphasis on early diagnosis adequate and appropriate management of women with malnutrition.
- Special focus on adolescent and early pregnancies as these pregnancies needs extra and specialized care. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SOME IMPORTANT SCHEMES

Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ SUMAN Yojana, or Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan Yojana, is a maternity benefit initiative launched by the Ministry of Union Health and Family Welfare. This program provides affordable and quality healthcare solutions to pregnant women and newborns.➤ Under this scheme, pregnant women, sick newborns, and mothers receive zero-expense access up to six months after delivery. They receive treatment from quality hospitals and professionals.
Janani	➤ Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under



	Suraksha Yojana	<p>the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) implemented to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among poor pregnant women. It is being implemented in all states and UTs, focusing on low-performing states.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ JSY is a 100 % centrally sponsored scheme, integrating cash assistance with delivery and post-delivery care. The increase in institutional delivery among low-income families would determine the scheme's success.➤ The Yojana has identified ASHA, the accredited social health activist, as an effective link between the Government and the poor pregnant women in low-performing states, namely the 8 EAG states Assam and J&K and the remaining NE States.➤ In other eligible states and UTs, wherever AWW and TBAs or ASHA-like activist has been engaged in this purpose, she can be associated with this Yojana for providing the services.
	Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)	<p>Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a Centrally Sponsored DBT scheme with a cash incentive of Rs. 5000/- (in three installments) being provided directly to the bank/post office account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.</p> <p>Objectives of the PMMVY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ To provide cash incentive for partial compensation for the wage loss so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first child;➤ To improve health-seeking behaviour amongst Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM).➤ To promote positive behavioral change towards girl child by providing additional cash incentive for the second child, if that is a girl child.



TEST NO.10 – Q.NO.69- DIRECT REFLECTION

50. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. The entry age group for enrolment in the scheme is 21 to 40 years.
2. Age specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.
3. Each subscriber under the scheme shall receive a minimum pension of Rs.3,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan is aimed at

(a) Securing pensions for old age people in the unorganized sector

- (b) Curbing black money to mitigate income inequality
(c) Providing social protection to small and marginal farmers
(d) Empowering skilled artisans and craftsmen from every nook and corner of our nation

EXPLANATION:

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) is a central government scheme meant for old age protection and social security of Unorganised Workers (UW).

It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme under which the subscriber would receive a minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years. If the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension as a family pension and if a beneficiary has given regular contribution and died due to any cause (before the age of 60 years), his/her spouse will be entitled to join and continue the scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution or exit the scheme.

So, Option (a) is correct.

Schemes to curb black money to mitigate income inequality are based on Tax reforms, demonetization, Voluntary disclosure schemes, encouraging digital transactions etc. Thus, PM Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan is not aimed at curbing black money. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY) was launched to provide social security to Small and Marginal Farmers in their old age when they have no means of livelihood and minimal or no savings to take care of their expenses.

Under this scheme, a minimum fixed pension of Rs.3,000/- is provided to small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion criteria, on attaining the age of 60 years. It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme with an entry age of 18 to 40 years. The farmer is required to contribute between Rs.55 to Rs.200 per month to a Pension Fund, depending on the entry age.

Thus, providing social protection to small and marginal farmers is associated with Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (not PM Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan). **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

The Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana was launched to strengthen traditional artisans



and craftspeople. This scheme aims to empower our artisans by improving the quality and reach of their products and services. It will provide a conducive environment for artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools to enable them to deliver better, facilitate access to modern tools, technology and markets, and onboard them into the fast-evolving world of digitalization.

Thus, Empowering skilled artisans and craftsmen from every nook and corner of our nation is associated with Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana (not PM Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan).

So, Option (d) is not correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PRADHAN MANTRI SHRAM YOGI MAAN DHAAN YOJANA (PM-SYM)	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ PMSYM is a central sector contributory pension scheme by the Ministry of Labour & Employment for Unorganised workers.➤ The subscriber will be required to have a mobile phone, savings bank account and Aadhaar number and can subscribe through the nearest Common Services Centres (CSC eGovernance Services India Limited (CSC SPV)).➤ The subscriber's contributions to PM-SYM shall be made through an auto-debit facility from their savings bank account/ Jan- Dhan account.➤ The subscriber is required to contribute the prescribed contribution amount from the age of joining PM-SYM till the age of 60 years.
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ They should be an unorganized worker (UW).➤ Entry age between 18 and 40 years➤ Monthly Income Rs 15000 or below➤ Should not be engaged in Organized Sector (membership of EPF/NPS/ESIC) and an income tax payer.



Consider the following :

1. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
2. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
3. One Nation One Ration Card scheme
4. Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana
5. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan
6. Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi Scheme

How many of the above schemes provide social security benefits to the unorganized workers in India?

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

EXPLANATION:

As per the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008, the Government is mandated to provide Social Security to the workers of the unorganized sector by formulating suitable welfare schemes on matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, etc. The details of the social security schemes available for unorganized sector workers are as follows:

- Life and Disability cover is provided through Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY). Risk coverage under the PMJJBY scheme is for Rs. 2.00 Lakh in case of the death of the insured, due to any reason, at an annual premium of Rs. 436/-. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) provides risk coverage of Rs. 2.00 Lakh in case of accidental death or total permanent disability and Rs. 1.00 lakh for partial permanent disability due to accident at a premium of Rs. 20/- per annum. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**



- The health and maternity benefits are insured through Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) under deprivation and occupation criteria. It provides health insurance coverage up to Rs. 5.00 lakhs per family for secondary and tertiary care-related hospitalization.
- The "One Nation One Ration Card" (ONORC) Scheme was launched by the Department of Food & Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution in 2018. It is a national Ration Card portability scheme to ensure food security for all citizens including internal migrants within India. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.
- Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Rojgar Yojana.
- The Ministry of Textiles is implementing converged Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) for providing social security benefits like life, accidental & disability insurance coverage to handloom weavers/workers in the age group of 51-59 years across the country, who have already enrolled under the scheme on 31.5.2017. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**
- Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana.
- To provide old age protection to unorganized sector workers, the Government of India launched a pension scheme in 2019 namely Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana (PM-SYM) to provide a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- after attaining the age of 60 years to unorganized workers. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan meant for old age protection and social security of Unorganized Workers (UW). **So, Statement 5 is correct.**
- Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme), "SVANidhi se Samriddhi' program was started to provide social security benefits to street vendors for their holistic development and socio-economic upliftment. **So, Statement 6 is correct.**

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana etc. are also available for the unorganized sector workers depending upon their eligibility criteria.
Hence all the schemes given above helps to provide social security benefits to the unorganized workers in India.

TEST NO.20 – Q.NO.70- DIRECT REFLECTION

51. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The atmosphere is heated more by incoming solar radiation than by terrestrial radiation.

Statement-II:

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are good absorbers of long wave radiation.

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 incorrect
(d) **Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.**

The earth's atmosphere is primarily heated through the absorption of :

- (a) Short-wave incoming solar radiation
(b) heat carried by the process of convection and turbulence
(c) terrestrial radiation directly from the Earth's surface

(d) the energy released by the latent heat of condensation

EXPLANATION:

The earth as a whole does not accumulate or loose heat. It maintains its temperature. This can happen if the amount of heat received in the form of insolation equals the amount lost by the earth through terrestrial radiation.

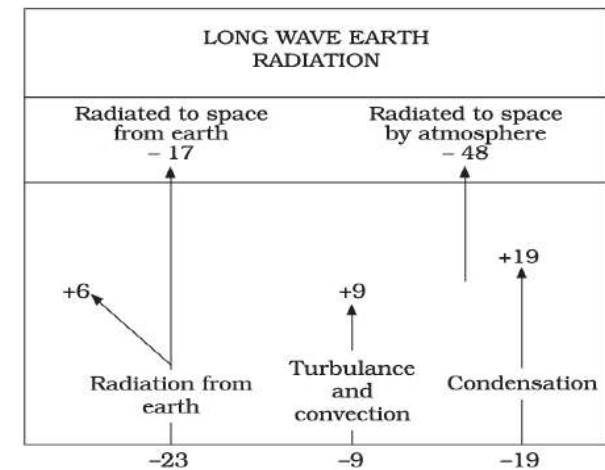
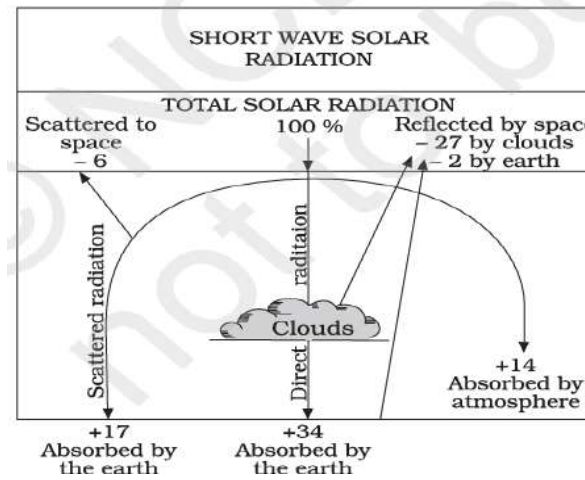
Consider that the insolation received at the top of the atmosphere is 100 percent. While passing through the atmosphere, some amount of energy is reflected, scattered and absorbed. Only the remaining part reaches the earth's surface. Roughly 35 units are reflected in space even before reaching the earth's surface. Of these, 27 units are reflected from the top of the clouds and 2 units from the snow and ice-covered areas of the earth. The reflected amount of radiation is called the albedo of the earth.

The remaining 65 units are absorbed, 14 units within the atmosphere and 51 units by the earth's surface. The earth radiates back 51 units in the form of terrestrial radiation. Of these, 17 units are radiated to space directly, and the remaining 34 units are absorbed by the atmosphere (6 units absorbed directly by the atmosphere, 9 units through convection and turbulence and 19 units through latent heat of condensation).

Forty-eight units absorbed by the atmosphere (14 units from insolation and +34 units from

terrestrial radiation) are also radiated back into space. Thus, the total radiation returning from the earth and the atmosphere, respectively, is $17+48=65$ units, which balances the total of 65 units received from the sun. This is termed the heat budget or heat balance of the earth.

The earth's atmosphere is primarily heated through the absorption of the energy released by the latent heat of condensation. **So, Option (d) is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

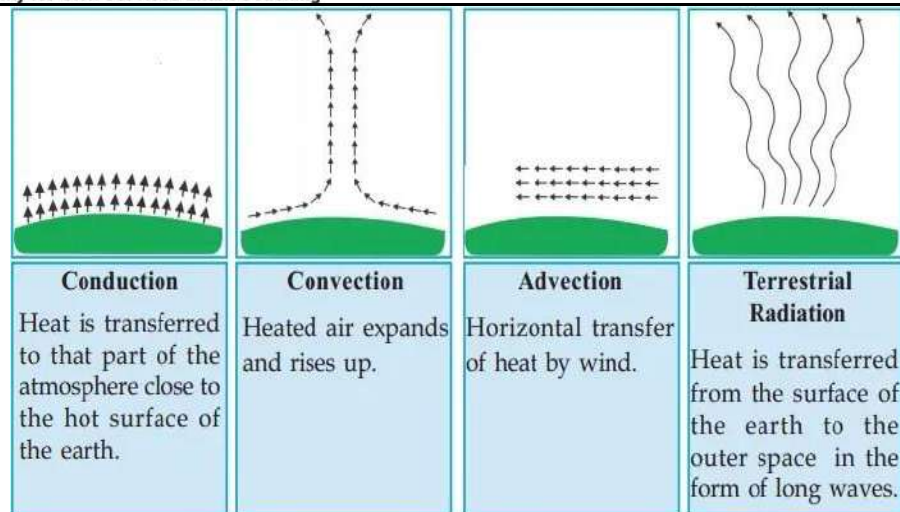
OTHER IMPORTANT TERMS

Insolation

- The earth's surface receives most of its energy in short wavelengths. The energy received by the earth is known as incoming solar radiation, which, in short, is termed insolation.
- The amount and the intensity of insolation vary during the day, in a season and a year.
- The factors that cause these variations in insolation are :



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The rotation of the earth on its axis;• The angle of inclination of the sun's rays;• The length of the day;• The transparency of the atmosphere;• The configuration of land in terms of its aspect.
	Conduction	<p>➤ The earth, after being heated by insolation transmits the heat to the atmospheric layers near to the earth in long wave form.</p> <p>➤ The air in contact with the land gets heated slowly, and the upper layers in contact with the lower layers also get heated. This process is called conduction.</p> <p>➤ Conduction takes place when two bodies of unequal temperature are in contact with one another, and there is a flow of energy from the warmer to cooler body.</p> <p>➤ The transfer of heat continues until both bodies attain the same temperature or the contact is broken. Conduction is important in heating the lower layers of the atmosphere.</p>



Convection

- The air in contact with the earth rises vertically on heating in the form of currents and further transmits the heat of the atmosphere. This process of vertical heating of the atmosphere is known as convection.
- The convective transfer of energy is confined only to the troposphere.

Advection

- The transfer of heat through horizontal movement of air is called advection. The horizontal movement of the air is relatively more important than the vertical movement.
- In middle latitudes, most of the diurnal (day and night) variation in daily weather is caused by advection alone.
- In tropical regions, particularly in northern India, during the summer season, local winds called 'loo' are the outcome of the advection process.



52. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

Thickness of the troposphere at the equator is much greater as compared to poles.

Statement-II:

At the equator, heat is transported to great heights by strong conventional currents.

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 incorrect

(d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

TEST NO.20 – Q.NO.7- DIRECT REFLECTION

Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The troposphere is generally thicker at the poles compared to the equator.

Statement-II:

The height of the troposphere is primarily determined by temperature.

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

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct Explanation for Statement-I.

(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct Explanation for Statement-I.

(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

EXPLANATION:

The troposphere is the lowermost layer of the atmosphere. Its average height is 13 km and extends roughly to a height of 8 km near the poles and about 18 km at the equator.

The thickness of the troposphere is greatest at the equator because heat is transported to great heights by strong convectional currents. Thus, the height of the troposphere is primarily determined by temperature. **So, Statement II is correct.**

The thickness of the troposphere is thinnest at the North and South Pole compared to the equator. **So, Statement I is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

STRUCTURE OF THE ATMOSPHERE

About	The atmosphere consists of different layers with varying density and temperature. Density is highest near the surface of the earth and decreases with increasing altitude. The column of the atmosphere is divided into five different layers depending upon the temperature condition. They are the troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere and exosphere.
Layers of Atmosphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Troposphere<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This layer contains dust particles and water vapor. All changes in climate and weather take place in this layer.



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The temperature in this layer decreases at the rate of 1°C for every 165m of height.• This is the most important layer for all biological activity. <p>➤ Stratosphere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The stratosphere is found above the tropopause and extends up to a height of 50 km.• One important feature of the stratosphere is that it contains the ozone layer. This layer absorbs ultraviolet radiation and shields life on the earth from intense, harmful forms of energy. <p>➤ Mesosphere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The mesosphere lies above the stratosphere, which extends up to a height of 80 km.• In this layer, once again, temperature starts decreasing with the increase in altitude and reaches up to minus 100°C at the height of 80 km.• The upper limit of the mesosphere is known as the mesopause. <p>➤ Ionosphere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ionosphere is located between 80 and 400 km above the mesopause.• It contains electrically charged particles known as ions, and hence, it is known as ionosphere.• Radio waves transmitted from the earth are reflected to the earth by this layer. The temperature here starts increasing with height. <p>➤ Thermosphere</p> <p>The uppermost layer of the atmosphere above the thermosphere is known as the exosphere. This is the highest layer, but very little is known about it.</p> |
|--|--|---|



TEST NO.2 – Q.NO.66- DIRECT REFLECTION

53. Consider the following :

1. Pyroclastic debris
2. Ash and dust
3. Nitrogen compounds
4. Sulphur compounds

How many of the above are products of volcanic eruptions?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three

(d) All four

With reference to Volcanism, which of the following correctly describes the term 'fumaroles'?

- (a) Small gravel-sized particles either in the molten or solid state that travel through the air for several kilometers
- (b) Violent type of mudflow or debris flow composed of a slurry of pyroclastic material, rocky debris, and water
- (c) A large cauldron-like hollow that forms when volcanic material above the chamber collapses into the empty magma chamber
- (d) Openings on a volcano that emit steam and volcanic gases such as Sulphur dioxide and carbon dioxide**

EXPLANATION:

Lapillus (Lapilli) is an unconsolidated volcanic fragment with a diameter between 4 and 32 mm (gravel-sized) ejected during a volcanic explosion. Lapilli may consist of fresh magma, solid magma from a prior eruption, or basement rocks through which the eruption passed. Accretionary lapilli are pellets formed by the accretion of volcanic ash or dust around moisture droplets; as in hailstones formed of water, these volcanic "hailstones" may show concentric rings—some as much as 10 cm (four inches) across—when they are carried through the eruption cloud several times by turbulent updrafts. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

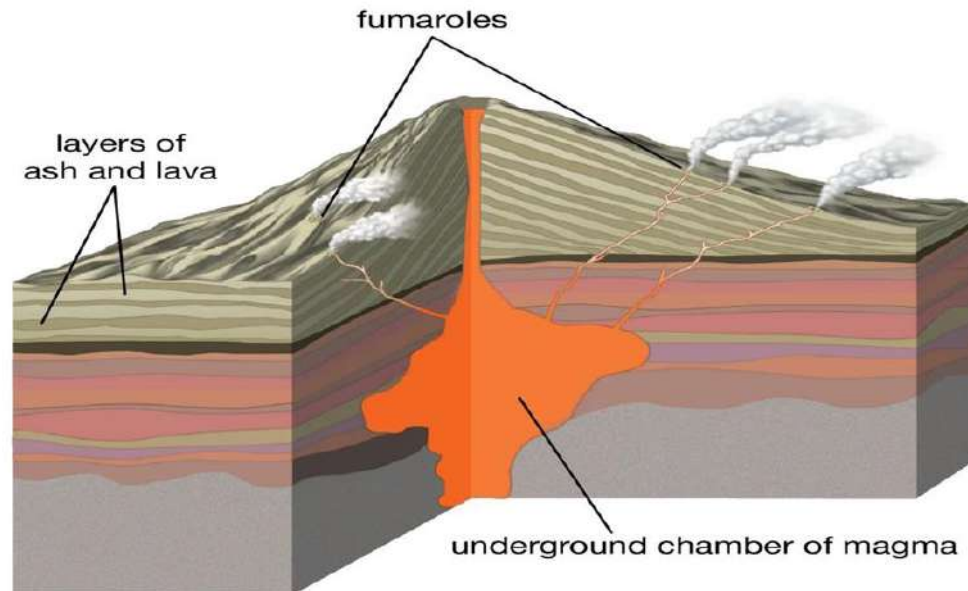
Lahar, mudflow of volcanic material. Lahars may carry all sizes of material, from ash to large boulders and produce deposits of volcanic conglomerate. Lahars may be the result of heavy rain on loose ash material. The hot lahar is ordinarily produced by heating the crater lake water by the quiet upwelling of lava or an explosion. Lahars move downslope at high speeds and may extend for tens of miles. A lahar deposit usually has a hummocky or hilly surface. They often cause much death and destruction, as at Herculaneum during the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

A caldera is a large cauldron-shaped volcanic depression more than one kilometer in diameter, rimmed by in-facing scarps. Calderas usually, if not always, form by the collapse of the top of a volcanic cone or group of cones because of the removal of the

support formerly furnished by an underlying body of magma (molten rock). Often, this collapse is of a composite cone that rapidly emptied the underlying magma reservoir by voluminous eruptions. At the end of the eruptions, the top of the mountain has disappeared, leaving an immense hole in its place. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

A fumarole is a vent in the Earth's surface from which steam and volcanic gases are emitted. The major source of the water vapor emitted by fumaroles is groundwater heated by bodies of magma lying relatively close to the surface. **Carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, and hydrogen sulphide are usually emitted directly from the magma.** Fumaroles are often present on active volcanoes during periods of relative quiet between eruptions.

Fumaroles are closely related to hot springs and geysers. Fumaroles can become hot springs in areas where the water table rises near the surface. A fumarole rich in sulphur gases is called a solfatara, and fumarole rich in carbon dioxide is called a mofette. **So, Option (d) is correct.**





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

VULCANISM	
About	Volcanism, also spelled vulcanism, is any of various processes and phenomena associated with the surficial discharge of molten rock, pyroclastic fragments, or hot water and steam, including volcanoes, geysers, and fumaroles.
Types of volcanoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Shield volcanoes are mostly made up of basalt, a type of lava that is very fluid when erupted. For this reason, these volcanoes are not steep but rather gentle slopes. They become explosive if water enters the vent; otherwise, they are characterized by low explosivity. The upcoming lava moves as a fountain throw out the cone at the top of the vent and develops into a cinder cone.➤ Composite Volcanoes are volcanoes characterized by eruptions of more viscous lavas than basalt. These volcanoes often result in explosive eruptions. Along with lava, large quantities of pyroclastic material and ashes find their way to the ground. This material accumulates in the vicinity of the vent openings, leading to the formation of layers, and this makes the mounts appear as composite volcanoes.➤ Calderas are the most explosive of the Earth's volcanoes. They are usually so explosive that they tend to collapse on themselves rather than building tall structures when they erupt. The collapsed depressions are called calderas.



- Flood Basalt Provinces are volcanoes that outpour highly fluid lava that flows for long distances. The Deccan Traps from India, presently covering most of the Maharashtra plateau, are a much larger flood basalt province.
- Mid-Ocean Ridge Volcanoes are volcanoes occur in the oceanic areas. There is a system of mid-ocean ridges more than 70,000 km long that stretches through all the ocean basins. The central portion of this ridge experiences frequent eruptions.

TEST NO.2 – Q.NO.95- PARTIAL REFLECTION

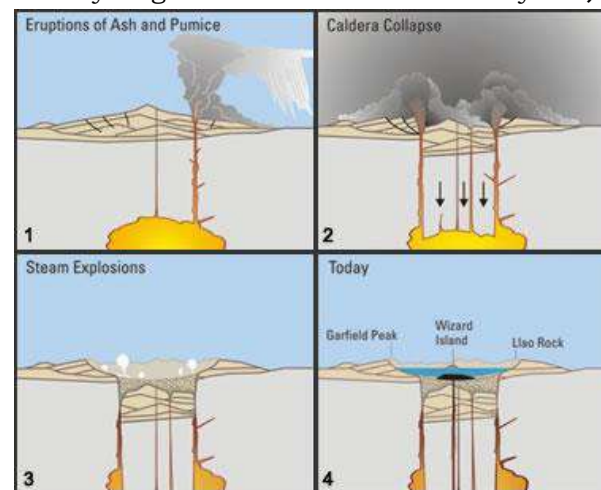
Which of the following correctly explains the reason why the Caldera type of volcanoes are the most explosive of the Earth's volcanoes ?

- (a) These volcanoes are mostly made up of basalt which is a very fluid kind of lava when erupted
- (b) These volcanoes become explosive when somehow water gets into the vent
- (c) The magma chamber supplying the lava to these volcanoes is not only huge but is also in close vicinity**
- (d) These volcanoes tend to collapse on themselves rather than build any tall structure

EXPLANATION:

Caldera types of volcanoes are the most explosive of the Earth's volcanoes. They are usually so explosive that when they erupt, they tend to collapse on themselves rather than building tall structures. This is the effect, not the reason. The collapsed depressions are called calderas.

The major reason for the explosiveness of these volcanoes is that the magma chamber supplying the lava is not only huge but is also in close vicinity. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

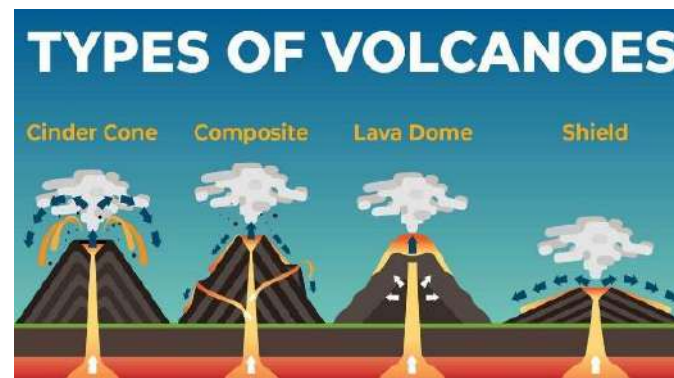


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

TYPES OF VOLCANOES BASED ON THE NATURE OF ERUPTION

**Shield
Volcanoes**

- Barring the basalt flows, the shield volcanoes are the largest of all the volcanoes on the Earth. The Hawaiian volcanoes are the most famous examples.
- These volcanoes are mostly made up of basalt, a type of lava that is very fluid when erupted. For this reason, these volcanoes are not steep. They become explosive if water enters the vent; otherwise, they are characterized by low explosivity.
- The upcoming lava moves as a fountain, throws out the cone at the top of the vent and develops into a cinder cone.



**Composite
Volcanoes**

- These volcanoes are characterised by eruptions of cooler and more viscous lavas than basalt.
- These volcanoes often result in explosive eruptions.
- Along with lava, large quantities of pyroclastic material and ashes find their way to the ground.
- This material accumulates in the vicinity of the vent openings leading to formation of layers, and this makes the mounts appear as composite volcanoes.

**Flood
Basalt
Provinces**

- These volcanoes outpour highly fluid lava that flows for long distances. Some parts of the world are covered by thousands of sq. km of thick basalt lava flows.
- There can be a series of flows with some flows attaining thickness of more than 50 m. Individual flows may extend for hundreds of km.
- The Deccan Traps from India, presently covering most of the Maharashtra plateau, are a much larger flood basalt province. It is believed that initially the trap formations covered a much larger area than the present.

**Mid-Ocean
Ridge
Volcanoes**

- These volcanoes occur in the oceanic areas.
- There is a system of mid-ocean ridges more than 70,000 km long that stretches through all the ocean basins.
- The central portion of this ridge experiences frequent eruptions.



TEST NO.2 – Q.NO.91- DIRECT REFLECTION

54. Which of the following is/are correct inference/inferences from isothermal maps in the month of January?

1. The isotherms deviate to the north over the ocean and to the south over the continent.
2. The presence of cold ocean currents, Gulf Stream and North Atlantic Drift make the North Atlantic Ocean colder and the isotherms bend towards the north.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Consider the following statements, With reference to distribution of isotherms and temperature ranges between January and July:

1. In January, isotherms bend southward over landmasses in Europe, while in July, they run parallel to latitude lines.
2. During January, the isotherms in southern hemisphere shows more or less gradual temperature variations than in northern hemisphere.
3. Over the North Atlantic Ocean in January, the presence of cold ocean currents makes the isotherms bend southward.

How many of the above statements are correct?

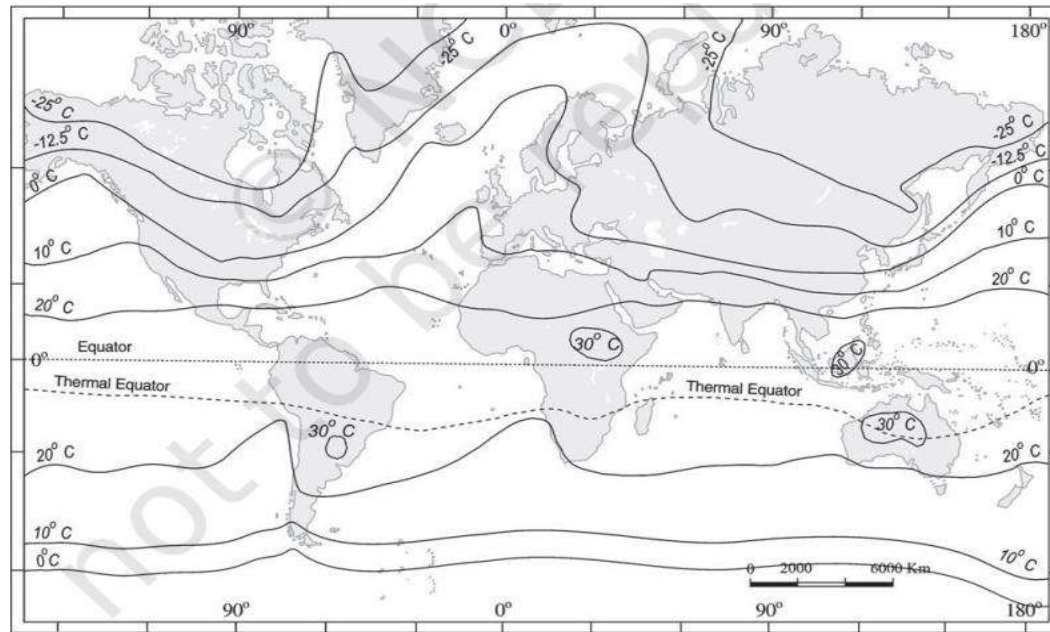
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

EXPLANATION:

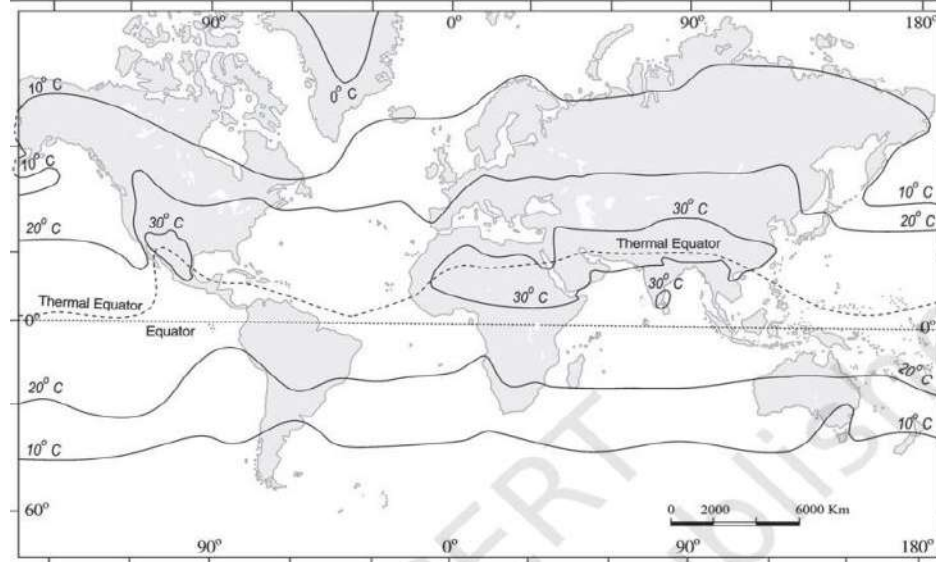
The global temperature distribution can be understood by studying the temperature distribution in January and July. The temperature distribution is generally shown on the map with the help of isotherms. The Isotherms are lines joining places having an equal temperature. In the northern hemisphere, the land surface area is much larger than in the southern hemisphere. Hence, the effects of land mass and ocean currents are well-pronounced.

In January, the isotherms deviate to the north over the ocean and south over the continent (landmasses in Europe); in July, they run parallel to latitude lines. So, Statement 1 is correct.

➤ Distribution of Surface air temperature in January



➤ The distribution of surface air temperature in July



The Southern Hemisphere has more water, which buffers temperature change. During January, the effect of the ocean is well pronounced in the southern hemisphere. The Southern Ocean can take up heat and store it in its waters, leading to a smaller surface warming. Hence, temperature variation is more gradual than in the northern hemisphere.

So, Statement 2 is correct.

In January, the isotherms deviate to the north over the ocean. The presence of warm ocean currents, Gulf Stream and North Atlantic drift make the Northern Atlantic Ocean warmer, and the isotherms bend towards the north in January.

So, Statement 3 is not correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

VARIABILITY OF INSOLATION AT THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH

About	The amount and the intensity of insolation vary during the day, in a season and a year.
Factors that cause variations	<p>The factors that cause these variations in insolation are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The rotation of the earth on its axis ➤ The angle of inclination of the sun's rays ➤ The length of the day ➤ The transparency of the atmosphere ➤ The configuration of land in terms of its aspect <div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The earth's axis makes an angle of $66\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ with the plane of its orbit around the sun and has a greater influence on the amount of insolation received at different latitudes. ➤ The second factor determining the amount of insolation received is the angle of inclination of the rays. This depends on the latitude of a place.



- The higher the latitude, the less the angle they make with the earth's surface, resulting in slant sun rays.
- The area covered by vertical rays is always less than the slant rays. If more area is covered, the energy gets distributed, and the net energy received per unit area decreases. Moreover, the slant rays are required to pass through greater depth of the atmosphere, resulting in more absorption, scattering and diffusion

TEST NO.20 – Q.NO.15

Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

Isotherms deviate north over the continent and south over the oceans during winters in the Northern Hemisphere.

