

UPSC CSE Preliminary Examination 2026, Prestorming (2025-26) Reflections

Out of 100 Questions asked in the UPSC CSE Preliminary Examination-2026, **46 questions** are reflected from the **PRESTORMING TEST SERIES 2025-26**.

- Total number of **questions directly reflected** – 22.
- Total number of **questions partially reflected** – 24.

UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2026 – PRESTORMING DIRECT REFLECTIONS

UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2026 - SERIES A	PRESTORMING 2025-2026 DIRECT REFLECTIONS
Q.NO - 9 Which one of the following statements about the Eka Movement and Bardoli Satyagraha is correct? (a) The Eka Movement was throughout supported and organized by the Congress while Bardoli Satyagraha was initially independent of Congress influence and was only in the last stages supported by the Congress. (b) The Eka Movement was provided leadership by the taluqdars of Awadh, whereas the Bardoli Satyagraha was a	TEST 27 (Mock-I online) – Q.NO - 87 Consider the following statements regarding 20th-century Peasant Movements: 1. The Bardoli Satyagraha was sparked by the Government's decision to increase land revenue by 30 per cent. 2. In the Champaran Satyagraha, Gandhi successfully convinced the authorities to abolish the tinkathia system and return 100 per cent of the illegal dues extracted from peasants. 3. The Eka Movement was characterised by a symbolic religious ritual where peasants vowed to pay only the recorded rent on time and refuse forced labour. 4. The Tebhaga Movement involved the leadership of the Communist Party. How many of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All four EXPLANATION: The Bardoli taluqa in Surat saw intense politicisation after Gandhi's rise. The movement sparked off in January 1926 when authorities raised land revenue by 30%, and a Congress-backed Inquiry Committee found the hike unjustified. So, Statement 1 is correct. Leadership: ➤ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel led the peasant movement in Bardoli, a taluka in Gujarat, against this enhancement of land revenue. ➤ Known as the Bardoli Satyagraha, the movement was successful under Patel's able leadership, and the struggle was widely publicised, generating immense sympathy across India. ➤ It is during this time period the women of Bardoli gave him the title "Sardar". The European indigo planters forced peasants in Champaran to cultivate indigo on 3/20 of their land, known as the tinkathia system.



movement of the landless labourers. (c) The Bardoli Satyagraha was a campaign against the enhancement of land revenue, while the Eka Movement was a protest against excessive extraction of rents. (d) The Eka Movement was located in the Varanasi and Mirzapur districts of the present-day U.P., while the Bardoli Satyagraha took place in Saurashtra.	➤ Gandhi investigated the issue despite being ordered to leave, marking an early use of civil disobedience. ➤ The government later appointed a committee and included Gandhi as a member. ➤ Gandhi convinced the authorities to abolish the tinkathia system, ending the forced indigo cultivation. Regarding compensation: ➤ Gandhi demanded compensation for the illegal dues taken from peasants. ➤ As a compromise, he agreed that only 25% of the money collected would be refunded — not 100%. Thus, Gandhi did convince the authorities to abolish the tinkathia system. But he did not secure 100% return of illegal dues; he agreed to only 25% compensation. So, Statement 2 is not correct. Toward the end of 1921, peasant unrest re-emerged in the northern districts of the United Provinces of Hardoi, Bahraich, and Sitapur due to several grievances which were: • High rents, often 50% higher than the recorded rates • Oppressive practices of thikadars who handled revenue collection • The continued use of share-rents In response, peasants launched the Eka (Unity) Movement. Meetings of this movement featured a symbolic religious ritual in which peasants collectively took vows that they would: • pay only the recorded rent, and pay it on time • not leave their land even if evicted • refuse forced labour (begar) • give no assistance to criminals • follow the decisions of the panchayat The movement drew its grassroots leadership from Madari Pasi and other lower-caste leaders, as well as small zamindars. However, by March 1922, severe government repression brought the movement to an end. So, Statement 3 is correct. The Tebhaga Movement began in September 1946 when the Bengal Provincial Kisan Sabha called for a mass struggle to implement the Flood Commission's recommendation of tebhaga, that is giving bargardars (sharecroppers) two-thirds of the produce instead of one-half. These sharecroppers worked on land rented from jotedars. Role of Communist Cadres: ➤ The communist cadres, including many urban student militias went to the countryside to organise the bargardars. ➤ The central slogan was 'nij khamare dhan tolo'—i.e., sharecroppers taking the paddy to their own threshing floor and not to the jotedar's house, as before, so as to enforce tebhaga.
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➤ The storm centre of the movement was north Bengal, principally among Rajbanshis—a low caste of tribal origin. Muslims also participated in large numbers.
Thus, Tebhaga movement was one of the strands of national upsurge where the Communist Party played a significant role. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

Q.NO -15

Which of the following pairs of the king and his dynasty in early historical Tamilakam is/are **not** correctly matched ?

1. Senguttuvan:
Chera
2. Udiyanjeral: Chola
3. Nedunjeliyan:
Pandya

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

TEST 16 – Q.NO - 11

With reference to the early historic Tamil kingdoms, consider the following:

S.No	Kingdom	Capital	Port
1.	Pandya	Madurai	Muchiri
2.	Cholas	Uraiyur	Puhar
3.	Cheras	Vanji	Korkai

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

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

EXPLANATION:

The Pandyas are considered to be the earliest rulers of the Sangam Age.

- There are many references to Pandyas in literary sources such as the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Arthashastra and the accounts of Megasthenes.
- They ruled over the southern Tamil country.
- According to legends, they patronised the poets of the Sangam Age.
- Their capital was at **Madurai**.
- **Korkai** was their port city.

Neducheliyan was the famous ruler of this dynasty, who is said to have defeated the Aryan rulers. Fish was their emblem.

Muchiri was the Port of Cheras. **So, Row 1 is not correct.**

The **Cholas** ruled over the Kaveri delta.

- Their capital was situated at **Uraiyur**.
- They also had another capital at **Puhar** (Kaveripattinam), which also acted as a port city. **So, Row 2 is correct.**
- Karikala was the famous king of this dynasty, who is said to have destroyed all his enemies at a very young age and is also credited with the building of a dam or bund across the river Kaveri.
- There were other rulers, such as Nedunkilli. Tiger was their emblem.

- The history of Sangam **Cheras** is gleaned from **Patirrupattu**, a work of eight anthologies.
- The Pugalur Tamil Brahmi inscription of the early centuries of the Christian era also refers to the genealogy of the Chera rulers.
- The Cheras ruled over most of Kerala and western Tamil Nadu from Vanchi and Karur.
- They had main capital of **Vanji** is identified with modern Karur near Tiruchirapalli. Some scholars identify it with Kodungallore near Thrissur in Kerala.
- **Muziri**, near the mouth of the Periyar, was the famous port of the Cheras. **So, Row 3 is not correct.**
- **Senguttuvan was the prominent ruler of this dynasty, and he was a contemporary of Gajabahu of Sri Lanka. The bow and arrow were the emblem of the Cheras.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Kingdoms and Life in the South

About

- In India's southern region, this period, between the 2nd or 3rd century BCE and the 3rd century CE, saw the rise to prominence of three powerful kingdoms —**the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas** — which often competed with each other for control over the South, while also contributing to the region's growth in trade and culture.
- That period saw the advent of many poets whose works, collectively known as '**Sangam literature**', defined the entire era: it came to be known as the 'Sangam Age'.
- The word sangam is derived from the Sanskrit sangha, which translates to 'association' and 'coming together' — in this context, referring to an assembly of the poets.
- The Sangam literature, the oldest in South India, consists of several collections or anthologies of poems and is much consulted by historians who investigate the society and culture of the times.
- Primarily, Sangam poetry expresses with great skill and delicacy personal emotions such as love or societal values like heroism and generosity.

	Cholas	➤ The Cholas were a powerful dynasty that ruled parts of South India from the 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE. The Chola king Karikala is said to have defeated a combined force of the Cheras and Pāṇḍyas and established his supremacy. ➤ Karikala undertook many projects for the benefit of the people. ➤ Among them is the Kallanai or Grand Anicut, a complex water diversion system located at a geographically strategic point just downstream of the Srirangam island. ➤ It helped to divert waters from the Kaveri to the central and southern parts of the Kaveri delta. This enabled more land to be brought under cultivation, earning this area the name 'rice bowl of the South'. ➤ Restored several times in the course of time, it is still in use and helps millions of people in Tamil Nadu by providing water for irrigation and thus supporting agriculture in the region.
	Cheras	➤ Also known as the Keralaputra (sons of Kerala), the Cheras ruled over the western parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, with their capital at Vanji, present-day Karur in Tamil Nadu. ➤ They played an essential role in shaping the region's cultural and economic history, encouraging the growth of Tamil literature and patronising Sangam poets. ➤ The Cheras were known for their extensive trade connections with the Roman Empire and West Asia, exporting many goods from India to the outside world. The kingdom became a hub for the export of spices, timber, ivory and pearls.
	Pandyas	➤ The Pandyas' rule over parts of Tamil Nadu and the surrounding regions, with their capital at present-day Madurai, goes back several centuries BCE. ➤ Successive kings expanded the Pandyan kingdom. ➤ In his work Indika, Megasthenes mentions this kingdom as a prosperous one, with a strong administration and involved in active trade with distant powers like the Greeks and Romans, apart from much internal trade (Kharavela, for instance, states that he gets hundreds of pearls brought from the Pandya kingdom). ➤ The Pandyas were also an important naval power of the subcontinent. ➤ The later Pandyas also contributed greatly to the art, architecture, and overall prosperity of the region.

Q.NO – 24

In what way(s) does the Vizhinjam International Seaport represent a structural shift in India's maritime trade and logistics policy?

1. By functioning exclusively as a domestic cargo hub to reduce reliance on coastal shipping and eliminate the need for foreign collaborations.
2. By focusing primarily on passenger cruise tourism and heritage shipping to increase Kerala's profile as

TEST 07 – Q.NO – 03

With reference to the Vizhinjam Port, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Greenfield port project.
2. It is a man-made harbour.
3. It can act as a transshipment hub.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

EXPLANATION:

India's First deep-water container transshipment port in Vizhinjam, Kerala. Vizhinjam Port is the first Greenfield port project in India, initiated by a state Government with an investment exceeding ₹18,000 crores. Developed under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, it stands as one of the largest initiatives in the country's port sector.

- Vizhinjam's strategic location near international shipping routes significantly reduces transit times for vessels, making it a pivotal point for maritime trade.
- As one of India's few natural deep-water ports, it can efficiently accommodate large cargo and container ships.
- Vizhinjam is set to become a key player in regional trade, potentially serving as a gateway for commerce between Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Vizhinjam is a natural port, endowed with a natural depth of 24 m (which is by far the best compared to other ports in the world), and is located as close as one Nautical Mile from the sea coast.

There is no littoral sedimentation, and due to natural depth availability, the site needs no dredging or minimal capital dredging requirements and thus low costs (as compared to any other port in India within a reasonable distance from the East-West Shipping axis). **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

a maritime heritage destination. 3. By leveraging its natural deep draft and strategic location to reduce dependence foreign trans-shipment ports, on enhance revenue retention, and reposition India in regional maritime trade. Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 3 only	Being the southern tip of India, Vizhinjam port is strategically poised to emerge as a transshipment hub that can consolidate and transfer Indian and regional origin cargo to mainline vessels at lower costs than routing them via Colombo. By locating a world-class Indian transshipment port right on top of a core international shipping lane, Vizhinjam can unlock lasting maritime and economic advantages for the country. So, Statement 3 is correct. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">VIZHINJAM PORT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Recently in news</td><td>The second phase of the Vizhinjam International Port project in Kerala is set to begin on November 5, with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurating the next stage of development. In a significant acceleration plan, phases two, three, and four will be executed simultaneously, with completion targeted for December 2028.</td></tr> <tr> <td>About</td><td> The Vizhinjam International Transshipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport is an ambitious project taken up by the Government of Kerala. ➤ It is designed primarily to cater to container transshipment, besides multi-purpose and break-bulk cargo. ➤ The port is currently being developed in a landlord model with a Public Private Partnership component on a design, build, finance, operate and transfer ("DBFOT") basis. ➤ The private partner, the Concessionaire M/s Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited, commenced construction on December 5 2015. </td></tr> <tr> <td>Mega Ports</td><td> India plans to develop six mega-port clusters by 2047 under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision, 2047, out of which four port clusters, namely, ➤ Cochin – Vizhinjam Port cluster, ➤ Galathea South Bay Port, ➤ Chennai – Kamarajar – Cuddalore Port cluster, ➤ Paradip and other Non-Major Ports cluster with capacity of more than 300 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) and two port clusters, namely, Deendayal and Tuna Tekra Port cluster, Jawaharlal Nehru – Vadhavan Port cluster with capacity of more than 500 MTPA are being developed as Mega Ports by the year 2047. </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	VIZHINJAM PORT		Recently in news	The second phase of the Vizhinjam International Port project in Kerala is set to begin on November 5, with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurating the next stage of development. In a significant acceleration plan, phases two, three, and four will be executed simultaneously, with completion targeted for December 2028.	About	The Vizhinjam International Transshipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport is an ambitious project taken up by the Government of Kerala. ➤ It is designed primarily to cater to container transshipment, besides multi-purpose and break-bulk cargo. ➤ The port is currently being developed in a landlord model with a Public Private Partnership component on a design, build, finance, operate and transfer ("DBFOT") basis. ➤ The private partner, the Concessionaire M/s Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited, commenced construction on December 5 2015.	Mega Ports	India plans to develop six mega-port clusters by 2047 under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision, 2047, out of which four port clusters, namely, ➤ Cochin – Vizhinjam Port cluster, ➤ Galathea South Bay Port, ➤ Chennai – Kamarajar – Cuddalore Port cluster, ➤ Paradip and other Non-Major Ports cluster with capacity of more than 300 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) and two port clusters, namely, Deendayal and Tuna Tekra Port cluster, Jawaharlal Nehru – Vadhavan Port cluster with capacity of more than 500 MTPA are being developed as Mega Ports by the year 2047.
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Major Ports

West Coast

- Kandla (Gujarat)
- Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- Jawaharlal Nehru (Maharashtra)
- Mormugao (Goa)
- New Mangalore (Karnataka)
- Cochin (Kerala)

East Coast

- Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu)
- Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
- Ennore (Tamil Nadu)
- Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)
- Paradip (Orissa)
- Kolkata, Haldia (West Bengal)
- Sri Vijaya Puram, Haddo (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

TEST 21 – Q.NO - 76

Consider the following statements:

1. This port finds mentions in Inscriptions from the Pandya-Chola era (1129 AD) as Rajendra Chola Pattinam, and in the first century AD historical travelogue The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea.
2. Among all existing Indian ports, It is the closest to international shipping routes.
3. It is India's first semi-automated port.

Which of the following ports is described above?

- (a) Tuticorin port
- (b) Vizhinjam port**
- (c) Karaikal port
- (d) Chennai port

EXPLANATION:

The town of Vizhinjam in Kerala has played a crucial role in the history of global maritime trade. **Inscriptions from the Pandya-Chola era (1129 AD) records Vizhinjam as Rajendra Chola Pattinam**, a port of Kerala.

- Historians claim that Balita, a port with considerable commercial importance which finds mention in the first century AD historical travelogue **The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, is Vizhinjam's old name.**
- However, this historical significance faded away after colonisers of India prioritised ports in other places like Cochin and Madras.
- It is **India's first semi-automated port.** it also flaunts a skilled women workforce operating automated cranes, another first in India.
- This port is of immense significance to India's global maritime trade.
- Currently, around 75% of India's transshipment cargo is handled at ports like Colombo, Singapore and Klang.
- Amongst all existing Indian ports, **Vizhinjam is the closest to international shipping routes**, strategically located just 10 nautical miles from the global maritime trading route.
- This all-weather port is India's first greenfield port project. **So, Option (b) is correct.**



Q.NO – 30

Ships from which of the following countries have to cross the Strait of Hormuz to reach out to the Indian Ocean?

A ship is unable to exit the Strait of Hormuz. It has decided to dock in one of the countries of the Persian Gulf. In which of the following countries can the ship not dock?

- (a) Iraq
- (b) Kuwait
- (c) Saudi Arabia
- (d) Yemen**

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST - I - Q.NO – 38

1. Bahrain
2. Syria
3. Qatar
4. Egypt

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow sea passage, separating the Arabian Peninsula and Iran, and connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

- A ship unable to exit the Strait would need to dock in one of the countries bordering the Persian Gulf.
 - The Persian Gulf is bordered by eight countries. Iran lies along its northern and eastern coast, while **Iraq lies to the northwest.**
 - The southern and western shores are bordered by Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, **Saudi Arabia**, and **Kuwait.**
- Thus, **ships can dock in Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia** since these countries border the Persian Gulf.

However, a **ship cannot dock in Yemen** as it does not have a coastline along the Persian Gulf and instead lies along the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea. **So, Option (d) is correct.**



Q.NO – 32

With reference to Madhav National Park, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was declared a Tiger Reserve in India in 2025.
2. Sakhya Sagar, which is designated as a Ramsar Site, is situated within this National Park.
3. Its area is shared between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

TEST 8 – Q.NO – 4

Consider the following Statements:

1. It is the latest tiger reserve of the country.
2. The Reserve has Tropical dry deciduous mixed forests.
3. The Reserve is located in the State that has the highest number of tiger reserves in the country.

Which of the following tiger reserves is described above?

- (a) Ratapani Tiger Reserve
(b) Dholpur – Karauli Tiger Reserve
(c) Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve

(d) Madhav Tiger Reserve

EXPLANATION:

Madhav National Park in Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh, was declared a tiger reserve earlier in March 2025, taking the tally of such reserves in the country to 58.

- **The latest tiger reserve** is spread over an area of 1,651 sq km, and currently has six tigers, including a cub. It is hoped that the notification of the new reserve will aid the movement of tigers in the Ranthambore-Kuno-Madhav National Park corridor, identified as a promising habitat for a growing tiger population.
- The forests of the park fall within the category of Northern tropical dry deciduous mixed forests as well as Dry Thorn Forests typical of North – Western Madhya Pradesh.
- With the inclusion of Madhav National Park, Madhya Pradesh now boasts nine tiger reserves, the highest number in any Indian state. **So, Option (d) is correct.**



Q.NO – 33

With reference to the climate of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The climate can be defined as a humid, tropical coastal climate.