Statement-II:

The North Atlantic Ocean becomes warmer due to the presence of warm ocean currents.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct Explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.**

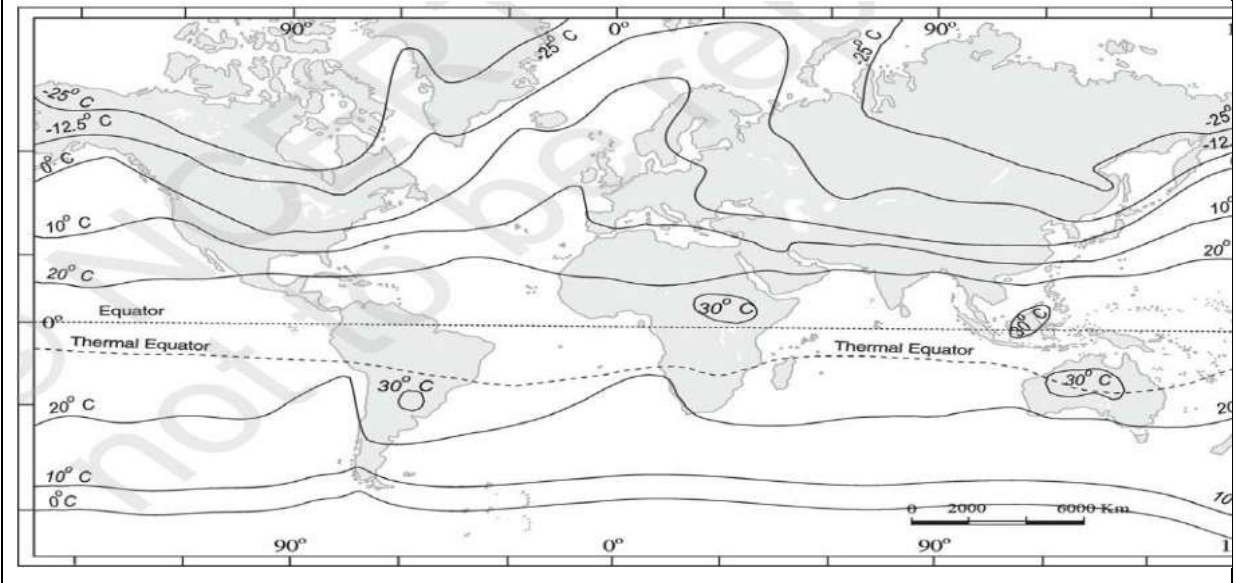
EXPLANATION:

The Isotherms are lines joining places having equal temperatures. In general, the effect of the latitude on temperature is well pronounced on the map, as the isotherms are generally

parallel to the latitude. The deviation from this general trend is more pronounced in January than in July, especially in the northern hemisphere.

In the northern hemisphere, the land surface area is much larger than in the southern hemisphere. Hence, the effects of land mass and ocean currents are well-pronounced. In January (Winter in the Northern Hemisphere), the isotherms deviate to the north (Not South) over the ocean and to the south (Not North) over the continent. **So, Statement I is incorrect.**

In the North Atlantic Ocean, due to the presence of warm ocean currents, such as Gulf Stream and North Atlantic drift make the Northern Atlantic Ocean warmer, and the isotherms bend towards the north. Over the land, the temperature decreases sharply, and the isotherms bend towards the south in Europe. It is much more pronounced in the Siberian plain. **So, Statement II is correct.**





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FACTORS CONTROLLING TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION

About	<p>The temperature of the air at any place is influenced by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The latitude of the place.➤ The altitude of the place.➤ Distance from the sea, the airmass circulation.➤ The presence of warm and cold ocean currents.➤ Local aspects.
Latitude	<p>The temperature of a place depends on the insolation received. The insolation varies according to the latitude, and hence, the temperature also varies accordingly.</p>
Altitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The atmosphere is indirectly heated by terrestrial radiation from below. Therefore, the places near the sea level record higher temperatures than the places situated at higher elevations.➤ In other words, the temperature generally decreases with increasing height. The rate of decrease of temperature with height is termed the normal lapse rate. It is 6.5°C per 1,000 m.
Distance from the sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Another factor that influences the temperature is the location of a place with respect to the sea.➤ Compared to land, the sea gets heated slowly and loses heat slowly. Land heats up and cools down quickly.➤ Therefore, the variation in temperature over the sea is less compared to land. The places situated near the sea come under the moderating influence of the sea and land breezes, which moderate the temperature.



	<p>Airmass and Ocean currents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Like the land and sea breezes, the passage of air masses also affects the temperature.➤ The places which come under the influence of warm airmasses experience higher temperatures and the places that come under the influence of cold airmasses experience low temperatures.➤ Similarly, the places located on the coast where the warm ocean currents flow record higher temperatures than the places located on the coast where the cold currents flow.
<p>55. Which of the following countries are well known as the two largest cocoa producers in the world?</p> <p>(a) Algeria and Morocco</p> <p>(b) Botswanan and Namibia</p> <p>(c) Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana</p> <p>(d) Madagascar and Mozambique</p>	<p><u>ONLINE MOCK 2 – Q.NO.24- PARTIAL REFLECTION</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cocoa grows well in clay loam and sandy loam soil.2. Cocoa requires a minimum of 150cm annual rainfall with an optimum of 25°C is considered ideal.3. In India, Karnataka ranks first in cocoa production. <p>How many statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) All three</p> <p>(d) None</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>Cocoa is an important beverage crop of the world and is commercially grown as an intercrop in coconut and areca nut gardens in India. The main cocoa-producing countries are Ivory Coast, Ghana, Indonesia, Brazil, Nigeria, Cameroon and Malaysia. Cocoa is a crop of humid tropics that requires shade and water, and so it was introduced in the foothills of Western ghats and plains as an intercrop in coconut and areca nut. Cocoa requires deep and well-drained soil for easy penetration of roots and better anchorage and should retain moisture during the dry season and permit movement of air. It is predominantly grown on clay loam and sandy loam soils. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p>



Though cocoa grows between 20°N and 20°S latitude, the main growing areas are situated within 10°N and 10°S.

Ideally, cocoa requires a minimum of 90-100mm rainfall per month with an annual precipitation of 1500-2000mm (150cm-200cm). It grows within a temperature range of 15-39°C, and the optimum temperature is around 25°C. Cocoa needs high humidity throughout the year for optimum growth. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Cocoa is an important plantation crop grown for chocolates around the world. In India, Cocoa is cultivated in the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu on an area of 1,03,376 hectares, with a total production of 27,072 Million Tonnes (MT).

Andhra Pradesh ranks first (not Karnataka) in area with 39,714 ha and production of 10,903 MT. The highest productivity is also in Andhra Pradesh, which is 950 kg/ha. The average productivity of cocoa in India is 669 Kg/ha. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

59. Consider the following information:

Water fall	Region	River
-------------------	---------------	--------------

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Dhuandhar | Malwa | Narmada |
| 2. Hundru | Chota Nagpur | Subarnarekha |
| 3. Gersoppa | Western Ghats | Netravati |

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

TEST NO.2 – Q.NO.83- DIRECT REFLECTION

Which among the following geological events most contributed to the orientation of the Peninsular drainage system toward the Bay of Bengal ?

- (a) Upheaval of the Himalayas
(b) Subsidence of the western flank of the Peninsula
(c) Slight tilting of the Peninsular block
(d) Formation of rift valleys

EXPLANATION:

The Peninsular drainage system is older than the Himalayas, evident from the broad, largely-graded shallow valleys and the maturity of the rivers. The Western Ghats running

close to the western coast act as the water divide between the major Peninsular rivers, discharging their water in the Bay of Bengal and as small rivulets joining the Arabian Sea. Some major geological events in the distant past have shaped the present drainage systems of Peninsular India, which includes slight tilting of the Peninsular block from the northwest to the southeastern direction. This titling of the peninsular block oriented the entire drainage system towards the Bay of Bengal during the same period.

So, Option (c) is correct.

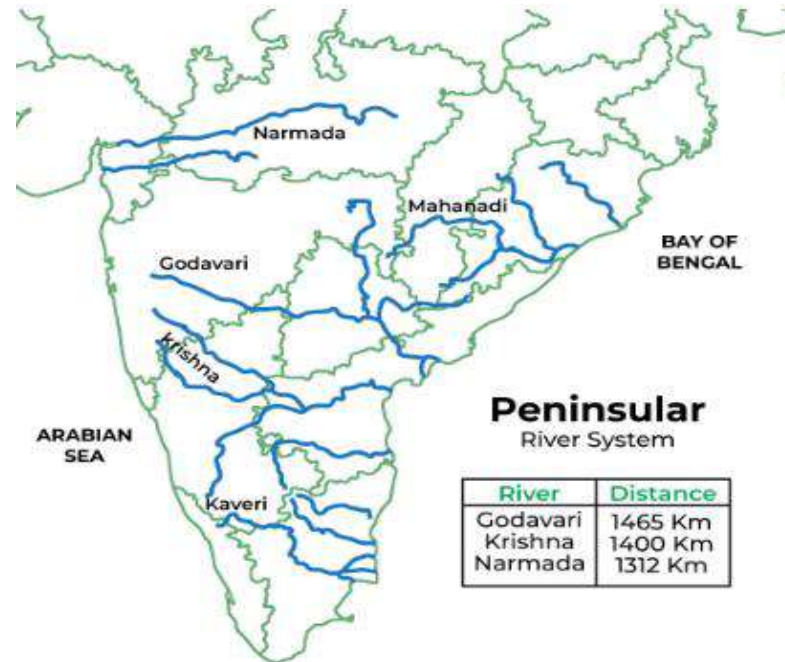
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF SOUTH INDIA

About

The Peninsular India is an ancient landmass. Therefore, the streams flowing through this region are in their old stage.

The major rivers of the drainage system of southern India are Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Pennar, Kaveri and Vaigai.





	Evolution of Peninsular Drainage	<p>The major geological events in the distant past have shaped the present drainage systems of Peninsular India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Subsidence of the western flank of the Peninsula led to its submergence below the sea during the early tertiary period. Generally, it has disturbed the symmetrical plan of the river on either side of the original watershed.➤ The upheaval of the Himalayas when the northern flank of the Peninsular block was subjected to subsidence and the consequent trough faulting. The Narmada and The Tapi flow in trough faults and fill the original cracks with their detritus materials. Hence, there is a lack of alluvial and deltaic deposits in these rivers.
	Mahanadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Mahanadi rises near Sihawa in the Raipur district of Chhattisgarh and runs through Odisha to discharge its water into the Bay of Bengal.➤ It is 851 km long, and its catchment area spreads over 1.42 lakh sq. km.➤ Some navigation is carried on in the lower course of this river.➤ Fifty-three percent of the drainage basin of this river lies in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, while 47 percent lies in Odisha.
	Godavari	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Godavari is the largest Peninsular river system. It is also called the Dakshin Ganga.➤ It rises in the Nasik district of Maharashtra and discharges its water into the Bay of Bengal. Its tributaries run through the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.➤ Its principal tributaries are the Penganga, the Indravati, the Pranhita, and the Manjra.
	Krishna	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Krishna is the second largest east-flowing Peninsular river, which rises near Mahabaleshwar in Sahyadri.➤ Its total length is 1,401 km. The Koyna, the Tungbhadra and the Bhima are its major tributaries.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Of the total catchment area of the Krishna, 27 percent lies in Maharashtra, 44 percent in Karnataka and 29 percent in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
Kaveri	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Kaveri rises in Brahmagiri hills (1,341m) of Kogadu district in Karnataka. Its length is 800 km, draining an area of 81,155 sq. km.➤ Since the upper catchment area receives rainfall during the southwest monsoon season (summer) and the lower part during the northeast monsoon season (winter), the river carries water throughout the year with comparatively less fluctuation than the other Peninsular rivers.➤ About 3 percent of the Kaveri basin falls in Kerala, 41 percent in Karnataka and 56 percent in Tamil Nadu.➤ Its important tributaries are the Kabini, the Bhavani and the Amravati.
Narmada	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Narmada originates on the western flank of the Amarkantak plateau at a height of about 1,057 m.➤ Flowing in a rift valley between the Satpura in the south and the Vindhyan range in the north, it forms a picturesque gorge in marble rocks and the Dhuandhar waterfall near Jabalpur.➤ After flowing a distance of about 1,312 km, it meets the Arabian Sea south of Bharuch, forming a broad 27 km long estuary.➤ The Sardar Sarovar Project has been constructed on this river.
Tapi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Tapi is the other important westward-flowing river.➤ It originates from Multai in the Betul district of Madhya Pradesh. It is 724 km long and drains an area of 65,145 sq. km.➤ Nearly 79 percent of its basin lies in Maharashtra, 15 percent in Madhya Pradesh, and 6 percent

TEST NO.9 – Q.NO.30

Consider the following statements :

1. Godawari River basin lies over seven States and one Union territory.
2. Manjira is the longest tributary of Godawari, originating from the Balaghat range.

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

EXPLANATION:

The Godavari basin extends over states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Odisha in addition to smaller parts in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Union territory of Puducherry having a total area of 3,12,812 Sq.km with a maximum length and width of about 995 km and 583 km. Thus, the Godavari River basin lies over seven States and one Union territory. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

State	Area in Sq.km	Percentage (%)
Maharashtra	152,199	48.66
Telangana	62,150	19.87
Andhra Pradesh	11,048	3.53
Chhattisgarh	33,434	10.69
Madhya Pradesh	31,821	10.17
Odisha	17,752	5.67
Karnataka	4,405	1.41
Puducherry	3	0.001

Manjira is the longest tributary of Godavari. It is an inter-State river flowing through Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana. It originates in Balaghat range of hills, runs in south-east direction up to Manjira barrage in Telangana and from there in north direction till its confluence with Godavari. The principal tributaries of Manjira are Terna, Karanja and Haldi joining it from right side; and Lendi and Maner which join from the left. Manar, Lendi and Terna dams in Maharashtra; Karanja dam in Karnataka and Singur and Nizam Sagar dams in Telangana are the main water resource projects in Manjira sub-basin. **So, Statement (2) is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

RIVER SYSTEMS OF THE PENINSULAR DRAINAGE

Mahanadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Mahanadi rises near Sihawa in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh and runs through Odisha to discharge its water into the Bay of Bengal. ➤ It is 851 km long and its catchment area spreads over 1.42 lakh sq. km. Some navigation is carried on in the lower course of this river. ➤ Fifty three per cent of the drainage basin of this river lies in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, while 47 per cent lies in Odisha.
Godavari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Godavari is the largest peninsular river system. It is also called the Dakshin Ganga. ➤ It rises in the Nasik district of Maharashtra and discharges its water into the Bay of Bengal. ➤ Its tributaries run through the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. It is 1,465 km long with a catchment area spreading over 3.13 lakh sq. km 49 per cent of this, lies



		<p>in Maharashtra, 20 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and the rest in Andhra Pradesh.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Penganga, the Indravati, the Pranhita, and the Manjra are its principal tributaries.➤ The Godavari is subjected to heavy floods in its lower reaches to the south of Polavaram, where it forms a picturesque gorge.➤ It is navigable only in the deltaic stretch. The river after Rajamundri splits into several branches forming a large delta.
	Krishna	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Krishna is the second largest eastflowing Peninsular river which rises near Mahabaleshwar in Sahyadri.➤ Its total length is 1,401 km. The Koyna, the Tungbhadra and the Bhima are its major tributaries.➤ Of the total catchment area of the Krishna, 27 per cent lies in Maharashtra, 44 per cent in Karnataka and 29 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
	Kaveri	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Kaveri rises in Brahmagiri hills (1,341m) of Kogadu district in Karnataka.➤ Its length is 800 km and it drains an area of 81,155 sq. km. Since the upper catchment area receives rainfall during the southwest monsoon season (summer) and the lower part during the northeast monsoon season (winter), the river carries water throughout the year with comparatively less fluctuation than the other Peninsular rivers.➤ About 3 per cent of the Kaveri basin falls in Kerala, 41 per cent in Karnataka and 56 per cent in Tamil Nadu.➤ Its important tributaries are the Kabini, the Bhavani and the Amravati.
	Narmada	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Narmada originates on the western flank of the Amarkantak plateau at a height of about 1,057 m.➤ Flowing in a rift valley between the Satpura in the south and the Vindhyan range in the north, it forms a picturesque gorge in marble rocks and Dhuandhar waterfall near Jabalpur.➤ After flowing a distance of about 1,312 km, it meets the Arabian sea south of Bharuch, forming a broad 27 km long estuary. Its catchment



	area is about 98,796 sq. km. ➤ The Sardar Sarovar Project has been constructed on this river.
Tapi	➤ The Tapi is the other important westward flowing river. It originates from Multai in the Betul district of Madhya Pradesh. ➤ It is 724 km long and drains an area of 65,145 sq. km. Nearly 79 per cent of its basin lies in Maharashtra, 15 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and the remaining 6 per cent in Gujarat.
Luni	➤ Luni is the largest river system of Rajasthan, west of Aravali. It originates near Pushkar in two branches, i.e. the Saraswati and the Sabarmati, which join with each other at Govindgarh. From here, the river comes out of Aravali and is known as Luni. ➤ It flows towards the west till Telwara and then takes a southwest direction to join the Rann of Kuchchh. The entire river system is ephemeral.

TEST NO.9 – Q.NO.62

Consider the following features :

1. Most densely populated region
2. Presence of several waterfalls
3. Rich in mineral deposits
4. Presence of fertile soil good for cultivation of cotton

How many of the above are features of the Plateau regions of India ?

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

EXPLANATION:

Due to the continuous erosion of the plateaus' surface, we observe the prevalence of a patchy or slow development of agriculture and the building of roads on the plateaus. This factor also explains why the plateaus are sparsely populated. Generally, plains are very fertile. Construction of transport network is easy. Thus, these plains are very thickly populated regions of the world and plateaus are not densely populated region. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**



In the plateau areas, there may be several waterfalls as the river falls from a great height. Rivers falling down the edges of plateaus form waterfalls. In India, the Hundru Falls in the Chhotanagpur plateau on the river Subarnarekha and the Jog Falls in Karnataka are examples of such waterfalls. These waterfalls provide ideal sites for generating hydel power.

So, Statement 2 is correct.

Most of the minerals in the world are found in the plateaus. Besides, the extraction of minerals is relatively easier on plateaus. These minerals are indispensable as raw materials for our industries. We get gold from the Plateau of Western Australia, copper, diamonds, gold from the Plateaus of Africa and coal, iron, manganese and mica from the Chota Nagpur Plateau in India. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

The lava plateaus, as compared to all other plateaus, are richer in cotton cultivation since their soil is very fertile. Black soil is ideal for growing cotton and is also known as black cotton soil. This type of soil is typical of the Deccan trap (Basalt) region spread over the northwest Deccan plateau and is made up of lava flows. They cover the plateaus of Maharashtra, Saurashtra, Malwa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and extend in the southeast direction along the Godavari and the Krishna valleys. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MAJOR LANDFORMS

MOUNTAINS

- The uplifted portions of the earth's surface with steep slopes and small summit areas rising above 1000 meters and formed throughout millions of years are called mountains.
- About 27% of the earth's surface is covered by the mountains.

On the basis of their mode of formation, the mountains have been classified as:

- Fold Mountains

The mountains which have been formed by the uplift of mainly the folded sedimentary rock strata under compressional forces are called fold mountains.

- Block Mountains

The mountain formed by the uplift of land between faults or by the subsidence of land outside the faults is known as a block mountain.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volcanic Mountains The mountains formed by the accumulation of volcanic material are called volcanic mountains or mountains of accumulation. • Residual Mountains The elevated regions that have escaped weathering and erosion and appear in the form of mountains are called residual mountains.
	PLATEAU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A plateau is an elevated area of more or less level land on its top. It has a large area on its top and a steep slope on its side. ➤ The plateaus cover about 18% of the earth's surface. ➤ This landform has a large elevated area on its top, unlike a mountain and has a nearly even surface out there. Very often, rivers or streams cut out deep valleys and gorges in a plateau region. ➤ On the basis of their geographical location and structure of rocks, the plateaus can be classified as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermontane Plateaus The plateaus that are bordering the Fold mountain range or are partly or fully enclosed within them are the intermontane plateaus. • Piedmont Plateaus The plateaus that are situated at the foot of the mountains and are bounded on other sides by a plain or an ocean are called the Piedmont Plateau. • Continental Plateaus The plateaus formed by the uplift of large areas or by the gradual spread and accumulation of basic lava sheets are called continental plateaus.
	PLAINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A low-lying, relatively flat or slightly rolling land surface with a very gentle slope and minimum local relief is called a plain. ➤ Plains occupy about 55% of the earth's surface. ➤ Plains are useful to man due to their fertile soils, growth of industries, development of transport, setting up of cities & towns and making them attractive as cradles of human civilization. ➤ Most of the plains have been formed by the deposition of sediments



	<p>brought down by rivers. Besides rivers, some plains have also been formed by the action of wind, moving ice and tectonic activity. Plains have an average height of fewer than 200 meters.</p> <p>➤ On the basis of their mode of formation, plains can be classified into the following types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structural plains The plains formed by uplift or subsidence of an area are called structural plains.• Erosional plains The plains formed by the continuous long-term erosion of uplands are called erosional plains.• Depositional plains Depositional plains are formed by the deposition of sediments brought down by rivers, glaciers and winds. Depositional plains are subdivided into alluvial, lacustrine, glacial and loess plains.
61. The organisms “Cicada, frog hopper and Pond skater” are: (a) Birds (b) Fish (c) Insects (d) Reptiles	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SET D - TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.72- DIRECT REFLECTION</u></p> <p>With reference to ‘Cicadas,’ sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is a tree species commonly found across the tropical evergreen forests of South India.2. The disappearance of this species in its habitat is an indicator of soil health and vegetation <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>

EXPLANATION:

Cicadas are hemipteran insects known for their loud, complex and species-specific acoustic signals or songs. The generic diversity of cicadas in India and Bangladesh ranks the highest in the world, followed by China. Most cicadas are canopy dwellers and are found in natural forests with large trees. Cicadas are insects, not tree species. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**



The distribution of Cicadas could extend across the tropical evergreen forests ranging from Goa to Kanyakumari; recently, the researchers pointed out the study strengthened the possibility of cicadas being geographically and attitudinally restricted in distribution, implying a high degree of endemism. Once a common sight in homesteads, their gradual disappearance could be an indicator of the deteriorating quality of soil and vegetation, they cautioned.

So, Statement 2 is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CICADAS SPECIES

Recently in News

A 'foreign' cicada that is commonly found in several parts of South India has assumed an Indian identity. The insect species that has now been christened Purana cheeveeda (after its Malayalam name, Cheeveedu) used to be mistaken for Purana tigrina. These species were first described in Malaysia in 1850.



In view of the differences in their morphological characteristics, the Association for Advancement in Entomology has corrected the longstanding error in taxonomic identification. It has excluded the Malaysian species from the South Indian cicada fauna.

- The 13- or 17-year lifespan of periodical cicadas is one of the longest of any insect, but only a tiny fraction of that time is spent above ground. The rest of a periodical cicada's life is spent underground as a nymph feeding on liquid sucked from plant roots.
- Cicadas are a valuable food source for birds and other predators. Cicadas can aerate lawns and improve water filtration into the ground. Cicadas add nutrients to the soil as they decompose.

TEST NO.02 – Q.NO.46- DIRECT REFLECTION

60. Consider the following information:

	Region	Name of the mountain range	Type of mountain
1.	Central Asia	Vosges	Fold mountain
2.	Europe	Alps	Block mountain
3.	North America	Appalachians	Fold mountain
4.	South America	Andes	Fold mountain

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) Only one

Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

The Andes mountains are formed due to the convergence between the Cocos oceanic plate and the South American plate.

Statement-II :

When two plates converge, the denser plate subducts, and the less dense plate is either upthrust or folded or both upthrust and folded.

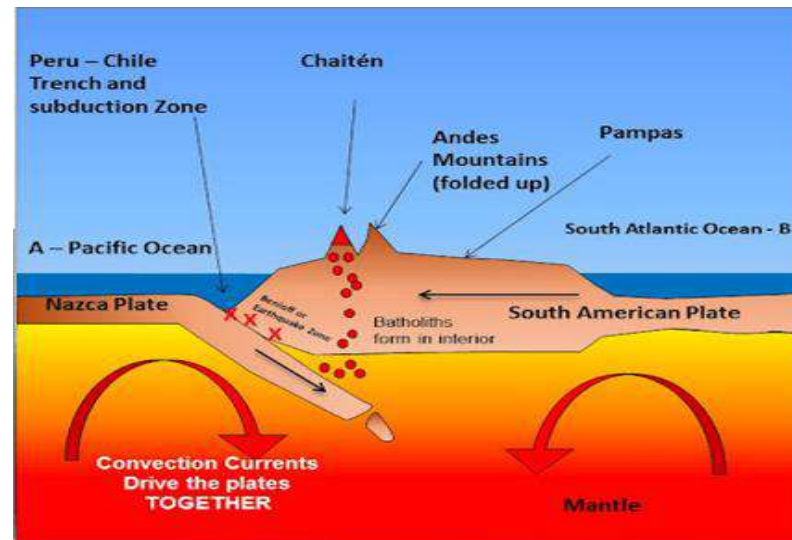
Which of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct**

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

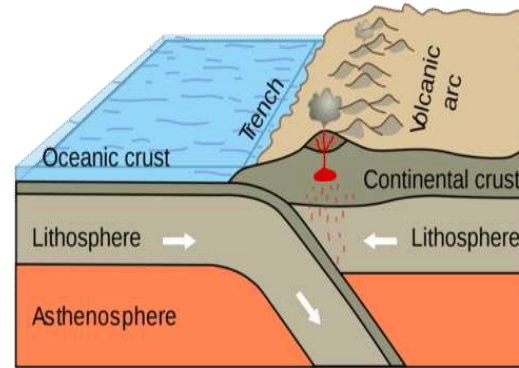
EXPLANATION:

The Andes were formed by tectonic activity whereby earth is uplifted as one plate sub ducts under another plate. The Andes were formed due to convergence between Nazca plate (oceanic plate) and the South American plate (continental plate). The Andes fold mountains are spread across the countries of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina on the west coast of the South American continent. So, Statement-I is not correct.



According to plate tectonic theory, mountains are formed due to the collision of two convergent plates. At convergent boundary, two adjacent plates come further and further closer to each other and collide. During convergence, the denser plate sub ducts, and the less dense plate is either up thrust or folded or both up thrust and folded. Example: The collision of continental and oceanic convergent plates results in the formation of cordillera type of folded mountains in which the oceanic plate boundary being heavier due to comparatively denser material is subducted below the continental plate boundary. The Rockies and the Andes mountains are formed by this process of continental and oceanic divergence.

So, Statement-II is correct. So, Option (d) is correct.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FOLD MOUNTAINS

About

- The mountains which have been formed by the uplift of mainly the folded sedimentary rock strata under compressional forces are called Fold Mountains.
- These are created where two or more of Earth's tectonic plates are pushed together.

Types of Fold Mountains

- Fold Mountains have been classified into two types based on the formation as,
- Young fold mountains
 - These mountain ranges were formed during the most recent mountain building period.
 - The Himalayan Mountains and the Alps are young fold mountains with rugged relief and high conical peaks.
 - Andes Mountains and Rockies are also examples of young Fold Mountains.



The world distribution of young fold mountains, active volcanoes and earthquake zones.

- Oldest fold mountain
 - Old Fold Mountains are mountain ranges that were formed by the folding of rock layers due to tectonic activity that occurred hundreds of millions of years.
 - The Aravali range in India is one of the oldest fold mountain systems in the world.
 - The Appalachians in North America and the Ural Mountains in Russia are also example of Old Fold Mountains.

Orogeny

- Fold Mountains are created through a process called orogeny.
- Orogenic processes involves mountain building through severe folding and affecting long and narrow belts of the earth's crust.
- Through the processes of orogeny, there can be faulting and fracturing of the crust.



TEST NO.16 – Q.NO.96- PARTIAL REFLECTION

70. Consider the following:

1. Cashew
2. Papaya
3. Red sanders

How many of the above trees are actually native to India?

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

Consider the following pairs:

S.No.	(Protected areas)	(States)
1.	Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary	- Assam
2.	Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve	- Karnataka
3.	Melghat Tiger Reserve	- Maharastra

How many of the above pairs are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION:

Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Karnataka. It is the first dry-land wildlife sanctuary in South India and the only one in the region with rich biodiversity.

The sanctuary hosts several medicinal herbs and rare native trees such as red sanders and sandalwood. It has good dry deciduous and moist deciduous forest in the core with acacia and teak plantations on the fringes.

The sanctuary is also home to diverse fauna, including blackbuck, common fox, four-horned antelope, fruit bat, hyena and Indian wolf. Hence, It is not located in Assam.

So, Pair (1) is not correct.



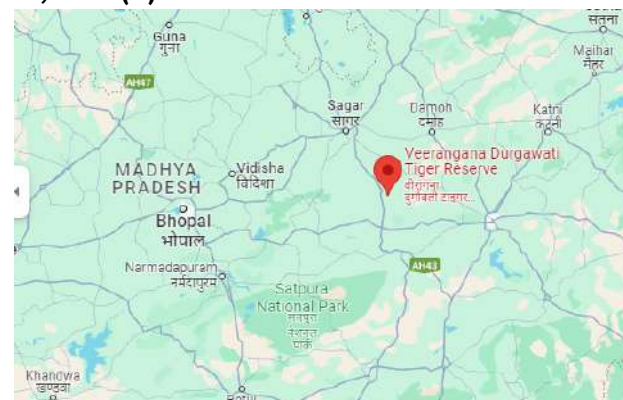
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Madhya Pradesh, which is home to the largest number of tigers in the country, has a new protected area for the big cats named 'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve'. It has become the seventh tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh and the 54th Tiger Reserve in the country.

This newly designated Tiger Reserve will encompass areas within the Nauradehi (Wild Life) & Veerangana Drugavati Sanctuary, recognized for their ecological significance in preserving biodiversity, including flora, fauna, geology, and zoology. **So, Pair (2) is not correct.**



Melghat Tiger Reserve is located on the southern offshoot of the Satpura Hill Range in Central India, called Gavilgarh Hill, in the Indian state of Maharashtra. It is a prime habitat for the tiger. The forest is tropical, dry, deciduous, dominated by teak *Tectona grandis*.

The Reserve is a catchment area for five major rivers, viz. Khandu, Khapra, Sipna, Gadga and Dolar, all of



which are tributaries of the river Tapti. The Tapti River marks the northeastern boundary of the Reserve. Melghat is the prime biodiversity repository of the state. **So, Pair (3) is correct.**



74. With reference to “Coriolis force”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It increases with increase in wind velocity
2. It is maximum at the poles and is absent at the equator

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

TEST NO.02 – Q.NO.71- DIRECT REFLECTION

Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

An anticyclone in the Southern hemisphere rotates in a clockwise direction.

Statement-II :

The Coriolis force set up by the earth’s rotation deflects the wind to the left in the Southern Hemisphere.

Which of the following is correct with respect to the above statements ?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
(d) **Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct**



EXPLANATION:

The wind circulation around a low pressure area is called cyclonic circulation. Around a high pressure area it is called anti cyclonic circulation.

The direction of winds around such systems changes according to their location in different hemispheres. Generally, over low-pressure area the air will converge and rise. Over high-pressure area the air will subside from above and diverge at the surface.

Tropical cyclones are elliptical arrangement of isobars having low pressure at the centre with a convergence of winds within them. The wind direction in the cyclones is anti-clockwise in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere. The wind direction in the anticyclone is anticlockwise in the southern hemisphere. **So, Statement I is not correct.**

Pressure System	Pressure Condition at the Centre	Pattern of Wind Direction	
		Northern Hemisphere	Southern Hemisphere
Cyclone	Low	Anticlockwise	Clockwise
Anticyclone	High	Clockwise	Anticlockwise

The rotation of the earth about its axis affects the direction of the wind. This force is called the Coriolis force after the French physicist who described it in 1844. It deflects the wind to the right direction in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern hemisphere.

The deflection is more when the wind velocity is high. The Coriolis force is directly proportional to the angle of latitude. It is maximum at the poles and is absent at the equator. At the equator, the Coriolis force is zero.