TEST 8 – Q.NO – 10

Consider the following with respect to the Greater Nicobar Islands:

1. The island has a Tropical deciduous forest.
2. Only the Shompen tribes inhabit this island.
3. Crab-eating Macaque, an endangered species, is endemic to this island.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands support very luxuriant and rich vegetation due to a tropical hot and humid climate with abundant rains. As per the Champion & Seth Classification of Forest Types (1968), the forests in Andaman & Nicobar Islands belong to four

2. It receives rainfall from both South-west monsoon and North-east monsoon. 3. Maximum precipitation is between December and May. Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 3 only	Type Groups, i.e. Tropical Wet Evergreen, Tropical Semi Evergreen, Tropical Moist Deciduous and Littoral & Swamp Forests, which are further categorised into 13 Forest Types. The Great Nicobar, one of the largest islands of the Nicobar, has a wide spectrum of ecosystems comprising tropical wet evergreen forests, mountain ranges reaching a height of 642 m (Mt. Thullier) above sea level, and coastal plains. The moist deciduous forests are common in the Andamans; they are almost absent in the Nicobar Islands. So, Statement 1 is not correct. Great Nicobar is home to two notable tribes, namely, Nicobarese and Shompen. ➤ The Mongoloid Shompen tribe, about 200 in number, live in the forests of the biosphere reserve, particularly along the rivers and streams. They are hunters and food gatherers, dependent on forest and marine resources for sustenance. ➤ Another Mongoloid Tribe, Nicobarese, about 300 in number, used to live in settlements along the west coast. They were relocated to Afra Bay in the North Coast and Campbell Bay. They survive on fish caught from the sea. ➤ The Shompen move between the Core and Buffer zones, while the Nicobarese live in settlements spread along the coast. So, Statement 2 is not correct. The Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve region is noted for its rich biodiversity. ➤ It houses 650 species of angiosperms, ferns, gymnosperms, bryophytes and lichens, among others. The tract is rich in plant diversity and fosters a number of rare and endemic species, including Cyathea albisetacea (tree fern) and Phalaenopsis speciosa (orchid). ➤ A total of 14 species of mammals, 71 species of birds, 26 species of reptiles, 10 species of amphibians and 113 species of fish have been reported. The region also harbours a large number of endemic and endangered species of fauna. To date, 11 species of mammals, 32 species of birds, 7 species of reptiles and 4 species of amphibians have been found to be endemic. ➤ Of these, the well-known Crab-eating, Nicobar Tree Shrew, Dugong, Nicobar Megapode, Serpent Eagle, saltwater crocodile, marine turtles and Reticulated Python are endemic and/or endangered. So, Statement 3 is correct. ➤ The Nicobar megapode, which has been listed as "vulnerable to extinction" under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list, is found only in the Nicobar Islands. Named for their enormous feet (mega-large; poda- foot) that resemble those of prehistoric species, these pheasant-like birds are becoming an increasingly rare sight in the islands they call home.
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Recently in the News	The Great Nicobar Island Project is an ongoing mega project launched in 2021 under the Holistic Development of the Island programme. The mega infrastructure project, implemented by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO), is proposed to construct an International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT), a greenfield international airport, a "greenfield city",
About	➤ The Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is situated between 6° and 14° North Latitude and 92° and 94° East Longitude. ➤ The islands located north of 10° north latitude are known as the Andaman Group of islands, while the islands located south of 10° north latitude are called the Nicobar Group of islands. ➤ The climate of the islands can be defined as a humid, tropical coastal climate. The islands receive rainfall from both the south-west and north-east monsoons, and maximum precipitation is between May & December. ➤ The original inhabitants of the islands lived in the forests for hunting and fishing.

		➤ There are four Negrito tribes, viz., the Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa and Sentinalese in the Andaman group of islands and two Mongoloid tribes, viz., Nicobarese and Shompens in the Nicobar group of islands.
	Forests	➤ The recorded forest is 7,171 sq km of the total geographical area of the islands. Many types of forests are found in the islands, such as tropical wet evergreen, tropical semi-evergreen, moist deciduous, littoral, mangrove and swamp forests. ➤ A large variety of timbers are found in the Andaman group of islands. The most valuable timbers are padauk and gurjan. These species are not found in the Nicobar.
	Wildlife	There are 96 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 9 National Parks and 1 Biosphere Reserve in these Islands. ➤ Mammals - Out of 55 terrestrial and 7 Marine mammal species reported so far, 32 species are endemic. ➤ Birds - As many as 246 species and subspecies of birds are reported to inhabit these Islands, and of these, 99 species and subspecies are endemic. ➤ Reptiles - There are 76 terrestrial reptiles; of these, 24 species are endemic. ➤ Marine Life - Islands harbour more than 1,200 species of fish, 350 species of echinoderms, 1,000 species of Molluscs and many more lower forms of life. Among vertebrates, dugongs, dolphins, whales, saltwater crocodiles, sea turtles, sea snakes, etc., are common. ➤ Coral and Coral reefs - So far, 179 species of corals belonging to 61 genera have been reported. Reefs are mostly fringing type on the eastern coast and barrier type on the western coast.
<u>Q.NO – 34</u> Which of the following geographical features or phenomena is/are associated with the Peninsular Block of India? 1. Submergence of parts of the	<u>TEST 8 – Q.NO – 53</u> Consider the following statements: Statement I: The Peninsular rivers are older than the Himalayan rivers. Statement II: Peninsular rivers are non-perennial and flow over ancient crystalline rocks. Statement III: They exhibit youthful topographic features such as V-shaped valleys and gorges. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements? (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct	

western coast due to tectonic activity 2. Presence of residual mountain ranges such as the Veliconda hills and Mahendragiri hills. 3. Deep, V-shaped river valleys formed by fast-flowing rivers. Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 3 only	EXPLANATION: The Peninsular drainage system is older than the Himalayan one. This is 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. So, Statement I is correct. In general, the Peninsular rivers are seasonal (non-perennial) as they primarily depend on rainfall for their flow. ➤ These rivers traverse ancient crystalline rocks of the Deccan Plateau, which is one of the oldest and most stable landmasses in the world. ➤ Over time, they have reached a mature stage of geomorphic development, characterized by broad, shallow valleys and well-graded river profiles. ➤ The fact that Peninsular rivers flow over such ancient crystalline terrain provides clear geological evidence of their greater age compared to the Himalayan rivers, which are much younger and flow through recently uplifted fold mountains. Therefore, the ancient and stable nature of the landmass on which they flow logically explains why Peninsular rivers are older than the Himalayan ones. So, Statement II is correct and Statement II explains Statement I. The Himalayan (not the Peninsular) drainage system exhibits youthful topographic features like deep gorges; these rivers also form V-shaped valleys, rapids and waterfalls in their mountainous course. While entering the plains, they form depositional features like flat valleys, ox-bow lakes, flood plains, braided channels, and deltas near the river mouth. Peninsular rivers are characterised by fixed course, absence of meanders and nonperennial flow of water, which are characteristics of a mature river system. So, Statement III is not correct. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: THE EVOLUTION OF PENINSULAR DRAINAGE SYSTEM About Three major geological events in the distant past have shaped the present drainage pattern of Peninsular India: ➤ Subsidence of the Western Flank: During the early Tertiary period, the western part of the Peninsula sank below sea level. This disturbed the original balance of rivers on both sides of the main watershed. ➤ Upheaval of the Himalayas: When the Himalayas were formed, the northern part of the Peninsular block sank, creating deep cracks or trough faults. Rivers like the Narmada and Tapi flow through these faults, carrying rock debris instead of forming deltas or alluvial plains. ➤ Tilting of the Peninsula: A gentle tilt of the land from northwest to southeast caused most rivers to flow eastward towards the Bay of Bengal.
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Major Peninsular River Systems

India's Peninsular region has many important rivers. Most of them flow eastward into the Bay of Bengal, while a few flow westward into the Arabian Sea. Below is a brief account of the major river systems:

Mahanadi River: The Mahanadi rises near Sihawa in Raipur district, Chhattisgarh, and flows through Odisha to join the Bay of Bengal.

- Length: About 851 km
- Catchment area: 1.42 lakh sq. km
- Basin distribution: 53% in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, 47% in Odisha

Godavari River: The Godavari, also called the Dakshin Ganga, is the largest Peninsular river. It rises near Trimbak in Nasik district, Maharashtra, and flows eastward to the Bay of Bengal. The river often floods in its lower course near Polavaram and forms a large delta near Rajahmundry

- Length: About 1,465 k
- Catchment area: 3.13 lakh sq. km
- Basin distribution: 49% in Maharashtra, 20% in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, rest in Andhra Pradesh
- Main tributaries: Penganga, Pranhita, Indravati, and Manjra

Krishna River: The Krishna is the second-largest east-flowing Peninsular river. It rises near Mahabaleshwar in the Western Ghats and joins the Bay of Bengal.

- Length: About 1,400 k
- Catchment area: 2.59 lakh sq. km
- Basin distribution: 27% in Maharashtra, 44% in Karnataka, and 29% in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
- Main tributaries: Koyna, Bhima, and Tungabhadra

Kaveri River: The Kaveri originates from the Brahmagiri Hills in Kodagu (Coorg) district, Karnataka, and flows southeast to the Bay of Bengal. The river flows throughout the year as its basin receives rain from both southwest and northeast monsoons.

- Length: About 800 km
- Catchment area: 81,155 sq. k
- Basin distribution: 3% in Kerala, 41% in Karnataka, and 56% in Tamil Nadu
- Main tributaries: Kabini, Bhavani, and Amravati

Narmada River: The Narmada rises from the Amarkantak Plateau in Madhya Pradesh at about 1,057 m elevation. It flows through a rift valley between the Satpura and Vindhya ranges and joins the Arabian Sea near Bharuch in Gujarat. It forms the

famous Marble Rocks and Dhuandhar Falls near Jabalpur and a 27 km long estuary near its mouth. The Sardar Sarovar Project is built on this river.

- Length: About 1,312 km
- Catchment area: 98,796 sq. km

Tapi River: The Tapi also flows westward. It originates near Multai in Betul district, Madhya Pradesh, and joins the Arabian Sea

- Length: About 724 k
- Catchment area: 65,145 sq. km
- Basin distribution: 79% in Maharashtra, 15% in Madhya Pradesh, and 6% in Gujarat

Luni River: The Luni is the largest river of western Rajasthan, lying west of the Aravalli range. It starts near Pushkar, where its two branches, the Saraswati and Sabarmati, meet at Govindgarh.

It flows southwest and finally ends in the Rann of Kachchh. The river is ephemeral, meaning it flows only during the monsoon.

TEST 8 – Q.NO - 39

Consider the following hills:

1. Aravalli hills
2. Nallamala hills
3. Javadi hills
4. Veliconda hills
5. Mahendragiri hills

Which of the above hills are examples of relict and residual mountains ?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 Only
- (b) 2, 3 and 5 Only
- (c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 Only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

EXPLANATION:

When mountain ranges are uplifted by tectonic forces, they are slowly worn down by wind, water, and ice over millions of years. The softer rocks erode quickly, while the harder rocks remain standing. These remaining hard rock portions are called relict or residual mountains. They are the remnants of old mountain ranges that have been mostly worn away by erosion and denudation.

	➤ The Peninsular Block of India is an ancient and stable landmass composed mainly of old gneisses and granites. ➤ Its northern boundary extends from Kachchh to the Rajmahal Hills, with extensions in Rajasthan, Meghalaya, and the Karbi Anglong Plateau. ➤ Due to tectonic movements, several rift valleys such as those of the Narmada, Tapi, and Mahanadi rivers were formed, along with block mountains like the Satpuras. ➤ The region is characterized by residual mountains such as the Aravalli, Nallamala, Javadi, Veliconda, Palkonda, and Mahendragiri Hills, and has shallow river valleys with gentle slopes. So, Option (d) is correct.
Q.NO – 35 Consider the following statements with reference to the Sagarmala Programme of the Government of India: I. The Sagarmala Programme seeks to port-led growth through cost-effective and sustainable achieve economic coastal infrastructure. II. The of the Sagarmala Programme is reflected in significant growth in coastal and	TEST 10 – Q.NO - 12 Under which one of the following initiatives has the Sittwe Port been strategically developed? (a) Sagarmala Programme (b) Bharatmala Pariyojana (c) Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (d) International North-South Transport Corridor EXPLANATION: Sittwe Port has been developed as part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP). Once operational, the port will provide multimodal transit connectivity between India and Southeast Asia. This transit project aims to connect Kolkata Port (India) to Mizoram (India) through Sittwe Port (capital of Rakhine State) in Myanmar via a combination of sea, river (Kaladan River), and road routes. The port was built under a framework agreement between India and Myanmar to create a transit transport facility on the Kaladan River, linking Sittwe Port in Myanmar with the state of Mizoram in India. The main objective of the KMTTP is to give Mizoram access to the sea through Sittwe Port. The project includes: - A 158 km waterway on the Kaladan River from Sittwe to Paletwa in Myanmar, and - A 109 km road from Paletwa to Zorinpui on the India–Myanmar border in Mizoram. Currently, the distance between Kolkata and Mizoram is about 1850 km, taking 7–8 days of travel. During the monsoon, landslides often block roads, disconnecting parts of the Northeast. With the Kaladan project, the distance will reduce to about 930 km, cutting travel time by 2–3 days. The route will help transport major commodities such as food grains, fertilisers, construction materials, fruits, and machinery more efficiently. So, Option (c) is correct.

inland waterway success shipping, along with improved global port rankings.

- III. Sagarmala 2.0 aims to position India as a global maritime innovation hub aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047 visions. Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct?

1. Statement II validates the effectiveness of the statement I. strategies envisioned in
2. Statement III extends the objectives of statement I by



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

OTHER IMPORTANT INITIATIVES

Sagarmala Programme

The Sagarmala Programme, launched in 2015, is India's major maritime development initiative. Its main goal is to use India's long coastline and waterways to promote port-led economic growth.

Objectives of Sagarmala:

- Modernise ports
- Improve port connectivity (rail, road, and waterways)
- Develop port-linked industries
- Support skill development and job creation
- Strengthen the coastal economy

embedding them into a future-oriented innovation framework. 3. Statement I contradicts statement IIT by focusing only on traditional infrastructure instead of modern innovation. Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 3 only		Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047: Sagarmala is a key part of the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 (MAKV), which aims to make India a global maritime leader by 2047. MAKV builds on Maritime India Vision 2030 and includes 300+ strategic initiatives to expand port capacity, develop world-class ports, grow shipbuilding, and promote a sustainable Blue Economy. Targets include 4 million GRT shipbuilding capacity and 10 billion tonnes of annual port handling. Sagarmala 2.0: Aims to further strengthen the maritime ecosystem under the Viksit Bharat Mission. Key goal: Increase port capacity from ~2,700 MTPA to over 10,000 MTPA, enabling higher trade volumes and lower logistics costs. This phase focuses on economic growth, along with environmental sustainability and better government support.  The infographic shows four pillars of the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047: Port-led Industrialization (Yellow): Industrial Cluster, SIPC/ SEZ, Thermal Power Plants, Port Led Industries. Coastal Community Development (Orange): Skill Development, Fisheries, Ropeway, Technology Centers, Community Development. Coastal Shipping & IWT (Red): Coastal Tourism, Ro-Ro/ Ro-Pax/ Passenger Jetty, Cruise Tourism, Coastal Infrastructure, Island Development, Inland waterways. Port Modernization (Blue): New ports, Port Modernization – Major Ports, Port Modernization – Non-Major Ports, Ship Repair. Port Connectivity (Green): Road, Rail, Pipeline, Multimodal hubs.
	Bharatmala Pariyojana	Bharatmala Pariyojana is a major highway development programme of the Government of India under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Its main purpose is to improve the efficiency of road-based freight and passenger movement across the country by closing critical infrastructure gaps. Key Objectives - Build a modern, well-connected national highway network. - Improve connectivity between major economic centres. - Strengthen border, coastal, rural, and port connectivity. - Reduce travel time and logistics costs. - Support economic growth and improve India's Logistics Performance Index (LPI). The following are the main components of Bharatmala Pariyojana: Economic Corridors: Develop about 26,000 km of highways linking important production and consumption centres to boost trade and manufacturing.



		Inter-Corridors & Feeder Routes: Inter-corridors: ~8,000 km to link major corridors for smooth long-distance travel. Feeder routes: ~7,500 km to provide first- and last-mile connectivity to smaller towns and industrial areas. National Corridor Efficiency Improvement: Widen and decongest heavily used National Corridors (including the Golden Quadrilateral and NS–EW network) to increase speed and reduce bottlenecks. Border & International Connectivity Roads: Strengthen roads near international borders to improve security, accessibility, and cross-border trade. Coastal & Port Connectivity Roads: Improve Road links to ports and coastal regions to support port-led development, tourism, and coastal industries. Greenfield Expressways: Build new, access-controlled expressways that reduce travel distance and time, and ease pressure on existing highways.
	International North-South Transport Corridor	The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multi-modal transport network developed by India, Russia, and Iran, based on an Inter-Governmental Agreement signed on 12 September 2000. Its aim is to improve trade and transport connectivity between India and Europe through the Middle East, Central Asia, and Russia. Member Countries There are 13 member countries: India, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus, Oman, and Syria. Bulgaria is an Observer State The INSTC is a multi-modal, cost and time-effective route from India to Northern and Western Europe. It has the potential to enhance India's connectivity with Central Asia and the Eurasian Region and vice versa, taking into account the geo-strategic and economic importance of all the involved countries.
	<u>TEST 17 – Q.NO - 12</u> Consider the following statements with respect to the 'Sagarmala Programme' that was recently in the 1. It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, aimed at transforming India's maritime sector. 2. It is a key pillar of the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 (MAKV). 3. Sagarmala 2.0 seeks to advance the Sagarmala Programme by focusing on shipbuilding, ship repair, ship recycling, and port modernisation, thereby enhancing India's maritime competitiveness. How many of the statements given above is/are not correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None	

EXPLANATION:

The Sagarmala Programme, launched in March 2015, is the flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways**, aimed at revolutionising India's maritime sector. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

- With 7,500 km coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways, and a strategic position on key global trade routes, India holds immense potential for port-led economic growth.
- Sagarmala aims to streamline logistics, reduce costs, and enhance international trade competitiveness by shifting from traditional, infrastructure-heavy transport to efficient coastal and waterway networks.
- The program focuses on port modernisation, industrial growth, job creation, and sustainable coastal development, ensuring minimal infrastructure investment while maximising economic impact.

The Sagarmala Programme is a key pillar of the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 (MAKV)**, driving India's ambition to become a global leader in maritime affairs. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Building on Maritime India Vision 2030, MAKV sets ambitious targets, including 4 million GRT of shipbuilding capacity and 10 billion metric tons of port handling annually, aiming to position India among the top five shipbuilding nations by 2047.