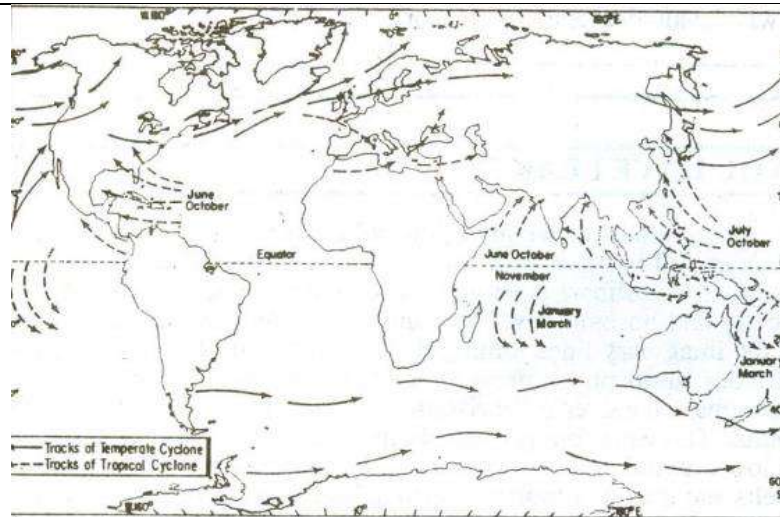
Thus, **Statement II is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

TROPICAL CYCLONES

About	➤ Tropical cyclones are formed along the zone of confluence of north-east and south-east trade winds. This zone is known as the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ).
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- Cyclones generally occur in Mexico, South-Western and North Pacific Ocean, North Indian Ocean and South Pacific Ocean. These cyclones differ from temperate cyclones in many ways.
- There are no clear warm and cold fronts as temperature seldom differs in Inter Tropical Convergence Zone.
- They do not have well-defined pattern of winds and are energised by convectional currents within them. Generally, these are shallow depressions and the velocity of winds is weak.
- These are not accompanied by anticyclones. The arrangement of isobars is almost circular.
- These are not extensive and have the diametres of 160-640kms. However, a few of them become very violent and cause destruction in the regions of their influence.
- They are called hurricanes in the Carribean Sea, typhoons in the China, Japan and Philippines, cyclones in the Indian Ocean and willy-willies in Northern Australia.





TEST NO.26 – Q.NO.44- PARTIAL REFLECTION

76. One of the following regions has the world's largest tropical peatland, which holds about three years' worth of global carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and the possible destruction of which can exert detrimental effect on the global climate.

Which one of the following denotes that region?

(a) Amazon Basin

(b) Congo Basin

(c) Kikori Basin

(d) Rio de la Plata Basin

Consider the following:

1. Rainforest
2. Peatland
3. Open ocean
4. Mangroves

Which of the above ecosystems store most of the world's "irrecoverable carbon"?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2 and 4 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

EXPLANATION:

Irrecoverable carbon refers to the vast stores of carbon in nature that are vulnerable to release from human activity and, if lost, could not be restored by 2050, when the world must reach net-zero emissions to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Tropical Rainforests store 30 billion metric tons of irrecoverable carbon globally. They can be found across South America, Africa and Asia. In this ecosystem, the majority of irrecoverable carbon is aboveground in the trees and foliage, with a smaller amount in the soil.

In Peru, the Amazon rainforest is a key irrecoverable carbon ecosystem. Thus, rainforests store most of the world's "irrecoverable carbon". **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Peat is carbon-rich soil containing partially decomposed vegetation. It forms in wetland environments where water slows the decaying process, locking up carbon gradually over centuries or millennia. Boreal peatlands contain at least 19 billion metric tons of irrecoverable carbon globally, while tropical peatlands contain nearly 16 billion metric tons.

The Congo Basin, including the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, contain some of the most extensive peatlands in the world. Thus, peatlands store most of the world's "irrecoverable carbon". So, Statement 2 is correct.

In the open ocean, the producers are microscopic phytoplankton, and consumers range from microscopic zooplankton to massive organisms like whales. Open oceans have low productivity because nutrients are in short supply. The open ocean does not store most of



the world's "irrecoverable carbon". **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

Mangroves are a powerhouse of carbon storage, with the highest density of irrecoverable carbon of any ecosystem. Mangroves also protect coastlines from storm damage and serve as nurseries for many marine species. Even with all these benefits, mangroves are highly threatened by aquaculture, mainly shrimp ponds and coastal development.

In the Philippines, mangroves are an important irrecoverable carbon ecosystem and serve as the first line of defence against typhoons. Thus, mangroves store most of the world's "irrecoverable carbon". **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

IRRECOVERABLE CARBON

About

- Globally, ecosystems highly affected by human land-use decisions contain at least 260 GT of irrecoverable carbon, with particularly high densities in peatlands, mangroves, old-growth forests and marshes.
- To achieve climate goals, we must safeguard these irrecoverable carbon pools through an expanded set of policy and finance strategies.
- Less than 14% of Earth's land area contains 75% of its irrecoverable carbon and provides habitat for 91% of its terrestrial vertebrate species.
- Of the world's irrecoverable carbon:
 - 24% is within Protected Areas. Protected areas are legally declared and managed by governments.
 - 33% is within indigenous and community lands. Indigenous peoples and communities play a critical role in global climate security.
 - 3/4th of irrecoverable carbon is located in just 7.5% of the earth's land area. These are ecosystems such as peatlands, mangroves, and old-growth forests.



TEST NO.15 – Q.NO.92- PARTIAL REFLECTION

75. On June 21 every year, which of the following latitude(s) experience(s) a sunlight of more than 12 hours?

1. Equator
2. Tropic of Cancer
3. Tropic of Capricorn
4. Arctic Circle

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 2 and 4

With reference to Winter Solstice, consider the following statements :

1. It is an annual phenomenon when the Southern Hemisphere is tilted furthest away from the sun.
2. It results in the longest night and shortest day in the southern Hemisphere.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 and 2**

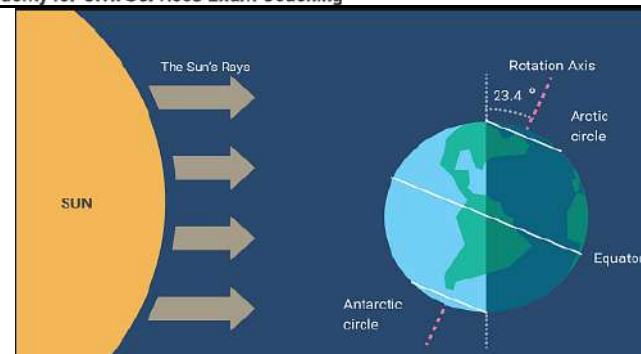
EXPLANATION:

Earth actually experiences two Winter Solstices each year both in the Northern Hemisphere and in the Southern Hemisphere. The Winter Solstice is a phenomenon that occurs annually when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted furthest away from the sun.

The Earth is tilted 23.4 degrees on its axis, so if the Earth's pole is pointing towards or away from the Sun during the day, the arc the Sun travels through will rise and fall during the year. The northern hemisphere minimum, or when the sun is at its lowest point in the sky, is the winter solstice.

At the Winter Solstice, the sun travels the shortest path through the sky, resulting in the day of the year with the least sunlight and, therefore, the longest night in the northern hemisphere. For the Southern Hemisphere, it marks the shortest night and longest daylight.

So, Statements 1 and 2 are not correct.

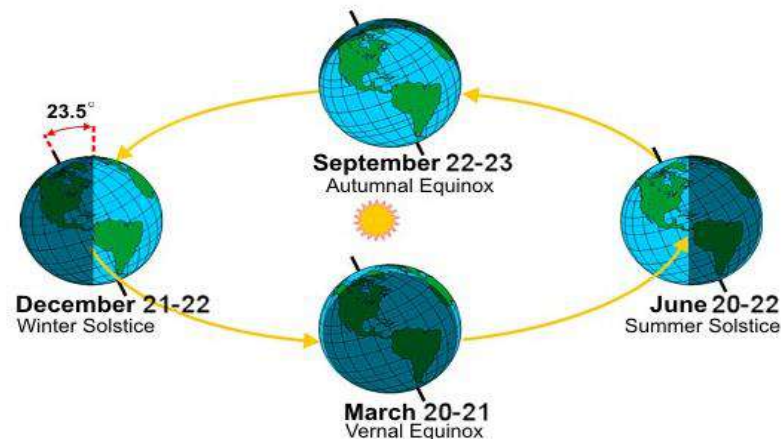


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SUMMER SOLSTICE

About

The summer solstice marks the official start of astronomical summer and the longest day of the year. It occurs when one of Earth's poles is tilted toward the sun at its most extreme angle, and due to Earth's tilt, this happens twice a year. In the Northern Hemisphere, the summer solstice falls in June (while the Southern Hemisphere experiences the winter solstice). In the Southern Hemisphere, it falls in December (while the Northern Hemisphere experiences the winter solstice).





TEST NO.24 – Q.NO.10- PARTIAL REFLECTION

80. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The Indian Flying Fox is placed under the “vermin” category in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 197

Statement-II:

The Indian Flying Fox feeds on the blood of other animals.

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 incorrect**
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

Which one of the following statements is *not* correct?

- (a) Both Nipah and Hendra viruses share the same species of fruit bat as their natural host.
- (b) Unlike the Nipah virus, the Hendra virus does not exhibit human-to-human transmission.
- (c) Human infections with the Nipah virus, unlike the Hendra virus, may remain asymptomatic for a few weeks.
- (d) Unlike the Nipah virus, the Hendra virus does not have a vaccine to prevent the disease in humans.**

EXPLANATION:

Hendra virus (HeV) is a member of the family Paramyxoviridae, genus Henipavirus. HeV was first isolated in 1994 from specimens obtained during an outbreak of the respiratory and neurologic disease in horses and humans in Hendra, a suburb of Brisbane, Australia. It is related to the Nipah virus, another species in the genus Henipavirus. Hendra virus is a rare zoonotic disease meaning that it can spread between animals and people. The virus can be transmitted from an infected horse to a human, causing severe and often fatal disease in both infected horses and humans. **Nipah virus (NiV) is also a zoonotic virus. Fruit bats, also called flying foxes, are the animal reservoir for NiV in nature. The Nipah virus is also known to cause illness in pigs and people.** Both Nipah virus (NiV) and Hendra virus (HeV) share the same genus of fruit bat, Pteropus, their natural host. **So, Option (a) is correct.**



	<p>In the case of the Nipah virus, transmission can occur through various routes such as Direct contact with infected animals (pigs, bats) or their secretions, Consumption of contaminated food (fruits, date palm sap) contaminated with bat saliva or bat droppings, Human-to-human transmission through close contact with respiratory secretions or bodily fluids of an infected person.</p> <p>Transmission of the Hendra virus primarily occurs through close contact with the bodily fluids or tissues of infected horses. Horses become infected after exposure to the virus in the urine of infected fruit bats. There are no documented cases of human-to-human transmission of Hendra virus. Therefore, Unlike the Nipah virus, the Hendra virus does not exhibit human-to-human transmission. So, Option (b) is correct.</p> <p>Nipah Virus (NiV) can cause asymptomatic infections in some individuals, meaning they can be infected without showing any symptoms for up to several weeks. This silent incubation period makes early detection and outbreak control challenging.</p> <p>Hendra Virus (HeV): Generally does not cause asymptomatic infections. Infected individuals typically develop symptoms within a week of exposure, allowing for quicker identification and isolation of cases. So, Option (c) is correct.</p> <p>Currently, there are no approved human vaccines for both the Hendra and Nipah virus. However, several vaccines are currently in clinical trials, including an mRNA-based vaccine, one based on a protein from the closely related Hendra virus, and another that uses a harmless vesicular stomatitis virus to deliver a Nipah virus protein. So, Option (d) is not correct.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.10 – Q.NO.88</u></p> <p>With respect to the Nipah virus, consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is a zoonotic virus and is highly contagious in pigs.2. Though being the natural hosts for the Nipah virus, fruit bats are unaffected.3. Human-to-human transmission of Nipah virus is not possible.4. Currently, there are no vaccines available against the Nipah virus. <p>How many of the above statements are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All four</p>
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	<p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus (it is transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people. It first appeared in domestic pigs in Malaysia and Singapore in 1998. The Nipah virus causes a highly contagious disease in pigs that affects the respiratory and nervous systems. Pigs are infectious during the incubation period, which lasts from 4 to 14 days. It is known as porcine respiratory and neurologic syndrome, porcine respiratory and encephalitic syndrome (PRES) or Barking pig syndrome (BPS). So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>Nipah virus is a bat-borne disease. Fruit bats, known as "flying foxes" of the Pteropodidae family, are the natural host of the Nipah virus. Bats can harbour these viruses without getting affected because they can avoid excessive virus-induced inflammation. It is found that significantly reduced inflammation is because of the activation of an important protein — NLRP3 — that recognises both cellular stress and viral/bacterial infections was significantly dampened in bat immune cells. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>There are two strains of the Nipah virus: the Malaysia strain and the Bangladesh strain. While the Malaysia strain has no sign of human-to-human transmission, the Bangladesh strain can spread from one infected human to a healthy human. Human-to-human transmission occurs when a healthy individual comes in direct contact with the infected person's body secretions, such as urine, blood, and nasal or respiratory droplets. This puts healthcare staff, caregivers or visitors at high risk of getting the infection. So, Statement 3 is not correct.</p> <p>While there are currently no approved human vaccines or treatments for Nipah, several vaccines are currently in clinical trials, including an mRNA-based vaccine, one based on a protein from the closely related Hendra virus and another that uses a harmless vesicular stomatitis virus to deliver a Nipah virus protein. So, Statement 4 is correct.</p>
<p>81. The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the number of children born per 1000 people in the population in a year.(b) the number of children born to a couple in their lifetime in a given population.(c) the birth rate minus death rate.(d) the average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.	<p style="text-align: center;">TEST NO 20 – Q.NO.21- PARTIAL REFLECTION</p> <p>Consider the following findings with respect to the State of World Population Report 2023:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Life expectancy for men in India is less than the women.2. Two-thirds of India's population belongs to the age group of 15-64 years category.3. India is expected to become the most populous country. <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) 1 and 2 only(b) 2 and 3 only(c) 1 and 3 only(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

India is now the most populous country in the world, having overtaken China in population, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said in its State of World Population (SOWP) report, '8 billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities'. In November 2022, the UN announced that the world's population had crossed the 8 billion mark.

Life expectancy for men in India is the same as the global life expectancy of 71 years, while it is marginally lower for women at 74 years. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

According to the State of World Population (SOWP) report, as much as 68% of India's population belongs to the 15-64 years category and 26% in the 10-24 years group, making India one of the youngest countries in the world. Thus, Two-thirds of India's population belongs to the age group of 15-64 years category. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Though India's fertility rate has been dropping steadily, India becomes the most populous country, outstripping China's population. The National Family Health 5 Survey (2019-21) found that India attained a Total Fertility Rate of 2.0 for the first time, less than the replacement level of 2.1, falling from 2.2 in NFHS 4 (2015-16). **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

STATE OF WORLD POPULATION REPORT 2023

About

- The 2023 report has said that while numbers will continue to grow for several decades, the latest projections suggest that the rate of global population growth has fallen and has been at less than 1 percent since 2020.
- This is largely due to declining fertility; around two-thirds of people live in a country or area with a total fertility rate at or below 2.1 children per woman (widely considered the "replacement fertility" rate, also called the "zero-growth fertility" rate).
- In 1950, the global fertility rate stood at 5.
- The UN has said that already 60% of the world's population lives in a region where the fertility rate is below replacement level, up from 40% in 1990.
- South Asia clocks some of the highest emigration trends, according to the report, with India seeing an estimated net outflow of 3.5 million between 2010 and 2021.
- Pakistan has the highest net flow of migrants, with 16.5 million



	<p>during the same period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ One of the reasons for population growth globally flagged by the UNFPA has been that of increasing life expectancy. Fertility rates have been dropping in various parts of the world, as have mortality rates all over the world, with better access to health care and improving standards of living.➤ The life expectancy among men now stands at 71 years, while among women, it stands at 76 years.➤ Globally, life expectancy reached 72.8 years in 2019, an increase of almost 9 years since 1990.➤ Further reductions in mortality are projected to result in an average longevity of around 77.2 years globally in 2050.➤ The share of the global population aged 65 years or above is projected to rise from 10 percent in 2022 to 16 percent in 2050.➤ By 2050, the number of persons aged 65 years and above is expected to be more than double that of 5-year-olds and the same as 12-year-olds.➤ Once fertility rates drop in high-fertility regions such as sub-Saharan Africa, the global population will start to decline.
<p>82. Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In India, Non-Banking Financial Companies can access the Liquidity Adjustment Facility window of the Reserve Bank of India.2. In India, Foreign Institutional Investors can hold the Government Securities (G-Secs).3. In India, Stock Exchanges can offer separate trading platforms for debts. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only (c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) 2 and 3 only</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO 03 – Q.NO.65- DIRECT REFLECTION</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Open Market Operations, which involve the outright selling or purchase of securities, are considered to be permanent in nature.2. Under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility, the agreement specifies the date and price of resale/repurchase of government securities. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>



EXPLANATION:

Open Market Operations refers to the buying and selling of bonds issued by the Government in the open market. This purchase and sale is entrusted to the Central bank on behalf of the Government.

When RBI buys a Government bond in the open market, it pays for it by giving a cheque. This cheque increases the total amount of reserves in the Economy and thus increases the money supply.

Selling of a bond by RBI (to private individuals or institutions) leads to a reduction in the quantity of reserves and, hence, the money supply.

There are two types of Open Mark Operations

- Outright Open Market Operations
- Repo Open Market Operations

Outright Open Market Operations are selling or purchasing securities without any repurchase agreements (repos), which is considered to be permanent in nature.

So, Statement 1 is correct.

A liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) is a tool used in monetary policy, primarily by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), that allows banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements (repos) or to make loans to the RBI through reverse repo agreements.

This arrangement is effective in managing liquidity pressures and assuring basic stability in the financial markets. While the Liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) is a daily open market operations in the form of outright resale/repurchase of dated Government securities. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

TEST NO 21 – Q.NO.42

Which of the following are characteristics of Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)?

1. Speculative nature of investment
2. Investment accompanied by technology transfer
3. Investors exert influence on the management of the enterprise
4. Investment in financial assets

Select the correct codes from the options given below:

(a) 1 and 4 only

(b) 2 and 3 only



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

EXPLANATION:

Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) refers to investments made by foreign individuals, institutional investors, or funds in financial instruments. These instruments include stocks, bonds, mutual funds, government securities, and others.

FPIs are made in the secondary market through stock exchanges with short-term interest and for short periods. However, FPI is subject to higher volatility due to the speculative nature of some investments and the ease of capital movements. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

FPI is one of the easiest methods of investing abroad. Unlike foreign direct investment (FDI), which involves long-term investments in physical assets, FPI involves investment in financial assets through the purchase of securities. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

Foreign Direct Investments (Not the FPI) play a role in technology transfer by introducing and providing knowledge about technology and science that may not be available in developing countries. Foreign direct investment (FDI) can transfer funds and other factors from developed countries to developing countries, improving competitiveness for companies. Therefore, Foreign portfolio Investment is not accompanied by technology transfer. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

FPI investors do not actively participate in the management or decision-making of the companies they invest in. They are considered passive investors, seeking opportunities for diversification and potentially higher returns in different markets. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT (FPI)	
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Increased Access to Capital: FPIs can provide companies with a much-needed source of capital for growth and expansion. This is especially beneficial for companies in emerging markets, where access to capital can be limited.➤ Improved Liquidity: FPIs can help to improve the liquidity of a company's stock, making it easier for the company to raise capital



		<p>and for investors to buy and sell shares. This can lead to higher stock prices and increased shareholder value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Diversification: FPIs can help companies diversify their shareholder base, which can reduce the risk of a takeover or hostile bid. This can be especially beneficial for companies in industries that are prone to consolidation.➤ Access to New Markets: Foreign Portfolio Investment can help companies access new markets and expand their business internationally. This can lead to increased sales, profits, and shareholder value.
	Demerits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Economic turmoil and political instability may have a negative impact on any investment via the FPI route. Markets in any country are inherently volatile.➤ Despite the fluid nature of FPIs, losses may pile up if funds are not withdrawn hastily.
	Categories	<p>Following are the primary three categories of FPI in India-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Category I (or low risk) – This contains financial assets backed by the Indian government. Examples are government bonds, any fund owned by the Indian state, a sovereign wealth fund, etc.➤ Category II (or moderate risk) – This includes bank deposits, mutual funds, insurance policies, pension funds, etc.➤ Category III (or high risk) – This comprises all such foreign portfolio investments that are not covered under the first two categories, like charitable trusts or endowments.

TEST NO 03 – Q.NO.86

With reference to the monetary policy framework in India, which of the following statements is **not** correct?

(a) **The objective of the monetary policy is to solely maintain price stability.**

(b) The RBI Act of 1934 provides for the inflation target to be set by the government of India, in consultation with RBI, once every five years.

- (c) The RBI shall be seen to have failed to meet the inflation target if inflation is more than the upper tolerance level of 6% or less than the lower tolerance level of 2% for three consecutive quarters.
- (d) The RBI should organize at least four Monetary Policy Committee meetings in a year.

EXPLANATION:

The Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India signed a Monetary Policy Framework Agreement on 20 February 2015.

The objective of the monetary policy framework is primarily (not solely) to maintain price stability and to determine the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target while keeping in mind the objective of growth. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, was amended in 2016 to provide a statutory basis for a monetary policy framework, the MPC and the inflation target to be set by the Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank once every five years. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

In consultation with RBI, the central government sets an inflation target and an upper and lower tolerance level for retail inflation.

Section 45ZN of RBI Act 1934 clearly states that the central bank has been set at 4%, with an upper tolerance limit of 6% and a lower tolerance limit of 2%. The upper and lower limits indicate that although inflation should be close to 4%, the deviation between these limits is acceptable for three consecutive quarters. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

The RBI should organize at least four Monetary Policy Committee meetings in a year and publish its decisions after each meeting as per Section 45Z-I of the RBI Act 1934. The meetings of the Monetary Policy Committee shall be presided over by the Governor and, in his absence, by the Deputy Governor, who is a Member of the Monetary Policy Committee. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MONETARY POLICY	
About	The aim of monetary policy in the initial years of inception of RBI was mainly to maintain the sterling parity, with exchange rate being the nominal anchor of monetary policy.



Monetary Policy Instruments

- Repo Rate: The fixed interest rate which the RBI provides to lend instant money to banks against the government security and other approved collaterals under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF).
- Reverse Repo Rate: The fixed interest rate at which the RBI absorbs liquidity, on an instant basis, from banks against the security of eligible government securities under the LAF.
- Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF): The LAF comprises overnight and term repo auctions. Gradually, the RBI has increased the amount of liquidity injected under the modified variable rate repo auctions of range of tenors. The objective of term repo is to help develop the interbank term money market, which can set market based standards for loan prices and deposits, and hence develop transmission of monetary policy. The RBI also offers variable interest rate reverse repo auctions, as imposed under the market conditions.
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF): A facility under which planned commercial banks can lend extra amount of immediate cash from the RBI by dipping into their Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) collection up till a limit at a penal rate of interest. This, in turn, provides a safety valve against unexpected liquidity shocks to the banking system.
- Corridor: The MSF rate and reverse repo rate regulate the corridor for the daily movement in the weighted average call money rate.
- Bank Rate: It's the rate at which the RBI is ready to purchase or rediscount invoices of exchange or other commercial papers. The bank rate is available under Section 49 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The rate is associated with the MSF rate and changes automatically as and when the MSF rate changes along with the policy repo rate changes.
- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): The average day-to-day balance a bank is required to sustain with the RBI as a share of such per cent of its net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) that the RBI may advise from time to time in the Gazette of India.
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): The share of NDTL a bank is



required to retain in safe and liquid assets, such as tangential government securities, cash, and gold. Variations in SLR often affect the availability of resources in the banking system for lending to the private sector.

- Open Market Operations (OMOs): These include outright purchase and transaction of government securities, for injection and absorption of durable liquidity, respectively.
- Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS): This tool for monetary supervision was introduced in 2004. Excess liquidity of a more lasting nature arising from the inflow of large capital is absorbed via sale of short-dated government collaterals and treasury bills. The cash received is held in a separate government account with the RBI.

TEST NO 14 – Q.NO.97

Consider the following statement with respect to the Clearing house:

1. It is an intermediary that acts as a buyer to all the sellers and as a seller to all the buyers.
2. It will make sure that the buyer and seller will be able to fulfill their obligations.
3. The entity eliminates the need for paper certificates and significantly reduces the costs when transferring the securities from a seller to a buyer.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Clearing House (also called Clearing Corporation) is a specialized entity that helps in the Clearing and Settlement of financial transactions. It is an intermediary that acts as a buyer to all the sellers and as a seller to all the buyers. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

After the trade happens on the Stock Exchange, the buyer wants to be sure that they will receive the securities. Similarly, the seller wants to be sure that the buyer has enough funds to settle the transaction. The Clearing House acts as a guarantor in the Settlement



Process, and it makes sure that the buyer and seller will be able to fulfill their obligations. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

A Depository Organization is an independent entity that helps investors to electronically hold/store their financial securities. All the securities that are traded on the Stock Exchange have to be compulsorily held in Dematerialized form. Having the securities in digital format speeds up the settlement of transactions and allows easy transferability of the securities.

The Depositories (not the Clearing House) eliminate the need for paper certificates and significantly reduce the costs when transferring the securities from a seller to a buyer. This is beneficial for the investors because they can access all their securities in one place and easily receive other benefits like Dividends, Bonus Issues, Rights Entitlement etc. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE INSTITUTIONS	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Market Infrastructure Institutions are a very important part of the financial system in the country.➤ These entities will be involved in almost all of the transactions that take place in the securities market.➤ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the main regulatory body for the Capital Markets in India. So, every MIL in the Stock Market has to be registered with SEBI.➤ The Market Infrastructure Institutions primarily consist of the following 3 entities from the Stock Market:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stock Exchanges (including Commodity Exchanges)• Clearing House / Clearing Corporation• Depository Organization
Stock Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Stock Exchange (including the Commodity Exchange) is a place where financial securities can be easily traded between buyers and sellers. This allows for easy transfer the ownership of the securities and also provides easy entry and exit for the investors.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It also helps companies raise capital from investors by issuing new securities in the Primary Market.➤ These securities could be in the form of Equity or Debt instruments. This way, the savings of the general public can be channeled towards the companies that require capital for expansion projects.
<p>84. Consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Exchange-Traded Funds (ETF)2. Motor vehicles3. Currency swap <p>Which of the above is/are considered financial instruments?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1,2 and 3 (d) 1 and 3 only</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TEST NO 21 – Q.NO.90- DIRECT REFLECTION</p> <p>With reference to Exchange Traded Fund (ETF), consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An ETF is a group of stocks that can be traded like any other listed security.2. An ETF unit can be bought directly from an asset management company without having a demat account.3. Like an ordinary stock, an ETF unit can be traded throughout the day. <p>How many of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>An ETF is a fund that comprises a group of stocks that are listed on an exchange and can be traded like any other listed security. Globally, there are many ETFs on bonds, currencies and commodities as well. In India, gold ETFs are quite popular and have physical gold as the underlying security.</p> <p>Typically, an ETF mirrors a particular index, which means the group of stocks in the ETF would be similar to those in the index that it is benchmarked to. So, for instance, if one buys an ETF mirroring the Nifty, he's indirectly buying all the stocks that are there in the Nifty without going through the trouble of buying each stock individually. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>While an index fund is also designed to mirror a particular index, there are some differences between an ETF and an index fund. First, an index fund is just like any other mutual fund wherein the net asset value (NAV) of the fund is based on the closing price of the underlying securities. In the case of an ETF, however, the NAV is continuously linked to the current</p>

market price of the underlying stocks, which also makes it possible to buy or sell the ETF unit throughout the day, just like an ordinary stock.

But, since an ETF is traded like a stock, one needs a demat account to buy or sell an ETF, whereas an index fund can be bought directly from an asset management company without having a demat account. An ETF can be created for any kind of asset or security that has an index or a liquid market for the underlying securities of the ETF.

So, Statement 2 is not correct, and Statement 3 is correct.

TEST NO 14 – Q.NO.23

Contingency Reserve Arrangement' is associated with which of the following international organizations?

- (a) G7
- (b) G20
- (c) BRICS**
- (d) International Monetary Fund

EXPLANATION:

Contingency Reserve Arrangement (CRA), established in 2015 by BRICS member nations Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, is a framework for the provision of support through liquidity and precautionary instruments in response to actual or potential short-term balance of payments pressures.

The BRICS CRA proposes to provide short-term liquidity support to the members through currency swaps to help mitigate the Balance of Payment (BOP) crisis in case such a situation arises.

CRA will help India and other signatory countries to forestall short-term liquidity pressures, provide mutual support and further strengthen financial stability.

It would also contribute to strengthening the global financial safety net and complement existing international arrangements (from the IMF) as an additional line of defense. **So,**

Option (c) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BRICS	
About	The acronym BRIC, which did not initially include South Africa, was coined in 2001 by then Goldman Sachs chief economist Jim O'Neill in a research



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		<p>paper that underlined the growth potential of Brazil, Russia, India and China.</p> <p>The bloc was founded as an informal club in 2009 to provide a platform for its members to challenge a world order dominated by the United States and its Western allies. Russia initiated its creation.</p> <p>The heads of state and government of the member nations convene annually, with each nation taking up a one-year rotating chairmanship of the Group.</p> <p>Brazil, Russia, India and China are the founding members. South Africa, the smallest member in terms of economic clout and population, was the first beneficiary of an expansion of the bloc in 2010 when the grouping became known as BRICS.</p> <p>Together the countries account for more than 40% of the world population and a quarter of the global economy.</p> <p>Apart from geopolitics, the Group's focus includes economic cooperation and increasing multilateral trade and development.</p> <p>All the BRICS countries are part of the Group of 20 (G20) of major economies.</p>
	<p>New Development Bank</p>	<p>The New Development Bank (NDB) is a multilateral development bank established by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) with the purpose of mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs).</p> <p>Membership of the Bank is open to members of the United Nations.</p> <p>NDB has an initial authorized capital of USD 100 billion, which is divided into one million shares that have a par value of one hundred thousand dollars each. The initial subscribed capital was equally distributed amongst the founding members.</p> <p>NDB's operation will focus on a range of key areas such as Clean energy and energy efficiency, Transport infrastructure, Water and sanitation, Digital infrastructure, Environmental protection and Social infrastructure.</p>



ALL INDIA MOCK TEST I – Q.NO.63- DIRECT REFLECTION

85. With reference to the sectors of the Indian economy, consider the following pairs:

<i>Economic activity</i>	<i>Sector</i>
1. Storage of agricultural produce	Secondary
2. Dairy farm	Primary
3. Mineral exploration	Tertiary
4. Weaving cloth	Secondary

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Consider the following sub-sectors in the estimation of Gross Value Added in India:

1. Electricity, gas, water supply & other utility services
2. Trade, hotels, transport, communication & services related to broadcasting
3. Financial, real estate & professional services
4. Public administration, defence & other services

How many of the above are classified under the tertiary sector?

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

EXPLANATION:

Gross value added (GVA) is defined as the value of output minus the value of intermediate consumption and is a measure of the contribution to GDP made by an individual producer, industry or sector. At its simplest, it gives the rupee value of goods and services produced in the economy after deducting the cost of inputs and raw materials used.

As part of the data on GVA, the National Statistical Office (NSO) provides both quarterly and annual estimates of output — measured by the gross value added — by economic activity. The sectoral classification provides data on eight broad categories that span the gamut of goods produced and services provided in the economy. These are: 1) Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; 2) Mining and Quarrying; 3) Manufacturing; 4) Electricity, Gas, Water Supply and other Utility Services; 5) Construction; 6) Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication and Services related to Broadcasting; 7) Financial, Real Estate and Professional Services; 8) Public Administration, Defence and other Services.

Among these,

- The primary sector comprises Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Mining & Quarrying.
- The secondary sector comprises Manufacturing, Electricity, Gas, Water Supply & Other Utility Services, and Construction. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Tertiary sector comprising Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication and Services related to Broadcasting; Financial, Real Estate and Professional Services; Public Administration, Defence and other Services. **So, Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct.**



TEST NO 14 – Q.NO.16- PARTIAL REFLECTION

86. Consider the following materials:

1. Agricultural residues
2. Corn grain
3. Wastewater treatment sludge
4. Wood mill waste

Which of the above can be used as feedstock for producing Sustainable Aviation Fuel?