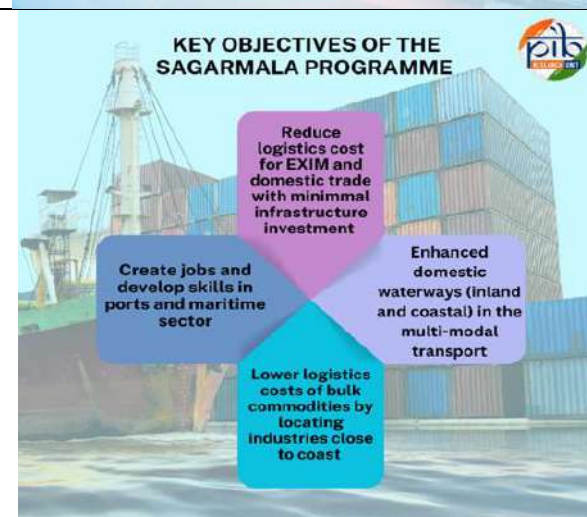
The Government of India is advancing the Sagarmala Programme with Sagarmala 2.0, focusing on shipbuilding, repair, recycling, and port modernisation to enhance India's maritime competitiveness. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

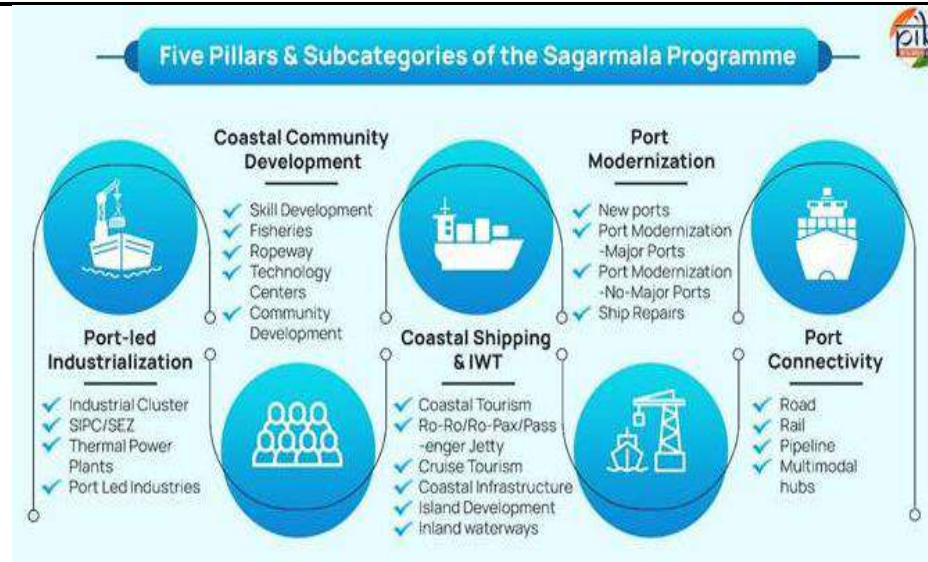
Recently, the Sagarmala Startup Innovation Initiative (S2I2) is a transformative program designed to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in India's maritime sector.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SAGARMALA PROGRAMME





Q.NO - 37

Which one of the following statements with regard to the Moidams, built by the Tai-Ahom kingdom and inscribed as a World Heritage Site by

TEST 18 – Q.NO - 22

With reference to UNESCO World Heritage sites in India, Consider the following:

1. Some of the monuments of cultural importance are placed in the list.
2. Some of the national parks in India are added to the list.
3. Some of the Archeological sites of historical importance are placed in the list.
4. Some of the burial mounds are added in the list.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

UNESCO, is/are correct?

1. They acted as army fortresses.
2. They were recreation centres of the Royals and Nobles.
3. They were burial grounds of the Royals and Nobles.
4. They were battle drill centres of the Royals and Nobles.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

A World Heritage site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

- World Heritage sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other forms of significance.
- The sites are judged to contain “cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity (OUV)”
- India ratified the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), also known as the World Heritage Convention, in 1977.
- As of now, 43 properties from India are inscribed on the World Heritage List, it includes 35 cultural sites and 7 natural and 1 mixed site. 62 sites are listed on UNESCO’s Tentative List. **Recently added site to the list is Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty (2024).**

1983 Agra Fort

1999 Mountain Railways of India

1983 Ajanta Caves

2002 Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya

1983 Ellora Caves

2003 Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka

1983 Taj Mahal

2004 Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park

1984 Sun Temple, Konârak

2004 Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus)

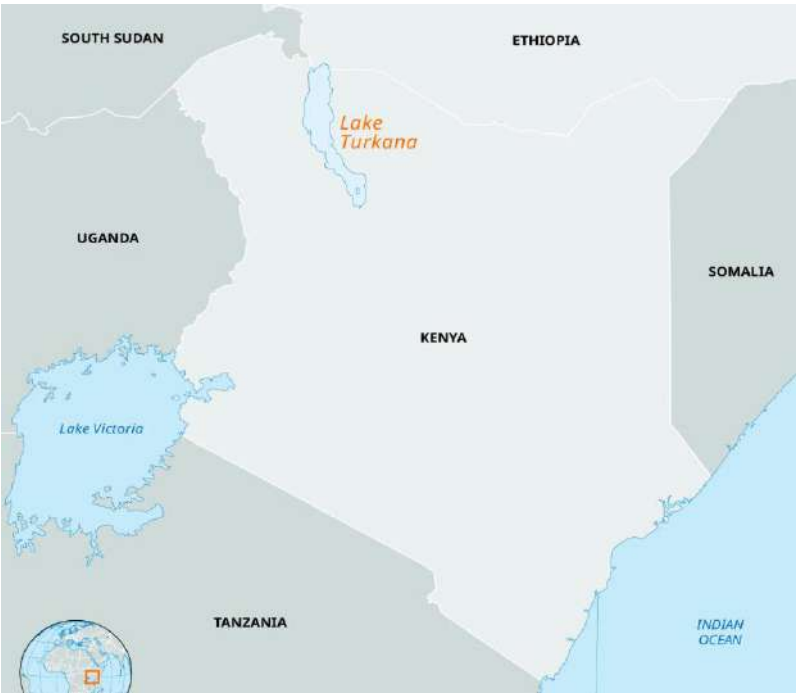


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1984 Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram	2007 Red Fort Complex
1985 Kaziranga National Park	2010 The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur
1985 Keoladeo National Park	2012 Western Ghats
1985 Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	2013 Hill Forts of Rajasthan
1986 Khajuraho Group of Monuments	2014 Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area
1986 Fatehpur Sikri	2014 Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) at Patan, Gujarat
1986 Churches and Convents of Goa	2016 Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar
1986 Group of Monuments at Hampi	2016 Khangchendzonga National Park
1987 Sundarbans National Park	2016 The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement
1987 Elephanta Caves	2017 Historic City of Ahmadabad
1987 Group of Monuments at Pattadakal	2018 Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai
1987 Great Living Chola Temples	2019 Jaipur City, Rajasthan
1988 Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks	2021 Dholavira: a Harappan City
1989 Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi	2021 Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana
1993 Humayun's Tomb, Delhi	2023 Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas
1993 Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi	2023 Santiniketan

	➤ From above lists of UNESCO world heritage sites, it is clear that, some of the monuments of cultural importance are placed in the list (Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986), Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984). Group of Monuments at Pattadakal (1987) etc.). So, Statement 1 is correct. ➤ Some of the national parks in India are added to the list (Kaziranga National Park, Keoladeo National Park, Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, etc.). So, Statement 2 is correct. ➤ Some of the Archeological sites of historical importance are placed in the list (Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar and Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park). So, Statement 3 is correct. ➤ Some of the burial mounds are added in the list (Humayun's Tomb, Historic City of Ahmadabad contains numerous mosques and tombs). So, Statement 4 is correct.
Q.NO - 39 Which of the following statements with reference to Lake Turkana is/are correct? 1. It is the largest desert lake in the world. 2. The lake is situated in South Sudan along the eastern fringe of the Sahara Desert. 3. The lake is listed as a UNESCO	TEST 14 - Q.NO - 32 "Lake Turkana", a permanent desert lake, is located in (a) Kalahari Desert (b) East African Rift Valley (c) Ethiopian highlands (d) Congo basin EXPLANATION: Extending from northern Kenya into southern Ethiopia, Lake Turkana is a body of water with a handful of distinctions. Surrounded by arid, harsh terrain, Lake Turkana is the largest permanent desert lake in the world—stretching almost 250 kilometres from north to south. Most of the Lake is in the Great East African Rift Valley of Kenya, with its northern tip poking into Ethiopia. So, Option (b) is correct. The Lake is also known for its striking turquoise colour, leading to its nickname, the "Jade Sea." Lake Turkana possesses water that is saline, which means it contains salt. The Lake is also known for its high alkalinity. Alkaline liquid has a pH higher than 7. Lake Turkana's water is 9.3 to 9.4 on a pH scale. Lake Turkana is the largest alkaline Lake in the world. Lake Turkana National Parks are constituted of Sibiloi National Park, the South Island and the Central Island National Parks, covering a total area of 161,485 hectares located within the Lake Turkana basin whose total surface area is 7 million ha. The three National Parks serve as a stopover for migrant waterfowl and are major breeding grounds for the Nile crocodile, hippopotamus and a variety of venomous snakes. The Koobi Fora deposits, rich in mammalian, molluscan and other fossil remains, have contributed more to the understanding of paleo-environments than any other site on the continent.

World Heritage Site and is also referred to as the 'Jade Sea'. Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3	The Lake Turkana National Parks site was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1997. The Lake represents unique geo-morphological features with fossil deposits on sedimentary formations, as well as one hundred identified archaeological and paleontological sites. There are numerous volcanic overflows with petrified forests. The existing ecological conditions provide habitats for maintaining diverse flora and fauna. Recent studies indicate that lower water levels in East Africa's Lake Turkana led to more earthquakes. 
Q.NO - 44 Which of the following statements with regard to Black Boxes used in modern	TEST 05 - Q.NO - 35 With reference to black boxes in flights, consider the following statements: 1. They consist of a Cockpit Voice Recorder and a Digital Flight Data Recorder. 2. They are made of stainless steel and are resistant to explosions.

aircrafts is/are correct?

1. They carry a beacon emitting red light pulses to facilitate underwater detection.
2. They record both the cockpit voice and flight data.
3. Their memory units are made using either stainless steel or titanium.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

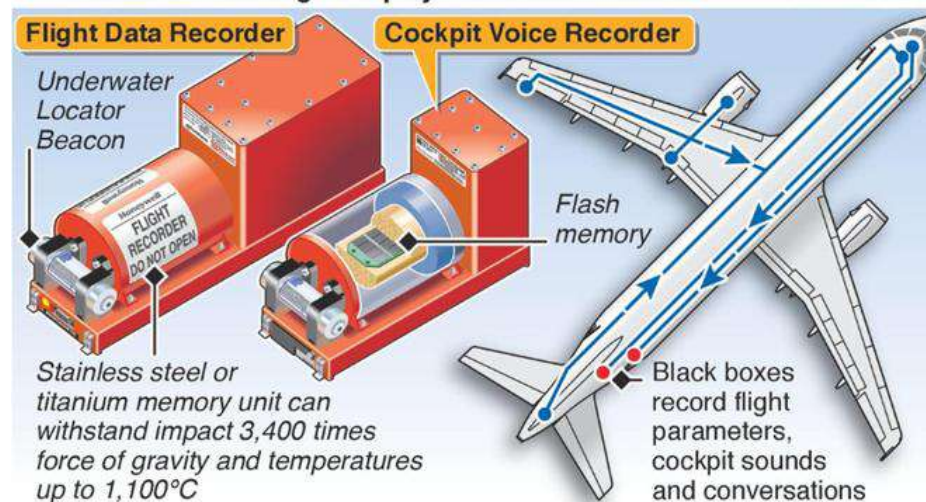
EXPLANATION:

In modern aircraft, the black box refers to two main components: the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) and the Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR). In some aircraft, these two are integrated into a single unit.

The DFDR records technical flight parameters such as speed, altitude, and engine performance, while the CVR captures cockpit audio, including pilot conversations and communications with air traffic control. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

How black boxes reconstruct a crash

Information from an aircraft's flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder – the so-called “black boxes” – is used to create an interactive animation of the flight displays in the final moments before a crash



	Although called a black box, it is actually painted bright orange with reflective material to make it easy to locate after a crash. Black Boxes are built to withstand incredibly harsh conditions. They are encased in a strong titanium or stainless-steel shell and insulated to resist extreme heat and pressure. It is purposely placed towards the tail end of the aircraft, where the impact of a crash is usually the least. The following are the key features of the black box: Fire Resistance: The Black Box can survive temperatures up to 1,100°C (2,000°F) for at least 60 minutes. Impact Resistance: It is built to withstand impacts of up to 3,400 Gs (the force of 3,400 times the pull of gravity). Waterproofing: It can stay submerged in water as deep as 6,000 meters (about 20,000 feet) for 30 days without losing data. Also, Black Boxes are equipped with underwater locator beacons (ULBs), which send out signals to help search teams locate them in a water crash. So, Statement 2 is correct.
Q.NO - 45 Which of the following statements with regard to Green Hydrogen is/are correct? - It is decarbonized hydrogen obtained from natural gas reforming combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS). - It is produced using electrolysis	TEST 05 – Q.NO - 24 Consider the following: Statement I: White hydrogen is naturally tapped in the Earth’s porous rocks and cracks. Statement II: White hydrogen is formed when underground water reacts with iron-rich rocks in a process called serpentinisation. Which one of the following is correct with respect to 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 EXPLANATION: White hydrogen (also called natural hydrogen or geologic hydrogen) is found naturally in underground reservoirs like porous rocks, faults, and cracks in the Earth’s crust. Like oil and gas, it is produced naturally within the Earth through continuous geochemical reactions in hard rocks. Geological hydrogen forms through natural processes deep within the Earth. One common mechanism is a reaction between water and iron-rich rocks, a process known as serpentinisation. Because hydrogen is small and light, it can escape through porous rocks and cracks, often seeping toward the surface and into the atmosphere. In some places, it escapes to the surface, while in others, it can become trapped under impermeable rocks like salt or shale, forming underground hydrogen accumulations. So, Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II explains Statement I.

of water with electricity generated by renewable energy. 3. National Green Hydrogen Mission of India aims for abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HYDROGEN</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Recently in news</td><td>Recently, France has discovered a massive 46-million-ton white hydrogen reserve in the Moselle region, valued at \$92 trillion. Unlike gray and green hydrogen, white hydrogen requires no industrial production and emits no CO₂, making it a game-changer for clean energy.</td></tr> <tr> <td>About</td><td>Hydrogen is an invisible gas, and despite the various colour-based descriptions, there is no visible difference between the different types of hydrogen. Terms such as green hydrogen, blue hydrogen, brown hydrogen, yellow hydrogen, turquoise hydrogen, and pink hydrogen are essentially industry conventions used to distinguish hydrogen production methods. The assigned colour corresponds to the specific production process employed. However, there is no globally standardised naming system, and these definitions may vary across countries or evolve over time.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hydrogen Colour Code</td><td> Green Hydrogen: It is made using clean electricity from renewable sources like solar or wind to electrolyse water, splitting it into hydrogen and oxygen without emitting carbon dioxide. Currently, it is a small part of hydrogen production because it is expensive, but costs are expected to decrease as production increases. Blue Hydrogen: It comes mainly from natural gas via steam reforming, which produces hydrogen and carbon dioxide. Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is used to trap the CO₂. 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TEST 24 – Q.NO - 49

Consider the following statements:

1. Implementation of the SIGHT (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition) program.
2. Achieving a production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tons) per annum by 2030.
3. Decarbonisation of the shipping and steel sectors.
4. Mandatory blending of Green Hydrogen with Natural Gas in all domestic households.

Which of the above are components of National Green Hydrogen Mission?

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

EXPLANATION:

The National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched in January 2023 with an initial outlay of ₹19,744 crore till FY 2029–30.

- The Mission aims to establish a green hydrogen ecosystem and position India as a global hub for the production, utilisation, and export of green hydrogen.
- The outlay includes ₹17,490 crore for the **Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme**, ₹1,466 crore for **pilot projects**, and ₹400 crore for **research and development (R&D)**.
- The Mission focuses on four key pillars:
 - Policy and regulatory framework,
 - Demand creation,
 - Research and development and innovation, and
 - Enabling infrastructure and ecosystem development. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to make India a global hub for the production, utilisation, and export of green hydrogen.

By 2030, the Mission targets:

- Development of green hydrogen production capacity of at **least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum**, with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Total **investments of over ₹8 lakh crore.**

- Creation of more than **6 lakh jobs**.
- Cumulative **reduction in fossil fuel imports** worth over ₹1 lakh crore.
- **Abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions.**

The National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) was launched by the India as an umbrella programme to establish a green hydrogen ecosystem and address the opportunities and challenges in this emerging sector.

- This initiative comes at a time when India's energy transition is entering a decisive phase, with the country actively reducing its dependence on fossil fuels while expanding domestic clean energy production.
- These efforts align with India's broader vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
- In this context, Green Hydrogen has emerged as a clean and scalable fuel alternative capable of decarbonising hard-to-abate sectors, reducing fossil fuel import dependence, and supporting India's goals of energy security and sustainable industrial growth. The government has proposed an Outlay of ₹ 455 crore up to 2029-30 for **low carbon steel projects** and ₹ 115 crore up to 2025-26 for **shipping pilot projects**. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) **does not mandate** the blending of green hydrogen with natural gas in all domestic households. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST 3 – Q.NO – 29

Which of the following Hydrogen is not produced using fossil fuels?

- (a) Blue Hydrogen
- (b) Turquoise Hydrogen
- (c) **Pink Hydrogen**
- (d) Grey Hydrogen

EXPLANATION:

Blue hydrogen production involves making hydrogen (H₂) from fossil fuel feedstocks while using **carbon capture and storage (CCS)** to reduce CO₂ emissions from the production process. The captured CO₂ is concentrated, compressed, and permanently stored underground. Blue hydrogen is more expensive than grey hydrogen, the predominant hydrogen production method, but less expensive than zero-emissions green hydrogen. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

Turquoise hydrogen is produced from methane pyrolysis along with solid carbon in a process that does not produce any carbon dioxide. This process uses **natural gas as feedstock**, which is abundantly available worldwide and is a **widely used fossil fuel**. Methane pyrolysis provides an effective pathway to decarbonise natural gas to produce clean hydrogen with no CO₂ footprint. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

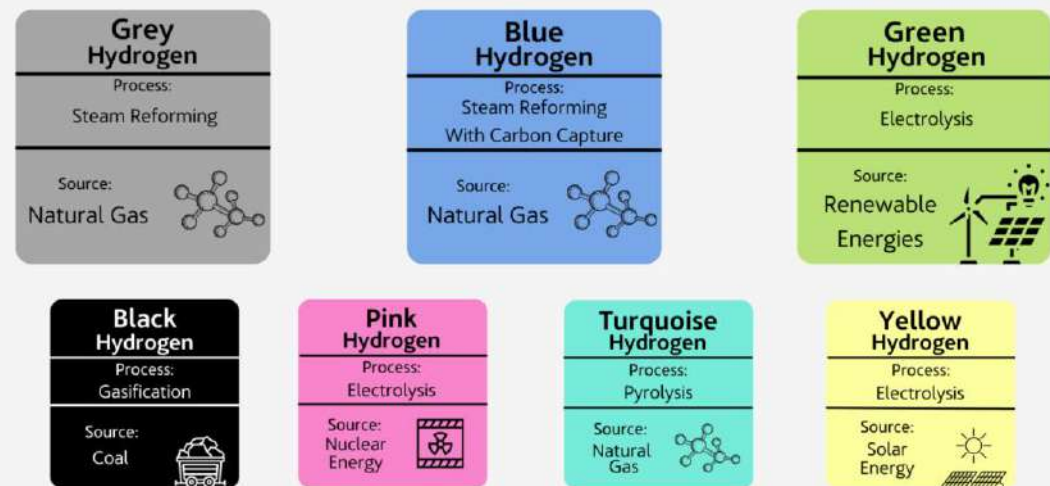
Pink hydrogen is a type of hydrogen generated through water electrolysis powered by nuclear energy, which is considered green (environmentally friendly) due to its lack of CO₂ emissions during production.