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

With reference to 'Global Biofuel Alliance,' consider the following statements:

1. It aims at fostering the adoption of biofuels particularly in the transportation sector.
2. All the members of BRICS nations except Russia and South Africa are the founding members of the alliance.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only**
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

EXPLANATION:

The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) aims at facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels, particularly in the transportation sector. It will emphasize strengthening markets, facilitating global biofuels trade, development of concrete policy lesson-sharing and provision of technical support for national biofuels programs worldwide. Thus, the adoption of biofuels in the transportation sector is not exclusive. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

India, the U.S. and Brazil were the founding members of the Global Biofuel Alliance. Nineteen countries and 12 international organizations have joined GBA. They are as follows:

G20 countries supporting GBA: 1. Argentina, 2. Brazil, 3. Canada, 4. India 5. Italy, 6. South Africa.

G20 Invitee Countries supporting GBA: 1. Bangladesh, 2. Singapore, 3. Mauritius, 4. UAE

Non G20 supporting GBA: 1. Iceland, 2. Kenya, 3. Guyana, 4. Paraguay, 5. Seychelles, 6. Sri Lanka, and 7. Uganda has agreed to be initiated members of GBA, and 8. Finland

International organizations: World Bank, Asian Development Bank, World Economic Forum, World LPG Organization, UN-Energy for All, UNIDO, Biofutures Platform, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Energy Agency, International Energy Forum, International Renewable Energy Agency, World Biogas Association. Thus, China, South Africa and Russia, which were members of BRICS, are not the founding members of the Alliance. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

GLOBAL BIOFUELS ALLIANCE

About	<p>The Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) was launched on 9th September 2023, to strengthen global cooperation for the rapid adoption and deployment of biofuels on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi with the support of 19 countries and 12 international organizations.</p> <p>GBA is a multi-stakeholder alliance of Governments, International Organizations and Industries, bringing together the biggest consumers and producers of biofuels and interested Countries from the Global South to drive the development and deployment of biofuels.</p> <p>The initiative aims to position biofuels as a key to energy transition. GBA is also expected to act as a central repository of knowledge and an expert hub.</p> <p>The Alliance showcases the action-oriented nature of India's positive agenda as G20 President and representing the "Voice of the Global South".</p> <p>The initiative will be beneficial for India on multiple fronts.</p> <p>It will help accelerate India's existing biofuels programs such as Pradhan Matri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojna (PM-JIVAN), Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT), and GOBARdhan scheme, thereby contributing to increased farmers' income, creating jobs and overall development of the Indian ecosystem.</p>
Biofuels	<p>The International Energy Agency (IEA) defines biofuels as "liquid fuels derived from biomass and used as an alternative to fossil fuel-based liquid transportation fuels such as gasoline, diesel and aviation fuels."</p> <p>There is a distinction between biofuels and sustainable biofuels.</p> <p>Biofuels are derived from crops grown specifically to produce biofuels, such as sugarcane, corn, or soybean. It is called 1G ethanol or first-generation biofuel.</p> <p>Sustainable Biofuels are derived from agricultural waste, used cooking oil and processed animal residues like fats. It is called 2G ethanol or second-generation biofuel.</p> <p>The GBA has emphasized that its focus would be to develop 2G ethanol.</p>



87. With reference to physical capital in Indian economy, consider the following pairs:

Items	Category
1. Farmer's plough	Working capital
2. Computer	Fixed capital
3. Yarn used by the weaver	Fixed capital
4. Petrol	Working capital

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

Which of the following is **not** treated as part of Gross Fixed Capital Formation in National Income Accounting?

(a) Construction of public assets like roads

(b) Expenditure on gold

(c) Purchase of machines to expand production

(d) Expenditure on intangible assets like patents

EXPLANATION:

There are three kinds of Capital Formation:

➤ Gross Fixed Capital Formation (acquiring buildings and machinery to produce more goods).

➤ Changes in Stocks (storing up goods for sale at a later date).

➤ Acquisition of Valuables (such as gems, antiques and works of art).

The main types of Gross Fixed Capital Assets are:

- Dwellings and other construction (factories, roads and so on). **So, Option (a) is correct.**

- Machinery and equipment (including vehicles). **So, Option (c) is correct.**

- Cultivated biological resources (for example, orchards and livestock for breeding)

- Intangible fixed assets (for example, research and development, patents, computer software, original works of art, and oil and gas exploration). **So, Option (d) is correct.**

- Costs of transfer of ownership of Non-Produced Non-Financial Assets such as land (for example, stamp duties and solicitors' fees).

➤ Changes in Stocks: The second kind of capital formation is changes in assets which are not fixed but are expected to be sold. These are changes in stocks, in other words, the change in the value of goods in the company's warehouse.

➤ Acquisition of valuables (third kind of capital formation) is generally a small part of the total Capital Formation. Valuables are goods that are not used to produce other goods or services; that is, they are not part of the Gross Fixed Capital Formation. Furthermore, valuables do not generally deteriorate over time: that is, they are not part of Final Consumption Expenditure. Valuables are goods that are bought as a way of storing value. They include precious stones such as diamonds, precious metals such as gold, and antiques and art objects such as paintings. Value is also stored in Financial Assets as well as in Valuables. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**



TEST NO 10 – Q.NO.1- DIRECT REFLECTION

90. With reference to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) rules in India, consider the following statements:

1. CSR rules specify that expenditures that benefit the company directly or its employees will not be considered as CSR activities.
2. CSR rules do not specify minimum spending on CSR activities.

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

With reference to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), consider the following statements:

1. It will push the nation towards achievement of sustainable development goals and public-private partnership in transforming India.
2. India is the only country which has regulated and mandated CSR for some select categories of companies registered under the Companies Act, 2013
3. All the registered and public holding company will automatically be covered under this in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Enactment of Companies Act, 2013 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India was one of the world's largest experiments in introducing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as a mandatory provision by imposing a statutory obligation on Companies to take up CSR projects toward social welfare activities.

The act made India the only country that has regulated and mandated CSR for some select categories of companies registered under the Companies Act of 2013. This CSR Initiative will push the nation towards the achievement of sustainable development goals and public-private partnerships in transforming India. **So, Statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

A company satisfying any of the following criteria during the immediately preceding financial year has to comply with CSR provisions specified under section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with the CSR Rules made thereunder:

- A net worth of rupees 500 crore or more,
- Turnover of rupees 1000 crore or more,
- A net profit (as calculated under Section 198 with other adjustments as referred to in Rule 2(h) of CSR Rules.) of rupees 5 crore or more.



The Central Government may give directions to a company or class of companies as it considers necessary to ensure compliance with provisions of this section, and such company or class of companies shall be required to comply with such directions. Thus, all the registered and public holding companies will not automatically be covered under this in India. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NATIONAL CSR AWARDS	
About	Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India has instituted National Corporate Responsibility (CSR) Awards to recognize companies that have made a positive impact on society through their innovative & sustainable CSR initiatives. This award is the apex recognition of CSR initiatives in India.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ To increase competition in various categories of companies to infuse excellence in their CSR activities➤ To encourage companies to spend the entire amount, i.e., eligible CSR spend;➤ To recognize the impact, innovation, usage of technology, gender and environment issues, sustainability, scalability and replicability of CSR activities;➤ To channelize CSR activities of corporates so that the benefits of their activities reach the marginalized sections of society and in remote areas of the country.
Award Categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Category I - Corporate Awards for Excellence in CSR<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Companies having eligible CSR spend equal and above Rs. 100 Crores;• Companies having eligible CSR spend equal and above rs. 10 crores and less than Rs. 100 Crores;• Companies having eligible CSR spend equal and above rs.1 crore and less than Rs.10 Crores;• Companies having eligible CSR spend below Rs. 1 Crore



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Category II - CSR Awards for CSR in Aspirational Districts / Difficult Terrains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern India • North-East India • North-East India ➤ Category III - CSR Awards for contribution in National Priority Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Skill Development and Livelihoods • Agriculture and Rural Development • Health, Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation • Environment, Sustainable Development and Solar Energy • Women and Child Development • Technology Incubation • Promotion of Sports • Slum Area Development • Heritage, Art and Culture • Support to Differently-Abled
<p>95. Consider the following aircraft:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rafael 2. MiG-29 3. Tejas MK-1 <p>How many of the above are considered fifth generation fighter aircraft?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ONLINE MOCK TEST I – Q.NO.49- DIRECT REFLECTION</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements with respect to the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas MK-1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a lightweight, all-weather, multi-role 4.5 generation supersonic fighter aircraft. 2. Quadruplex fly-by-wire flight control is a notable technologies incorporated into the aircraft. 3. The aircraft can be armed with Agni Prime and Prithvi II missiles in its navy version. <p>How many of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p>

EXPLANATION:

The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A is the most advanced version of Tejas fighter aircraft. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has already operationalised the LCA Mk1 variant. The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) recently handed over the first trainer version of the twin-seater Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas to the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Bengaluru. **The LCA Tejas Twin Seater is a lightweight, all-weather multirole 4.5 generation aircraft.** It is designed to support the training requirements of the IAF and augment itself to the role of a fighter in case of necessity. Hence, the given specifications belong to the LCA Tejas Twin Seater. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The LCA trainer is a lightweight, all-weather, multirole aircraft which can undertake all roles of a single seat Tejas fighter and can also be used as a fighter trainer. This is the first time ever that an indigenous twin seat fighter has been designed, developed and manufactured in India. With an amalgamation of contemporary concepts and technologies such as quadruplex fly-by-wire flight control, carefree manoeuvring, advanced glass cockpit, integrated digital avionics systems and advanced composite materials for the airframe, it is a state-of-the-art aircraft. The fighter aircraft has enhanced the defence capabilities and preparedness of the nation. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Tejas aircraft can be armed with air-to-air, air-to-ground and anti-ship missiles, precision-guided munitions, rockets and bombs. Electronic warfare, targeting, surveillance, reconnaissance or training pods can be carried on the hardpoints. Drop tanks can also be carried. The Mk-1A will come with digital radar warning receivers, a superior AESA (active electronically scanned array) radar, advanced beyond-visual-range (BVR) air-to-air missiles and external self-protection jammer pods, among other improvements. But Agni Prime and Prithvi II missiles are surface-to-surface missiles, and these cannot be armed in Tejas aircrafts. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

97. Which one of the following is the exhaust pipe emission from Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles, powered by hydrogen?
- (a) Hydrogen peroxide
(b) Hydronium
(c) Oxygen
(d) Water vapour

TEST NO 05 – Q.NO.71- DIRECT REFLECTION

With reference to the process of Combustion, consider the following statements:

1. It is a chemical process in which a substance reacts rapidly with oxygen and is exothermic.
2. Due to very high temperature, the products of Combustion always occur as a gas, never as a solid or liquid.

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

EXPLANATION:

Combustion is a chemical process in which a substance reacts with oxygen to release heat. The substance that undergoes Combustion is said to be combustible. It is also called a fuel. The fuel may be solid, liquid or gas. Sometimes, light is also given off, either as a flame or as a glow. Exothermic reactions are those reactions which proceed with the evolution of heat. Thus, Combustion reacts rapidly with oxygen and is an exothermic process. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

New chemical substances are created during Combustion from the fuel and the oxidizer. These substances are called exhaust. Combustion of most fuels releases water and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The exhaust temperature is high because of the heat transferred to the exhaust during Combustion. Because of the high temperatures, exhaust usually occurs as a gas, but there can also be liquid or solid exhaust products. Soot, for example, is a form of solid exhaust that occurs in some combustion processes. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Combustion Reaction Examples





ONLINE MOCK TEST II – Q.NO.47- DIRECT REFLECTION

100. With reference to the Indian economy, “Collateral Borrowing and Lending Obligations” are the instruments of:

- (a) Bond market
- (b) Forex market
- (c) Money market**
- (d) Stock market

Consider the following statement with reference to the money market:

1. The Collateralized Borrowing and Lending Obligation (CBLO) market is a money market segment operated by the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL).
2. Institutions that have either no access or restricted access to interbank call money can participate in CBLO.

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

EXPLANATION:

The Collateralized Borrowing and Lending Obligation (CBLO) market is a money market segment operated by the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL). In the CBLO market, financial entities can avail of short term loans by providing prescribed securities as collateral. In terms of functioning and objectives, the CBLO market is almost similar to the call money market.

The uniqueness of CBLO is that lenders and borrowers use collateral for their activities. For example, borrowers of funds have to provide collateral in the form of government securities and lenders will get it while giving loans. There is no such need for collateral under the call money market.

So, Statement 1 is correct.

In the CBLO market, members can borrow or lend funds against the collateral of eligible securities. Eligible securities are Central Government securities, including Treasury Bills, and such other securities as specified by the CCIL. Borrowers in CBLO have to deposit the required amount of eligible securities with the CCIL. For trading, the CCIL matches the borrowing and lending orders (order matching) submitted by the members. Borrowers have to pay interest to the lenders in accordance with the bid.

Institutions participating in CBLO are entities that have either no access or restricted access to the inter-bank call money market. Still, institutions active in the call money market can participate in the CBLO market. Nationalized Banks, Private Banks, Foreign Banks, Co-operative Banks, Insurance Companies, Mutual Funds, Primary Dealers, Bank cum Primary Dealers, NBFC, Corporate, Provident/ Pension Funds etc., are eligible for CBLO membership. These institutions have to avail of a CBLO membership to do activities in the market. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**



UPSC PRELIMINARY 2024 – PREFIT REFLECTIONS

- Out of 100 Questions asked in UPSC Civil Service Preliminary Examination, 2024.
- 34 questions are reflected from the PREFIT TEST SERIES 2024.

UPSC PRELIMS 2024 – REFLECTED QUESTIONS IN PREFIT

UPSC 2024 - SERIES D	PREFIT2023-2024 REFLEX
<p>1. How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023?</p> <p>(a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Four</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>TEST NO.15 Q.30</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>Statement 1: Modifications are made in the orders of the delimitation commission by the Parliament</p> <p>Statement 2: The Delimitation Commission is constituted through the Act of the Parliament for readjusting the constituency after every census</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>Delimitation literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body. Such a body is known as the Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission. The Delimitation Commission in India is a high-power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called into question before any court. These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India on this behalf. The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them. So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> <p>After every census, a readjustment is to be made in (a) allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha to the states and (b) division of each state into territorial constituencies. Parliament is empowered to determine the authority and the manner in which it is to be made. Accordingly, the Parliament has enacted the Delimitation Commissions 4 times under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002 for this purpose. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p>



TEST NO.09 – Q.NO.9

2. The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 amends the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution to include which of the following languages?

1. Konkani
2. Manipuri
3. Nepali
4. Maithili

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Language can be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution through

- (a) An ordinary law
(b) A constitutional amendment law
(c) An executive resolution
(d) A resolution passed by the Rajya Sabha

EXPLANATION:

A language can be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution only through a constitutional amendment law.

- The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the languages that are recognized by the Constitution. Originally, it had 14 languages but presently there are 22 languages.
- They are Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri (Dongri), Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Mathili (Maithili), Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.
- Sindhi was added by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967;
- **Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992;** and
- Bodo, Dongri, Maithili and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003.
- Oriya was renamed as 'Odia' by the 96th Amendment Act of 2011.

So, Option (b) is correct.

TEST NO.10 – Q.NO.4

6. Under which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India has the Supreme Court of India placed the Right to Privacy?

- (a) Article 15
(b) Article 18
(c) Article 19
(d) Article 21

Which of the following rights are part of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution?

- 1. Right to privacy**
2. Right to speedy trial
3. Right against bonded labour
4. Right to work
5. Right to livelihood
6. Right to reputation
7. Right of women to be treated with dignity
Select the correct answer using the code given below
(a) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7 only
(b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7



EXPLANATION:

Article 21 declares that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. This right is available to both citizens and non-citizens.

The following rights have been determined to be a part of Article 21 by the Supreme Court in its ruling in the Menaka case and in the cases that subsequently followed:

- Right to live with human dignity.
- Right to decent environment including pollution free water and air and protection against hazardous industries.
- Right to livelihood.
- **Right to privacy.**
- Right to shelter.
- Right to health.
- Right to free education up to 14 years of age.
- Right to free legal aid.
- Right against solitary confinement.
- Right to speedy trial.
- Right against handcuffing.
- Right against inhuman treatment.
- Right against delayed execution.
- Right to travel abroad
- Right against bonded labour.
- Right against custodial harassment.
- Right to emergency medical aid.
- Right to timely medical treatment in government hospitals.
- Right not to be driven out of a state.
- Right to a fair trial.
- Right of a prisoner to have necessities of life.
- Right of women to be treated with decency and dignity.
- Right against public hanging.
- Right to the road in hilly areas.
- Right to information.
- Right to reputation.
- Right of appeal from a judgment of conviction
- Right to family pension

- Right to social and economic justice and empowerment
- Right against bar fetters
- Right to appropriate life insurance policy
- Right to sleep
- Right to freedom from noise pollution
- Right to sustainable development
- Right to opportunity.

Hence, Article 21 does not explicitly recognise the 'right to work' as a fundamental right. It is placed in Part IV (Directive Principles of State Policy) of the Constitution under Article 41, mentioned Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases. The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

TEST NO.12 – Q.NO.28

18. Which of the following statements are correct in respect of a Money Bill in the Parliament ?

1. Article 109 mentions special procedure in respect of Money Bills
2. A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States
3. The Rajya Sabha can either approve the Bill or suggest changes but cannot reject it
4. Amendments to a Money Bill suggested by the Rajya Sabha have to be accepted by the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution lays down a special procedure for the passing of money bills in the Parliament.
2. There is no provision for a Joint sitting of both the Houses in case of a Money bill.
3. All money bills are financial bills and Vice-versa.
4. Money bills and Finance bills cannot be amended or rejected by the Rajya Sabha.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 109 Constitution of India contains the Special procedure in respect of Money Bill like:

- **A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States.**
- After the House of the People passes a Money Bill, it is sent to the Council of States for recommendations. The Council of States must return the Bill within fourteen days, and the House of the People can then either accept or reject the Council's recommendations.
- If the House of the People accepts Council of States' recommendations on a Money Bill, it is considered passed by both Houses with the accepted amendments.



- If the House of the People rejects all recommendations from the Council of States regarding a Money Bill, the Bill is considered passed by both Houses in its original form as passed by the House of the People, without any amendments suggested by the Council of States.

If a Money Bill transmitted to the Council of States is not returned within 14 days, it is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form passed by the House of the People.

So, Statement 1 is correct.

The Parliament of India is bicameral, and both houses must agree to pass a bill. However, the Constitution of India specifies in Article 108 the provision for joint sitting if the deadlock between the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha arises. The provision of joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills or financial bills only and not to money bills or Constitutional amendment bills.

So, Statement 2 is correct.

Money bills are simply a species of financial bills. Hence, all money bills are financial bills, but all financial bills are not money bills. Only those financial bills are money bills that contain exclusively those matters that are mentioned in Article 110 of the Constitution. These are also certified by the Speaker of Lok Sabha as money bills. The financial bills (i) and (ii), on the other hand, have been dealt with in Article 117 of the Constitution.

So, Statement 3 is not correct.

Article 109 of the Constitution limits the powers of the Rajya Sabha regarding Money Bills. After passage by the Lok Sabha, a Money Bill was sent to the Rajya Sabha for recommendations. The Lok Sabha can accept or reject Rajya Sabha's recommendations, and if not accepted, the Money Bill is deemed passed by both Houses. If the Rajya Sabha fails to return the Money Bill within fourteen days, it is deemed passed in the form approved by the Lok Sabha. Hence, it cannot reject money bills.

- Financial Bill (I) can be introduced only on the recommendation of the President, and it is governed by the same legislative procedure applicable to an ordinary bill. Hence, it can be either rejected or amended by the Rajya Sabha
- Financial bill (II) can be introduced in either House of Parliament and recommendation of the President is not necessary for its introduction. It can be either rejected or amended by either House of Parliament.
- **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**



20. The North Eastern Council (NEC) was established by the North Eastern Council Act, 197 Subsequent to the amendment of NEC Act in 2002, the Council comprises which of the following members?

1. Governor of the Constituent State
2. Chief Minister of the Constituent State
3. Three Members to be nominated by the President of India
4. The Home Minister of India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Consider the following statements:

1. Zonal council are advisory bodies notified by a government notification time to time.
2. Zonal council provides excellent forum where irritants between center and states and amongst states can be resolved through discussion.
3. North eastern council, which is one among the five zonal council consist of 8 states and Sikkim was the last state to be included in 2002.
4. The chief ministers of each zone act as the chairperson in rotation for the term of one year each.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies. They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956. The act divided the country into five zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone. However, Each Zonal Council is an advisory body. **Statement 1 is not correct.**

The Zonal Councils provide an excellent forum where irritants between Centre and States and amongst States can be resolved through free and frank discussions and consultations. Being advisory bodies, there is full scope for free and frank exchange of views in their meetings. **Statement 2 is correct.**

In addition to the five Zonal Councils, a North-Eastern Council was created by a separate Act of Parliament-the North-Eastern Council Act of 1971. 8 Its members include Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunchal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim. However, The State of Sikkim has also been included in the North Eastern Council vide North Eastern Council (Amendment) Act, 2002 notified on 23rd December 2002. **Statement 3 is not correct.**

The **home minister of Central government is the common chairman of the five zonal councils**. Each chief minister acts as a vice-chairman of the council by rotation, holding office for a period of one year at a time. **Statement 4 is not correct.**



21. Consider the following statements regarding 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam'.

1. Provisions will come into effect from the 18th Lok Sabha.
2. This will be in force for 15 years after becoming an Act.
3. There are provisions for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes Women within the quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

With reference to 106th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2023, Consider the following statements :

1. The Act provides 1/3rd of reservation to women in both the Lok Sabha and state legislative Assemblies
2. The reservation for women will be provided for 10 years

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

EXPLANATION:

- The President has given assent to the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023. The key amendments include the reservation of 33% seats for women in the House of People (Lok Sabha) & in the Legislative Assemblies of State. Further, the Act provides a framework for the reservation of seats for women in the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- According to a government source, the Bill does not require ratification by the states since it doesn't change the actual number of seats that the states have in Parliament. So state representation in Parliament remains unaffected".

So, Statement 1 is correct.

During the special session of Parliament, the Prime Minister of India had described the law as "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam." The law, however, will be implemented after the next census and the subsequent delimitation exercise redrawing of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies will determine the particular seats that are to be reserved for women. The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies will continue for 15 years, and Parliament can later extend the benefit period. Seats reserved for women will be rotated after each delimitation exercise. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**



TEST NO.13 – Q.NO.25

23. A Writ of Prohibition is an order issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts to :

- (a) A government officer prohibiting him from taking a particular action.
- (b) The Parliament/ Legislative Assembly to pass a law on Prohibition
- (c) the lower court prohibiting continuation of proceedings in a case**
- (d) the Government prohibiting it from following an unconstitutional policy.

The writ of prohibition can be issued against which of the following authorities?

- 1. Judicial authority
- 2. Administrative authority
- 3. Legislative bodies
- 4. Quasi-judicial authority

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

EXPLANATION:

The writ of prohibition is a writ issued by the Supreme Court or a High Court to an inferior court forbidding the latter to continue proceedings therein in excess of its jurisdiction or to usurp a jurisdiction with which it is not legally vested. In other words, the object of the writ is to compel inferior courts to keep themselves within the limits of their jurisdiction.

- Literally, it means 'to forbid.' It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal to prevent the latter from exceeding its jurisdiction or usurping a jurisdiction that it does not possess.
- The writ of prohibition can be issued only against judicial and quasi-judicial authorities. **So, Statements 1 and 4 are correct.**
- It is not available against administrative authorities, legislative bodies, and private individuals or bodies. **So, Statements 2 and 3 are not correct.**

TEST NO.9 – Q.NO.8 (PARTIALLY REFLEX)

24. Consider the following statements :

- 1. It is the Governor of the State who recognizes and declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe.
 - 2. A community declared as Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State.
- 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

Consider the following statements :

- 1. The Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides for the formation of an Autonomous District Council(ADCs).
- 2. ADCs have legislative and administrative autonomy within the state but not Judicial autonomy.

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**

EXPLANATION:

- The formation of Autonomous District Councils is provided in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution as the tribal areas in the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram



- have been constituted as autonomous districts.
- Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of 30 members, of whom four are nominated by the governor and the remaining 26 are elected based on adult franchise. The elected members hold office for a term of five years (unless the council is dissolved earlier) and nominated members hold office during the pleasure of the governor.
 - Each autonomous region also has a separate regional council.
 - While the **Fifth Schedule deals with the provisions relating to the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.**

So, Statement 1 is not correct.

- The district and regional councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction. They can make laws on certain specified matters like land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs and so on. But all such laws require the assent of the governor.
- The **district and regional councils within their territorial jurisdictions can constitute village councils or courts for the trial of suits and cases between the tribes.** They hear appeals from them. The jurisdiction of the high court over these suits and cases is specified by the governor.
- The district council can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district. It can also make regulations for the control of money lending and trading by nontribes. But, such regulations require the assent of the governor.
- The district and regional councils are empowered to assess and collect land revenue and to impose certain specified taxes.

So, Statement 2 is not correct.

TEST NO.15 – Q.NO.19(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

Consider the following states:

1. Gujarat
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Jharkhand
5. Maharastra



How many of those above mentioned states have areas notified under the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution envisages a special system of administration for certain areas designated as 'scheduled areas' and 'tribal areas'. The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

The scheduled areas are treated differently from the other areas in the country because they are inhabited by 'aboriginals' who are socially and economically rather backward, and special efforts need to be made to improve their condition. The various features of administration contained in the Fifth Schedule are as follows:

- The president is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area. The executive power of a state extends to the scheduled areas therein.
- But the governor has a special responsibility regarding such areas. Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribe's advisory council to advise on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes. It is to consist of 20 members, three-fourths of whom are to be the representatives of the scheduled tribes in the state legislative assembly.
- The governor is empowered to direct that any particular act of Parliament or the state legislature does not apply to a scheduled area or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
- At present, 10 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana have Fifth Schedule Areas. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

TEST NO.15 – Q.NO.24 (PARTIALLY REFLEX)

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution specifies the conditions for designating an area as a Scheduled Area.
2. While exercising the power under the Fifth schedule, the Governor is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.



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

EXPLANATION:

The Fifth Schedule under Article 244(1) of Constitution defines “Scheduled Areas” as such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas after consultation with the Governor of that State.

The First Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission, also known as the Dhebar Commission (1960-61) laid down the following criteria for declaring any area as a ‘Scheduled Area’ under the Fifth Schedule

Criteria for declaring any area as a “Scheduled Area under the Fifth Schedule are:

- Preponderance of tribal population,
- Compactness and reasonable size of the area,
- A viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk, and
- Economic backwardness of the area as compared to the neighbouring areas.

The above criteria for declaration of scheduled areas is as such not spelt out in the constitution, but has become well established. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

While exercising powers under the Fifth Schedule, there is considerable debate as well as litigation on whether or not the powers conferred upon the Governor by the Fifth Schedule can be exercised without explicit sanction from the State government, and whether he is, in fact, bound by the advice of the Central Government. It has been argued that the Governor, while exercising his powers under the Fifth Schedule, is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers and must exercise the function independently. This position has received affirmation from the Courts as well. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**



TEST NO.38 – Q.NO.15(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

25. With reference to Union Budget, consider the following statements :

1. The Union Finance Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister lays the Annual financial statement before both the Houses of Parliament.
2. At the Union level no demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President of India.

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

With reference to Government Budgeting, consider the following statements

1. The constitution of India mandates the government to present Annual Financial Statement every year in Parliament
2. The budget is considered as Balanced budget when revenue of the government exceeds the expenditure of the government

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

EXPLANATION:

There is a constitutional requirement in India (Article 112) to present before the Parliament a statement of estimated receipts and expenditures of the government in respect of every financial year which runs from 1 April to 31 March. This 'Annual Financial Statement' constitutes the main budget document of the government. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The government may spend an amount equal to the revenue it collects. This is known as a balanced budget. If it needs to incur higher expenditure, it will have to raise the amount through taxes in order to keep the budget balanced. When tax collection exceeds the required expenditure, the budget is said to be in surplus. However, the most common feature is the situation when expenditure exceeds revenue. This is when the government runs a budget deficit. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

TEST NO.16 – Q.NO.19 (PARTIALLY REFLEX)

Which of the following is/are Constitutional provisions with regard to the enactment of the budget?

1. Parliament can reduce or abolish a tax but cannot increase it.
2. The budget shall distinguish expenditure on revenue account from other expenditures.
3. No money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India except under appropriation made by law.
4. The Rajya Sabha has no power to vote on the demand for grants.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

EXPLANATION:

The Constitution of India contains the following provisions with regard to the enactment of budget. No tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law. According to Article 117 Parliament can reduce or abolish a tax but cannot increase it. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

According to Article 112, The estimates of expenditure embodied in the budget shall show separately the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and the expenditure made from the Consolidated Fund of India. The budget shall distinguish expenditure on revenue account from other expenditure. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The President shall in respect of every financial year cause to be laid before both the Houses of Parliament a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for that year. No demand for a grant shall be made except on the recommendation of the President. No money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India except under appropriation made by law. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

The Constitution has also defined the relative roles or position of both the Houses of Parliament with regard to the enactment of the budget. **According to Article 113, the Rajya Sabha has no power to vote on the demand for grants; it is the exclusive privilege of the Lok Sabha. So, Statement 4 is correct.**

TEST NO.57 – Q.NO.64

30. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which one of the following is the largest source of sulphur dioxide emissions?

- (a) Locomotives using fossil fuels
- (b) Ships using fossil fuels
- (c) Extraction of metals from ores
- (d) Power plants using fossil fuels**

Identify the following air pollutants with respect to the given statements:

- 1. It is a gas produced from burning coal, mainly in thermal power plants.
- 2. It is a major contributor to smog and acid rain.
- 3. It is used in some industrial processes, such as the production of paper and smelting metals.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) Sulphur dioxide**
- (b) Carbon dioxide
- (c) Carbon monoxide
- (d) Lead

EXPLANATION:

Sulfurdioxide, (SO₂), inorganic compound, a heavy, colourless, poisonous gas. It is produced in huge quantities in intermediate steps of sulfuric acid manufacture. Sulfur dioxide has a pungent, irritating odour, familiar as the smell of a just-struck match. It is a gas produced from burning coal, mainly in thermal power plants. Some industrial processes, such as production of paper and smelting of metals, produce sulphur dioxide. It is a major contributor to smog and acid rain. Sulfur dioxide can lead to lung diseases. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

TEST NO.34 – Q.NO.28

33. Consider the following statements in respect of the digital rupee :

1. It is a sovereign currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India RHI in alignment with its monetary policy.
2. It appears as a liability on the RBI's balance sheet.
3. It is insured against inflation by its very design.
4. It is freely convertible against commercial bank money and cash.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Consider the following statements about the Central Bank Digital Currencies (e-rupee):

1. It is a legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form.
2. It is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency at par.
3. It will earn interest income like cash.
4. It can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

RBI Act 1934 had been amended to include e-rupee in 'bank note' and now it's a legal tender. E-Rupee is a legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

- It is the same as a fiat currency and is no different from cash
- It is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency (bank notes/cash) at par.
- Only its form is different i.e., digital. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- E-rupee will not replace cash rather it will complement it
- It will be issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently issued
- E-rupee will be distributed through intermediaries i.e., banks and it can be converted to other forms of money like deposits with bank. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**
- E-rupee will not earn any interest like cash. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**



35. Consider the following information:

	Archaeological Site	State	Description
1.	Chandraketugarh	Odisha	Trading Port town
2.	Inamgaon	Maharashtra	Chalcolithic site
3.	Mangadu	Kerala	Megalithic site
4.	Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh	Rock-cut cave shrines

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

With reference to Chalcolithic settlement in India, Consider the following statements:

1. Chalcolithic people used black and red, wheel turned pots
2. Chalcolithic people domesticated camels in many parts of the settlement
3. Chalcolithic people were not familiar with the cultivation of cotton
4. Chalcolithic people were generally not acquainted with burnt bricks

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Towards the end of the Neolithic period began the use of metals. The metal to be used first was copper, and several cultures were based on the use of stone and copper implements. Such a culture is called chalcolithic. The people of the stone copper phase used different types of pottery, one of which is called black-and-red and seems to have been widely prevalent. It was thrown on the wheel and occasionally painted with white linear designs. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The people living in the stone-copper age in south-eastern Rajasthan, western Madhya Pradesh and western Maharashtra domesticated animals and cultivated food grains. They kept cows, sheep, goats, pigs and buffaloes and hunted deer. Remains of the camel have also been found. It is not clear whether they were acquainted with the horse. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Chalcolithic people produced wheat and rice; in addition to these staple crops, they also cultivated bajra. They produced several pulses such as the lentil (masur), black gram, green gram, and glass pea. Cotton was produced in the black cotton soil of the Deccan, and ragi, bajra and several millets were cultivated in the lower Deccan. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

The Chalcolithic people were generally not acquainted with burnt bricks, which were seldom used. Occasionally their houses were made of mud bricks, but mostly, these were constructed with wattle and daub and seem to have been thatched houses. **At Inamgaon, in the earlier Chalcolithic phase in western Maharashtra, large mud houses with ovens and circular pit houses have been discovered. So, Statement 4 is correct.**



37. With reference to revenue collection by Cornwallis, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Ryotwari Settlement of revenue collection, the peasants were exempted from revenue payment in case of had harvests or natural calamities.
2. Under the Permanent settlement in Bengal, if the Zamindar failed to pay his revenues to the state, on or before the fixed date, he would be removed from his Zamindari.

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

Consider the following statements with reference to the Zamindari Land revenue settlement

1. Lord Cornwallis, James Grant and Sir John Shore were all associated with the Zamindari system.
 2. The Zamindari system covers the areas of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Northern Madras.
 3. Zamindars were required to issue pattas to each cultivator under this system.
 4. The Permanent Settlement covered more than one-fourth of the territory under British rule.
- How many statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

In 1776, Philip Francis, a member of Hastings' council, recommended a permanent settlement or Zamindari system inland revenue. In the end, Lord Cornwallis was sent as governor-general with instructions that the land revenue settlements with the zamindars be made permanent. Lord Cornwallis set up a committee consisting of himself, Sir John Shore, and James Grant to examine the issue.

Cornwallis, himself a member of the landed aristocracy of Britain, favoured giving the right of ownership to the zamindars, who, he hoped, would improve the land as English landlords did. Also, the number of cultivators being too large, it was seen to be simpler to collect the revenue from the smaller number of zamindars. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Zamindari system introduced in Bengal and Bihar, it was extended to Orissa, Banaras (Varanasi), and northern Madras. Every piece of land in the areas where the permanent settlement was promulgated became a part of some zamindari or other. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Under the settlement, zamindars were required to issue written agreements (pattas) to each cultivator, specifying what tenant was to pay. However, no such agreements were made; the result was that the peasants were at the mercy of the zamindars to be exploited and harassed for more rent, driving the cultivators into the clutch of moneylenders. The peasantry was reduced to serfdom. **So, Statement 3 correct.**



A fixed tax on the land had to be paid by the zamindar, and the revenue was to be collected by him from the cultivators who had now become tenants (the ryots or raiyyats). **The zamindar was allowed to keep one-tenth to one-eleventh of the revenue and give the rest to the Company government.** The Zamindari System covered around 19 per cent of the territory under British rule. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

With reference to the Ryotwari settlement, Consider the following statements:

1. Thomas Munro introduced the Ryotwari system in the Madras Presidency in the early 19th Century.
2. Ownership and Occupancy rights were vested with the ryots, and limits were imposed on the extend of land they could own.
3. The settlement was not permanent and could be revised periodically.
4. Ryotwari system also covers major parts of the North Western Province, Central Province and the Punjab.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

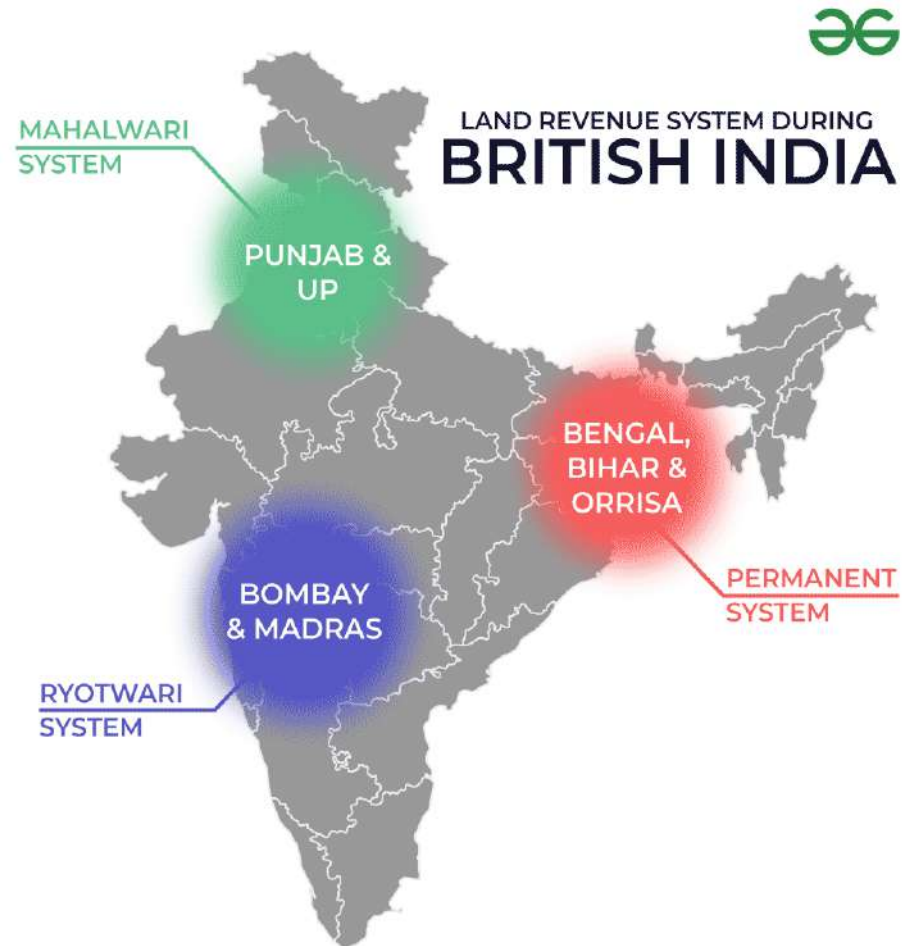
Thomas Munro and Captain Alexander Read, who were sent in 1792 to administer the recently acquired Baramahal region of Madras Presidency, devised a system of collecting directly from the villages, fixing the amount that each village had to pay. When Munro became governor of the Madras Presidency in 1820, he introduced the system, which came to be known as the Ryotwari System. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Ownership and occupancy rights of land were vested in the ryot, and there was no limit on the extent of land they could own. They were free to sublet, transfer, or sell their land. **Ryots paid the tax directly to the Company. The revenue to be paid was in the range of 45 percent to 55 percent based on an estimated production of the land.** Hence, there was no limit to the extension of the land owned by ryots. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Revenue was not fixed, so it could be raised when production was higher. In theory, the ryot were allowed to cultivate the land of their choice, but in practice, they were more or less forced to cultivate

land even if they did not want to do so. The settlement was not permanent and could be revised periodically. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

The Ryotwari System covered about 51 percent of the area under British rule, comprising part of the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, Assam, and certain other parts of British India. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**





40. Which one of the following was the latest inclusion is the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO?

- (a) Chhau dance
- (b) Durga puja
- (c) Garba dance**
- (d) Kumbh mela

Consider the following statements with respect to Garba dance :

1. Garba is a ritualistic and devotional dance that is performed on the occasion of the Hindu festival of Navaratri.
2. Garba dance celebrates fertility, honor womanhood, and pays respect to any of an array of mother Goddesses.
3. Garba is a dance form native to the Indian state of Maharashtra.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Garba is a ritualistic and devotional dance that is performed on the occasion of the Hindu festival of Navaratri, which is dedicated to the worship of the feminine energy or 'Shakti'. The dance takes place around a perforated earthenware pot lit with an oil lamp, or an image of the mother goddess Amba. Modern Garba is heavily influenced by Dandiya Raas, a dance traditionally performed by men. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Garba dances celebrate fertility, honour womanhood, and pay respect to any of an array of mother goddesses. In Gujarat the dances customarily mark a girl's first menstrual cycle and, later, her imminent marriage. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Garba, the dance form that originates from Gujarat comes from the Sanskrit word 'garbha' meaning the womb. Garba which has become the identity of Gujarat has been approved by UNESCO under its intangible cultural heritage list. Garba of Gujarat is the 15th ICH element from India to join this list. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

41. Consider the following statements :

Statement I:

There is instability and worsening security situation in the Sahel region.

Statement II:

There have been military takeovers/coups d'état in several countries of the Sahel region in the recent past.

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 incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Consider the following countries

1. Niger
2. Burkina Faso
3. Mali

What is common among these nations in the recent time?

- (a) Part of North–Western Africa
- (b) Countries falling under Congo River Basin.
- (c) Countries with genocide activity
- (d) Announcing their withdrawal from ECOWAS bloc**

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the military governments of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger jointly announced their exit from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The leaders of the three Sahel nations issued a statement saying it was a "sovereign decision" to leave the Economic Community of West African States "without delay".

The Heads of State and Governments of fifteen West African Countries established the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) when they signed the ECOWAS Treaty on May 28 1975, in Lagos, Nigeria.

- The ECOWAS region spans an area of 5.2 million square kilometres. The 15 Member States are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sénégal and Togo.
- **Countries are Struggling with jihadist violence and poverty; the regimes have had tense ties with ECOWAS since coups took place in Niger last July, Burkina Faso in 2022 and Mali in 2020.**
- All three were suspended from ECOWAS, with Niger and Mali facing heavy sanctions.

So, Option (d) is correct.





Consider the following:

1. Afghanistan
2. Yemen
3. Burkina Faso
4. Haiti
5. Nigeria

How many of the above countries were identified as Hunger Hotspots by FAO along with the World Food Programme?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four

(d) All the above

EXPLANATION:

- The FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots report is a forward-looking, early warning analysis of countries and situations, called hotspots, where acute food insecurity is likely to deteriorate over the coming months.
- These hotspots are identified through a consensus-based analysis of key drivers of food insecurity, and their likely combination and evolution across countries and regions. There are 18 areas in 22 countries where acute Food Insecurity may increase in magnitude and severity.
- As per the report, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen remain at the highest concern level. Haiti, the Sahel (Burkina Faso and Mali), and Sudan have been elevated to the highest concern levels.
- FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- The report provides country-specific recommendations on priorities for emergency response, as well as anticipatory action to address existing humanitarian needs and ensure short-term protective interventions before new needs materialize.

So, Option (d) is correct.



TEST NO.12 – Q.NO.10

43. With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:
While any resolution for the removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is under consideration

1. He/She shall not preside
2. He/She shall not have the right to speak
3. He/She shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

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

Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Speaker of the Lok Sabha?

- (a) The Speaker can be removed from the Lok Sabha by a resolution passed by the majority of the members present and voting in the House.
(b) The Speaker summons and presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses of the Parliament.
(c) The salaries and allowances of the Speaker are not subject to the annual vote of Parliament.
(d) If the office of the Speaker is vacant, the panel of the Chairperson of Lok Sabha will preside over the House.

EXPLANATION:

The Speaker is elected by the Lok Sabha from amongst its members (as soon as may be, after its first sitting). The date of election of the Speaker is fixed by the President. Usually, the Speaker remains in office during the life of the Lok Sabha. **He is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all then members of the Lok Sabha (Special Majority). It is not the majority of the members present and voting in the House. So, Option (a) is not correct.**

The Speaker is the head of the Lok Sabha and its representative. He is the guardian of the powers and privileges of the members, the House as a whole and its committees. **He presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament. Such a sitting is summoned by the President to settle a deadlock between the two Houses on a bill. So, Option (b) is not correct.**

As the office of the Speaker is vested with great prestige, position and authority, independence and impartiality become its sine qua non. He is provided with a security of tenure. His salaries and allowances are fixed by Parliament. They are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and thus are not subject to the annual vote of Parliament.

So, Option (c) is correct.

The Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker's office when it is vacant. He also acts as the Speaker when the latter is absent from the sitting of the House. In both cases, he assumes all the powers of the Speaker. **Under the Rules of Lok Sabha, the Speaker nominates from amongst the members a panel of not more than ten chairpersons. Any of them can preside over the House in the absence of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker. They cannot preside when the office of Speaker is vacant. So, Option (d) is not correct.**



44. With reference to the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements :

1. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its dissolution.
2. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha and pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha
3. A bill in regard to which the President of India notified his/her intention to summon the Houses to a joint sitting lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Consider the following situations:

1. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha
 2. A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha
 3. A bill passed by both Houses but pending for the assent of the President
 4. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha
 5. A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the President for reconsideration
- In which of the above situations does the bill lapse when the Lok Sabha is dissolved?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 4 only
(d) 1 and 5 only

EXPLANATION:

When the Lok Sabha is dissolved, all business, including bills, motions, resolutions, notices, petitions and so on pending before it or its committees lapse. They (to be pursued further) must be reintroduced in the newly constituted Lok Sabha. However, some pending bills and all pending assurances that are to be examined by the Committee on Government Assurances do not lapse on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. The position with respect to the lapsing of bills is as follows:

- A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses (whether originating in the Lok Sabha or transmitted to it by the Rajya Sabha). **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- A bill not passed by the two Houses due to disagreement and if the President has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of Lok Sabha does not lapse.
- A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha does not lapse. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the President does not lapse. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**
- A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**
- A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the President for reconsideration of Houses does not lapse. **So, Statement 5 is not correct.**



45. With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements:

1. Prorogation of a House by the President of India does not require the advice of the Council of Ministers.
2. Prorogation of a House is generally done after the House is adjourned sine die but there is no bar to the President of India prorogating the House which is in session.
3. Dissolution of the Lok Sabha is done by the President of India who, save in exceptional circumstances, does so on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

TEST NO.12 – Q.NO.7(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

Consider the following statements:

1. Prorogation implies that the end of both sitting and session of the House was done by the Presiding officer of the House.
2. Like Britain, prorogation brings an end to all bills pending before the House of the Indian Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct ?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

EXPLANATION:

Under Article 85(2) of the Constitution, the President may from time to time prorogue Houses or either House of Parliament. **Termination of a session of the House by an Order by the President under the above constitutional provision is called 'prorogation'.** Prorogation normally follows the adjournment of the sitting of the House sine die. The time-lag between the adjournment of the House sine die and its prorogation is generally two to four days, although there are instances when the House was prorogued on the same day on which it was adjourned sine die.

So, Statement 1 is not correct.

Prorogation does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House. Under Article 107 (3) of the Constitution, a bill pending in Parliament shall not lapse by reason of the prorogation of the Houses. Under Rule 336 of the Lok Sabha, a motion, resolution or an amendment, which has been moved and is pending in the House, shall not lapse by reason only of the prorogation of the House.

However, all pending notices (other than those for introducing bills) lapse on prorogation and fresh notices have to be given for the next session. In Britain, prorogation brings to an end all bills or any other business pending before the House.

So, Statement 2 is not correct.



TEST NO.16 – Q.NO.27(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

Consider the following pairs

S. No	Sessions of the Parliament	The power of authority lies with
1.	Summoning	Presiding officer
2.	Adjournment	Presiding officer
3.	Adjournment sine die	President
4.	Prorogation	President

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

EXPLANATION:

The President, from time to time, summons each House of Parliament to meet. But, the maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months (meet at least twice a year). There are usually three sessions in a year. A 'session' of Parliament is the period spanning between the first sitting of a House and its prorogation (or dissolution in the case of the Lok Sabha). So, Pair (1) is not correct.

A session of Parliament consists of many meetings. A sitting of Parliament can be terminated by adjournment or adjournment sine die or prorogation or dissolution (in the case of the Lok Sabha). An adjournment suspends the work in a sitting for a specified time, which may be hours, days or weeks. The presiding officer of the House has power to adjourn the House. So, Pair (2) is correct.

Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period. In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is called adjournment sine die. The power of adjournment as well as adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House. He can also call a sitting of the House before the date or time to which it has been adjourned or at any time after the House has been adjourned sine die. Thus, it is not President. So, Pair (3) is not correct.

The presiding officer (Speaker or Chairman) declares the House adjourned sine die, when the business of a session is completed. Within the next few days, the President issues a notification for prorogation of the session. However, the President can also prorogue the House while in session. So, Pair (4) is correct.



49. Which reference to the 'Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan', consider the following statements:

1. This scheme guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their second and third trimesters of pregnancy and six months post-delivery health care service in any government health facility.
2. Under this scheme, private sector health care providers of certain specialities can volunteer to provide services at nearby government health facilities.

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

Consider the following statements about 'LaQshya Programme':

1. The program guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd/3rd trimesters of pregnancy.
2. It targets all Government Medical College Hospitals, District Hospitals and equivalent facilities.

Which of the above statements is/are **not** correct?

- (a) 1 only**
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

EXPLANATION:

The primary aim of LaQshya programme is to improve quality of care around birth and reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, neonatal mortality and still births. The interventions targeted specifically for labour rooms (LR) and maternity operation theatres (OT) under the programme, focus on strengthening of LR and OT. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The Pradhan Mantri SurakshitMatritva Abhiyan was launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, to provide fixed-day assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care universally to all pregnant women (in 2nd and 3rd trimester) on the 9th of every month.

The LaQshya program is being implemented at all Government Medical College Hospitals, District Hospitals and equivalent health facilities, designated First Referral Unit (FRU), as well as Community Health Center (CHCs) will benefit every pregnant woman and new born delivering in public health institutions. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**



50. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. The entry age group for enrolment in the scheme is 21 to 40 years.
2. Age specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.
3. Each subscriber under the scheme shall receive a minimum pension of Rs.3,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

With reference to the PM-Shram Yogi Maan Dhaan (PM-SYM) scheme, consider the following:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme administered by the Ministry of Labor and Employment.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Life Insurance Corporation of India and CSC e-Governance India Limited (CSC SPV).
3. It is a voluntary and compensatory pension scheme under which the subscriber would receive a minimum assured pension of Rs.3000 after attaining the age of 60 years.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The government of India has introduced a pension scheme for unorganized workers namely Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) to ensure old age protection for Unorganised Workers. They should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Further, he/she should not be an income taxpayer.

PM-SYM will be a Central Sector Scheme administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Hence, It is not a centrally sponsored scheme. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

It is Implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India and CSC eGovernance Services India Limited (CSC SPV). LIC will be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out. The amount collected under the PM-SYM pension scheme shall be invested as per the investment pattern specified by the Government of India. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme under which the subscriber would receive the following benefits : (i) Minimum Assured Pension: Each subscriber under the PM-SYM shall receive a minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years. (ii) Family Pension: During the receipt of a pension, if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as a family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouses. (iii) If a beneficiary has given regular contribution and died due to any cause (before the age of 60 years), his/her spouse will be entitled to join and continue the scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution or exit the scheme as per provisions of exit and withdrawal. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

TEST NO.55 – Q.NO.35(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

51. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The atmosphere is heated more by incoming solar radiation than by terrestrial radiation.

Statement-II:

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are good absorbers of long wave radiation.

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 incorrect
- (d) **Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.**

With reference to water vapor, consider the following statements:

- 1. The composition of water vapor in the atmosphere decreases from the equator towards poles.
- 2. Water vapor is less transparent for incoming short-wave solar radiation but almost transparent for outgoing longwave terrestrial radiation.

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

EXPLANATION:

Water vapour is also a variable gas in the atmosphere, which decreases with altitude. In the warm and wet tropics, it may account for four per cent of the air by volume, while in the dry and cold areas of desert and polar regions, it may be less than one per cent of the air. **Water vapour also decreases from the equator towards the poles. So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Water vapor, carbon dioxide, and other gases whose molecules have electric **dipole moments absorb radiation more strongly in the longwave part of the spectrum occupied by outgoing terrestrial radiation than the shortwave part occupied by incoming solar radiation. So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Test 02 question 31

Consider the following gases:

- 1. Nitrogen
- 2. Oxygen
- 3. Carbon dioxide
- 4. Argon

Arrange the above-mentioned permanent gases of the atmosphere in descending order by their volume :

- (a) **1-2-4-3**
- (b) 2-1-3-4
- (c) 3-4-1-2
- (d) 4-3-2-1



EXPLANATION:

The atmosphere is a gaseous composition. It also contains a large number of solid and liquid particles known as 'aerosols.' Some of the gases may be considered permanent atmospheric components, existing in a fixed proportion to the overall gas volume.

Various gases in diverse concentrations make up the atmosphere. Wherein Nitrogen, Oxygen, Argon and Carbon dioxide are the permanent gases. These percentages remain constant over time. The atmosphere of Earth is composed of Nitrogen 78%, Oxygen 21%, Argon 0.9%, Carbon dioxide 0.04% and trace gases. A variable amount of water vapor is also present in the atmosphere, and it decreases with altitude.

So, Option (a) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION :

Nitrogen

- **Nitrogen** makes up over 78% of the total atmospheric volume.
- It is a relatively inert gas that is an essential component of all organic molecules.
- Nitrogen's primary purpose is to control combustion by diluting oxygen.
- It also indirectly aids in certain types of oxidation.

Oxygen

- Despite accounting for only 21% of the total volume of the atmosphere, **oxygen** is the most important component among gases.
- All living things breathe in oxygen. Furthermore, oxygen may react with other elements to generate significant compounds such as oxides.
- Furthermore, combustion is impossible in the absence of oxygen.

Carbon dioxide

- The third main gas is **Carbon dioxide**, which is a byproduct of combustion and accounts for just approximately 3% of the dry air.
- Meteorologically a very important gas as it is transparent to the incoming solar radiation but opaque to the outgoing terrestrial radiation.
- It absorbs a part of terrestrial radiation and reflects some part of it towards the Earth's surface.
- It is largely responsible for the greenhouse effect.



Test 02 question 38

Consider the following statements with respect to the Hot desert and Mid-latitude desert climates :

1. The major hot deserts of the world are located on the western coasts of continents between latitudes 15 and 30°N and S.
2. The diurnal range of temperature in the desert regions is great, and there is no cold season in the hot deserts.
3. Soils present in the desert regions are rich in nutrients and humus content.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

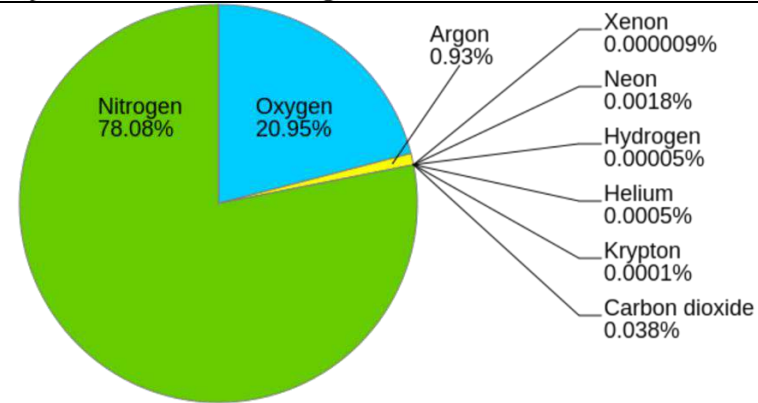
- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**
- (c) Only three
- (d) None of the above

EXPLANATION:

The primary factor influencing the location of hot deserts is the presence of subtropical high-pressure zones. These zones are characterized by descending air masses, which inhibit the vertical development of clouds and promote dry conditions. The descending air warms and dries as it sinks, leading to arid conditions; the next factor is The trade winds, which blow from east to west and transport dry air from subtropical high-pressure zones toward the western coasts of continents. This dry air further limits the amount of moisture available for precipitation. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The diurnal temperature range in desert regions is characterized by extreme fluctuations between day and night, with scorching daytime temperatures and significantly cooler nights. This remarkable variance is primarily due to the unique climate and geographic features of desert environments. Hot deserts, which include places like the Sahara Desert and the Atacama Desert, have this phenomenon. The key reasons are deserts are marked by arid conditions and minimal annual precipitation, resulting in dry air and soil. This dryness prevents the retention of heat and allows for rapid temperature changes. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Desert soils range from red to brown. They are generally saline. Desert soils lack humus due to a lack of vegetation in desert areas. Humus is a dark, organic material that forms in soil when plant and animal matter decays. If there is a lack of vegetation, then no humus will form in desert soils. So, soils in desert regions are not rich in nutrients and humus content **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**



TEST NO.02 – Q.NO.37(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

52. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

Thickness of the troposphere at the equator is much greater as compared to poles.

Statement-II:

At the equator, heat is transported to great heights by strong conventional currents.

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 incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

Consider the following statements with respect to the characteristics of the troposphere :

1. The temperature increases in the troposphere with the increase in height.
2. The water vapor and dust particles found in the Earth's atmosphere are almost concentrated only in the troposphere.
3. Weather phenomena like precipitation and storms occur in the troposphere.
4. All forms of Majority of the life forms exist within the tropospheric layer

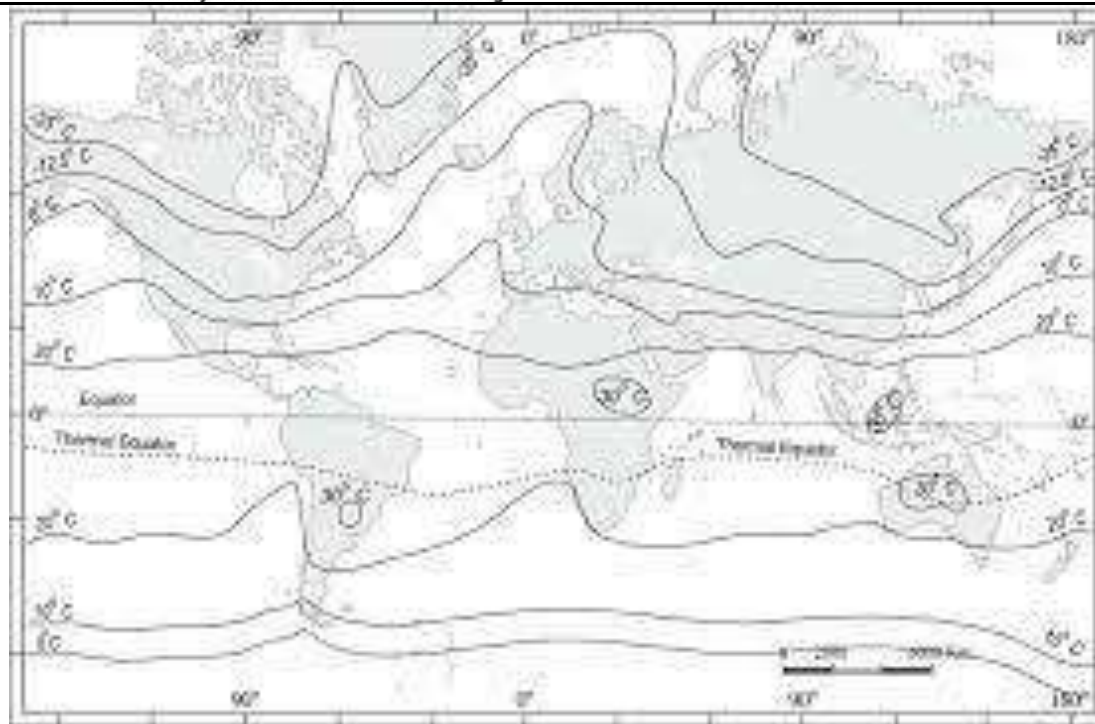
How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

In the troposphere, the temperature generally decreases with altitude, which increases in height at an average rate of 1° per 165 meters of height. This phenomenon is known as the "Normal lapse rate". As the gradual decrease in temperature stops, tropopause starts. The temperature drop with increasing altitude occurs because the troposphere is primarily heated from below, as the Earth's surface absorbs and subsequently radiates the incoming solar energy, instead of being heated from above by direct solar radiation. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

	<p>The Majority of the mass of the entire atmosphere is contained in the troposphere, between approximately 75 and 80 percent. Most of the water vapor in the atmosphere, along with dust and ash particles, are found in the troposphere which is the reason why most of Earth's clouds are located in this layer. Moreover, all types of climatic and weather phenomena take place within the troposphere. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>Since water vapour and dust particles play an important role in weather changes, therefore, Earth's troposphere contains 80% of the mass of Earth's atmosphere and most of the water vapour in the atmosphere, so all the weather phenomena like clouds, precipitation and storms occur in this layer. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p> <p>The troposphere contains about 85% of the atmosphere's total mass. Tropospheric processes, such as the water or hydrologic cycle (the formation of clouds and rain) and the <u>greenhouse effect</u>, have a <u>great influence on meteorology and the climate</u>. The troposphere is shielded from the intense ultraviolet radiation of the Sun by the upper atmospheric layers, specifically the stratospheric ozone layer. Owing to this protective barrier, various molecules remain more stable in the troposphere compared to other parts of the atmosphere. This safeguard is crucial in enabling life to thrive on Earth. So, Statement 4 is correct.</p>
<p>54. Which of the following is/are correct inference/inferences from isothermal maps in the month of January?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The isotherms deviate to the north over the ocean and to the south over the continent. 2. The presence of cold ocean currents, Gulf Stream and North Atlantic Drift make the North Atlantic Ocean colder and the isotherms bend towards the north. <p>Select the answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TEST NO.02 – Q.NO.28 (PARTIALLY REFLEX)</p> <p>Which of the following statements is not correct with respect to Isotherms ?</p> <p>(a) Isotherms are the lines joining the places that have equal temperature (b) Isotherms are always parallel to the latitude in both hemispheres (c) Isotherms are relatively regular and widely spaced in the southern hemisphere (d) Isotherms are not regular and are closely spaced in the northern hemisphere</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Isotherms are lines on a map that connect sites that have the same temperature at a certain time or on average over a given period of time. The term isotherm is frequently used in meteorology. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p>



In the southern hemisphere, isotherms run roughly parallel to latitudinal lines. The distance between these lines from the South Pole to the Tropic of Capricorn is about equal. In the northern hemisphere, there exist both continents and oceans. There is a distinction between land and water heating. In comparison to the oceans, the land region heats up quickly. As a result, the northern hemisphere's isotherms are more curved. **Statement 2 is not correct.**

In Southern Hemisphere, they bend toward the poles when they cross land masses, and they bend toward the equator when they cross oceans. The southern hemisphere has a large body of water. As a result, southern hemisphere isotherms are regular and widely apart. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

There is unbalanced distribution of land and water in the northern hemisphere the landmass size greater compared to Southern hemisphere. This unequal distribution causes temperature variations during the day and night. Because of this uneven heating of land mass, we have irregularly shaped isotherms in the northern hemisphere. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

TEST NO.03 – Q.NO.23

56. With reference to the Himalayan rivers joining the Ganga downstream of Prayagraj from West to East, which one of the following sequences is correct?

- (a) Ghaghara – Gomati – Gandak – Kosi
- (b) Gomati – Ghaghara – Gandak – Kosi**
- (c) Ghaghara – Gomati – Kosi – Gandak
- (d) Gomati – Ghaghara – Kosi – Gandak

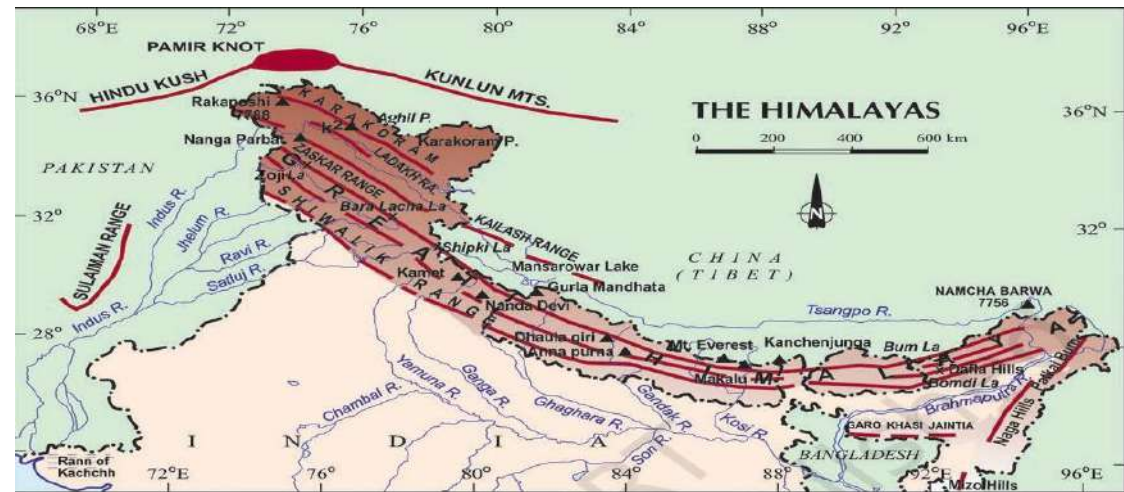
Arrange the following mountain peaks from west to east

- 1. Nanda Devi
- 2. Dhaula Giri
- 3. Makalu
- 4. Namchabarwa

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- (a) 1-2-4-3
- (b) 1-2-3-4**
- (c) 4-3-2-1
- (d) 1-4-2-3

EXPLANATION:



The Himalayas, geologically young and structurally folded mountains, stretch over the northern borders of India. These mountain ranges run in a west-east direction from the Indus to the Brahmaputra. The Himalayas represent the loftiest and one of the most rugged mountain barriers in the world. The altitudinal variations are greater in the eastern half than those in the western half. The Himalayas consist of three parallel ranges in their longitudinal extent. A number of valleys lie



between these ranges.