- Pink hydrogen is a **promising replacement for fossil fuels** in the cement industry, steel industry, aviation, and heavy transportation, as it can be used as a feedstock and energy source with no greenhouse gas emissions.
- As the world races to meet ambitious carbon reduction targets, a promising solution is emerging - Pink hydrogen produced using nuclear power.

Thus, Pink hydrogen is not produced using fossil fuels; it is generated via electrolysis powered by nuclear energy. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

Grey hydrogen is **produced from fossil fuels** and commonly uses the steam methane reforming (SMR) method. During this process, CO₂ is produced and eventually released to the atmosphere.

While grey hydrogen is affordable and widely available, its production process results in significant carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, making it a contributor to climate change. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**



Q.NO – 49

Which of the following statements with regard to the National Quantum Mission (NQM) is/are correct?

1. It aims at developing intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits.
2. Its implementation includes setting up of four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) in academic and national R&D institutes across India.

TEST 24 – Q.NO - 10

Consider the following statements:

- 1) Establishing Satellite-Based Quantum Communication
- 2) Developing multi-Node Quantum Networks
- 3) Designing advanced Quantum Sensing & Clocks
- 4) Integrating AI with Satellite Navigation Systems
- 5) Developing Quantum Materials & Devices

How many of the above are the objectives of the National Quantum Mission?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Union Cabinet, approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) on 19th April 2023 at a total cost of Rs.6003.65 crore from 2023-24 to 2030-31, aiming to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT). It is **implemented by** the Department of Science and Technology (DST) **under the** Ministry of Science and Technology.

Objectives of the National Quantum Mission:

With the broader aim to harness quantum technologies in India to bolster sectors like communication, cryptography, and computing, the National Quantum Mission has outlined specific objectives to advance India's capabilities in the quantum realm:

- **Quantum Computing Evolution:** Develop intermediate-scale quantum computers with 20-50 physical qubits (3 years), 50-100 physical qubits (5 years), and 50-1000 physical qubits (8 years) across platforms like superconducting and photonic technologies to advance computational capabilities.
- **Satellite-Based Quantum Communication:** Establish satellite-enabled quantum-secured communication between two ground stations over 2000 km within India and extend this technology for long-distance secure quantum communication with other countries. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Multi-Node Quantum Networks:** Develop a multi-node quantum network incorporating quantum memories, entanglement swapping, and synchronised quantum repeaters at each node, enabling scalable and robust quantum communication (2-3 nodes). **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

- **Inter-City Quantum Key Distribution (QKD):** Implement quantum-secured communication spanning 2000 km using trusted nodes and wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) on existing optical fibre infrastructure, enhancing secure data transmission.
- **Advanced Quantum Sensing & Clocks:** Design highly sensitive quantum devices including magnetometers with 1 femto-Tesla/sqrt(Hz) sensitivity in atomic systems and better than 1 pico-Tesla/sqrt(Hz) in Nitrogen Vacancy centers, gravity sensors with better than 100 nano-meter/second² sensitivity, and atomic clocks with 10^{-19} fractional instability for precision timing, navigation, and secure communication. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- **Quantum Materials & Devices:** Develop and synthesise next-generation quantum materials such as superconductors, novel semiconductor structures, and topological materials for the fabrication of qubits, single-photon sources/detectors, entangled photon sources, and quantum sensing/metrological devices for applications in computing and communication. **So, Statements 5 is correct.**
- Integrating AI with Satellite Navigation Systems is **not an objective** of the National Quantum Mission (NQM). **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NATIONAL QUANTUM MISSION	
About	The primary objectives of the National Quantum Mission (NQM) are to develop cutting-edge quantum technologies across quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing-metrology, and quantum materials, and to build a strong national ecosystem spanning R&D, infrastructure, startups, and skilled human resources.
Quantum Computing	➤ Quantum computers use special units called qubits to store and process information. ➤ Unlike regular computers, where bits can only be 0 or 1, qubits can be both 0 and 1 at the same time. ➤ This ability to be in multiple states at once makes quantum computers different and potentially much more powerful than traditional ones.
Domains	

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST-I – Q.NO - 51

With reference to India's National Quantum Mission (NQM), consider the following statements:

1. India is the seventh country in the world to have a dedicated national quantum mission.
2. NQM targets developing quantum computers with 50–1000 physical qubits within 8 years, using platforms such as superconducting and photonic technologies.
3. NQM's quantum communication objective includes satellite-based Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) over a range of 15000 km within and outside India.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, India demonstrated a 1,000 km quantum communication network using indigenous technology under the National Quantum Mission (NQM).

About National Quantum Mission (NQM):

- The Union Cabinet approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) on 19th April 2023 at a total cost of Rs. 6003.65 crore from 2023–24 to 2030–31, aiming to seed, nurture, and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant and innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT).
- This will accelerate QT-led economic growth, nurture the ecosystem in the country, and make India one of the leading nations in the development of Quantum Technologies and Applications (QTA).

Global Position of India:

- India is the seventh country to have a dedicated quantum mission, after the US, Austria, Finland, France, Canada, and China.
So, Statement 1 is correct.

- **Quantum Computing Objectives:** The mission objectives include developing intermediate-scale quantum computers with **50–1000 physical qubits in 8 years** on various platforms, such as superconducting and photonic technology. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

- **Quantum Communication Goals:** Satellite-based secure quantum communications between ground stations over a range of 2000 kilometres within India, long-distance secure quantum communications with other countries, inter-city quantum key

	distribution over 2000 km, as well as multi-node quantum networks with quantum memories are also some of the deliverables of the mission. So, Statement 3 is not correct. ➤ Quantum Sensing and Timing: The National Quantum Mission focuses on developing magnetometers with high sensitivity in atomic systems and atomic clocks for precision timing, communications, and navigation. ➤ Quantum Materials and Devices: It also supports the design and synthesis of quantum materials such as superconductors, novel semiconductor structures, and topological materials for the fabrication of quantum devices, along with the development of single photon sources/detectors and entangled photon sources for quantum communications, sensing, and metrological application.
Q.NO – 50 Which of the following statements with regard to India's Deep Ocean Mission is/are correct? 1. It was launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India. 2. Matsya-6000 has been designed to carry 3 people for deep sea exploration. 3. Samudrayaan is a project under this mission.	TEST 20 - Q.NO – 4 With reference to India's Deep Ocean Mission, consider the following statements: 1. It includes the development of a manned submersible capable of reaching depths of about 6,000 metres. 2. The mission is being implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. 3. The mission supports India's participation in deep-sea mining in areas allotted by the International Seabed Authority. 4. Polymetallic nodules targeted under the mission are primarily a source of iron and aluminium. Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2, 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 EXPLANATION: India's Deep Ocean Mission, launched in 2021, focuses on sustainably harnessing ocean wealth and strengthening the Blue Economy. India launched the Samudrayaan Project under the umbrella of the Deep Ocean Mission to work on its first component of deep-sea exploration through a manned submersible. Under this component, India is developing MATSYA-6000, a self-propelled manned submersible designed to operate at depths of about 6,000 metres (6 km) beneath the ocean surface and transport three individuals. Equipped with a comprehensive array of scientific instruments and exploration tools, the vehicle will enable extensive deep-sea research. It is built for 12 hours of normal operation and can sustain up to 96 hours in emergency scenarios. The submersible features advanced systems such as a high-

Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3	density Li-Po battery, an underwater acoustic telephone, drop-weight emergency escape mechanisms, and bio-vests for crew safety and health monitoring. So, Statement 1 is correct. India's Deep Ocean Mission was launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) with an aim to develop technologies for exploring and sustainably utilising the deep ocean's living and non-living wealth. So, Statement 2 is correct. Exploring these depths could provide solutions to global challenges like climate change. Considering this, the United Nations named the 2021-2030 decade as the 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development'. In the Vision of New India by 2030, the Government has placed the Blue Economy among the ten core growth dimensions. Under India's Deep Ocean Mission, an Integrated Mining System will be developed to extract polymetallic nodules from the deep sea in the Central Indian Ocean. These efforts will support future commercial mineral exploration once global rules are set by the International Seabed Authority. This project is key to advancing India's Blue Economy, especially in deep-sea mining and energy. The minerals that can be mined from the ocean bed in the Central Indian Ocean region, allocated to India by the United Nations International Seabed Authority (ISA), include copper, manganese, nickel, and cobalt. So, Statement 3 is correct. Polymetallic nodules, which contain precious metals such as copper, manganese, nickel, iron, and cobalt (not aluminium), are found at depths of approximately 5,000 m, while polymetallic sulphides occur at around 3,000 m in the Central Indian Ocean. So, Statement 4 is not correct.
<u>Q.NO – 54</u> 'X' was addressing a seminar on the meaning of the term 'law' as provided under Article 13 Part III of the Constitution of India. 'X' said that the meaning of the term 'law' in the Constitution of India was very comprehensive. It included ordinances	<u>ALL INDIA MOCK TEST - II – Q.NO – 56</u> Which of the following are included in the definition of "Law" under Article 13, for the purpose of checking inconsistency with Fundamental Rights? 1. Legislations enacted by the Parliament or State Legislatures. 2. Ordinances issued by the President or Governors. 3. Bye-laws, rules, regulations, or notifications by the executive. 4. Constitutional Amendments under Article 368. Select the correct answer using the codes given below: (a) 1, 2, and 3 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

orders and even rules and regulations. 'Y' pointed out that the term 'law' in Article 13 also included custom or usage having in the territory of India the force of law, to which 'X' was not convinced. Based on the above, select the correct conclusion from the options given below:

- (a) 'X' is correct in the interpretation of law, including the view on non-inclusion of custom.
- (b) The view of 'Y' that 'law' included custom is not correct.
- (c) The views of both 'X' and 'Y' are correct.
- (d) The view of only 'Y' is correct.**

EXPLANATION:

According to Article 13 of the Indian Constitution:

- "Law" includes any Ordinance, order, bye-law, rule, regulation, notification, custom, or usage having the force of law in India.
 - "Laws in force" includes laws made by a Legislature or any other competent authority in India before the commencement of the Constitution, which had not been repealed earlier, even if such laws or any part of them were not in operation everywhere or at all at that time.
- Article 13 states that all laws that were in force in India before the commencement of the Constitution shall be void to the extent that they are inconsistent with the provisions of this Part (Fundamental Rights).
 - The State shall not make any law that takes away or limits the rights given under this part.
 - Any such law made in violation of this clause shall be void to the extent of the violation
 - Nothing in this article applies to any amendment of the Constitution made under Article 368.

Scope of the Term 'Law': The term 'law' in Article 13 has been given a wide connotation so as to include the following:

- Permanent laws enacted by the Parliament or the State Legislatures; **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Temporary laws like Ordinances issued by the President or the State Governors; **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Statutory instruments in the nature of delegated legislation (executive legislation) like order, bye law, rule, regulation, or notification; **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- Non-legislative sources of law, that is, custom or usage having the force of law.

Constitutional Amendments and Basic Structure: Further, Article 13 declares that a constitutional amendment is not a law and hence cannot be challenged. However, the Supreme Court held in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) that a Constitutional amendment can be challenged on the ground that it violates a Fundamental Right forming part of the basic structure of the Constitution and hence can be declared void. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

Q.NO – 58

Consider the following statements in respect of questions asked by the Members in the Parliament of India:

1. Unstarred questions are those to which a Member desires an oral answer in the House.
2. Starred questions are those to which a Member desires a written answer.
3. No supplementary question can be asked on an unstarred question.

TEST 19 – Q.NO – 82

With reference to the conduct of Question Hour in Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha decides whether a question is admissible.
2. The Rajya Sabha has no provision for Question Hour.
3. Questions during Question Hour can be asked to Ministers only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Generally, the first hour of a sitting of Lok Sabha is devoted to the Questions and this hour is called the Question Hour. It has a special significance in the proceedings of the Parliament. Asking of questions is an inherent and unfettered parliamentary right of members.

Admissibility of Questions:

➤ The conditions governing the admissibility of questions have been laid down under Rules 41 to 44 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Apart from these provisions, admissibility of questions is also determined by Direction 10A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, past precedents, decisions and observations from the Chair, well established parliamentary practices, usages and conventions.

Speaker to decide admissibility:

- The Speaker shall decide whether a question, or a part thereof, is or is not admissible under these rules and may disallow any question, or a part thereof, when in his opinion it is an abuse of the right of questioning or is calculated to obstruct or prejudicially affect the procedure of the House or is in contravention of these rules. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct? (a) All the three statements are correct. (b) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2. (c) There is only one correct statement. (d) There is no correct statement.	• Subject to the provisions of rule 38, the Speaker may direct that a question be placed on the list of questions for answer on a date later than that specified by a member in his notice if he believes that a longer period is necessary to decide whether the question is or is not admissible. Speaker to decide if a question is to be treated as starred or unstarred. Like other legislatures, Rajya Sabha has provided for the procedure for asking questions in its Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business. ➤ Rule 38 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha provides that, unless the Chairman otherwise directs, the first hour of every sitting shall be available for the asking and answering of questions. So, Statement 2 is not correct. The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for this. During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers. The questions are of three kinds, namely, starred, unstarred and short notice. ➤ A starred question: A Starred Question is one to which a member desires an oral answer from the Minister in the House, and an answer to such a question may be followed by supplementary questions by members. ➤ An unstarred question: It is one to which a written answer is desired by the member and is deemed to be laid on the Table of the House by a Minister, and no supplementary question can be asked thereon. ➤ A short notice question: A member may give a notice of question on a matter of public importance and of urgent character for oral answer at a notice less than the prescribed minimum period of notice for asking a question in the ordinary course. ➤ Questions to Private Members: In addition to the ministers, questions can also be asked to the private members. Thus, a question may be addressed to a private member if the subject matter of the question relates to some Bill, resolution or other matter connected with the business of the House for which that member is responsible. The procedure regarding such a question is the same as that followed in the case of questions addressed to a minister. ➤ A question may also be addressed to a private member (i.e., a member who is not a Minister) provided that the subject matter of the question relates to some Bill, resolution or other matter connected with the business of the House for which that member is responsible and the procedure in regard to such questions is the same as that followed in the case of questions addressed to a Minister with such variations as the Chairman may consider necessary or convenient. So, Statement 3 is not correct. The list of starred, unstarred, short notice questions and questions to private members are printed in green, white, light pink and yellow colour, respectively, to distinguish them from one another.
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Q.NO - 75

Which of the following countries are members of the European Union?

1. Belarus
2. Poland
3. Germany
4. Switzerland

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

TEST 18 - Q.NO - 62

One-Stop Travel System, recently seen in news, is associated with:

- (a) European Union
(b) Gulf Cooperation Council
(c) BRICS
(d) Association of Southeast Asian Nations

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** has approved a new **“one-stop” travel system** that will allow citizens of member states to complete all travel formalities, including **immigration, customs, and security checks at a single checkpoint**, eliminating repeated inspections upon arrival.

- The pilot phase is scheduled to begin in December 2025, marking a significant leap toward regional integration.
- If successful, the model will extend to **all six GCC nations** — Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates.
- Once fully implemented, flying across the Gulf will be as simple as travelling between cities in the same country, with passengers able to land at their destination, collect baggage and exit without further formalities. The initiative relies on a shared electronic platform that allows member states to coordinate procedures and share data.
- The seamless travel scheme represents one component of a broader regional connectivity vision.

The initiative complements the GCC Grand Tours Visa, a Schengen-style unified tourist visa with its pilot launch set for the fourth quarter of 2025. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

INTERNATIONAL GROUPING

European Union

European Union (EU), an international organization comprising 27 European countries and governing common economic, social, and security policies. Originally confined to western Europe, the EU undertook a robust expansion into central and eastern Europe in the early 21st century.

- The EU's members are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania,

		Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden. ➤ The United Kingdom, which had been a founding member of the EU, left the organization in 2020.
	Gulf Cooperation Council	Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern countries—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. ➤ The GCC was established in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in May 1981. ➤ The purpose of the GCC is to achieve unity among its members based on their common objectives and their similar political and cultural identities, which are rooted in Arab and Islamic cultures. Presidency of the council rotates annually.
	BRICS	The BRICS is a group formed by eleven countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Iran. ➤ It serves as a political and diplomatic coordination forum for countries from the Global South and for coordination in the most diverse areas. ➤ The objectives of BRICS include strengthening economic, political, and social cooperation among its members, as well as increasing the influence of Global South countries in international governance.
	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. ➤ Brunei Darussalam joined ASEAN on 7 January 1984, followed by Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, Cambodia on 30 April 1999, and Timor Leste on 25 October 2025 making up what is today the eleven Member States of ASEAN.
<u>ALL INDIA MOCK- III- Q.NO - 51</u> Consider the following statements: 1. Croatia is the last country to join the European Union. 2. Bulgaria is the last country to join the Eurozone. 3. The United Kingdom is the second country to quit the European Union. 4. Finland is the only Nordic State to use the Euro currency. How many of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All four		

EXPLANATION:

The European Union (EU) is an economic and political union of 27 countries. It operates an internal (or single) market which allows free movement of goods, capital, services and people between member states.

- **On 1 July 2013, Croatia** became the 28th (now 27th) Member State of the European Union.
- Since then, **no other countries have joined** the EU, and the UK left the EU on 31 January 2020.
- **The EU countries are:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Republic of Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The eurozone was established with the official launch of the euro on January 1, 1999, in 11 countries, including France, Germany, and Austria.

- Currently, six of the EU's 27 member countries, Sweden, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, and Denmark, have not yet adopted the euro.
- Recently, **Bulgaria joined the eurozone** and adopted the euro as its official currency on New Year's Day 2026, becoming the 21st member of the euro area.
- To ensure a smooth transition, the Bulgarian lev will remain in circulation alongside the euro throughout January 2026.
- From 1st February 2026, the euro will become the country's sole legal tender. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The United Kingdom is the first state (not the second) to have officially withdrawn from the European Union (Brexit, Jan 2020), Brexit is a portmanteau of the words "British" and "exit" that was coined to refer to the United Kingdom's decision in a June 23, 2016, referendum to leave the European Union (EU). **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

Finland is the only Nordic state that uses the euro as its official currency. While Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Iceland have kept their own national currencies (Danish krone, Norwegian krone, Swedish krona and Icelandic Krona), Finland has been a member of the European Union since 1995, and has belonged to the European Economic and Monetary Union since 1999, when it adopted the euro as its currency. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

Q.NO – 89

Which one of the following best describes the key objective of India's 'Open Network for Digital Commerce' (ONDC) initiative ?

- (a) To allow government control over all digital commerce transactions
- (b) To replace private e-commerce players
- (c) To break the dominance of large e-commerce platforms by enabling interoperability across networks
- (d) To mandate UPI-based payments for all online transactions

TEST 2 - Q.NO - 39

Consider the following pairs that are related to the term 'Digital Colonism' that was recently in the news:

Term	Meaning
I. Inclusive Digital Future	– Data kept within the country
II. Digital Sovereignty	– Managing global data exchange
III. Data Localisation	– Equal digital access for all
IV. Cross-Border Data Flows	– Nations' control over digital space

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Digital colonisation occurs when there is total dependence on other countries for digital technologies and or the data. It is perpetuated further when the data infrastructure is controlled by foreign countries as a result of a lack of data protection laws or ineffective implementation of such laws.

- **Inclusive Digital Future (Equal digital access for all):** Digital inclusion is the access and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)—like the internet and its infrastructure, hardware, software and digital literacy training—by all people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, nationality, mobility, physical and cognitive abilities, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.
- **Digital sovereignty (Nations' control over digital space):** Cyber sovereignty, technological sovereignty, and data sovereignty refer to the ability to have control over a nation's own digital destiny – the data, hardware and software that we rely on and create.
- **Data localisation or data residency (Data kept within the country):** It requires that data about citizens or residents of a certain country should be collected, processed, or stored within that country, before being transferred overseas. It requires that the initial collection, processing and storage of those users first occur within their country's borders.

- **Cross-border data flows (Managing global data exchange):** It refers to the movement or transfer of information between servers across country borders. Data needs to be able to move freely so that no matter where you are, you have access to the information and services you need. Everyone, from individuals to large corporations, relies on transferring data. However, cross-border data flows also pose challenges, amplifying concerns about privacy and data protection, intellectual property, digital security, national security, regulatory reach and trade.

Therefore, none of the pairs given above are correctly matched. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DIGITAL COLONIALISM	
About	India is tackling digital colonialism by building data sovereignty, promoting local AI, and launching initiatives like ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) and India Stack. Efforts include chip manufacturing, multilingual large language models, and ethical AI, ensuring digital independence and national security in the AI era.
ONDC	➤ India is one of the few developing countries that has outlined a coherent strategy for resisting digital colonisation. The data protection laws underscore the importance of storing the data within the boundaries of the country. ➤ ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) is a pioneering initiative that is being touted as an alternative to the e-commerce monopolies and is aimed at democratising e-commerce. ➤ The India stack is the first of its kind in the world in the digital public infrastructure model, consisting of a collection of APIs and digital systems that enable managing identity, payments, data and consent management.
Make in India Initiative	➤ The Make in India initiative is encouraging chip designers and manufacturers to consider setting up their manufacturing units in India, thus enabling India to build its own ecosystem required for defence, science and space-related advancements. ➤ Another major focus has been to develop our own large language model (LML) that can support multiple local languages, taking into account the country's linguistic diversity. This would make AI truly broad, making it relevant for a 1.4 billion population instead of just the privileged few.

TEST 11 - Q.NO - 04

Which one of the following is **not** true about Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)?

- (a) It is an initiative by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- (b) MSMEs are beneficiaries of the platform.
- (c) It can reduce the expenditure incurred by sellers on customer acquisition and transaction processing.
- (d) It owns every e-commerce service on the platform.**

EXPLANATION:

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is a transformative initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, aimed at democratising digital commerce. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

- Launched in April 2022, ONDC is an initiative aiming at promoting open networks for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.
- ONDC is based on an open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
- It envisions creating a level playing field for sellers, buyers, and service providers across India, particularly small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Therefore, MSMEs are the beneficiaries of the ONDC. **So, Option (b) is correct.**
- It serves as a unified platform where stakeholders can interact freely without the constraints of exclusive ecosystems.
- By fostering open protocols and reducing dependency on monopolistic platforms, ONDC aims to catalyse innovation and inclusivity in the digital commerce landscape.

The ONDC initiative has several key objectives:

- Democratisation of Commerce: Break the dominance of large e-commerce platforms by enabling interoperability across networks.
- Inclusivity: Empower small businesses, retailers, and local artisans to access the digital marketplace.
- Cost Efficiency: Lower the cost of customer acquisition and transaction processing for sellers. **So, Option (c) is correct.**
- Market Expansion: Bridge regional and linguistic gaps, bringing untapped markets into the fold of digital commerce.
- Customer Empowerment: Increase options for buyers by providing access to a broader array of sellers.

ONDC employs open network protocols to facilitate seamless interaction between participants. The network enables buyers and sellers from different platforms to transact with each other using standardised APIs. The key components include:

- Decentralised Architecture: Unlike traditional platforms, ONDC does not own or operate e-commerce services. It acts as an enabler for interconnectivity. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**
- Open Protocols: Based on open standards, ONDC ensures that any seller or buyer platform adhering to these protocols can participate.
- Role Segregation: Participants are classified into roles such as Buyer Applications, Seller Applications, and Logistics Providers, ensuring clear delineation of responsibilities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

OPEN NETWORK FOR DIGITAL COMMERCE (ONDC)	
About	With the vision to create an organisation with a startup mindset supported by the Government, ONDC was incorporated as a non-profit, Section-8 company and incubated at the Quality Council of India.
Roles on the ONDC Network	Participants play various roles to ensure efficient functioning: ➤ Buyer Applications: Platforms enabling customers to access sellers on the ONDC network. ➤ Seller Applications: Interfaces for businesses to list and manage their offerings. ➤ Logistics Providers: Facilitators for the movement of goods across regions. ➤ Technology Enablers: Providers of IT infrastructure and tools.
Benefits	➤ Sellers: • Access to a wider audience. • Reduced dependencies on large platforms • Enhanced revenue opportunities ➤ Buyers: • Increased options for products and services • Competitive pricing due to broader seller participation ➤ Service Providers: • Opportunities for logistics, fintech, and IT service providers to integrate into the network ➤ Consumers: • Discover sellers, products, and services on any compatible platforms. • Match demand with nearby suppliers and choose local businesses.

Q.NO - 90

Which one of the following statements about Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Central Bank Digital Currency (Digital Rupee) is not correct?

- (a) UPI is a real-time payment system but Digital Rupee is akin to sovereign paper currency.
- (b) In case of UPI, settlement for end users happens instantly as the money gets immediately debited or credited but in case of Digital Rupee, there is no settlement as the wallet balance

TEST 04 – Q.NO - 16

Which of the following is the common characteristic of Wholesale Central Bank Digital Currency and Retail Central Bank Digital Currency?

1. It can be used for person-to-person Payments.
2. It has no denomination.
3. It is an account-based CBDC.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

(d) None

EXPLANATION:

Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) are digital versions of a country's official currency, issued and regulated by the central bank. Their value is fixed by the Government, making them stable and government-backed forms of money.

For example - Digital Rupee (₹) issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), representing the digital form of the physical Indian Rupee (₹).

There are two types of CBDC in India:

- **Wholesale CBDC (₹-W):** Designed for financial institutions and intermediaries, ₹-W is used for interbank settlements and large-value transactions. It operates within a restricted ecosystem and leverages technologies like smart contracts to improve the efficiency, speed, and security of the wholesale payment system.
- **Retail CBDC (₹-R):** Intended for the general public, retail CBDC can be used for everyday transactions. It enhances accessibility, financial inclusion, and convenience, allowing individuals and businesses to use digital currency in place of physical cash. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

CBDCs are a form of digital money, denominated in the national unit of account, which is a direct liability of the central bank. CBDCs can be designed for use either among financial intermediaries only (ie wholesale CBDCs), or by the broader economy (ie retail CBDCs). **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

gets transferred to another wallet. (c) UPI transactions are recorded by banks and reflected in bank statements but in case of Digital Rupee, no data is captured in bank statements as transactions are from one wallet to another. (d) In both the cases (UPI and Digital Rupee), the liability lies with the users and their respective banks.	CBDC can be structured as ‘token-based’ or ‘account-based’. A token-based CBDC is a bearer instrument like banknotes, meaning whoever holds the tokens at a given point in time would be presumed to own them. In contrast, an account-based system would require maintenance of a record of balances and transactions of all holders of the CBDC and indicate the ownership of the monetary balances. Considering the features offered by both forms of CBDCs, a token-based CBDC is viewed as a preferred mode for CBDC-R as it would be closer to physical cash, while an account-based CBDC may be considered for CBDC-W. So, Statement 3 is not correct. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY (CBDC)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="461 662 806 1021"> Recently in the news  Official logo of India's CBDC </td><td data-bbox="806 662 2152 1021"> The value of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), or e-Rupee, rose sharply from ₹234 crore in March 2024 to ₹1,016 crore by March 2025, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The RBI also stated in its annual report that it is exploring pilot projects for using CBDC in cross-border payments, though no timeline has been announced yet. ➤ Reserve Bank of India broadly defines CBDC (Digital Rupee (e₹)) as the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. ➤ It is akin to sovereign paper currency but takes a different form, exchangeable at par with the existing currency and shall be accepted as a medium of payment, legal tender and a safe store of value. </td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="461 1021 806 1362"> Growth of India's CBDC </td><td data-bbox="806 1021 2152 1362"> ➤ India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), or e-Rupee, was first introduced in November 2022, starting with a wholesale pilot and later followed by a retail pilot. ➤ One of its main goals is to simplify cross-border payments and address challenges posed by non-fiat digital currencies like Bitcoin. ➤ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is also considering participation in multilateral CBDC initiatives, especially under the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) Innovation Hub. ➤ The RBI aims to expand the scope of ongoing pilots—both retail (e₹-R) and wholesale (e₹-W)—by introducing new use cases, features, and technological improvements, including enhancements to the account aggregator framework for better transparency, convenience, and efficiency. ➤ As of March 2025, the total e-Rupee in circulation reached ₹1,016 crore, with the majority (₹857 crore) in ₹500 notes, followed by ₹200 (₹91 crore) and ₹100 (₹38 crore) denominations. </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY (CBDC)		Recently in the news  Official logo of India's CBDC	The value of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), or e-Rupee, rose sharply from ₹234 crore in March 2024 to ₹1,016 crore by March 2025, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The RBI also stated in its annual report that it is exploring pilot projects for using CBDC in cross-border payments, though no timeline has been announced yet. ➤ Reserve Bank of India broadly defines CBDC (Digital Rupee (e₹)) as the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. ➤ It is akin to sovereign paper currency but takes a different form, exchangeable at par with the existing currency and shall be accepted as a medium of payment, legal tender and a safe store of value.	Growth of India's CBDC	➤ India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), or e-Rupee, was first introduced in November 2022, starting with a wholesale pilot and later followed by a retail pilot. ➤ One of its main goals is to simplify cross-border payments and address challenges posed by non-fiat digital currencies like Bitcoin. ➤ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is also considering participation in multilateral CBDC initiatives, especially under the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) Innovation Hub. ➤ The RBI aims to expand the scope of ongoing pilots—both retail (e₹-R) and wholesale (e₹-W)—by introducing new use cases, features, and technological improvements, including enhancements to the account aggregator framework for better transparency, convenience, and efficiency. ➤ As of March 2025, the total e-Rupee in circulation reached ₹1,016 crore, with the majority (₹857 crore) in ₹500 notes, followed by ₹200 (₹91 crore) and ₹100 (₹38 crore) denominations.
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		➤ The retail pilot has expanded from initial person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) use cases to include offline transactions and programmable features. ➤ To boost adoption, certain non-bank entities have also been allowed to offer CBDC wallets. ➤ The wholesale CBDC pilot has been expanded and diversified, with the addition of four standalone primary dealers (SPDs), improving the efficiency and reach of large-value and interbank transactions.	
	Parameters	UPI	CBDC
	Form of payment	➤ UPI is a real-time payment system that transfers money from one account to another instantly. ➤ It is not a digital rupee, but a facilitator of transactions.	➤ CBDC or e-Rupee is akin to sovereign paper currency. ➤ A wallet is loaded with e-Rupee, which can then be transferred to another wallet.
	Dependency	➤ UPI transactions happen between bank accounts, and hence they are dependent on banks, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and payment service providers (PSPs). ➤ When a payer makes a UPI payment to a payee, the transaction flow involves the NPCI, payer bank, payee bank, payer PSP and payee PSP.	➤ A CBDC wallet is independent of the bank account, and transactions can happen using the wallet balance. ➤ When a payer CBDC wallet scans or adds details of the payee CBDC wallet, the money is sent from one wallet to another, like cash balances, without any involvement of third parties.
	Settlement	➤ Settlement for end users happens instantly as the money gets immediately debited or credited. However, interbank settlement occurs on a deferred net basis.	➤ There is no settlement as the wallet balance gets transferred to another wallet.
	Anonymity	➤ UPI transactions are recorded by banks and reflected in the statement. ➤ When a payer makes a transaction through UPI, the money gets debited from the payer's bank account and credited to the payee. This gets reflected in both bank statements and the bank's ledger, making it non-anonymous.	➤ Anonymity is a key feature of the CBDC. No data is captured on transactions from one wallet to another. ➤ During CBDC wallet transactions, there is no dependency or intermediation by the bank. This implies that the transaction will not be recorded in the statements, making it anonymous. This is true for all transactions lower than INR 50,000.
	Liability	➤ The liability lies with the users and the bank accounts.	➤ The liability lies with the central bank, i.e. the RBI.

Q.NO – 95

Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct?

1. Modern Technological innovations including Artificial Intelligence, robotics and space exploration extensively utilise Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
2. China has the highest share in mining of REEs followed by India.
3. The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to

TEST 01 - Q.NO – 100

Consider the following statements:

1. Monazite is used in the production of Rare-Earth Elements (REEs) in India.
2. Monazite is only found on the coasts of India.
3. Neodymium is an REE that can be extracted from monazite reserves.
4. India extracts Neodymium and Praseodymium with more than ninety per cent purity.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Rare Earth Elements (REEs) are a group of 17 metals vital for modern technologies, including high-performance magnets, electronics, clean energy systems, and advanced defence applications.

India holds an estimated 6.9 million metric tons of REE reserves, ranking fifth in the world.

Monazite is India's principal ore for producing Rare Earth Elements (REEs), which contain 55–60% total REE oxides. Overall, India has around 13.07 million tonnes of REE resources, mostly concentrated in these monazite deposits. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Monazite deposits are widespread, found primarily in Brazil, South Africa, China, India, Australia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United States.

In India, Monazite is classified as a prescribed substance under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962. It is usually found mixed with other heavy minerals like ilmenite, rutile, and zircon, and makes up about 0.4% to 4.3% of the total heavy minerals in both beach and inland placer deposits of India (not only in coast of India). **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Monazite contains varying amounts of REE, usually cerium, lanthanum, and neodymium.

Neodymium is a rare earth element occurs in the minerals monazite and bastnasite and is a product of nuclear fission. Liquid-liquid separation or ion-exchange techniques are employed for separation and purification of neodymium.

India currently extracts only neodymium and praseodymium at up to 99.9% purity. These elements occur in trace quantities — between 0.0011% and 0.012% — in beach sand minerals. **So, Statements 3 and 4 are correct.**

establish a robust framework for self reliance in the critical mineral sector.

4. Rare Earth Elements are a set of 13 metallic elements.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

RARE EARTH ELEMENTS	
About	The term "rare earth" comes from the oxide-type minerals (earths) in which they were first identified, such as gadolinite from a mine in Ytterby, Sweden. ➤ Rare Earths are a group of 17 elements, starting with lanthanum in the periodic table, and also including scandium and yttrium. ➤ They are moderately abundant in the Earth's crust but are rarely found in concentrations high enough for easy economic extraction. ➤ REEs have critical applications in defence, electronics, and energy systems. • For example, magnets made from rare earths are many times stronger than conventional ones. ➤ Along with energy-critical elements (ECEs) like lithium, which is widely used in batteries, REEs are considered strategic resources essential for sustainable energy systems. ➤ The 17 REEs consist of: scandium (Sc), yttrium (Y), and 15 lanthanides (atomic numbers 57–71): lanthanum (La), cerium (Ce), praseodymium (Pr), neodymium (Nd), promethium (Pm), samarium (Sm), europium (Eu), gadolinium (Gd), terbium (Tb), dysprosium (Dy), holmium (Ho), erbium (Er), thulium (Tm), ytterbium (Yb), and lutetium (Lu). ➤ The lanthanides are divided into two groups: • Light REEs (57–63): La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu • Heavy REEs (64–71): Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu REEs share important properties: high density, high melting points, excellent electrical conductivity, and strong thermal conductance. Some rare-earth minerals also contain thorium and uranium, but these are not essential components.

TEST 11 – Q.NO - 49

With reference to the Critical Mineral Recycling Incentive Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is part of the National Critical Mineral Mission.
2. Lithium-ion battery scrap, catalytic converters recovered from end-of-life vehicles, and e-waste can serve as eligible feedstock.
3. The Scheme aims to provide both Capex and Opex subsidies.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Critical Minerals are a set of naturally occurring elements and compounds that have diverse irreplaceable industrial applications but confront supply-related vulnerabilities, either in the form of their limited geographic occurrences or sourcing challenges.

The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.

➤ The critical mineral recycling incentive scheme is part of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), which is aimed at building the domestic capacity of supply chain resilience in critical minerals. The Scheme will have a tenure of six years from FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Under the scheme, eligible feedstock is e-waste, Lithium Ion Battery (LIB) scrap, and scrap other than e-waste & LIB scrap, e.g. catalytic converters in end-of-life vehicles. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

- According to the Ministry's data, India generates about 1.75 million tonnes of e-waste and 60 kilo tonnes of spent LIBs annually.
- With the removal of customs duty on LIB scrap in the 2025-26 Union Budget, imports of such waste will be easier, expanding recycling opportunities over the next four to five years.
- The Scheme will be applicable to investments in new units as well as expansion of capacity/modernisation, and diversification of existing units.
- The Scheme will provide an incentive for the recycling value chain, which is involved in the actual extraction of critical minerals, and not the value chain involved in only black mass production.

The incentives under the Scheme will comprise 20% Capital Expenditure (Capex) subsidy on plant & machinery, equipment and associated utilities for starting production within the specified timeframe, beyond which a reduced subsidy will be applicable. Operating Expense (Opex) subsidy, which will be an incentive for incremental sales over the base year (FY 2025-26), viz. 40% of the eligible Opex subsidy in the 2nd year and the remaining 60% in the 5th year from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 on achievement of the specified threshold incremental sales.