- Nanda Devi is the second-highest mountain in India and the highest located entirely within the country. (Kangchenjunga, which is higher, is on the border of India and Nepal.) It is the 23rd-highest peak in the world. It is part of the Greater Himalayas and is located in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, between the Rishiganga Valley on the west and the Goriganga Valley on the east.
 - Dhaulagiri mountain massif of the Himalayas in west-central Nepal. It is situated on the western side of the deep Kali (Kali Gandak) River gorge, about 65 km northwest of Annapurna. Many of Dhaulagiri's snow- and glacier-covered peaks exceed 7,620 meters, including Dhaulagiri I, II, III, and IV. The tallest, Dhaulagiri I, reaches an elevation of 8,167 metres and is the world's seventh-highest mountain.
 - Mount Makalu is located in the Mahalangur range of the Nepal Himalayas, southeast of Mount Everest is on the border between Nepal and Tibet. Makalu is an isolated peak which is shaped like a four-sided pyramid. Makalu I and Makalu II are the two notable subsidiary peaks of Makalu, lying 3 km north-northwest of the main summit.
 - Namcha Barwa is located in the region of Pemako in Tibet. It is considered the easternmost point of the Himalayas and is situated in the extreme east of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- So, Option (b) is correct.**

Some Highest Peaks of the Himalayas

Peak	Country	Height in metres
Mt. Everest	Nepal	8848
Kanchenjunga	India	8598
Makalu	Nepal	8481
Dhaulagiri	Nepal	8172
Nanga Parbat	India	8126
Annapurna	Nepal	8078
Nanda Devi	India	7817
Kamet	India	7756
Namcha Barwa	India	7756
Gurla Mandhata	Nepal	7728



TEST NO.03 – Q.NO.14

58. Consider the following countries:

1. Finland
2. Germany
3. Norway
4. Russia

How many of the above countries have a border with the North Sea?

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

The Rosebank oil and gas field, which was seen in the news recently, is located in :

- (a) Atlantic Ocean
(b) Levantine basin
(c) North Sea
(d) Adriatic Sea

EXPLANATION:

The Rosebank field, northwest of Shetland in Scotland, is the largest undiscovered oil and gas field in the North Sea, with the potential to produce 500 million barrels of oil. It is majority-owned by Norwegian state-owned energy corporation Equinor. It is claimed to hold up to 300 million barrels of oil and is owned by Equinor, a Norwegian energy powerhouse, and Ithaca Energy, a British corporation.

The North Sea lies between Great Britain, Denmark, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France. It is an epeiric sea (on the continental plate with an average depth of 90 meters) on the European continental shelf that connects to the Atlantic Ocean via the English Channel to the south and the Norwegian Sea to the north. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

TEST NO.42 – Q.NO.43

70. Consider the following:

1. Cashew
2. Papaya
3. Red sanders

How many of the above trees are actually native to India?

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

With reference to Cashew crop, consider the following:

1. India holds the share of second largest cashew nut producer and exporter in the world.
2. Extreme low temperature and frost are not conducive for growing cashew.
3. Cashew is native to southern part of India and it is an important part of ancient Indian trade to roman empire.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

- After Côte d'Ivoire, India is the second largest producer and exporter of Cashew Nuts with a share of more than 15%, followed by Vietnam in the world's cashew export. India's top export destinations are the UAE, the Netherlands, Japan, and Saudi Arabia.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are the major Cashew producing states in India. India primarily exports Cashew Kernels with small quantities of Cashew Nut Shell Liquid and Cardanol.➤ With the UAE and the Netherlands remaining as the top export destinations for Indian Cashew Nuts. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), an organization under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, played an instrumental role as an export facilitator. So, Statement 1 is correct. <p>Cashew is very well adapted to Indian coastal area under hot humid conditions with temperature in the range of 20 to 38 °C, relative humidity in the range of 60 to 95 % and annual precipitation in the range of 2000 to 3500mm. Extreme low temperature and frost are not conducive to raise cashew plantations. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>Cashew is an introduction from Brazil. The Cashew tree, <i>Anacardium occidentale</i>, generally considered the native to the northern part of South America, is now found in many tropical areas. The Portuguese recognized the value of the cashew apple and nut and took the crop to their Old World colonies. By 1590 the cashew tree had been introduced to East Africa and India where it was also used to help <u>control erosion</u> along the coastal regions So, Statement 3 is not correct.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.20 – Q.NO.15</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements about the impact of Portugueses on India:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Portuguese developed Goa as a dominant centre of Asian trade.2. Agricultural products such as potato, maize and Tobacco were introduced by Portuguese from central American countries.3. They opened up India's trade with Japan, from which copper and silver were obtained. <p>Which of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>The Portuguese were hardly able to change the established pattern of the Asian trade network. They</p>



	<p>could neither adequately police the Indian Ocean nor were able to develop Goa as the dominant centre of the Asian trade, eclipsing Cambay and later Surat in Gujarat. However, they adversely affected the Malabar trade, and the sea trade from Bengal which they preyed upon from Chittagong. So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> <p>The Portuguese were responsible for the introduction of major crops like potato, maize, chillies, tobacco, groundnut and fruits like papaya and pineapple from Central America. The Portuguese could not act as a bridge for transmitting to India the science and technology which had grown in Europe since the Renaissance. This was partly because the Portuguese were themselves not as deeply affected by the Renaissance as Italy and North Europe. Later, with the growth of a Catholic religious' reaction led by the Jesuits, they even set their face against the new science. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>The Portuguese, however, opened up India's trade with Japan from which copper and silver were obtained. They also opened up India's trade with the Philippines. From the Philippines, the Portuguese carried Indian textiles to South America and brought back silver in exchange. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.07 – Q.NO.49</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements with respect to the Red Sanders :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Red Sanders is a flora species that is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in the Western Ghats.2. It falls under the 'endangered list' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.3. The export of Red Sanders from India is prohibited as per the Foreign Trade Policy. <p>How many of the above statements are correct ?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>Red Sanders is a flora species that is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in the Eastern Ghats (Not on Western Ghats) region of Andhra Pradesh and falls under the 'endangered list' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.</p> <p>Red Sanders is also listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered</p>

	<p>Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora (CITES). Its rich hue and therapeutic properties are responsible for its high demand across Asia, particularly China, for use in cosmetics, medicinal products and high-end furniture/woodcraft.</p> <p>Further, Red Sanders is endemic to Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh, and according to IUCN, there has been about a 50-80% decline in its numbers. So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> <p>Red Sanders (<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>), also called Red Sandalwood, is a species found in the southern tropical dry deciduous forest of Andhra Pradesh (AP). The tree reaches an average height of 10 to 15 meters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The species is listed as 'Endangered' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature and falls in Appendix II of CITES. In India, it has been enlisted under Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The heartwood of Red Sanders is in demand in the domestic and international markets for making furniture, handicrafts and musical instruments in China and Japan. The red dye obtained from the wood is used as a coloring agent in the textiles, medicine and food industries. So, Statement 2 is correct. <p>As a native species to Andhra Pradesh, Red Sanders (also known as Red Sandalwood) use and trade are regulated by the State. Following the amendment to the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 in December 2022, Red Sanders is now listed in Schedule IV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Under the foreign trade policy of India, the import of Red Sanders is prohibited, while export is restricted. <p>Despite the regulation and legal protection, illegal logging and timber extraction remain major conservation concerns for the species. So, Statement 3 is not correct.</p>
<p>72. With reference to “water vapour”, which of the following statements is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a gas, the amount of which decreases with altitude. 2. Its percentage is maximum at the poles. <p>Select the answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.55 – Q.NO.35</u></p> <p>With reference to water vapour, consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The composition of water vapour in the atmosphere decreases from the equator towards poles. 2. Water vapour is less transparent for incoming short-wave solar radiation but almost transparent for outgoing long wave terrestrial radiation. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>



	<p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Water vapour is also a variable gas in the atmosphere, which decreases with altitude. In the warm and wet tropics, it may account for four per cent of the air by volume, while in the dry and cold areas of desert and polar regions, it may be less than one per cent of the air. Water vapour also decreases from the equator towards the poles. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>Water vapour, carbon dioxide, and other gases whose molecules have electric dipole moments absorb radiation more strongly in the long wave part of the spectrum occupied by outgoing terrestrial radiation than the shortwave part occupied by incoming solar radiation. So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p>
<p>74. With reference to “Coriolis force”, which of the following statements is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It increases with increase in wind velocity 2. It is maximum at the poles and is absent at the equator <p>Select the answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.02 – Q.NO.7,8</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements :</p> <p>Statement 1: The magnitude of the Coriolis force is influenced by the speed of the wind.</p> <p>Statement 2: Coriolis force affects the wind speed by deflecting the wind direction from the expected path.</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>The direction of surface winds is usually controlled by the pressure gradient and rotation of the Earth. Because of the rotation of the Earth along its axis, the winds are deflected. The force which deflects the direction of winds is called deflection force. This force is also called the Coriolis force on the basis of the famous scientist G.G. Coriolis.</p> <p>So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>The Coriolis Effect only affects wind direction and not wind speed because it deflects the wind from its expected path. Because of the Coriolis force, all the winds are deflected to the right in the northern hemisphere while they are deflected to the left in the southern hemisphere with respect to the</p>



rotating Earth. This is why winds blow counter clockwise around the center of low pressure (to make a cyclonic circulation) in the northern hemisphere while they blow in a clockwise direction in the southern hemisphere.

So, Statement 2 is not correct.

Consider the following statements :

Statement 1:

Tropical cyclones are not formed near the equator.

Statement 2:

Wind blows perpendicular to the isobars at the equator, and the low pressure is filled instead of getting intensified.

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

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I

(c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect

(d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

EXPLANATION:

Without the spin of the Earth and the resulting Coriolis force, Tropical cyclones would not form. Since the Coriolis force is at a maximum at the poles and a minimum at the equator, Tropical cyclones can not form within 5 degrees latitude of the equator. The Coriolis force generates a counterclockwise spin to low pressure in the Northern Hemisphere and a clockwise spin to low pressure in the Southern Hemisphere.

➤ At the equator, the Coriolis force is zero, and the wind blows perpendicular to the isobars. The low pressure gets filled instead of getting intensified. That is the reason why tropical cyclones are not formed near the equator. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**



	<p>The Coriolis force acts perpendicular to the pressure gradient force. The pressure gradient force is perpendicular to an isobar. The higher the pressure gradient force, the higher the velocity of the wind and the larger the deflection in the direction of the wind. As a result of these two forces operating perpendicular to each other, in the low-pressure areas, the wind blows around it. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p>
<p>79. Consider the following plants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Groundnut2. Horse gram3. Soybean <p>How many of the above being in the pea family?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.24 (PARTIAL)</u></p> <p>Biofuels can be extracted from</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Switchgrass2. Sorghum3. Poplar4. Soybean5. Camelina6. Tallow7. Lard <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 2, 4 and 5 only (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only (c) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>Any fuel produced from biomass, such as plant or algal matter or animal feces, is referred to as biofuel. Unlike fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, biofuel is seen as a renewable energy source since its raw material is easily renewed. In light of the growing cost of petroleum and other fossil fuels as well as growing concern over the role fossil fuels play in global warming, biofuel is frequently promoted as a more affordable and ecologically friendly alternative to these fuels. Switchgrass has excellent potential as a bioenergy feedstock for cellulosic ethanol production, direct combustion for heat and electrical generation, gasification, and pyrolysis. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>Sweet sorghum is a promising target for biofuel production. It is a C4 crop with low input requirements and accumulates high levels of sugars in its stalks. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p>

	<p>Poplars are more desirable for biofuels than many other woody crops because of their fast growth, their ability to produce a significant amount of biomass in a short period of time, and their high cellulose and low lignin contents. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p> <p>Soybean is a cool-season legume that can be grown from south to north throughout much of the eastern half of the United States. Soybean oil is currently a major feedstock for the production of biodiesel (NBB). So, Statement 4 is correct.</p> <p>The Brassicaceae Camelina sativa, generally known as camelina, is a winter or spring annual oil seed plant. Camelina sativa is being used in a wide range of industrial, nutraceutical, and biomedical products and as an animal feed. More specifically, Camelina sativa is widely used as a biofuel, including renewable jet fuel, green diesel, and biodiesel. So, Statement 5 is correct.</p> <p>Tallow is made by rendering suet, which is the fat of cattle or sheep, typically the fat that surrounds the animal's organs. Animal fats are attractive feedstocks for biodiesel. This includes beef tallow and pork lard. So, Statement 6 and 7 are correct.</p>
<p>81. The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as:</p> <p>(a) the number of children born per 1000 people in the population in a year.</p> <p>(b) the number of children born to a couple in their lifetime in a given population.</p> <p>(c) the birth rate minus death rate.</p> <p>(d) the average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.31 – Q.NO.15</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements about the demographic dividend of India:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It refers to an episode of higher economic growth driven by changes in the age structure of the population. 2. India's demographic cycle is about 10-30 years ahead of other countries like China, Korea and Brazil. 3. The demographic dividend in peninsular India will peak early as compared to the hinterland states. <p>Which of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>Demographic Dividend is an episode of higher economic growth driven by changes in the age structure of the population (it is the additional growth due to demographic factors alone). The specific variable driving the demographic dividend is the ratio of the working-age (WA) population (20-59) to the non-working-age (NWA) population. Both the level and the growth of the WA/NWA</p>



	<p>ratio have a positive impact on economic activity. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>India's demographic cycle is about 10-30 years behind that of other countries like China, Korea, Brazil etc., indicating that the next few decades present an opportunity for India to catch up to their per capita income levels. This does not mean that the demographic dividend will turn negative after that, rather positive impact will slow down. So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p> <p>A distinctive feature in India is the large heterogeneity among the States in their demographic profile evolution. There is a clear divide between peninsular India (West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh), where WA/NWA population ratio will peak early as compared to the hinterland States (Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar). The divide in the WA/NWA ratio of peninsular India and the hinterland States is because of the difference in their levels of Total Fertility Rate (the average number of children that a woman would have over her childbearing years).</p> <p>So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>
<p>83. In India, which of the following can trade in Corporate Bonds and Government Securities?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Insurance Companies Pension Funds Retail Investors <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.36 – Q.NO.35</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements about the foreign portfolio investment (FPI):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It refers to any investment made by a person resident outside India in a capital instrument. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) can invest in central and state government securities and corporate bonds. FPIs can up to 10% of the equity capital in a listed Indian company. <p>How many of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an ownership stake in a foreign company or project made by an investor, company, or government from another country. Generally, the term is used to describe a business decision to acquire a substantial stake in a foreign business or to buy it outright to expand operations to a new region. The term is usually not used to describe a stock investment in a foreign company alone. FDI is a key element in international economic integration because it creates stable and long-lasting links between economies. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p>

	<p>Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) are institutions incorporated outside India and include mutual fund, insurance company, pension fund, banks, NRIs etc. registered with SEBI. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) can also invest in Central and State Government securities/bonds and corporate bonds and are treated as debt. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) is any investment made by a person resident outside India in 'capital instruments' where such investment is less than 10 percent of the equity capital of a listed Indian company. Foreign investors generally do not get involved in the management of the company and purchase minority stakes. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>
<p>84. Consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exchange-Traded Funds (ETF) 2. Motor vehicles 3. Currency swap <p>Which of the above is/are considered financial instruments?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) 1 and 3 only</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.56 – Q.NO.75 (PARTIAL)</u></p> <p>With reference to the Exchange Traded Funds, consider the following statements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a basket of securities that trades on an exchange just like a stock. 2. They are like mutual funds, which means they only trade once a day after the market closes. 3. They offer low expense ratios and fewer broker commissions than buying the stocks individually. <p>How many of the above statements are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a type of pooled investment security that can be bought and sold much like an individual stock. The main difference between an ETF and a mutual fund is that though a mutual fund is also a pooled investment, it trades only once a day after market close. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a basket of securities that trades on an exchange just like a stock does. ETF share prices fluctuate all day as the ETF is bought and sold; this is different from mutual funds, which only trade once a day after the market closes. So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p> <p>ETFs can contain all types of investments, including stocks, commodities, or bonds; some offer U.S.-only holdings, while others are international. ETFs offer low expense ratios and fewer broker commissions than buying the stocks individually. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>



88. Which one of the following words/phrases is most appropriately used to denote “an interoperable network of 3D virtual words that can be accessed simultaneously by millions of users, who can exert property rights over virtual items”?

- (a) Big data analytics
- (b) Cryptography
- (c) Metaverse**
- (d) Virtual matrix

Consider the following :

1. Decentralized Finance
2. Asset Tokenization
3. Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs)
4. Metaverse

Web3 is described as the future of the internet, and it is projected to create millions of direct jobs in India. Its use cases and applications include:

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

EXPLANATION:

Web3 is the new generation of the Internet that is highly useful for websites and many other applications.

It is also referred to as the “Semantic Web” or “3D Web”. It adds new meaning to the existing content and

various developing methods and helps to interact easily with the current environment. The applications of Web3 include,

- Decentralized finance, or DeFi, uses emerging technology to remove third parties and centralized institutions from financial transactions. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Asset tokenization is the process of representing real-world assets, such as real estate, art or securities, as digital tokens on a blockchain. This measure will allow these assets to be traded and exchanged more easily and efficiently. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- NFTs, short for Non-Fungible Tokens, are blockchain-based tokens where each one is unique and can be distinguished from all others in existence. NFT trades are recorded on the blockchain so that the current ownership can be proved at any time. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- Metaverse is a broad term encompassing interconnected 3D virtual worlds made possible through advancements in technologies such as augmented reality (AR)/virtual reality (VR), artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchains. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**



TEST NO.56 – Q.NO.12

90. With reference to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) rules in India, consider the following statements:

1. CSR rules specify that expenditures that benefit the company directly or its employees will not be considered as CSR activities.
2. CSR rules do not specify minimum spending on CSR activities.

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

Consider the following statements about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):

1. It is an instrument for integrating social, environmental and human development concerns in the entire value chain of corporate business.
2. The Ministry of Commerce issued Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014.
3. The company is required to spend an annual 3 per cent of the average net profits of the company calculated as per the provisions of the Companies Act.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) One only
(b) Two only
(c) Three only
(d) None of the above

EXPLANATION:

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was conceived as an instrument for integrating social, environmental and human development concerns in the entire value chain of corporate business. Ministry of Corporate Affairs issued 'Voluntary Guidelines on Corporate Social Responsibility, 2009' as a first step towards mainstreaming the concept of Business Responsibilities. It was further refined subsequently as 'National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental and Economic Responsibilities of Business, 2011'. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs issued the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

- Under the Companies Act 2013, certain classes of profitable companies are required to spend at least 2 per cent of their average net profit of the preceding three financial years on CSR activities in a particular financial year.
- Under the CSR rules, amounts remaining unspent in a financial year relating to an ongoing project, as well as any unutilised surplus arising from the CSR activities, are required to be deposited by the company in a special bank account called the 'Unspent Corporate Social Responsibility Account'.
- This limit has now been increased to the higher of 2 per cent or Rs 50 lakh, which will enable companies to undertake comprehensive impact assessments for large-scale CSR projects and account for the same towards their CSR obligation. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**



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Out of the 100 questions asked in the
UPSC Civil Services (Preliminary)
Examinations, 2024,
19 questions reflected directly
and
19 questions reflected partially
from the IAS Parliament


Total number of questions directly reflected from IAS Parliament (including Target 2024 series)	19
Number of questions directly reflected from the Target Series 2024	9
Total number of questions partially reflected from IAS Parliament	19



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DIRECT REFLECTIONS FROM IAS PARLIAMENT

S. NO	UPSC Q.No	UPSC Questions	IAS PARLIAMENT REFLECTIONS
1.	2.	<p>Consider the following :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pyroclastic debris 2. Ash and dust 3. Nitrogen compounds 4. Sulphur compounds <p>How many of the above are products of Volcanic eruptions?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All four 	<p>All statements</p> <p>Volcanic winter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A massive volcanic eruption can deposit enormous amounts of ascending light coloured volcanic ash and sulphur aerosols above the troposphere and into the lower stratosphere. <p>Volcano and its Types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It includes lava flows, pyroclastic debris, volcanic bombs, ash and dust and gases (nitrogen, sulphur and minor amounts of chlorene, hydrogen and argon).
2.	6.	<p>With reference to the Himalayan rivers joining the Ganga downstream of Prayagraj from West to East, which one of the following sequences is correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Ghaghara – Gomati – Gandak – Kosi (b) Gomati – Ghaghara – Gandak – Kosi (c) Ghaghara – Gomati – Kosi – Gandak (d) Gomati – Ghaghara – Kosi – Gandak 	<p>Target Geography (Jan 2023- April 2024)</p> <p>Ganga River system</p> 
3.	16.	<p>One of the following regions has the world's largest tropical peatland, which holds about three years' worth of global carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and the possible destruction of which can exert</p>	<p>Brazzaville declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote better management and conservation of world's largest tropical peatlands-Cuvette Centrale region in Congo



		<p>detrimental effect on the global climate. Which one of the following denotes that region?</p> <p>(a) Amazon Basin (b) Congo Basin (c) Kikori Basin (d) Rio de la Plata Basin</p>	<p>Basin from unregulated land use and prevent its drainage and degradation.</p>
4.	21.	<p>The organisms “Cicada, Frog hopper and Pond skater” are</p> <p>(a) Birds (b) Fish (c) Insects (d) Reptiles</p>	<p>Cicada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cicadas, family (Cicadidae) is a group of insects that are known for their loud buzzing and clicking noises, use different calls to express alarm or attract mates.
5.	37.	<p>Which one of the following is the exhaust pipe emission from Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles, powered by hydrogen?</p> <p>(a) Hydrogen peroxide (b) Hydronium (c) Oxygen (d) Water Vapour</p>	<p>Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel cell technology allows for efficient conversion of chemical energy in hydrogen into electricity, with <u>water</u> being the only by product.
6.	41.	<p>The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as:</p> <p>(a) The number of children born per 1000 people in the population in a year. (b) The number of children born to a couple in their lifetime in a given population. (c) The birth rate minus death rate. (d) The average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.</p>	<p>Total Fertility Rate (TFR)</p> <div> <div>Key terms</div> <div>Total Fertility Rate (TFR)</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the average number of children born to a woman (15-49 years) over her lifetime. It's calculated by adding up all of the age-specific fertility rates over five-year intervals. </div>
7.	48.	<p>Which one of the following words/phrases is most appropriately used to denote “an interoperable network of 3D virtual worlds that can be accessed simultaneously by millions of users, who can exert property rights over virtual items”?</p>	<p>Metaverse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metaverse - Taking advantage of metaverse, travellers can be provided 3D experience of hotel tours before booking. <p>Metaverse</p>



		<p>(a) Big data analytics (b) Cryptography (c) Metaverse (d) Virtual matrix</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blockchain-based metaverse refers to the virtual ecosystems where activities and payments rely on cryptocurrencies. Meta's metaverse, which describes a virtual reality accessed through VR/AR hardware tools in order to work and play.
8.	60.	<p>Which one of the following was the latest inclusion in the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO?</p> <p>a) Chhau dance b) Durga puja. c) Garba dance d) Kumbh mela</p>	<p>Target-2024-History-Art & Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, India's Garba dance was included in the Intangible Cultural Heritage list by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. Garba is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list.
9.	65.	<p>Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List released by UNESCO:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Shantiniketan Rani-ki-Vav Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas Mahabodhi Bodhgaya Temple Complex at Bodhgaya <p>How many of the above properties were included in 2023?</p> <p>a) Only one b) Only two c) Only three d) All four</p>	<p>Statement 1 and 3</p> <p>Target-2024-History-Art and Culture Hoysala Temple</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, 3 Hoysala-era temples were added as to UNESCO's World Heritage List thus becoming the 42nd site from India. <p>Santiniketan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latest addition - Sacred Ensembles of Hoysala Temples, Santiniketan in 2023.
10.	66.	<p>As per Article 368 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament may amend any provision of the Constitution by way of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Addition Variation Repeal 	<p>Statement 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>Article 368</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It states that the Parliament may, in exercise of its constituent power, amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of the Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose.

		<p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>a) 1 and 2 only b) 2 and 3 only c) 1 and 3 only d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	
11.	68.	<p>Which of the following statements are correct in respect of a Money Bill in the Parliament?</p> <p>1. Article 109 mentions special procedure in respect of Money Bills. 2. A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States. 3. The Rajya Sabha can either approve the Bill or suggest changes but cannot reject it. 4. Amendments to a Money Bill suggested by the Rajya Sabha have to be accepted by the Lok Sabha.</p> <p>Select the answer using the code given below :</p> <p>a) 1 and 2 only b) 2 and 3 only c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 1, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Statements 1</p> <p>Article 109</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 109 delineates the procedure for the passage of such a Bill and confers an overriding authority on the Lok Sabha in the passage of Money Bills. <p>Statements 2, 3 and 4</p> <p>Money Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can be introduced only in Lok Sabha. • Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject, it should return the bill with or without recommendations which may be accepted or rejected by the Lok Sabha. • The Lok Sabha can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha.
12.	72.	<p>The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 amends the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution to include which of the following languages?</p> <p>1. Konkani 2. Manipuri 3. Nepali 4. Maithili</p> <p>Select the correct using the code given below:</p> <p>a) 1, 2 and 3 b) 1, 2 and 4 c) 1, 3 and 4 d) 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Eight Schedule Languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution consists of the following 22 languages. Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution. • Sindhi language was added in 1967 while Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992. • Subsequently Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004.


13.	76.	<p>Under which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India, has the Supreme Court of India placed the Right to Privacy?</p> <p>(a) Article 15 (b) Article 18 (c) Article 19 (d) Article 21</p>	<p>Target CA Revision MCQ (Jan 2023- April 2024)</p> <p>Right to Privacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supreme Court – In 2017 Puttaswamy case, it held that the right to be forgotten was inherent to the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution by referring to the European Union Regulation of 2016.
14.	78.	<p>Operations undertaken by the Army towards upliftment of the local population in remote areas to include addressing of their basic needs is called:</p> <p>(a) Operation Sankalp (b) Operation Maitri (c) Operation Sadbhavana (d) Operation Madad</p>	<p>Prelims Bits - Operation Sadbhavana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operation SADBHAVANA is a unique humane initiative undertaken by Indian Army to address aspirations of people affected by scrooge of terrorism.
15.	80.	<p>Which of the following statements about the Ethics Committee in the Lok Sabha are correct?</p> <p>1. Initially it was an ad-hoc Committee 2. Only a Member of the Lok Sabha can make a complaint relating to Unethical conduct of a member of the Lok Sabha. 3. This Committee cannot take up any matter which is sub-judice.</p> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>All statements</p> <p>Monthly Prestorming October 2023 – Ethics Committee</p> <p>Target 2024 Polity and Governance</p> <p>Ethics Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was an ad hoc Committee till 2000, which became a permanent part of the Lok Sabha House in 2015. Any person can complain against a Member through another Lok Sabha MP, along with evidence and affidavit. If the Member himself complains, the affidavit is not needed.

16.	83.	<p>A Writ of Prohibition is an order issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts to :</p> <p>(a) A government officer prohibiting Him from taking a particular action. (b) The Parliament/ Legislative Assembly to pass a law on Prohibition (c) the lower court prohibiting continuation of proceedings in a case (d) The Government prohibiting it from following an unconstitutional policy.</p>	<p>Target 2024 Polity and Governance –</p> <p>Writ of Prohibition</p> <p>It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal to prevent the latter from exceeding its jurisdiction or usurping a jurisdiction that it does not possess.</p>
17.	96.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>Statement-I: The European parliament approved the Net-Zero Industry Act recently. Statement-II: The European Union intends to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and therefore aims to develop all of its own clean technology by that time.</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(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 incorrect (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.</p>	<p>Statement 1 and 2</p> <p>European Green Deal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Net Zero Industry Act will be put forward to achieve regulatory environment and the new Act will identify clear goals for European clean tech by 2030.



18.	99.	<p>Which reference to the 'Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan', consider the following statements:</p> <p>1. This scheme guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their second and third trimesters of pregnancy and six months post-delivery health care service in any government health facility.</p> <p>2. Under this scheme, private sector health care providers of certain specialities can volunteer to provide services at nearby government health facilities.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Statement 1</p> <p>Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan(PMSMA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">It is launched with an aim to provide fixed-day, free of cost, assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care on the 9th day of every month, universally to all pregnant women in their 2nd / 3rd trimesters of pregnancy. <p>Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">It was launched in 2016 which provides fixed day assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care by gynaecology specialists to pregnant women on 9th of every month at government health facilities. <p>Statement 2 Target Government schemes (January 2023- April 2024) Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Private sector health care providers of certain specialities can volunteer to provide services at nearby government health facilities.
19.	100.	<p>With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana, consider the following statements:</p> <p>1. The entry age group for enrolment in the scheme is 21 to 40 years.</p> <p>2. Age specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.</p> <p>3. Each subscriber under the scheme shall receive a minimum pension of Rs.3,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1, 3 and 4 (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 4</p>	<p>Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan</p> <p>Statement 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The unorganised workers mostly engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, etc whose monthly income is up to Rs 15,000/ per month.These workers must also belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years. <p>Statement 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Age specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary. <p>Statement 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Each subscriber under the PM-SYM shall receive minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years.



S. NO	UPSC Q.No	UPSC Questions	IAS PARLIAMENT REFLECTIONS															
1.	8.	<p>Consider the following countries:</p> <p>1. Finland</p> <p>2. Germany</p> <p>3. Norway</p> <p>4. Russia</p> <p>How many of the above countries have a border with the North Sea?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) Only three</p> <p>(d) All four</p>	<p>Statement 3</p> <p>North Sea</p> 															
2.	9.	<p>Consider the following information:</p> <table><tr><th>Region range</th><th>Name of the mountain</th><th>Type of mountain</th></tr><tr><td>Central</td><td>Vosges</td><td>Fold mountain</td></tr><tr><td>Europe</td><td>Alps</td><td>Block mountain</td></tr><tr><td>North America</td><td>Appalachians</td><td>Fold mountain</td></tr><tr><td>South America</td><td>Andes</td><td>Fold mountain</td></tr></table> <p>In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) Only three</p> <p>(d) All four</p>	Region range	Name of the mountain	Type of mountain	Central	Vosges	Fold mountain	Europe	Alps	Block mountain	North America	Appalachians	Fold mountain	South America	Andes	Fold mountain	<p>Statement 4</p> <p>Andes Mountain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a mountain range running, located along the entire western coast of South America, about 7,242 kms long.
Region range	Name of the mountain	Type of mountain																
Central	Vosges	Fold mountain																
Europe	Alps	Block mountain																
North America	Appalachians	Fold mountain																
South America	Andes	Fold mountain																

3.	14.	<p>With reference to “Coriolis force”, which of the following statements is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It increases with increase in wind velocity 2. It is maximum at the poles and is absent at the equator <p>Select the answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Statement 2</p> <p>Coriolis Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Coriolis force that can prevent filling of low pressure at the centre (absence of Coriolis force near the equator prohibits the formation of tropical cyclone between 0 -5 latitude).
4.	17.	<p>With reference to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are used in making many consumer products, consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PFAS are found to be widespread in drinking water, food and food packaging materials. 2. PFAS are not easily degraded in the environment. 3. Persistent exposure to PFAS can lead to bioaccumulation in animal bodies. <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Statement 2 and Statement 3</p> <p>Target CA Revision MCQ (Jan 2023- April 2024) PFAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They hardly degrade in natural environment and have been found in <i>blood of people and wildlife</i> all round world. • It can be toxic to both humans and wildlife.
5.	18.	<p>Consider the following :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carabid beetles 2. Centipedes 3. Flies 4. Termites 5. Wasp 	<p>Statement 5 & Parasitoid Species</p> <p>Wasp – A parasitoid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new genus and species of parasitoid wasp has been discovered by a team of researchers at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata.