Thus, the scheme provides both Capex and Opex subsidies. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

TEST 22 - Q.NO – 20

With reference to the National Critical Mineral Mission, consider the following statements:

1. The Mission aims to secure a long-term sustainable supply of critical minerals.
2. The Mission has been launched with a total outlay of ₹34,300 crore.
3. Under this Mission, the Central Government has exclusive authority to auction mining leases for 24 specific critical minerals.
4. The Mission provides for a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme for the promotion of critical mineral recycling.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Government of India launched the **National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)** in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.

- Under this mission, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been tasked with conducting 1,200 exploration projects from 2024-25 to 2030-31.
- The National Critical Minerals Mission, with an **outlay of ₹34,300 crore**, which aims **to make the country self-reliant** in critical minerals, which includes
 - **₹16,300 crore** as direct budgetary support
 - **₹18,000 crore** to be contributed by Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) envisions securing a **long-term sustainable supply of critical minerals** and strengthen India's critical mineral value chains encompassing all stages from mineral exploration and mining to beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

- The primary objective of the NCMM is to ensure mineral security for India's green energy transition and high-tech manufacturing by addressing both primary (mining) and secondary (recycling) sources.

A committee formed by the Ministry of Mines in November 2022 identified 30 critical minerals, of which 24 were included in Part D of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act).

- With the inclusion of these **24 critical minerals in Part D**, the Central Government has been given **exclusive authority to auction mining leases and composite licences for them**.
- Following amendments to the MMDR Act, the Centre took over the power to auction these “strategic and critical” minerals, such as lithium and rare earth elements (REEs), to ensure a uniform national strategy for these sensitive resources. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

A dedicated Critical Mineral Recycling Incentive Scheme (CMRIS) with an **outlay of ₹1,500 crore** has been established to promote a circular economy **by developing recycling capacity for the recovery, separation, and production** of critical minerals from secondary sources such as e-waste and spent batteries.

The scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CRITICAL MINERALS	
About	Critical minerals are essential for a country's economic development and national security, and their lack of availability or concentration in a few geographical locations can lead to supply chain vulnerabilities.
Usage of Critical Minerals	Critical minerals are essential components of various clean energy technologies and industries. Their importance can be highlighted across different sectors: ➤ Solar energy: Critical minerals such as silicon, tellurium, indium, and gallium are vital for the production of photovoltaic (PV) cells used in solar panels. • India's current solar capacity of 64 GW is heavily dependent on these minerals. ➤ Wind energy: Rare earth elements like dysprosium and neodymium are used in permanent magnets for wind turbines. • India aims to increase its wind energy capacity from 42 GW to 140 GW by 2030, necessitating a stable supply of these minerals. ➤ Electric vehicles (EVs): Lithium, nickel, and cobalt are key materials used in lithium-ion batteries. • Under the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP), India plans to deploy 6–7 million EVs by 2024, leading to increased demand for these critical minerals. ➤ Energy storage: Lithium-ion batteries used in advanced energy storage systems depend on lithium, cobalt, and nickel.

Q.NO - 99

Consider the following statements about the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India.

1. NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.
2. All the NBFCs operating in India have to be registered with the RBI.
3. NBFCs form part of the payment and settlement system and can issue cheque drawn on itself.
4. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to the

TEST 04 – Q.NO - 47

Consider the following statements regarding the Reserve Bank of India:

1. RBI has the sole right to issue banknotes in India.
2. RBI has the sole power to fix the conditions of license to the banks.
3. Without the approval of the RBI, no scheduled commercial banking company can open a new place of business within or outside India.

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:

In India, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has the exclusive authority to issue banknotes, as given under Section 22 of the RBI Act, 1934. However, the design, form, and material of these notes are decided by the Central Government, based on recommendations made by the RBI's Central Board, as per Section 25 of the Act.

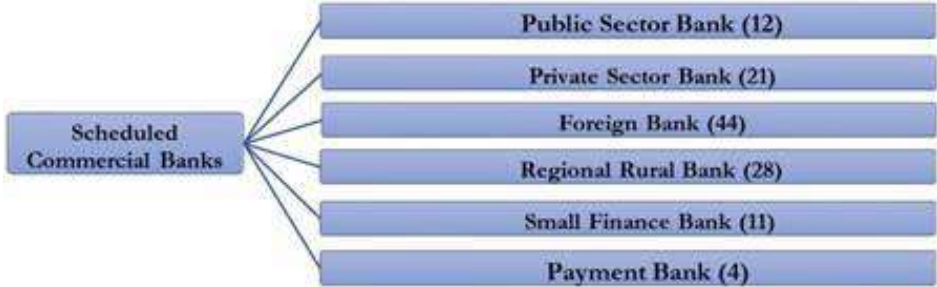
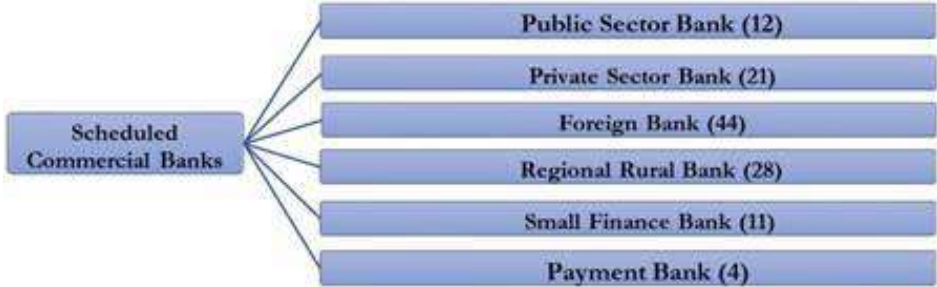
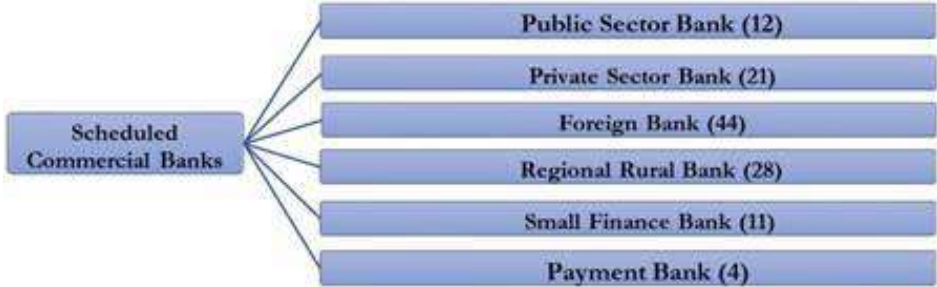
Every year, the RBI works with the Central Government and other stakeholders to estimate the demand for currency notes across different denominations. Once this requirement is assessed, the RBI places indents (orders) with the country's currency printing presses to ensure an adequate supply of banknotes for the economy. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulates and supervises banks to maintain the stability of the banking system and protect depositors' interests. Its authority comes from the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the RBI Act, 1934, and related laws.

RBI regulates commercial banks, Local Area Banks (LABs), and cooperative banks. It issues licenses to cooperative banks under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act. It oversees their banking functions through its Department of Cooperative Bank Regulation (DCBR), which monitors State Cooperative Banks (StCBs), District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), and Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).

Key responsibilities of RBI include:

- Issuing licenses for banks and new branches
- Ensuring banks maintain required reserves
- Supervising bank management

depositors of deposit taking NBFCs. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 and 4 (b) 1, 2 and 3 (c) 4 only (d) 2, 3 and 4	➤ Approving bank subsidiaries and new banking activities The RBI aims to create a strong, diverse, and competitive banking system, aligning regulations with domestic needs and international best practices. So, Statement 2 is correct. The opening of new branches and shifting of existing branches of scheduled commercial banks is governed by the provisions of Section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Section 23(1) of the Banking Regulation Act states that: ➤ A banking company cannot open a new branch in India or change the location of an existing branch (outside the same city, town, or village) without RBI approval. ➤ Similarly, a bank incorporated in India cannot open or move a branch abroad without RBI approval, except within the same city, town, or village. Exception: However, this restriction does not apply to the temporary opening of a branch for up to one month within the same locality where the banking company already operates, for events like exhibitions, conferences, fairs, or similar occasions, to provide banking services to the public. So, Statement 3 is correct. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <table border="1" data-bbox="465 826 2150 1380"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">BANKING SYSTEM IN INDIA</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>About</td><td> The Indian banking system is broadly divided into scheduled banks, non-scheduled banks, and development banks. Scheduled Banks: These are banks included in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934. Currently, India has 135 scheduled commercial banks providing a range of banking services. This category also includes cooperative banks and local area banks. </td></tr> <tr> <td>Scheduled Commercial Banks</td><td> Scheduled Commercial banks include public sector, private sector, foreign banks, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks.  <pre> graph LR SCB[Scheduled Commercial Banks] --- PSB[Public Sector Bank (12)] SCB --- PSB[Private Sector Bank (21)] SCB --- FB[Foreign Bank (44)] SCB --- RRB[Regional Rural Bank (28)] SCB --- SFB[Small Finance Bank (11)] SCB --- PB[Payment Bank (4)] </pre> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	BANKING SYSTEM IN INDIA		About	The Indian banking system is broadly divided into scheduled banks, non-scheduled banks, and development banks. Scheduled Banks: These are banks included in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934. Currently, India has 135 scheduled commercial banks providing a range of banking services. This category also includes cooperative banks and local area banks.	Scheduled Commercial Banks	Scheduled Commercial banks include public sector, private sector, foreign banks, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks.  <pre> graph LR SCB[Scheduled Commercial Banks] --- PSB[Public Sector Bank (12)] SCB --- PSB[Private Sector Bank (21)] SCB --- FB[Foreign Bank (44)] SCB --- RRB[Regional Rural Bank (28)] SCB --- SFB[Small Finance Bank (11)] SCB --- PB[Payment Bank (4)] </pre>
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- **Public Sector Banks:** State Bank of India and 11 Nationalised Banks are established under the State Bank of India Act, 1955 and Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980, respectively.
- **Foreign Bank:** It is a bank that has its headquarters outside India but runs its offices as a private entity at any other locations in India. Such banks are under an obligation to operate under the regulations provided by RBI as well as the rules prescribed by the parent organisation located outside India.
- **Private Sector Banks** are banking companies licensed to operate under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- **Regional Rural Banks (RRB)** are the banks established under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, with the aim of ensuring sufficient institutional credit for agriculture and other rural sectors. The area of operation of RRBs is limited to the area notified by the Central Government. RRBs are owned jointly by the Government of India, the State Government and Sponsor Banks.
- **Small Finance Banks** licensed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and created with an objective of furthering financial inclusion by primarily undertaking basic banking activities to unserved and underserved sections, including small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small enterprises and other underserved sections.
- **Payment Banks** are public limited companies licensed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, with specific licensing conditions restricting their activities mainly to the acceptance of demand deposits and provision of payments and remittance services.

**Non-Banking
Financial
Companies
(NBFCs)**

A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 that provides loans and advances and deals in shares, stocks, bonds, debentures, or government/local authority securities. NBFCs are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). NBFCs play a crucial role in supporting consumption demand and capital formation, especially in the small and medium industrial sectors. Their extensive reach and ability to operate at the last mile give them agility and innovation, using advanced technology to provide formal financial services to underbanked and unserved sections of society.

TEST 04 - Q.NO - 57

With reference to Small Finance Banks (SFBs), consider the following statements:

1. They are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. They are not required to maintain the Statutory Liquidity Ratio like other commercial banks.
3. They have to lend 100% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit to priority sectors.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Small Finance Banks (SFBs) in India are a special type of bank created by the RBI with guidance from the Government of India to promote financial inclusion. They provide basic banking services to unserved and underserved groups, including small and marginal farmers, small businesses, micro and small industries, and the unorganized sector.

SFBs operate under the regulation of the RBI, within the scope of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006, and are registered as public limited companies under the Companies Act, 2013. They are governed by the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the RBI Act, 1934, and other relevant statutes and directives issued from time to time. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Small Finance Banks (SFBs) are required to follow all prudential norms and regulations of the RBI applicable to commercial banks. This includes the mandatory maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR). No exemptions or leniency are allowed for complying with these statutory requirements. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

The small finance banks will be required to extend 75 per cent of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to the sectors eligible for classification as priority sector lending (PSL) by the Reserve Bank. At least 50 per cent of its loan portfolio should constitute loans and advances of up to Rs. 25 lakh. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SMALL FINANCE BANKS (SFBS)	
Recently in news	Recently, the RBI decided to grant 'in-principle' approval to AU Small Finance Bank for transitioning from a small finance bank (SFB) to a universal bank.
About	➤ Small Finance Banks (SFBs) in India are a special type of bank created by the RBI with guidance from the Government of India to promote financial inclusion. ➤ They provide basic banking services, such as lending and deposits, to unserved and underserved groups, including small and marginal farmers, small businesses, micro and small industries, and the unorganized sector. ➤ There will not be any restrictions on the area of operations of small finance banks. ➤ Following the 2014-15 Union Budget, the RBI issued guidelines for SFBs in November 2014.

		➤ Out of 72 applicants, only 10 entities received the license, with AU Financiers being the only asset-based NBFC to obtain it.
	Operational SFBs in India	Some of the operational Small Finance Banks in India are as follows: ➤ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank. ➤ Janalakshmi Small Finance Bank. ➤ Equitas Small Finance Bank. ➤ Capital Small Finance Bank. ➤ ESAF Small Finance Bank. ➤ Utkarsh Small Finance Bank. ➤ Suryoday Small Finance Bank. ➤ Fincare Small Finance Bank.
	Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)	➤ A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or Companies Act, 2013, whose principal business involves lending and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by the government or local authorities, leasing, hire-purchase, or similar financial activities. ➤ It does not include institutions whose main business is agriculture, industrial activities, trading in goods (other than securities), providing services, or dealing with immovable property. ➤ A residuary non-banking company (RNBC) is an NBFC whose principal business is receiving deposits under any scheme or arrangement, either in lump sum or installments, including contributions in any other manner. ➤ While NBFCs perform lending and investment activities similar to banks, they are distinct from banks and are governed by separate statutory and regulatory frameworks. Key differences include: • NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits. • NBFCs are not part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on themselves. • Deposit insurance by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to depositors of deposit-taking NBFCs.

TEST 04 – Q.NO - 84

How many of the following provisions are available to Non-Banking Financial Companies in India?

1. Receiving 100% Foreign Direct Investment
2. Maintenance of Statutory Liquidity Ratio
3. Issuing their own cheque books
4. Providing Insurance under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or 2013, engaged in financial activities like loans, advances, investment in shares, stocks, bonds, hire-purchase, leasing, insurance, or chit funds, but not in agriculture, industry, or sale/construction of property.

It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the RBI Act, 1934, and its foreign exchange activities come under FEMA, 2000.

Continuing with the liberalization of the overseas investment's regime, the government allows 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in NBFCs engaged in other financial services under the automatic route, subject to RBI regulations and minimum capitalization norm. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Statutory Liquidity Ratio or SLR is a minimum percentage of deposits that a commercial bank has to maintain in the form of liquid cash, gold or other securities. It is basically the reserve requirement that banks are expected to keep before offering credit to customers.

- These are not reserved with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), but with banks themselves. The SLR is fixed by the RBI.
- Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India are not required to maintain the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) as they are not commercial banks. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

	➤ However, NBFCs are subject to other prudential norms such as the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) and the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), which are designed to ensure their financial stability and protect the interests of their customers. Banks and NBFCs are different entities subject to different statutory and regulatory requirements. However, NBFCs lend and make investments and hence these activities are akin to that of banks. The major differences between banks and NBFCs are given below: ➤ NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits ➤ NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on themselves. Thus, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India are not permitted to issue their own cheque books. So, Statement 3 is not correct. ➤ The deposit insurance facility of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to depositors of deposit-taking NBFCs. So, Statement 4 is not correct.
<u>Q.NO - 100</u> Consider the following statements about Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): 1. MPI is calculated using Alkire-Foster methodology. 2. MPI calculated by NITI Aayog has a total of twelve indicators.	<u>TEST 11 – Q.NO - 53</u> Consider the following: 1. Per capita income 2. Child and Adolescent Mortality 3. Cooking Fuel 4. Drinking Water 5. Electricity 6. Years of Schooling 7. Bank Account Which of the above are used as indicators in measuring the National Multidimensional Poverty Index? (a) 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 only (b) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only (c) 2, 4, 5, and 6 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

3. Maternal Health and Bank Account are common indicators in the MPI of NITI Aayog and MPI of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is published by the NITI Aayog. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a globally recognised, comprehensive measure that captures poverty in multiple dimensions beyond monetary aspects. MPI's global methodology is based on robust Alkire and Foster (AF) method that identifies people as poor based on universally acknowledged metric designed to assess acute poverty, providing a complementary perspective to conventional monetary poverty measures.



As per the indicators mentioned above, Child and Adolescent Mortality, Cooking Fuel, Drinking Water, Electricity, Years of Schooling and bank account are indicators used in measuring the National Multidimensional Poverty Index. Per capita income is not an indicator used in measuring the National Multidimensional Poverty Index. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2026 – PRESTORMING PARTIAL REFLECTIONS

UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2026 - SERIES A	PRESTORMING 2025-2026 PARTIAL REFLECTIONS
Q.NO. 4	TEST 16 – Q.NO - 25
Which of the following temples has/have a Nagara-style shikhara? 1. Malegitti Shivalaya, Badami 2. Huchimalligudi Temple, Aihole 3. Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh 4. Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal Select the answer using the code given below : (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 3 only (d) 3 and 4	With reference to temple architecture, consider the following temples: 1. Kailasanathar temple 2. Papanatha temple 3. Virupaksha temple 4. Seven ratha temples How many of the above temples were constructed using Dravidian architecture? (a) Only one (b) One two (c) Only three (d) All four EXPLANATION: Under the patronage of the Chola rulers, hundreds of temples were built in South India. It was a continuation of the previous Pallava architecture, with some variations. This is what came to be known as the Dravidian style of temple architecture. ➤ The Kailasanathar Temple in Kancheepuram is the examples of Dravidian architecture; the temple emanates unmatched charm and elegance. This ancient Pallava-era temple was built around 700 CE by Narasimhavarman II. Famed for the intricately carved galaxy of Hindu art, the temple houses some of the first mural artworks in Tamil Nadu. The walls of the temple also have many inscriptions in early scripts, which have proved to be significant to the epigraphical study of regional history and traditions. The temple is made of sandstone and is hence locally known as the Sand Temple. So, Statement 1 is correct.



- Papanatha Temple is a large structure built on the banks of the Malaprabha River outside the Group of Monuments at Pattadakal main temple complex. This temple is dedicated to Muktewara, a form of Lord Shiva. **Built in a mix of Nagara and Dravidian architecture**, this temple dates back to 680 AD. The vimana on top of the sanctum is built in nagara style, while the mukhamandapa facing east, rangamandapa and antarala are acquired from Dravidian style. The sanctum has a narrow circumambulatory path for pradakshinas. On three sides of the outer walls of the sanctum, there are pillared porticos with sculptures of dancing Shiva. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**



- **Virupaksha Temple is the 7th century Shiva temple in Hampi, Central Karnataka.** Hampi is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lord Virupaksha, also referred to as Pampapathi, is the main deity in Virupaksha Temple. The Mallikarjuna & the Virupaksha temples were built by two queens of Vikramaditya II to commemorate the victory of the Chalukyas over the Pallavas. As the

Virupaksha temple was built by Queen Lokamahadevi, it was originally called Lokeshwara. The temple is rich in sculpture like those of Lingodbhava, Nataraja, Ravananugraha & Ugranarasimha. Built in the **southern Dravida style**, it is the largest temple in the enclosure. Jain Temple Half a Kilometer from the enclosure, on the Pattadakal-Badami Road, is this Jain temple built in the Dravidian style. It has some very beautiful sculpture & probably dates from the ninth century. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**



- The Pancha Rathas (Five Rathas) or seven Ratha at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, are a group of monolithic rock-cut temples, part of the UNESCO World Heritage site "Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram," **showcasing early Dravidian architecture built by the Pallava dynasty**, named after the Pandava brothers (Dharmaraja, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula-Sahadeva) and Draupadi from the Mahabharata, though never consecrated, serving as architectural prototypes from the 7th-8th centuries. Each ratha is carved from a single large granite boulder, demonstrating unique styles like the hut-like Draupadi Ratha and the large, rectangular Bhima Ratha, featuring intricate carvings and distinct designs that influenced South Indian temple building. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**



Q.NO. 14

Which of the following statements on the Amaravati Stupa and its relief sculpture is/are correct?

1. It was located in the lower Krishna valley.
2. In India, it was next only to the Sanchi Stupa in size.
3. The Amaravati school of sculpture made a lasting impact on the later South Indian sculpture, and its products were carried to Sri Lanka

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST – I – Q.NO - 04 &

TEST 16 – Q.NO - 11

With reference to the stupa in ancient India, consider the following pairs:

Sl. No	Stupa	Dynasty	Description
1.	Barhut Stupa	Mauryan	A notable southern gateway with an inscription of Satavahana King Satakarni
2.	Piprahwa Stupa	Sunga	The oldest stupa built of bricks in India
3.	Amaravati Stupa	Ikshavahus	Made of White Marble

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

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

and South-east Asia. Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1,2 and 3	EXPLANATION: The Barhut Stupa is located in Madhya Pradesh, India, near the city of Satna. It was built in the 2nd century BCE, during the reign of the Sunga dynasty, which ruled over central and northern India after the Mauryan Empire. Patronage and Contributions: ➤ The Bharhut Stupa was commissioned by King Dhanabhuti, who was a devout Buddhist and a generous donor. ➤ He also invited other laypeople, monks, and nuns to contribute to the construction and decoration of the stupa. ➤ The names and donations of the patrons are inscribed on the stones and pillars of the stupa, along with their wishes and blessings. Misattributed Feature (Sanchi Stupa): ➤ The most impressive feature of Sanchi Stupa (not Bharhut Stupa), its magnificent gateways, was constructed during the Satavahana rule. ➤ The southern gateway, having an inscription of the Satavahana King Satakarni (specifically Satakarni II), is present in the Great Stupa at Sanchi (not Bharhut stupa), located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, India. ➤ An inscription on the southern gateway records that it was the gift of Ananda, the son of Vasithi, the chief of the artisans of King Sri-Satakarni. ➤ Sri-Satakarni is identified with the Satavahana king Satakarni II, who ruled in the 1st century BCE. ➤ Many Buddhist rock-cut temples, like the early group (Hinayana) of Ajanta Caves, were carved during the Satavahana period. So, Row 1 is not correct. The Piprahwa Stupa is regarded as the oldest stupa built of bricks in India and is located in Uttar Pradesh. It was constructed in multiple phases. ➤ The earliest phase dates back to the time of the Buddha's death and consisted of a mud-built structure by the Sakyas. ➤ The second phase, from the early Mauryan period, introduced the use of well-fired mud bricks, laid in concentric circles, marking the transition to brick construction. ➤ The stupa underwent further modifications in later phases, including during the Sunga period, when its structure was expanded and modified. ➤ Thus, while the Piprahwa Stupa is indeed one of the earliest brick stupas in India, it was not originally built during the Sunga dynasty, as its brick phase began in the Mauryan period. So, Row 2 is not correct. The Amaravati Stupa, also known as the Maha Stupa or Amaravati Mahachaitya, is one of the most remarkable achievements of ancient Indian Buddhist architecture and sculpture. ➤ It is located in the present-day Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh.
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- Built and embellished over several centuries, from approximately 200 BCE to 250 CE, **primarily during the Satavahana period**, the stupa served as a major centre of Buddhist worship and pilgrimage.
- The Amaravati Stupa was **constructed primarily using limestone**, with finely carved sculptural panels often described as “white marble” due to their appearance (though technically limestone).
- The dome (Anda) was likely built using brick and faced with limestone slabs, following the traditional stupa construction method.
- The railings (vedika), gateways (torana), and pillar casings featured elaborate carved limestone reliefs and free-standing sculptures. **So, Row 3 is not correct.**

Consider the following statements:

1. The Greek school of art is realistic in nature, whereas the Roman school of art is idealistic in nature.
2. Greek sculptures are always made of concrete, whereas Roman sculptures are always made of marble.
3. The Gandhara school of art followed only the Greek school of art.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Greek and Roman styles have certain differences, and the Gandhara School of Art integrates elements of both.

- The idealistic approach of Greek art is reflected in the muscular depictions of gods and other figures, emphasising strength, proportion, and beauty.
- In contrast, Roman art was largely used for ornamentation and decoration and is realistic in nature, as opposed to Greek idealism. Roman art projects realism by depicting real people and major historical events.
- Therefore, the Roman school of art is realistic, whereas the Greek school of art is idealistic in nature. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Lots of Greek mythological figures from the Greek Parthenon have been sculpted using marble. The Romans used concrete in their sculptures. They were also famous for their mural paintings. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Buddha in Greco-Roman style and a Roman Portraiture points out the similarities

In the Post Mauryans Era, three prominent schools of sculpture developed at three different regions of India – centred at Gandhara, Mathura and Amaravati.

The **Gandhara School of Art integrates both styles of Greek and Roman**. It was developed in the western frontiers of Punjab, near modern-day Peshawar and Afghanistan.

- The Greek invaders brought with them the traditions of the Greek and Roman sculptors, which influenced the local traditions of the region.
- Thus, the Gandhara School also came to be known as the Greco-Indian School of Art.
- The Gandhara School flourished in two stages in the period from 50 BC to 500 AD.
- While the former school was known for its use of bluish-grey sandstone, the later school used mud and stucco for making the sculptures.
- The images of Buddha and Bodhisattvas were based on the Greco-Roman pantheon and resembled those of Apollo. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GANDHARA, MATHURA AND AMARAVATI SCHOOLS			
Basis	Gandhara School	Mathura School	Amaravati School
External Influence	Heavy influence of Greek or Hellenistic sculpture, so it is also known as Indo-Greek art.	It was developed indigenously and not influenced by external cultures.	It was developed indigenously and not influenced by external cultures.
Ingredient Used	Early Gandhara School used bluish-grey sandstone while the later period saw the use of mud and stucco.	The sculptures of Mathura School were made using spotted red sandstone	The sculptures of Amaravati School were made using white marbles.
Religious Influence	Mainly Buddhist imagery, influenced by the Greco-Roman pantheon.	Influence of all three religions of the time, i.e. Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism.	Mainly Buddhist influence.

	Patronage	Patronised by Kushana rulers.	Patronised by Kushana rulers.	Patronised by Satvahana rulers.
	Area of Development	Developed in the North West Frontier, in the modern-day area of Kandahar.	Developed in and around Mathura, Sonkh and Kankalitila. Kankalitila was famous for its Jain sculptures.	Developed in the Krishna-Godavari lower valley, in and around Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda.
	Features of Buddha Sculpture	The Buddha is shown in a spiritual state, with wavy hair. He wears fewer ornaments and is seated in a yogi position. The eyes are half closed as in meditation. A protuberance is shown on the head signifying the omniscience of Buddha.	Buddha is shown in a delighted mood with a smiling face. The body symbolises masculinity, wearing a tight dress. The face and head are shaven. Buddha is seated in padmasana with different mudras, and his face reflects grace. A similar protuberance is shown on the head.	Since the sculptures are generally part of a narrative art, there is less emphasis on the individual features of Buddha. The sculptures generally depict life stories of Buddha and the Jataka tales, i.e., previous lives of Buddha in both human and animal form.
Q.NO -16	TEST 10 – Q.NO - 86			
Which of the following factors contributed to the formation of the Forward Bloc by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1939?	With reference to Subhas Chandra Bose, consider the following statements: 1. He was re-elected as the President of the 1939 Indian National Congress session in Tripuri. 2. He established the Forward Bloc within the Congress Party. 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			

1. Bose failed to win the confidence of Mahatma Gandhi.

2. The Congress Left was disunited and failed to support Bose.

3. The Communists did not support Bose in his endeavours.

4. The supporters of M.N. Roy and socialist leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan preferred Congress unity to supporting Bose.

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 2 and 3

(b) 1, 2 and 4

(c) 1, 3 and 4

(d) 2 and 4 only

EXPLANATION:

- In March 1939, the Congress session took place at Tripuri, in the Central Provinces (near Jabalpur in present Madhya Pradesh).
- After returning to India, Subhas joined the Nationalist Movement as a political disciple of C.R. Das.
 - He also actively came forward to take part in the Non-Violence, Non-Cooperation Movement called by the Mahatma.
 - But within a very short span of time, he was disillusioned and wished for a free India, not through a non-violent path but through a radical social movement.
 - After the death of C. R. Das, Subhas emerged as the most popular young leader of the Indian National Congress from Bengal.
 - In 1938, he was elected the President of the Congress at the Haripura Session. But Subhas Chandra Bose's radical socialist ideology was not compatible with the Gandhian idea of 'Satyagraha', so differences of opinion arose among them, and as a result, Subhas, though re-elected in 1939, stepped down from the post of the President of the Indian National Congress at Tripuri Session. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - He then quit Congress and formed a new party named 'Forward Block'.
 - He established the Forward Bloc within the Congress Party.
 - The Forward Bloc has appeared because the Congress must enter a new phase in its evolutionary process.
 - The Forward Bloc is there not only for the creature of an inner urge within the Congress, but it is also the product of historical necessity. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FORWARD BLOCK

About	
	➤ In 1939, Bose founded the All India Forward Bloc, a faction within the party that was committed to industrialisation and socialism. ➤ He established a plan to industrialise the country. ➤ He also argued that the benefits of industrialisation should be used to improve the lives of all segments of society and promote social equality. ➤ Bose also believed that industrialisation was essential for India's growth. ➤ He called for the development of Indian industries, including heavy industry, to create jobs and build a strong, self-sufficient economy. ➤ He felt that the country needed to move away from its traditional agricultural base and embrace modern industrial methods to keep pace with the rest of the world. ➤ Bose's views on industrialisation were controversial within the Indian independence movement, as many leaders of the party favored a more gradual approach to economic development. However, his ideas gained momentum, and industrialisation began. ➤ Bose's ideas continued to influence Indian economic policy even after independence in 1947, with the Government adopting policies aimed at promoting industrialisation and economic self-sufficiency.

	Subhas Chandra Bose	➤ In 1941, he was placed under house arrest, but he escaped from there and reached Malaya; ➤ He gave a new expression to the Indian National Movement, outside the country's frontiers, reorganising the Indian National Army or the Azad Hind Fauj, with the help of the Japanese in 1943. ➤ He also got equal support from Hitler. ➤ The INA joined the Japanese army in its march to India in 1944 with the famous 'Delhi Chalo' slogan on their lips to achieve freedom for their Motherland. ➤ Unfortunately, with the final defeat and surrender of Japan to the Allies, the INA also had to surrender to the British Government. ➤ The INA soldiers were tried, and Netaji was believed to have died in a plane crash near Taiwan in 1945. ➤ To date, the nation observes the National Day of Patriotism on January 23 to commemorate his lifelong crusade.
<u>TEST 10 – Q.NO - 07</u> With reference to the Haripura Session of the Indian National Congress (1938), consider the following statements: 1) It was presided over by Subhas Chandra Bose. 2) It passed resolutions concerning both international affairs and India's internal situation. 3) It was held shortly after the resignation of the Congress Ministries. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 <u>EXPLANATION:</u> The Indian National Congress held its fifty-first session in Haripura in the Surat district in Gujarat. It was held on February 19, 1938 and presided over by Subhash Chandra Bose. So, Statement 1 is correct. ➤ This session passed a number of resolutions related to international affairs as well as on the internal situation in India. So, Statement 2 is correct.		

	➤ The Congress reinforced their commitment towards the attainment of Poorna Swaraj (Complete Independence) for the Indian nation and the need for a responsible government. ➤ They rejected the federal structure given by the British in the Government of India Act 1935, instead proposed a federation in which the States participated as independent units, enjoying the same democratic freedom as the rest of India. ➤ They condemned the lack of freedom and suppression of civil liberties in some of the states under the British regime. The 52nd session (Tripuri) 1939, when the Congress faced a major crisis. ➤ This time an election was held for the President and Bose defeated Pattabhi Sitaramayya by 1580 to 1377 votes. ➤ This was regarded as a victory of the Left Wing, as the Right Wing had solidly supported Sitaramayya. ➤ Even Gandhi regarded this defeat as his own defeat. ➤ There was a problem in the formation of the working committee and ultimately Bose resigned from the Presidentship. ➤ The Congress Ministries resigned office in November 1939 on the ground that the Viceroy on his own had made India a participant in the imperialist war without consulting the Congress. ➤ The Haripura Session took place in February 1938, well before those resignations. So, Statement 3 is not correct.
Q.NO – 17 Consider the following statements regarding the British policy in Awadh immediately after its annexation in 1856: 1. The taluqdars were dispossessed of their estates but allowed to retain	TEST 10 – Q.NO - 23 In the context of Colonial India, Muzaffar Ahmed, S.A. Dange, and Philip Spratt are remembered for, (a) Meerut Conspiracy case (b) Alipore Conspiracy case (c) Establishment of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) (d) Kisan Sabha Movement EXPLANATION: Meerut Conspiracy case: In March 1929, the Government arrested 31 labour leaders, and the three-and-a-half-year trial resulted in the conviction of Muzaffar Ahmed, S.A. Dange, Joglekar, Philip Spratt, Ben Bradley, Shaikat Usmani and others. ➤ The trial received worldwide publicity but weakened the working-class movement.

their arms and forts. 2. A Summary Revenue Settlement was made in 1856 assuming that the taluqdars were outsiders. 3. The British believed in taking revenue directly from the peasants by removing the taluqdars. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 2 and 3 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) 2 only	➤ Workers participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930, but after 1931 the working-class movement declined due to a split that year. ➤ The corporatist group led by N.M. Joshi broke away from the AITUC to form the All India Trade Union Federation. ➤ In 1935, the communists rejoined the AITUC. By then, the left front consisted of communists, Congress socialists, and left-leaning nationalists such as Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose. 1. Therefore, In the context of Colonial India, Muzaffar Ahmed, S.A. Dange, and Philip Spratt are remembered for the Meerut conspiracy case. So, Option (a) is correct. Alipore Conspiracy case: ➤ The first revolutionary groups were formed in 1902 in Calcutta, known as the Anushilan Samiti, founded by Promotha Mitter with members like Jatindranath Banerjee and Barindra Kumar Ghosh. ➤ The entire Anushilan group, including Aurobindo Ghosh and Barindra Ghosh, was later arrested and tried in the Alipore Conspiracy Case, also called the Manicktolla or Muraripukur Bomb Conspiracy. Barindra's house at Muraripukur Road was the centre of their activities. ➤ The Ghosh brothers were charged with conspiracy and waging war against the King, equivalent to high treason, punishable by death. ➤ Chittaranjan Das defended Aurobindo in court. Aurobindo was acquitted because the evidence against him was weak. ➤ Barindra Ghosh, as the leader of the revolutionary group, and Ullaskar Dutt, who made the bombs, were given the death sentence, later changed to life imprisonment. ➤ During the trial, Narendra Gosain, an approver and Crown witness, was shot dead in jail by two co-accused, Satyendranath Bose and Kanailal Dutta. So, Option (b) is not correct. The All-India Trade Union Congress was founded on October 31, 1920. ➤ The Indian National Congress president for the year, Lala Lajpat Rai, was elected as the first president of AITUC and Dewan Chaman Lal as the first general secretary. ➤ The prominent Congress and Swarajist leader C.R. Das presided over the third and fourth sessions of the AITUC. ➤ The Gaya session of the Congress (1922) welcomed the formation of the AITUC, and a committee was formed to assist it. ➤ Other leaders who kept close contact with the AITUC included Nehru, Subhas Bose, C.F. Andrews, J.M. Sengupta, Satyamurthy, V.V. Giri, and Sarojini Naidu. ➤ In the beginning, the AITUC was influenced by social democratic ideas of the British Labour Party. ➤ The Gandhian philosophy of non-violence, trusteeship, and class-collaboration had a great influence on the movement. So, Option (c) is not correct.
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	Kisan Sabha movement: ➤ After the 1857 Revolt, Awadh taluqdars got back their lands, increasing their power over peasants. ➤ Cultivators faced high rents, evictions (bedakhali), illegal levies, and nazrana. World War I raised prices, worsening peasant suffering. ➤ Home Rule activists helped form kisan sabhas. The UP Kisan Sabha was created in February 1918 by Gauri Shankar Mishra and Indra Narayan Dwivedi, supported by M.M. Malaviya. ➤ By 1919, it had 450 branches. Leaders like Jhinguri Singh, Durgapal Singh, and Baba Ramchandra played key roles. In June 1920, Baba Ramchandra brought Jawaharlal Nehru to visit the villages. ➤ Due to nationalist differences, the Awadh Kisan Sabha was formed in October 1920. ➤ It urged peasants to refuse to till bedakhali land, avoid unpaid labour (hari, begar), boycott violators, and use panchayats for disputes. ➤ By January 1921, the movement turned violent with looting and clashes with police, mainly in Rai Bareilly, Faizabad, and Sultanpur. ➤ The movement declined soon due to government repression and the Awadh Rent (Amendment) Act. So, Option (d) is not correct.
Q.NO – 18 Consider the following assertion: The genesis of political alliances based on community lay in the very nature of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms, 1919. Which statements of the following	TEST 10 - Q.NO - 90 Consider the following statements: Statement 1: After the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, the direct control on education was shifted from the Federal Government to Provincial Government. Statement 2: The Montagu-Chelmsford reforms introduced the system of dyarchy for the executive at the level of the provincial Government. Which one of the following is correct with 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: The Government of India Act, 1919 (based on Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms) introduced diarchy in provinces. Under a diarchy, subjects were divided into:

support/supports the above assertion?

1. Reforms retained and extended the principle of separate electorates.
2. Separate electorates were supposed to counter Indian nationalism, which was growing stronger.
3. Deprived classes rallied around the favours inherent in separate electorates.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

- Transferred subjects - under ministers responsible to the provincial legislature.
- Reserved subjects - under the Governor and the Executive Council.