		<p>Parasitoid species are found in how many of the above kind of organisms?</p> <p>(a) Only two (b) Only three (c) Only four (d) All five</p>	<p>Parasitoid Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parasitoids are small insects that develop inside or on the outside of other insects, called hosts and they eventually kill their hosts.
6.	20.	<p>Consider the following statements :</p> <p>Statement-I: The Indian Flying Fox is placed under the vermin category in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Statement-II: The Indian Flying Fox feeds on the blood of other animals.</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(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 incorrect (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.</p>	<p>Statement I</p> <p>Indian Flying Fox is a host for many zoonotic infections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zoonotic Disease Hendra's animal host is Fruit bats (flying foxes) to horses, and then horses can pass the infection on to humans <p>Fruit bat under Vermin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently, it includes only 4 species of wild animals namely Common Crows, Fruit Bats, Rats, and Mice

7.	24.	<p>Consider the following statements regarding World Toilet Organization:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is one of the agencies of United Nations. 2. World Toilet Summit, World Toilet Day and World Toilet College are the initiatives of this organization, to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. 3. The main focus of its function is to grant funds to the least developed countries and developing countries to achieve the end of open defecation <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2 only 2. 3 only 3. 1 and 2 4. 2 and 3 	<p>Statement 1</p> <p>Specialised agencies of UN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are totally 15 specialized agencies under the United Nations (UN). <div style="background-color: #e0f2f1; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Specialized Agencies^{1,5}</p> <p>FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development ILO International Labour Organization IMF International Monetary Fund IMO International Maritime Organization ITU International Telecommunication Union UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization UNWTO World Tourism Organization UPU Universal Postal Union WHO World Health Organization WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization WMO World Meteorological Organization WORLD BANK GROUP⁷ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development • IDA International Development Association • IFC International Finance Corporation </p></div>
8.	30.	<p>Consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cashew 2. Papaya 3. Red sanders <p>How many of the above trees are actually native to India?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None 	<p>Statement 1</p> <p>Cashews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originally, it was <i>native to northeast Brazil</i> in Latin America. • It was introduced by the Portuguese in the 16th century (1570). <p>Statement 3</p> <p>Red Sanders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It <i>is endemic to few districts in Andhra Pradesh</i>, India
9.	34.	<p>Consider the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of narcotics on passengers at 	<p>Statement 2</p> <p>Radars monitoring clouds</p>



		<p>airports or in aircraft. 2. Monitoring of precipitation. 3. Tracking the migration of animals.</p> <p>In how many of the above activities can the radars be used?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Doppler weather <u>radars can monitor moving cloud droplets and help to provide forecast</u> for the next 3 hours. <p>Statement 3</p> <p><u>Radio collar in Tracking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radio Collars are basically radio transmitters (which transmits light waves in the range of radio frequency (RF) waves), that can be used <u>to detect the movement of a person or an animal.</u>
10.	35.	<p>Consider the following aircraft:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rafael MiG-29 Tejas MK-1 <p>How many of the above are considered fifth generation fighter aircraft?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p>	<p>Statement 3</p> <p><u>Tejas MK-1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an <u>indigenously designed</u> and manufactured <u>4th generation</u> multi-role fighter aircraft.
11.	36.	<p>In which of the following are hydrogels used?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Controlled drug delivery in patients Mobile air-conditioning systems Preparation of industrial lubricants <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Statement 1</p> <p><u>Hydrogels</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pair of electrodes control drug release from a hydrogel layer as well as stimulate the wound to encourage tissue regrowth. A pair of electrodes, the same electrodes that stimulate the tissue, control the release of drugs from a hydrogel layer.



12.	44.	<p>Consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exchange-Traded Funds (ETF) 2. Motor vehicles 3. Currency swap <p>Which of the above is/are considered Financial instruments?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1,2 and 3 (d) 1 and 3 only</p>	<p>Statement 1</p> <p>Exchange-Traded Funds (ETF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) - They are <u>marketable securities</u>, it is a type of pooled investment security that can be bought and sold much like an individual stock.
13.	54.	<p>With reference to ancient India, Gautama Buddha was generally known by which of the following epithets?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nayaputta 2. Shakyamuni 3. Tathagata <p>Select the correct answer using the codes given below :</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) None of the above are epithets of Gautama Buddha</p>	<p>Statement 2</p> <p>Shakyamuni</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakyamuni Buddha - The prime vision of the Summit is to look into the teachings of the Shakyamuni Buddha.
14.	70.	<p>The North Eastern Council (NEC) was established by the North Eastern Council Act, 1971. Subsequent to the amendment of NEC Act in 2002, the Council comprises which of the following members?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor of the Constituent State 2. Chief Minister of the Constituent State 3. Three Members to be nominated by the President of India 4. The Home Minister of India 	<p>Statement 2 and 4</p> <p>North Eastern Council (NEC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially, its members were Governors of the Northeast States, thereby remaining as the ears and eyes of the Centre. • Significantly, its executive structure expanded to include Chief Ministers of these States, linking it to the aspirations of local electorates.



		<p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>a) 1, 2 and 3 only b) 3 and 4 only c) 2 and 4 only d) 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>	
15.	74.	<p>Which of the following statements are correct about the Constitution of India?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Powers of the Municipalities are given in Part IX A of the Constitution. 2. Emergency provisions are given in Part XVIII of the Constitution. 3. Provisions related to the amendment of the Constitution are given in Part XX of the Constitution. <p>Select the answer using the code given below:</p> <p>a) 1 and 2 only b) 2 and 3 only c) 1 and 3 only d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Statement 3</p> <p>Part XX</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 368 in Part XX gives the Parliament the power to <u>amend the Constitution</u> and its procedure.
16.	81.	<p>Consider the following statements Regarding 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam'.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provisions will come into effect from the 18th Lok Sabha. 2. This will be in force for 15 years after becoming an Act. 3. There are provisions for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes Women within the quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes. <p>Which of the statements given above are Correct?</p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1 and 3 only</p>	<p>Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam – Women Reservation Bill</p> <p>Target CA Revision MCQ (Jan 2023- April 2024) –</p> <p>Women Reservation Bill</p> <p>Statement 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reservation will be effective after the <u>census</u> conducted after this Bill has been published. Based on this, delimitation will be undertaken to reserve seats for women for a period of 15 years. However, it shall continue till such date as determined by a law made by Parliament.



			<p>Statement 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bill proposes 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha, SLAs, and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. This will also apply to the seats reserved for SCs and STs in Lok Sabha and states legislatures.
17.	82.	<p>Which of the following statements about 'Exercise Mitra Shakti-2023' are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> This was a joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh It commenced in Aundh (Pune). Joint response during counter terrorism operations was a goal of this oration. Indian Air Force was a part of this exercise. <p>Select the correct answer using the codes given below :</p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1, 2 and 4 (c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Exercise Mitra Shakti</p> <p>Statement 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 9th edition of Mitra Shakti, a Joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka <p>Statement 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commenced recently in Pune. <p>Statement 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To jointly rehearse conduct of Sub Conventional operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.
18.	84.	<p>Consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is the Governor of the State who recognizes and declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe. A community declared as Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Monthly Prestorming January 2024 – Scheduled Tribe</p> <p>Statement 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President's office takes the final decision under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution.



19.	85.	<p>With reference to Union Budget, consider the following statements :</p> <p>1. The Union Finance Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister lays the Annual financial statement before both the Houses of Parliament.</p> <p>2. At the Union level no demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President of India.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>Target CA Revision MCQ (Jan 2023- April 2024)</p> <p>Union Budget</p> <p>Statement 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The president shall with respect to every financial year cause to be laid before the parliament.
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UPSC PRELIMS 2024– QUESTION REFLECTION **IN CIVILSPEDIA**

Question

Which one of the following is a work attributed to playwright Bhasa?

- (a) Kavyalankara
- (b) Natyashastra
- (c) Madhyama Uyyayoga
- (d) Mahabhashya



- Accepted as one of the 'Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity' by the UNESCO.
 - Performance not named after the play but usually in terms of an event that is in focus.
 - Example:
 - Vichinnabhishekam, Mayaseethankom and Shorppanakhaankom;
 - Prathimaabhishekam written by Bhasan;
 - Swapnavaasavadatham, Prathijnjayougandhara ayanam, Oorubhangam, Madhyama vyaayogam, Doothavakyam, Naagaanandam by Sriharshan etc.
 - Presentation of a single 'ankam' takes upto eight days.
 - Instruments used: The Mizhavu, Idakka, Shankhu, Kurumkuzhal and Kuzhithaalam.
- Examples of temples with koothamablams for Kutiyattam performance: Thirumandhamkunnu,, Thiruvaarppu, Thiruvaalathur (Kodumba), Guruvayoor, Vadakkumnathan temple among others.

Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List released by UNESCO:

1. Shantiniketan
2. Rani-ki-Vav
3. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas
4. Mahabodhi Temple complex at Bodhgaya

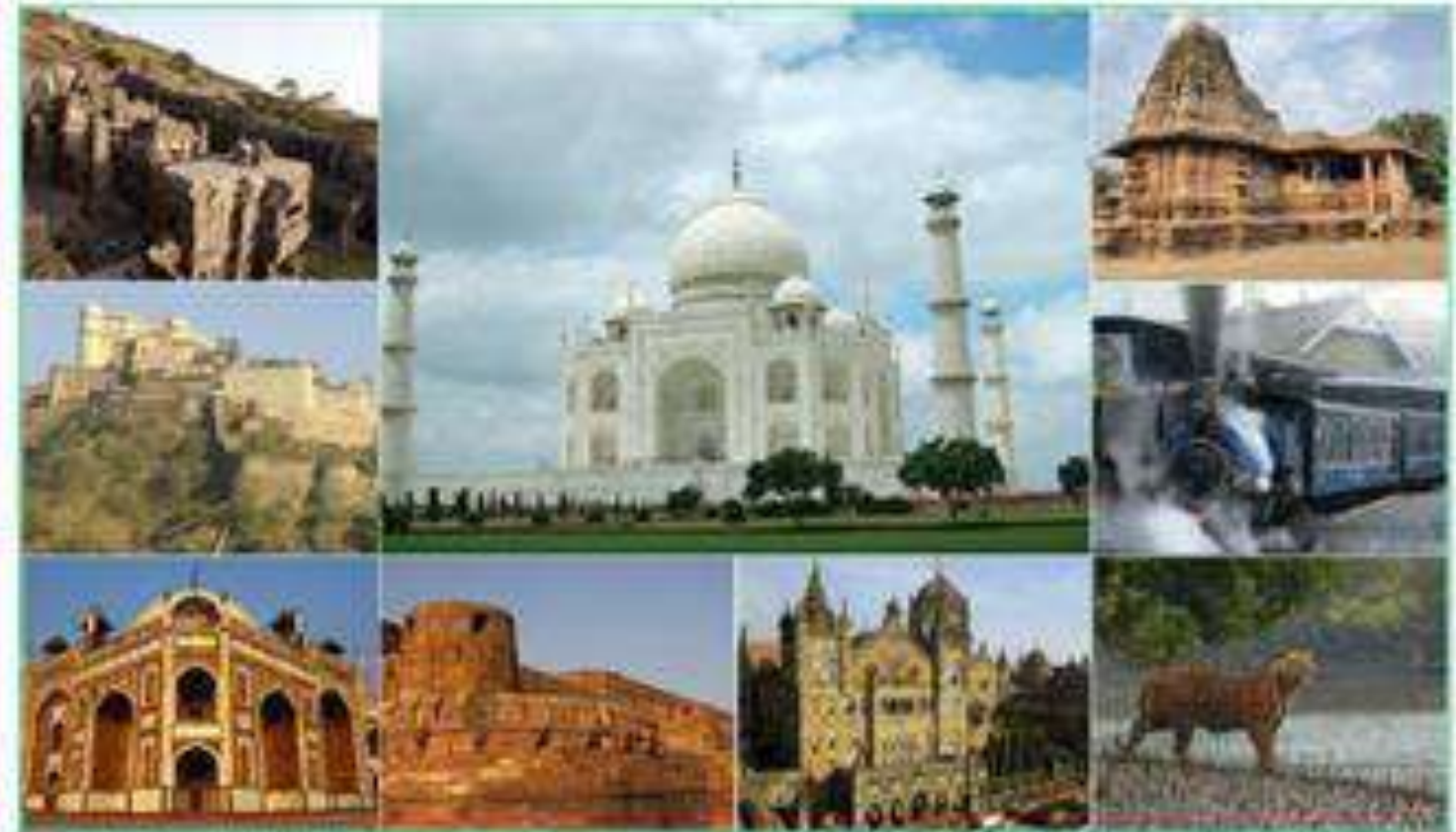
How many of the above properties were included in 2023 ?

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

UNESCO World Heritage Site

About the site.

- India - 42 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
 - ✓ 34 are cultural, 7 are natural, & 1 is mixed site.
- India - Sixth country with most UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala (2023).

- Location - State of Karnataka.
- Serial property - represents 3 Hoysala-style temple complexes in southern India.
- Dates back from 12th to 13th centuries.
 - ✓ Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somananthpura.



Santiniketan.

- State of West Bengal.
- Cultural & educational center established by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

(Ramappa) Temple, Telengana.

- Declared - UNESCO WHS in 2021.
- Unique feature - Vimana of the temple.
 - ✓ Made of lightweight porous Floating bricks.
 - ✓ Building - decorated beams & magnificent sculptures.
 - Significance of Kakatiyan culture.



Which of the following statements are correct in respect of a Money Bill in the Parliament ?

1. Article 109 mentions special procedure in respect of Money Bills
2. A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States
3. The Rajya Sabha can either approve the Bill or suggest changes but cannot reject it
4. Amendments to a Money Bill suggested by the Rajya Sabha have to be accepted by the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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



Money Bill

- Dealt by Article 110.
- Matters under Article 110 (1) - Money Bill
 - ✓ Taxation,
 - ✓ Regulation of the govt's borrowing,
 - ✓ Custody of consolidated fund of India etc.

Features of money bill

- Introduced only in Lok Sabha.
- Introduced only by a Minister & cannot be introduced by other members.
- Introduced only after the prior approval of the President.

Limited powers of Rajya Sabha over money bill

- Rajya Sabha cannot reject the money bill coming from Lok Sabha.
- RS only can make recommendations - it should be sent within 14 days.
- Lok Sabha may either consider or reject the recommendations of RS.
 - ✓ If Lok Sabha either accepts or reject the recommendations of RS - Money bill is deemed to be passed.
- If Rajya Sabha does not act on the Money bill within 14 days - Money bill is deemed to be passed by the Parliament.

Consider the following statements regarding World Toilet Organization:

1. It is one of the agencies of the United Nations.
2. World Toilet Summit, World Toilet Day and World Toilet College are the initiatives of this organization, to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
3. The main focus of its function is to grant funds to the least developed and developing countries to achieve the end of open defecation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

There are 17* Specialized Agencies:



- [FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)
- [ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organization](#)
- [IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development](#)
- [ILO: International Labour Organization](#)
- [IMF: International Monetary Fund](#)
- [IMO: International Maritime Organization](#)
- [ITU: International Telecommunication Union](#)
- [UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#)
- [UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization](#)
- [UN Tourism: World Tourism Organization](#)
- [UPU: Universal Postal Union](#)
- [WHO: World Health Organization](#)
- [WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization](#)
- [WMO: World Meteorological Organization](#)
- [World Bank Group](#)

SUB
scribe



16:38 / 54:53



- ~~IBRD: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development~~
- ~~IDA: International Development Association~~
- ~~IFC: International Finance Corporation~~

Shankar's Summary || Important Current Affairs Topics || miscellaneous topics || Shankar IAS Academy

Consider the following:

1. Cashew
2. Papaya
3. Red sanders

How many of the above trees are actually native to India?

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

Red sanders

- Scientific name - *Pterocarpus santalinus*.
- Endemic tree - Southern Eastern Ghats.
- Predominant in Seshachalam hills (A.P.).
- Yields hard-fragrant timber.
- Has rich therapeutic properties.
- Used in cosmetics, medicinal products, musical instruments & for making furniture.
- Market rate - Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore.
- Export of red sanders is permitted if it is obtained from cultivated land.

Endangered
Appendix II

The potential and the problem



1,000 metric tonnes

The annual market demand for Red Sanders

Rs 50 lakh - 1 cr

The price commanded by a tonne of this timber in international markets

50-80%

The population decline in this species over the last 3 generations



Distribution of Red sanders in India

1,000 sq km

The area of occupancy by Red Sanders that's endemic to the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh

117

Smuggling cases of Red Sandalwood registered in 2011



60-100 years

For Red Sanders to reach good harvestable width

**SUB
scribe**

Question

With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:

While any resolution for the removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is under consideration

1. He/She shall not preside
2. He/She shall not have the right to speak
3. He/She shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Kota MP Om Birla named as NDA's choice for Speaker's post

He will assume office today after being elected by Lok Sabha members

By Anand Mahajan

Yashwantrao Chavan, the former Speaker of the Lok Sabha, who was elected to the office today, will be the first to assume office after being elected by the 543 members of the Lok Sabha.

Mr. Birla has been a Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha since 1996, and represents the Kota constituency in Rajasthan. He will assume office on Wednesday after being elected by the 543 members of the Lok Sabha.



Kota MP Om Birla being greeted by his wife, second from right, and family in New Delhi on Tuesday. Anand Mahajan

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is Cong. LS leader

Former West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury will be the party's leader in the Lok Sabha. He is expected to be designated as the Chief Whip. Though the Congress did not make any official announcement, Congress

Pg. 1, 10
→ C, T, B
Pg. 1, 12
→ D

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance—Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies - II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

News:

- NDA named (MP from Rajasthan) as Speaker of Lok Sabha
→ Shri Om Birla (Kota)

- assumed office after being elected by the members of Lok Sabha
- name proposed by PM, Min. of Parliamentary Affairs, Min. of Defence, Min. of Home Affairs, Min. of Road Transport and Highways

norm → To consider experienced MP as Speaker of Lok Sabha

Speaker of Lok Sabha:

- Represents full authority of the House
- Symbolises the dignity & power of the House
- True guardian of the traditions of parliamentary democracy
- Powers through - Constitution of India
 - Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
 - Practice & Convention

SUB
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Question

With reference to the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements :

1. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its dissolution.
2. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha and pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha
3. A bill in regard to which the President of India notified his/her intention to summon the Houses to a joint sitting lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Previous Year Question – Prelims 2016

Q. Which of the statements is/are correct?

1. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its prorogation. *lapse* *not dissolution*
2. A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha, which has not been passed by the Lok Sabha, shall not lapse on dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

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

SUB
scribe

Question

With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements:

1. Prorogation of a House by the President of India does not require the advice of the Council of Ministers.
2. Prorogation of a House is generally done after the House is adjourned sine die but there is no bar to the President of India prorogating the House which is in session.
3. Dissolution of the Lok Sabha is done by the President of India who, save in exceptional circumstances, does so on the advice of the Council of Ministers. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

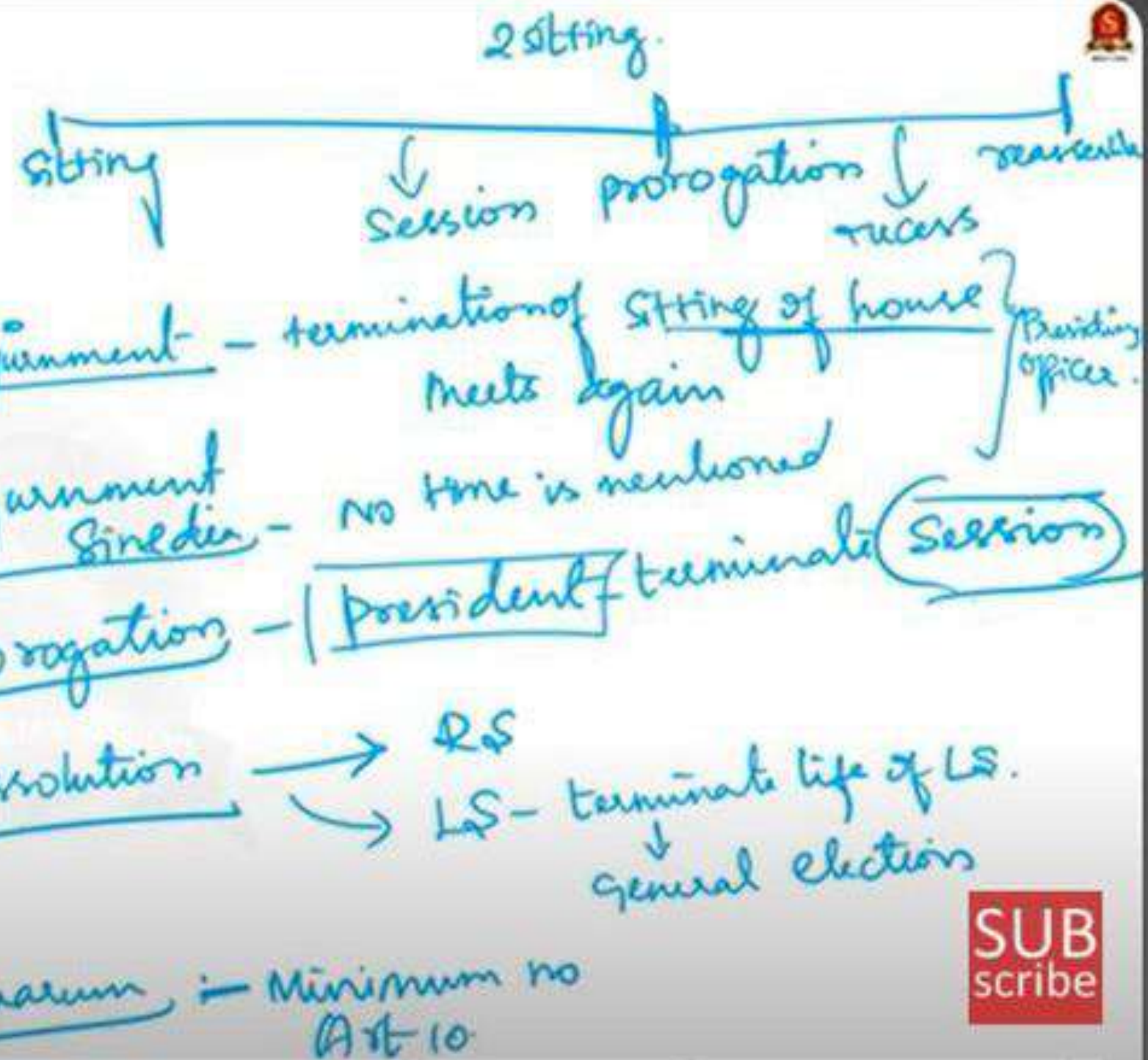
Session of Parliament

- First sitting of a House → prorogation or dissolution.

Three sessions in a year:

- ✓ Budget Session - February to May
- ✓ Monsoon Session - July to September
- ✓ Winter Session - November to December

✓ President summons.
✓ Should meet at least twice
Article 85 - gap not < 6 months



Question

With reference to the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme, consider the following statements:

1. To implement the scheme, the Central Government provides 100% funding.
2. Under the Scheme, Cadastral Maps are digitised.
3. An initiative has been undertaken to transliterate the Records of Rights from local language to any of the languages recognized by the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Components

- Computerization of all land records including mutations.
- Digitization of maps
- Integration of textual and spatial data,
- Survey/resurvey and updation of all survey
- Settlement records including creation of original cadastral records.
- Computerization of registration and its integration with the land records maintenance system
- Development of core Geospatial Information System (GIS)
- Capacity building

Digital India Land Records Modernization

Programme (DILRM P)

- Revamped NLRMP in 2016 under Digital India Initiative .
- Central Sector Scheme
- Objectives :
 - ✓ To build upon the commonalities that exist in the arena of land records in various States .
 - ✓ To develop an appropriate Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS) across the country.
 - ✓ To facilitate different States to add State - specific needs

COMPONENTS OF DIGITAL INDIA LAND RECORDS MODERNISATION PROGRAMME (DILRMP)



• Benefits :

- ✓ Easy access to computerised copies of Records of Rights and other land-based certificates .
- ✓ Guaranteed and integrated public services .
- ✓ Reduced interface with the govt. offices .

Which reference to the 'Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan', consider the following statements:

1. This scheme guarantees a minimum package of ante natal care services to women in their second and third trimesters of pregnancy and six months post-delivery health care service in any government health facility.
2. Under this scheme, private sector health care providers of certain specialities can volunteer to provide services at nearby government health facilities.

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

Question

With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. The entry age group for enrolment in the scheme is 21 to 40 years.
2. Age specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.
3. Each subscriber under the scheme shall receive a minimum pension of Rs.3,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

Recently, Venezuela has achieved a rapid recovery from its economic crisis and succeeded in preventing its people from fleeing/emigrating to other countries.

Statement-II:

Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves.

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 incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

- Northern South America
- Capital - Caracas
- Oil revenues - Export earnings and Governments Revenue
- Venezuela's economic crisis
 - ✓ Decline in oil production
 - ✓ Market uncertainty
 - ✓ Poor cash flow
 - ✓ fall in oil prices has aggravated
- American sanctions + economic crisis - shortages + protests + forcing to flee

- Political system:
 - ✓ Federal presidential republic
 - ✓ President is both Chief of state and Head of Govt.
 - ✓ Constitutions - 15 December 1999.

Natural Resources:

- Venezuela's oil revenues account - 99% of export earnings.
- Country's natural resources includes natural gas, iron ore, bauxite, diamonds and other minerals.
- Third-largest producer of coal after Brazil and Colombia.
- Have second-largest reserves of gold deposits.



Question

Operations undertaken by the Army towards upliftment of the local population in remote areas to include addressing of their basic needs is called:

- (a) Operation Sankalp
- (b) Operation Maitri
- (c) Operation Sadbhavana
- (d) Operation Madad

Radicalisation in Kashmir

- 1989 - began to use violent means to achieve secession of J&K from India
- 1990 - militancy increased and peaked in J&K
- Threats from terrorist leaders - Kashmiri families sent their sons to be trained in Pakistan and to be deployed in Kashmir

Twin challenges

- Terrorists
- Kashmiri youth

Measures to overcome:

- The Public Safety Act of 1978
- Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act of 1958
- Operation Sadbhavana
 - ✓ Initiative undertaken by Indian Army in the State of Jammu & Kashmir
 - ✓ To address aspirations of people affected by scourge of terrorism, sponsored and abetted by Pakistan
 - ✓ Launched in 1998
 - ✓ Focus - Education, Women & Youth Empowerment, Health care, Community building

Question

Which are the duties of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) as Head of the Department of Military Affairs?

1. Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee
2. Exercise military command over the three Service Chiefs
3. Principal Military Advisor to Defence Minister on all tri-service matters.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Chief of Defence staff (CDS)

1. CDS will not exercise any military command .
2. CDS is the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of staff committee.
3. The office of CDS does not comes under the ambit of Right to Information Act, 2005.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct

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

Chief of Defence Staff :

- Current CDS : Lt. Gen. Anil Chauhan
- First CDS : Gen. Bipin Rawat
- Four Star General
- Committees
 - ✓ Group of Ministers (2001) – Kargil Review Committee
 - ✓ Shekatkar Committee – 2019
- Principal Advisor to Union Defence Minister
- Military Advisor to Nuclear command Authority
- Head of Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
- member of Defence Acquisition Council and Defence Planning committee.

Question

Under which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India, has the Supreme Court of India placed the Right to Privacy?

- (a) Article 15
- (b) Article 18
- (c) Article 19
- (d) Article 21

Solutions

- Disclosing the information via internet.
- Preventing duplication of requests.
- Preventing Misuse of RTI.
- Balancing of Right to privacy under Art 21.
- Increasing Public Awareness.



Question

The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 amends the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution to include which of the following languages?

1. Konkani
2. Manipuri
3. Nepali
4. Maithili

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Practice Prelims Question

Q. Consider the following statements about the Official languages:

1. The criteria for the inclusion of a language in Eighth schedule is given in the Indian Constitution.
2. Kurmali language was recently added to the Eighth schedule.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Question

How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) Four

Delimitation:

- Redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies based on a recent census.
- last delimitation exercise took place in 1976.
- Number of Lok Sabha and State Assembly seats remained frozen on the basis of the 1971 Census.
- Article 82 - delimitation of Lok Sabha seats.
- Article 170 - delimitation of State legislative assembly
- Delimitation commissions - 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002

Challenges in Delimitation process:

- Imbalances in population growth between the northern and southern States.
- resistance from regions that will lose seats due to lower population growth.
- Gerrymandering
- diverse cultural and linguistic landscape complicates the process
- migration between states
- accurate data on population demographics
- presence of regional identity

Question

Consider the following information:

	Region	Name of the mountain range	Type of mountain
1	Central Asia	Vosges	Fold mountain
2	Europe	Alps	Block mountain
3	North America	Appalachians	Fold mountain
4	South America	Andes	Fold mountain

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following pairs:

Mountain name	Type of Mountain
1. Alps	- Young fold mountain
2. <u>Aravali</u> range	- Oldest fold mountain
3. Appalachians	- Very old fold mountain

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?
Choose the correct answer with the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) **1, 2 and 3 only**
- d) None of the Above

Question

Consider the following information:

	Water fall	Regio n	Rive r
1	Dhuandhar	Malwa	Narmada
2	Hundru	Chota Nagpur	Subarnarekha
3	Gersoppa	Western Ghats	Netravati

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Jog falls

- A waterfall
- Created by Sharavathi River

Location

- Western Ghats
- Shimoga District, Karnataka

Height

- Measurement - 253m
- Third-highest waterfall
- After Nohkalikai Falls and the Dudhsagar Falls



Question

Consider the following countries:

1. Finland
2. Germany
3. Norway
4. Russia

How many of the above countries have a border with the North Sea?

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

Bordering Seas



Skager Strait



Question

With reference to the Himalayan rivers joining the Ganga downstream of Prayagraj from West to East, which one of the following sequences is correct?

- (a) Ghaghara – Gomati – Gandak – Kosi
- (b) Gomati – Ghaghara – Gandak – Kosi
- (c) Ghaghara – Gomati – Kosi – Gandak
- (d) Gomati – Ghaghara – Kosi – Gandak



The river Ganga

- Rise - Gangotri glacier, Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.
- Devprayag - Bhagirathi meets Alaknanda & forms into Ganga.
- Ganga River basin - part of Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Basin
 - ✓ River basin - land area drained by a river & its tributaries.

- States - UP, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand & West Bengal.
- River basin - UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh & UT of Delhi.

Question

Consider the following :

1. Pyroclastic debris
2. Ash and dust
3. Nitrogen compounds
4. Sulphur compounds

How many of the above are products of volcanic eruptions?

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

Volcanoes

- Place where gases, ashes and/or molten rock material – lava – escape to the ground
- Called an active volcano if the materials are released to the surface
- Layer below the solid crust – mantle – higher density
- Mantle contains a weaker zone – asthenosphere
- Material in the upper mantle portion – magma
- Once it reaches the surface – lava

- Materials – lava flows, pyroclastic debris, volcanic bombs, ash and dust
- Gases – nitrogen compounds, sulphur compounds and minor amounts of chlorine, hydrogen and argon



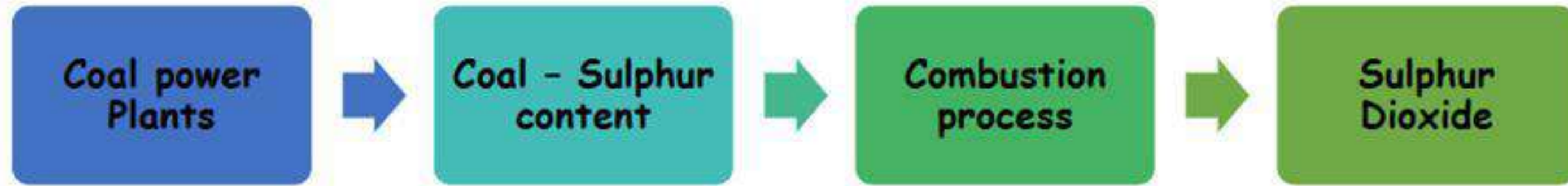
Question

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which one of the following is the largest source of sulphur dioxide emissions?

- (a) Locomotives using fossil fuels
- (b) Ships using fossil fuels
- (c) Extraction of metals from ores
- (d) Power plants using fossil fuels

Sulphur emission

- Form of oxides



Question

Consider the following information:

	Water fall	Region
1	Argentina	Worst economic crisis
2	Sudan	War between the country's regular army and paramilitary forces
3	Turkey	Rescinded its membership of NATO

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Geography of Sudan



Ongoing Sudan crisis

- Infighting between 2 rival groups
 - ✓ Sudan army - General Abdel-Fattah Burhan.
 - ✓ Rapid Support Forces (RSF) - General Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti).

Causes

- October 2021 - Burhan took control of civilian Govt of Sudan in a military coup
 - ✓ Supported by Dagalo.
- Military coup - sudden, violent & unlawful seizure of power from a government.

NATO's membership

- Expanding
- Open to any other European state - principles of NATO.



THERE ARE
CURRENTLY

30

MEMBERS

BELGIUM (1949)

CANADA (1949)

DENMARK (1949)

FRANCE (1949)

ICELAND (1949)

ITALY (1949)

LUXEMBOURG (1949)

NETHERLANDS (1949)

NORWAY (1949)

PORTUGAL (1949)

THE UNITED KINGDOM (1949)

THE UNITED STATES (1949)

GREECE (1952)

TURKEY (1952)

GERMANY (1955)

SPAIN (1982)

CZECH REPUBLIC (1999)

HUNGARY (1999)

POLAND (1999)

BULGARIA (2004)

ESTONIA (2004)

LATVIA (2004)

LITHUANIA (2004)

ROMANIA (2004)

SLOVAKIA (2004)

SLOVENIA (2004)

ALBANIA (2009)

CROATIA (2009)

MONTENEGRO (2017)

NORTH MACEDONIA (2020)

Question

With reference to Union Budget, consider the following statements :

1. The Union Finance Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister lays the Annual financial statement before both the Houses of Parliament.
2. At the Union level no demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President of India.

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

- Constitutional provision.
 - ✓ Article 112 to 117 deals with union budget.
 - ✓ Article 202 to 207 deals with state budget.

Article 112

- The President shall in respect of every financial year cause to be laid before both the Houses of Parliament a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for that year, in this Part referred to as the annual financial statement.

Article 202

- The Governor shall in respect of every financial year cause to be laid before the House or Houses of the Legislature of the State a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the State for that year, in this Part referred to as the annual financial statement.

Question

Consider the following statements :

1. It is the Governor of the State who recognizes and declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe.
2. A community declared as Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State.

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

Scheduled Tribes:

- Defined in Article 366(25).

“such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution”.

- 8.6% of the total population.
- Ministry of tribal affairs – development of STs.
- Article 342 – Scheduled Tribes

Status of Scheduled Tribe:

- State governments – identify and recommends via governor.
- Approval of Registrar General of India.
- Speedy settlement of genuine claims.
- Consideration of NCST.
- President – Public notification.
- Parliament by passing law.

Question

A Writ of Prohibition is an order issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts to:

- (a) A government officer prohibiting him from taking a particular action.
- (b) The Parliament/ Legislative Assembly to pass a law on Prohibition
- (c) the lower court prohibiting continuation of proceedings in a case
- (d) the Government prohibiting it from following an unconstitutional policy.

Types of Writs

- **Habeas Corpus** - 'to have the body of'.

- ✓ To seek relief from the unlawful detention.
- ✓ Guardian of individual liberty against arbitrary detention.
- ✓ Issued against - public authorities and private individuals.

- **Mandamus** - 'we command'.

- ✓ Command a public official - to perform or restrain official duties.
- ✓ Issued against - public body, corporation, inferior court, tribunal or government.
- ✓ Cannot be issued against - private individual or private Body, President of India or the State Governors etc.
- ✓ Directs activity.

- **Prohibition** - 'to forbid'.

- ✓ Higher court to lower court or tribunal
- ✓ To prevent lower court or tribunal from exceeding its jurisdiction.
- ✓ Preventive - Directs inactivity.

Question

Which of the following statements about 'Exercise Mitra Shakti-2023' are correct ?

1. This was a joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh
2. It commenced in Aundh (Pune).
3. Joint response during counter- terrorism operations was a goal of this operation.
4. Indian Air Force was a part of this exercise.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

Shantir Ogrosena:

- A multilateral UN-mandated counter-terrorism exercise was recently concluded in Bangladesh.
- Participated by the armed forces of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Srilanka along with along with observers from the U.S., the U.K., Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore.
- Aim: to strengthen defence ties and enhance interoperability among neighbourhood countries to ensure effective peace keeping operations.

Bilateral military exercises partnered by India:

- Sampriti:
 - ✓ A joint military exercise between the armies of India and Bangladesh.
 - ✓ Started in 2009.
 - ✓ Ninth edition took place in 2020.
- Mitra Shakti:
 - ✓ Between the armies of India and Sri Lanka.
- Surya Kiran:
 - ✓ Between armies of Indian and Nepal.
 - ✓ started in 2011.
 - ✓ Takes place annually/bi-annually.

Question

Consider the following plants

1. Groundnut
2. Horse gram
3. Soybean

How many of the above being in the pea family?

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

Primary Source

- Groundnut
 - Rapeseed & Mustard
 - Soybean
 - Sunflower
 - Sesame
 - Soybean, groundnut, rapeseed & mustard - 88% of total oilseeds production.
- Safflower
 - Niger
 - Castor
 - Linseed.

Secondary Source

- Cottonseed
- Rice bran
- Coconut
- Tree Borne Oilseeds (TBOs)
- Oil Palm.

Question

Consider the following:

1. Carabid beetles
2. Centipedes
3. Flies
4. Termites
5. Wasps

Parasitoid species are found in how many of the above kind of organisms?

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

Parasitism

- Type of biotic interaction
- One species benefits ; Other species is harmed
- Eg: Ticks, insect pests

Parasitoids

- Natural destroyers of insect pests in plants
- Lay eggs and complete the life cycle on host bodies → hosts die.
- Eg: Campoplex Chloridae (Natural control)
 - ↳ Parasitoids used as a natural control (No intervention)

- Disadvantages / effects of using chemical pesticides

- Destroyed natural pollinators like honey bees and spiders
- Kill bacteria responsible for decomposition
- Harmful to humans - Blisters/wounds on farmers

Question

On June 21 every year, which of the following latitude(s) experience(s) a sunlight of more than 12 hours?

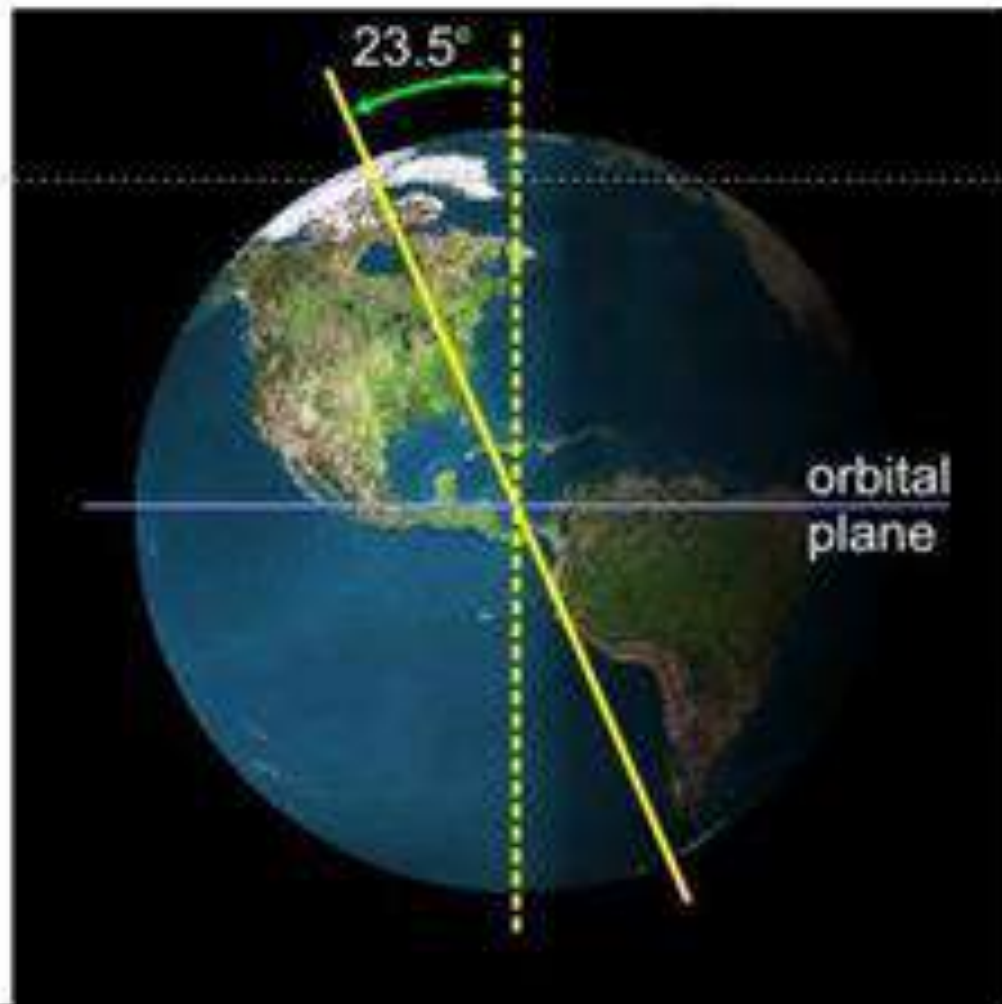
1. Equator
2. Tropic of Cancer
3. Tropic of Capricorn
4. Arctic Circle

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

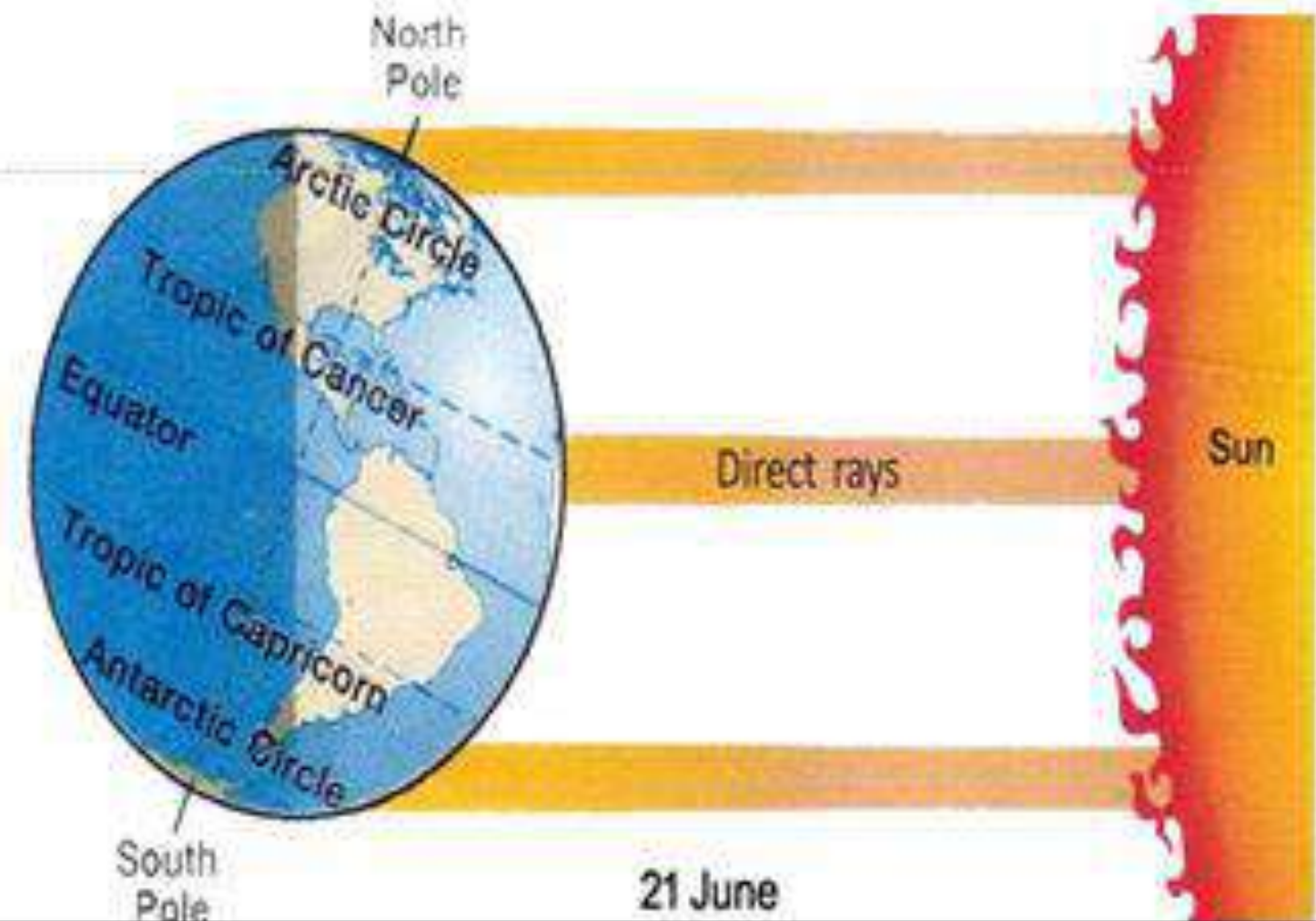
Zero-Shadow Day

- Bi-annual phenomenon.
- Occurs in places between 23.5N and 23.5S degree latitudes.
- Sun is almost never exactly overhead at noon.



Significance of Earth's inclination

- Reason for having seasons.
- Regions between tropic of cancer and tropic of Capricorn - direct rays of sun.
- Earth's tilt - Seasons not too extreme.



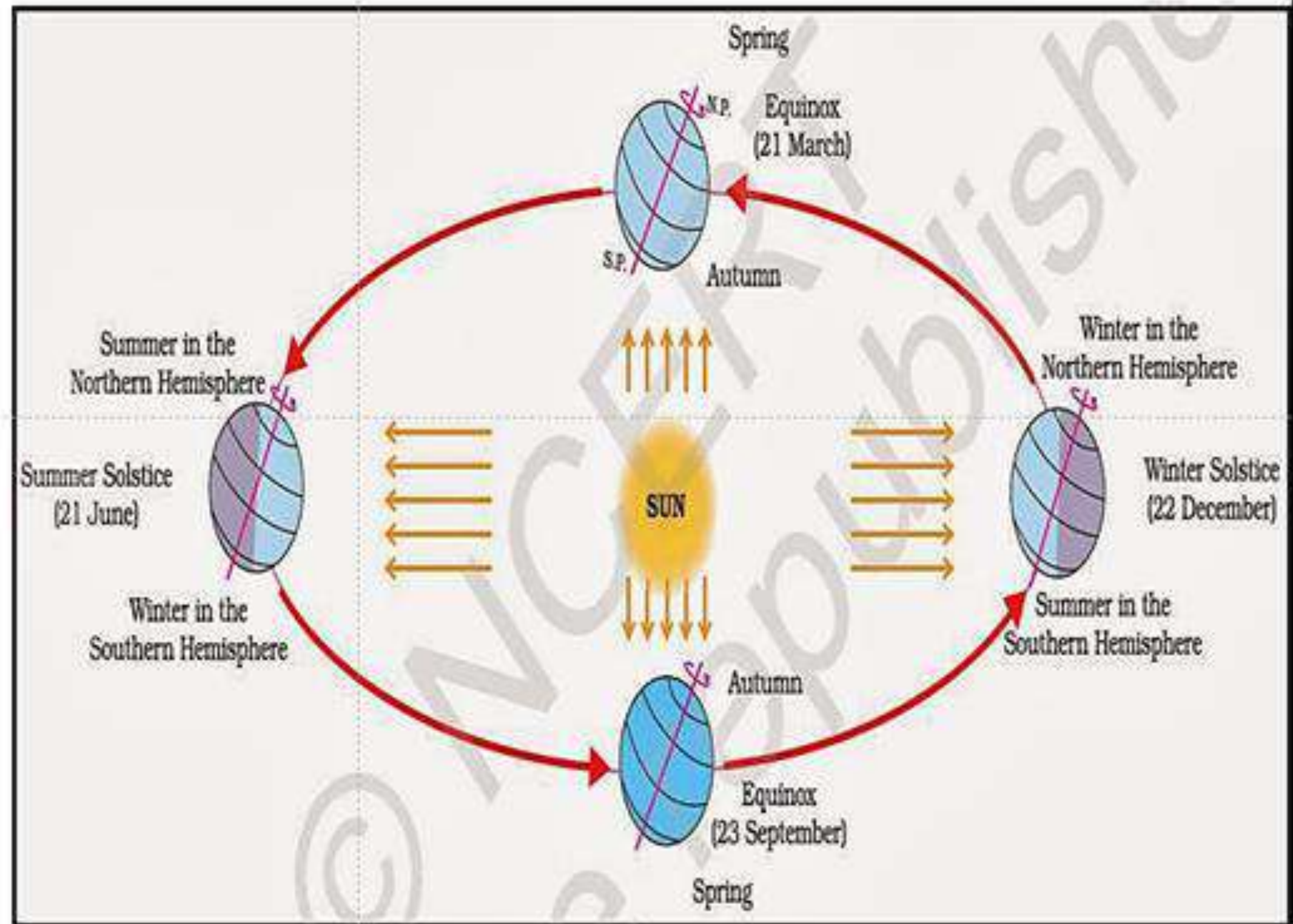
- Between 23.5N and 23.5S - direct Sun's rays equal to their latitude twice.

- Uttarayan/winter solstice and Dakshinayan/summer solstice.

- Sun exactly overhead at noon

- Not cast a shadow of an object.

- Different for different places on earth.



Question

Consider the following statements:

1. In India, Non-Banking Financial Companies can access the Liquidity Adjustment Facility window of the Reserve Bank of India.
2. In India, Foreign Institutional Investors can hold the Government Securities (G-Secs).
3. In India, Stock Exchanges can offer separate trading platforms for debts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Why has India allowed FIIs to invest in its green bonds?

What are Sovereign Green Bonds? How will investments by Foreign Institutional Investors in green government securities accelerate India's transition to a green economy?

Kunal Shankar

The story so far:

In April 5 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) green lighted investments in the country's Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) – investors such as insurance companies, pension funds and nation-states' sovereign wealth funds. SGrBs are a kind of government debt that specifically funds projects attempting to accelerate India's transition to a low carbon economy.

How does it help in green transition?

Allowing FIIs to invest in India's green projects widens the pool of capital available to fund the country's ambitious 2070 net zero goals, ensuring 50% of India's energy comes from non-fossil fuel based sources and to reduce the carbon intensity of the nation's economy by 45%, as pledged by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi at COP26 in Glasgow 2021.

The RBI had issued SGrBs worth ₹15,000 crore in two tranches in January and February last year with maturities in 2028 and 2033. While in both instances the bonds were oversubscribed, the main participants were domestic financial institutions and banks, narrowing the avenues from where the government could borrow. Moreover, these green Government Securities (G-Secs) were classified under the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), a liquidity rate fixed by the RBI that financial institutions must maintain with themselves before they lend to their customers.

SGrBs yield lower interest than conventional G-Secs, and the amount foregone by a bank by investing in them is called a greenium. But central banks and governments the world over are encouraging financial institutions to embrace greeniums to hasten the transition to a greener future. Climate finance experts believe India would gain

from allowing FIIs in green G-Secs. They say FIIs are also looking to diversify their pool of green investments, as there is considerable regulatory support particularly in developed countries. And so this is an opportunity for them to invest in India's green g-secs. Ashim Roy, Energy Finance lead at World Resources Institute, India said FIIs might also be looking to gain green credentials when such investments may not be available in their home markets, and because India has successfully addressed greenwashing fears with the Sovereign Green Bonds Framework in late 2022.

What is the green taxonomy gap?

In the 2022-23 Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the government's decision to issue SGrBs to accelerate funding government projects such as harnessing offshore wind, grid-scale solar power production, or encouraging the transition to battery operated Electric Vehicles (EVs). But the

RBI had not created a green taxonomy, or a way to assess an investment's environmental, or emissions credentials to ensure the project is not an attempt at greenwashing, that is, faking green credentials to secure funding.

To address this gap, the Finance Ministry released India's first SGrB Framework on November 9, 2022 detailing the kind of projects that would receive funding through this class of G-Secs. These included "investments in solar/wind/biomass/hydropower energy projects (under 25 MW) that integrate energy generation and storage; supporting public lighting improvements (e.g. replacement with LEDs); supporting construction of new low-carbon buildings as well as energy-efficiency retrofits to existing buildings; projects to reduce electricity grid losses." The list goes on to include promoting public transport, subsidies to adopt EVs and building charging infrastructure. The government also sought Norway-based validator Cicero's opinion comparing India's SGrB Framework with International Capital Market Association's (ICMA's) green principles. Cicero rated India's framework as "green medium" with a score of "good governance". WRI's Ashim Roy said, "It would be crucial to identify new green projects with credible audit trails and high impact to optimally deploy the proceeds, especially ones that has received limited private capital like Distributed Renewable Energy and clean energy transition finance for MSMEs."

THE GIST

Allowing FIIs to invest in India's green projects widens the pool of capital available to fund the country's ambitious 2070 net zero goals.

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The Hindu

Text and Context II

Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) and India's Transition to a Low-Carbon

GSIII

- Q. How will investments by Foreign Institutional Investors in green government securities accelerate India's transition to a low-carbon economy? And what are the challenges and solutions?

Question

Which one of the following words/phrases is most appropriately used to denote “an interoperable network of 3D virtual worlds that can be accessed simultaneously by millions of users, who can exert property rights over virtual items”?

- (a) Bigdata analytics
- (b) Cryptography
- (c) Metaverse
- (d) Virtual matrix

Metaverse

- Future iteration of the internet.
- A persistent, shared, 3D virtual spaces linked into a perceived virtual universe.
- Involves avatars, digital objects, functioning economies etc.
- Parallel to the physical world.



Question

With reference to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) rules in India, consider the following statements:

1. CSR rules specify that expenditures that benefit the company directly or its employees will not be considered as CSR activities.
2. CSR rules do not specify minimum spending on CSR activities.

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

Criteria for companies to spend on CSR

1. Net worth of the company to be Rs 500 crore or more; or
 2. Turnover of the company to be Rs 1000 crore or more; or
 3. Net profit of the company to be Rs 5 crore or more.
- Requirement - CSR spend amounting to 2% of their average annual profit over last three years.

Issues with CSR:

1. Excess of the minimum 2% - liable to be deducted from expenditures in the following three financial years.
 - ✓ Many established their own foundations or trusts - to which they pass the required CSR funding for use.
2. Geographical bias
 - ✓ Low/no preference given to local area/areas around it where it operates.
3. % of spending on environment is low.
4. Monitoring - by a board-led, disclosure-based regime.

Question

In India, which of the following can trade in Corporate Bonds and Government Securities?

1. Insurance Companies
2. Pension Funds
3. Retail Investors

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

How the G-Secs are issued?

- G-Secs are issued through auctions conducted by RBI.
- Auctions - conducted on the electronic platform called the E-Kuber.
- All members of E-Kuber can place their bids in the auction through this electronic platform. The results of the auction are published by RBI at stipulated time.
- All non-E-Kuber members can also participate in the primary auction but through scheduled commercial banks or Primary Dealers (PD).

- Competitive and non-competitive bids.
- Government Stock up to a certain percentage (Eg: 5%) of the notified sale amount will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions under the Scheme for Non-competitive Bidding Facility - enables the participation of retail investors.
- Retail investor: any person, it includes individuals, firms, companies, corporate bodies, institutions, provident funds, trusts, and any other entity as may be prescribed by RBI – submit bid indirectly through Aggregator or Facilitator.

Why Central trade unions are opposing NPS?

- New pension scheme

- ✓ Employees - required to deposit 10% of the basic pay.
- ✓ Amount of pension - not fixed.
- ✓ Market-linked & return-based.
- ✓ Pension fund - Pension fund managers, with the consent of NPS account holder.
- ✓ Pension fund managers - invest the fund in stocks, mutual funds & govt. bonds.
- ✓ PFM - provides return as pension to NPS account holder.

The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as:

- (a) the number of children born per 1000 people in the population in a year.
- (b) the number of children born to a couple in their lifetime in a given population.
- (c) the birth rate minus death rate.
- (d) the average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.

Total fertility rate

- Total number of children born or likely to be born to a woman in her lifetime.
- Lifetime - women's childbearing years (15 to 49).
- Replacement level fertility
 - ✓ Population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next.
 - ✓ Indicates the population stability.
 - ✓ TFR of about 2.1 children per woman
- TFR lower than 2.1 - generation is not producing enough children to replace itself.



Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

If the United States of America (USA) were to default on its debt, holders of US Treasury default an its debt, holders of US Treasury Bonds will not be able to exercise their claims to receive payment.

Statement II:

The USA Government debt is not backed by any hard assets, but only by the faith of the Government.

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 incorrect (d)Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement- II is correct

Basics of Bonds

About the Bond

- Instruments - Borrow money from the market.
- Can be issued - Both governments (or) company to raise funds.
- Generally backed - sovereign guarantee of the government.
- Safest investments in the market.



SUB
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33:23 / 41:49 • 5. US Bond yield hits 16 year high of 5%. Why it is risi



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Which one of the following was the latest inclusion in the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO?

- (a) Chhau dance
- (b) Durga puja
- (c) Garba dance
- (d) Kumbh mela

Non-physical
(oral, T,
Performa,
Rituals, etc.)

Intangible cultural heritage (UNESCO)



Garba dance
(Gujarat)

1972 convention

2003
Convention



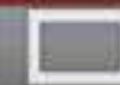
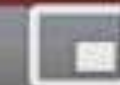
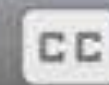
UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritages of India



SUB
scribe



7:57 / 20:49



Durga Puja

- Durga - Hindu mother-goddess - formless supreme power.
- One of largest cultural carnivals and street art festival of India.
- Celebrated in many parts amongst Bengali population.
- ✓ Most notable - Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Annual festival celebrated in September or October for 10 days.



Question

Consider the following statements in respect of the digital rupee :

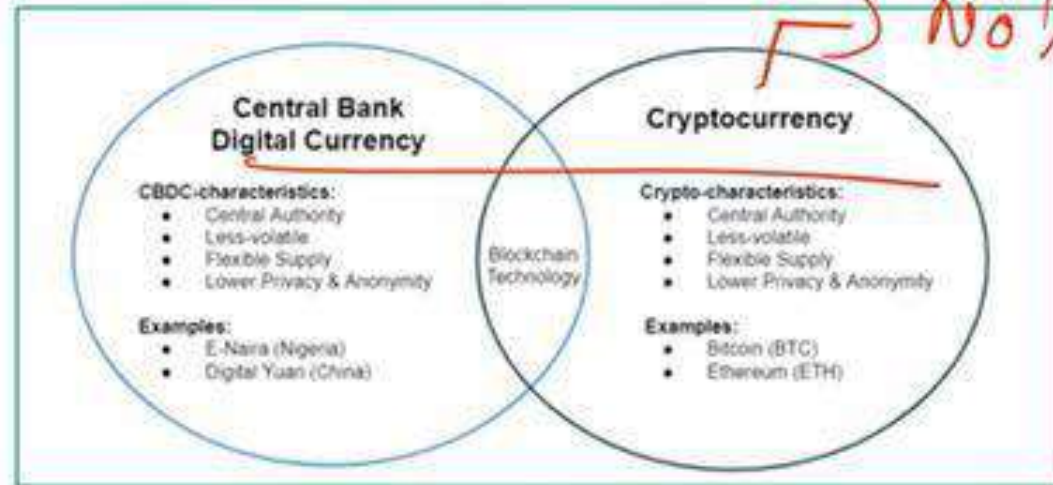
1. It is a sovereign currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India RHI in alignment with its monetary policy.
2. It appears as a liability on the RBI's balance sheet.
3. It is insured against inflation by its very design.
4. It is freely convertible against commercial bank money and cash.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

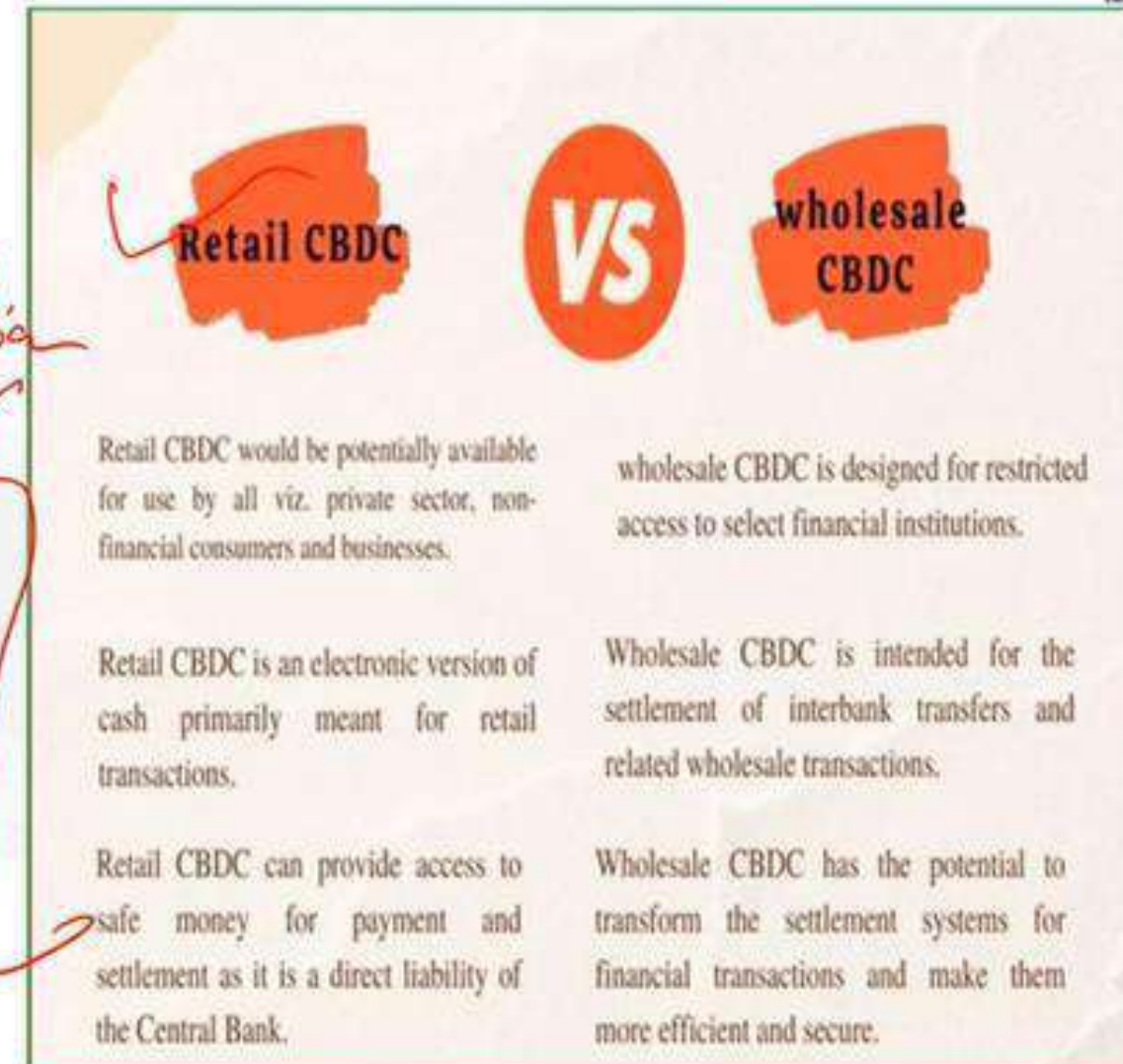
"A CBDC is the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form"



Digital rupee - divided it into two categories

✓ Retail E-rupee

✓ Wholesale CBDC



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Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Which of the following statements are the main features of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):

1. It is a sovereign currency that central banks issue in accordance with their monetary policy.
2. On the balance sheet of the central bank, it is listed as a liability.
3. It is freely convertible into cash and money from commercial banks.
4. Holders of CBDC do not need to have a bank account because it is fungible legal money.
5. It is anticipated to reduce the price of issuing currency and the cost of transactions.

Choose the correct code:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- b) 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

1:54 / 1:56:26



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