Education was placed under Transferred Subjects, hence handled by provincial ministers, not by direct British executive control. So, direct central control ended, and provinces took over educational responsibility. **So, Statement I is correct.**

One of the main features of the Montford Reforms was the introduction of dyarchy.

- The Act introduced dyarchy for the executive at the level of the provincial Government. **So, Statement II is correct.**
- Dyarchy, i.e., the rule of two executive councillors and popular ministers, was introduced. The governor was to be the executive head in the province.
- Subjects were divided into two lists: 'reserved', which included subjects such as law and order, finance, land revenue, irrigation, etc., and 'transferred' subjects such as education, health, local Government, industry, agriculture, excise, etc.
- The reserved subjects were to be administered by the governor through his executive council of bureaucrats, and the transferred subjects were to be administered by ministers nominated from among the elected members of the legislative council.
- Education was shifted to provincial ministries because it was classified as a transferred subject under dyarchy.
- Because education was placed under the 'transferred' subjects in the dyarchy system introduced by the 1919 Act, it was no longer run by the governor's officials.
- Instead, it came under provincial ministers chosen from elected legislators.

Thus, the shift of education to provincial control directly resulted from the introduction of dyarchy. **So, Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FEATURES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT 1919

About	Introduction of dyarchy - The Act divided the subjects of provincial Government into two categories: Reserved Subjects: Administered by the Governor and his executive council (e.g., police, finance, irrigation). Transferred Subjects: Administered by Indian ministers responsible to the legislative councils (e.g., education, public health, local self-government). Bicameral Legislature at the Centre - Established a bicameral legislature in India for the first time: • Council of State (Upper House) • Legislative Assembly (Lower House)
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(c) 1 and 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3	However, the Viceroy retained overriding powers, including the power of certification, veto, and ordinance. Expansion of Legislative Councils - Increased the size of both central and provincial legislative councils. Introduced more elected members, though franchise was still limited and based on property, education, and tax qualifications. More Indian Participation in Administration - Indians were appointed to key positions, including the first Indian appointed to the Viceroy's Executive Council. However, real power remained with British officials. Establishment of a Public Service Commission - The Central Public Service Commission (CPSC) was set up in 1926, which later evolved into the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Introduction of Direct Elections - For the first time, direct elections were introduced for some seats in legislative councils. Separate Electorates Continued - Continued the system of separate electorates for Muslims and introduced them for Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, and Europeans. Review after 10 Years - The Act provided for a review after 10 years, which ultimately led to the Simon Commission in 1927 (two years earlier). TEST 10 – Q.NO - 95 Which of the following events triggered the launch of the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920? (a) The passage of the Government of India Act 1919 (b) The Khilafat issue and the Punjab killings (c) The Simon Commission's visit (d) The Round Table Conference EXPLANATION: The Government of India Act 1919 was seen as 'a step in the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the empire'. The Indian National Congress rejected the Act. Annie Besant termed the Act as 'unworthy of England to offer and India to accept'. Although many nationalists were dissatisfied with it, this Act did not trigger the launch of the Non-Cooperation Movement. So, Option (a) is not correct.
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	On August 1, 1920, Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation (Asahayog) Movement against the government. Its aims were to force further concessions from the British government by organising the boycotting of the legislative councils, courts and schools, and other symbolic acts. It was the first mass movement organised nationwide during India's struggle for freedom. During 1919-22, the British were opposed through two mass movements—the Khilafat and Non-Cooperation. Though the two movements emerged from separate issues, they adopted a common programme of action—that of non-violent noncooperation. The Khilafat issue was not directly linked to Indian politics but it provided the immediate background to the movement and gave an added advantage of cementing Hindu-Muslim unity against the British. Causes for the emergence of Non-Cooperation movement: ➤ The Khilafat movement of 1919, with its strong anti-imperialist thrust, coincided with growing public anger against British rule. ➤ Economic hardships during and after World War I, marked by rising prices and increasing burdens on peasants, created widespread discontent. ➤ Politically, hopes raised during the War were dashed when the Government of India Act 1919 offered only limited reforms, disappointing nationalists. ➤ The passage of the repressive Rowlatt Act (1919), allowing detention without trial, further inflamed public sentiment. Gandhi's nationwide Satyagraha saw mass protests across the country. ➤ The Jallianwala Bagh massacre in April 1919 proved to be the final shock, exposing the brutality of colonial rule. Tagore's renunciation of his knighthood symbolized national outrage. ➤ These developments together paved the way for launching the Non-Cooperation Movement on August 1, 1920. So, Option (b) is correct. An all-white, seven-member Indian Statutory Commission, popularly known as the Simon Commission (after the name of its chairman, Sir John Simon), was set up by the British government under Stanley Baldwin's prime ministership on November 8, 1927. The commission was to recommend to the British government whether India was ready for further constitutional reforms and along what lines. Simon commission came much later after the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920). So, Option (c) is not correct. The first Round Table Conference was held in London between November 1930 and January 1931. This was the first conference arranged between the British and the Indians as equals. The second Round Table Conference was held in London from September 7, 1931 to December 1, 1931. The Indian National Congress nominated Gandhi as its sole representative.
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	The third Round Table Conference, held between November 17, 1932 and December 24, 1932, was not attended by the Indian National Congress and Gandhi. It was ignored by most other Indian leaders. This happened a decade later, after the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920). So, Option (d) is not correct.
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Important Events of Indian National Movement (1900-1950)

1900	
	1905 - Partition of Bengal / Swadeshi Movement
	1906 - Muslim League
	1907 - Surat Split
	1909 - Minto-Morely Reforms
1910	
	1911 - Ashe Murder
	1915 - The First Hindu Mahasabha conference held at Haridwar
	1916 - Home Rule League / Lucknow Pact
	1917 - Champaran Movement
	1919 - Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms / Rowlatt Act / Jalianwalah Bagh Massacre
1920	
	1920 - Non-Cooperation Movement
	1921 - Malabar Rebellion
	1922 - Chauri Chaura incident
1930	
	1930 - Dandi March
	1931 - Gandhi-Irwin Pact
	1932 - Communal Award / Poona Pact
	1937 - First Congress Ministry in Provinces
1940	
	1940 - August Offer / Lahore Resolution
	1942 - Cripps Mission / Quit India Movement
	1945 - Wavell Plan / Simla Conference
	1946 - Cabinet Mission / Direct Action / Interim Government / RIN Revolt
	1947 - India becomes Independence
1950	
	1950 - India becomes Republic

TEST 10 – Q.NO - 02

Which of the following Acts first introduced the principle of "representative institutions" in India?

- (a) **Indian Councils Act, 1861**
- (b) Indian Councils Act, 1892
- (c) Indian Councils Act, 1909
- (d) Government of India Act, 1919

EXPLANATION:

Indian Councils Act, 1861

- It introduced the idea of non-official Indians in legislative bodies, marking a step forward in participation.
- Laws were to be made after deliberation, so law-making was no longer only the executive's business.
- The portfolio system introduced by Lord Canning laid the foundation for cabinet government, with each branch having a responsible head.
- Legislative powers were given to Bombay and Madras, and provisions were made for councils in other provinces, which led to the foundation of legislative devolution.

Limitations of the acts were:

- Councils had no real power, as they could not discuss important matters or finances without government approval.
- The council could not control the budget or discuss the actions of the executives.
- Bills needed the Viceroy's approval, and the Secretary of State could disallow them.
- Non-official members were mostly from elite sections.
- The Indian Council Act, 1861, did not introduce the principle of "representative institutions" in India. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

Indian Councils Act, 1892

- This act was in response to the Congress demand that the legislative councils be expanded that the number of non-official members was increased both in the central (Imperial) and provincial legislative councils by the Indian Councils Act, 1892.
- Universities, district boards, municipalities, zamindars, and trade bodies could recommend members to the councils, thereby introducing the principle of representation of institutions.
- Though the term 'election' was firmly avoided in the Act, an element of indirect election was accepted in the selection of some of the non-official members.

	➤ Members could now express their views on financial statements in council and ask questions to the executive on public matters with six days' notice. Thus, it is the Indian Councils Act, 1892, that first introduced the principle of "representative institutions" in India. So, Option (b) is correct.
	Indian Councils Act, 1909 (Morley-Minto Reforms) ➤ Strengthened the representative and popular element, but real power remained with the Government. ➤ First Indian in the Viceroy's Executive Council: Satyendra Prasad Sinha. ➤ Increased members in Provincial Executive Councils. ➤ Introduced separate electorates for Muslims, giving them representation beyond their population proportion. ➤ Elections remained indirect, and councils mainly had the power to criticise the Government. The Indian Council Act, 1909, did not start the principle of "representative institutions" in India. So, Option (c) is not correct.
	Government of India Act, 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms) Objective: ➤ Gradually introduce responsible Government in India, as part of the British Empire. ➤ Replaced the central Legislative Council with a bicameral system: • Council of State (Upper House) • Legislative Assembly (Lower House) ➤ Direct elections were introduced, though the franchise was limited (property, tax, and education). ➤ Extended communal representation: Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Anglo-Indians. ➤ The Act introduced dyarchy in the provinces, which was a substantial step towards the transfer of power to the Indian people. ➤ Provinces could now manage their own budgets, separated from central budgets. ➤ Appointed a High Commissioner in London to oversee Indian trade. ➤ The Secretary of State for India is now paid by the British Exchequer instead of Indian revenue. ➤ Despite major reforms, the responsible Government was not achieved: - Dyarchy in provinces largely failed. - The central legislature could vote on supplies, but could not replace the Government. - The Governor-General retained veto powers and overriding authority. The Government of India Act, 1919, was not the first to introduce the principle of "representative institutions" in India. So, Option (d) is not correct.

Q.NO – 22

With respect to the Western Hoolock Gibbons, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A Sanctuary in North-east India is home to this ape species listed as Endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
2. They have specialized brachiation and can easily swing between trees.
3. They possess a strong and heavy build like gorillas,

TEST 24 - Q.NO - 24

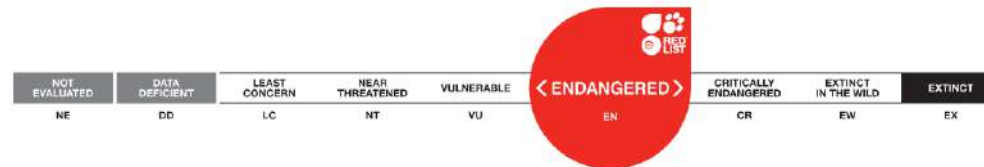
Which of the following statements is **not** correct with reference to the Western Hoolock Gibbon?

- (a) It is the only ape species found naturally in India.
- (b) It exhibits diurnal activity and is predominantly arboreal in nature.
- (c) **It is listed as vulnerable under the IUCN Red List.**
- (d) It inhabits evergreen, semi-evergreen, and tropical rainforest ecosystems of Northeast India.

EXPLANATION:

The Western Hoolock gibbons are primates, like monkeys, langurs, and chimpanzees.

- They belong to the ape group, which is evolutionarily closest to humans and is the only ape species found naturally in India. **So, Option (a) is correct.**
- Known for its agility, song and strong family bonds, the Western Hoolock gibbon is found in the **evergreen, semi-evergreen and tropical rainforests of Northeast India**, particularly Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura. **So, Option (d) is correct.**
- The species is **arboreal**, spending most of its time in the forest canopy, and prefers evergreen forests of Northeast India.
- It is also **diurnal**, meaning it is active during daylight hours. **So, Option (b) is correct.**
- The western hoolock gibbon is classified as **Endangered** (not vulnerable) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN, September 2017), appearing on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**



yet are remarkably agile tree climbers. Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 3 only	
<u>Q.NO – 23</u> Which of the following best explain(s) the rationale for protecting mangrove ecosystems in the context of climate resilience? 1. Mangroves reduce tidal energy and	<u>TEST 20 – Q.NO - 57</u> Consider the following statements with respect to Mangroves: 1. Mangrove swamps are ecotones between land and sea ecosystems. 2. The mangrove ecosystem has high detritus production and has a high rate of recycling within the ecosystem. 3. The sea grass beds and coral reefs are associated with Mangroves and are adversely affected when mangroves are removed. How many of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None

store freshwater, making them ideal sites for paddy cultivation in saline estuarine belts.

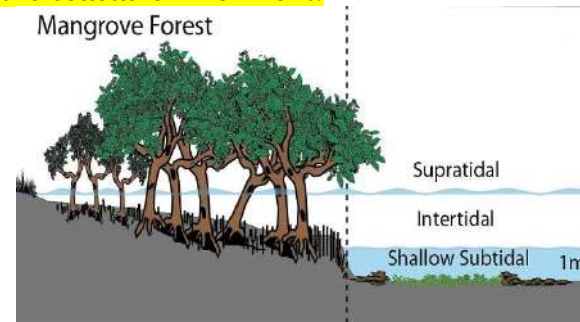
2. Their salt-sensitive roots filter seawater, making mangroves key to converting coastal land into freshwater aquaculture zones.

3. By withstanding tidal surges and offering biomass resources, mangroves function both as natural bio-shields and livelihood bases for rural communities.

EXPLANATION:

Mangroves are salt-tolerant evergreen forest ecosystems found mainly in tropical and subtropical coastal and/or intertidal regions

- Mangrove swamps are a complex ecosystem and form ecotones between land and sea. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The components of the Mangrove swamps are stratified both horizontally and vertically between the forest canopy and the subsurface soil.
- Ecologically, mangroves are an assemblage of tropical trees and shrubs that inhabit the coastal intertidal zone.
- A mangrove is composed of a variety of plant species whose special adaptations allow them to survive the variable flooding and salinity stress conditions imposed by the coastal environment.



The mangrove ecosystem has a high detritus production and has a high rate of recycling within the ecosystem.

In addition, the high productivity of the mangrove forest is supported by an increased supply of nutrients and by the availability of a large diversity in niches that are suited for the breeding, spawning, hatching and nursing of both sedentary and migratory marine and estuarine species. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

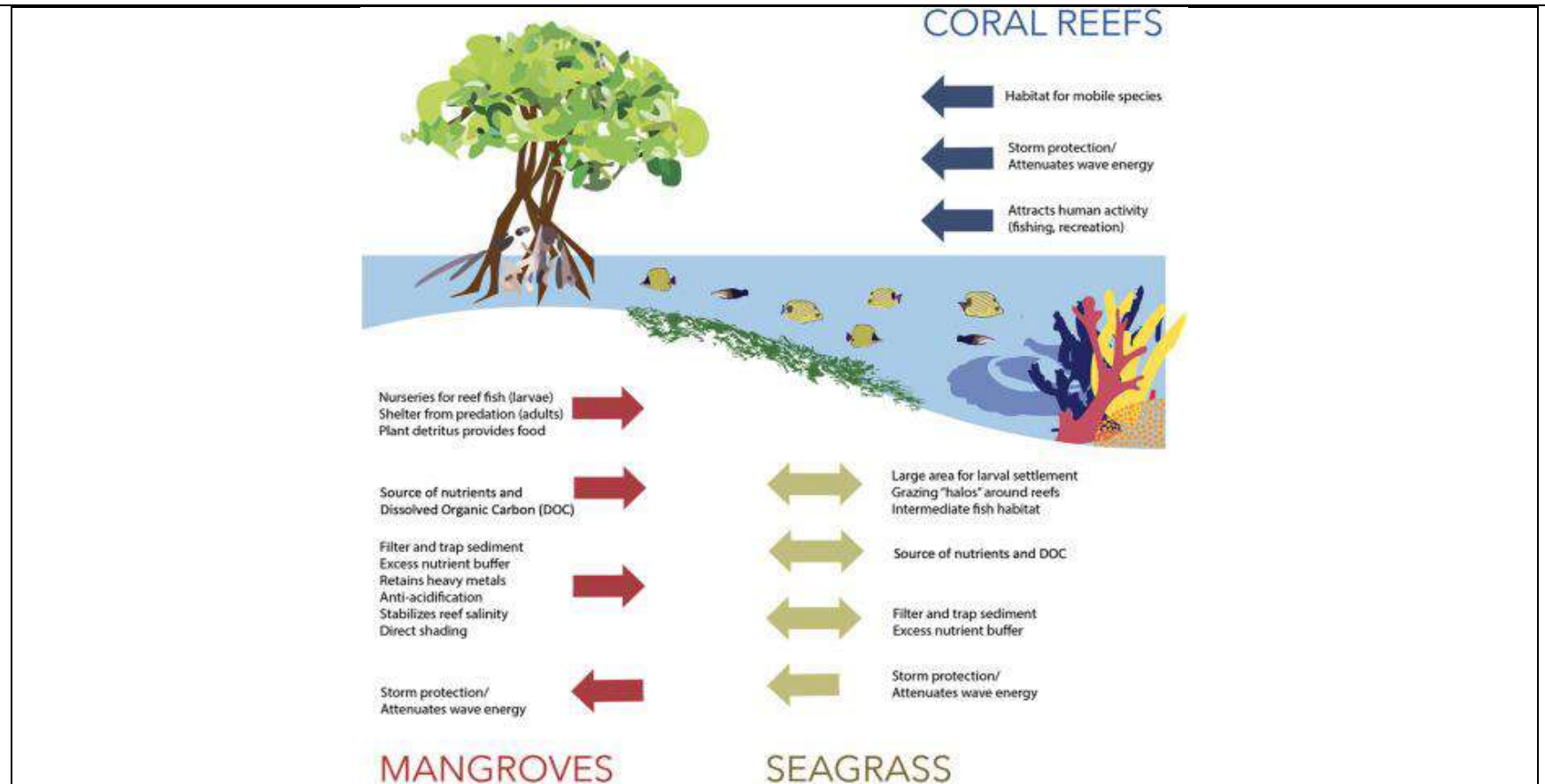
Mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs form an interconnected network.

- Mangroves and seagrass beds reduce sedimentation and pollution that could otherwise smother corals.
- In turn, coral reefs act as a protective barrier against waves, creating the calm conditions necessary for mangroves and seagrass beds.

Therefore, removing mangroves from their ecosystem adversely affects this interaction. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

Select the answer using the code given below :

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



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MANGROVES SWAMPS

About

- Mangrove swamps are coastal wetlands found in tropical and subtropical regions.
- They are characterized by halophytic (salt-loving) trees, shrubs and other plants growing in brackish to saline tidal waters.

		➤ These wetlands are often found in estuaries, where fresh water meets salt water and are infamous for their impenetrable maze of woody vegetation.
	Features	➤ Mangroves have the ability to live in saltwater and are quite stable under varied physical and chemical conditions. ➤ The salt and nutrient concentrations in the mangroves are regulated by the inflow of freshwater, the inflow and outflow of salt water with each tidal cycle, precipitation and humidity. ➤ The salinity of interstitial water remains higher than the overlying water by an order of magnitude, mainly because of high evaporation during low tide and retention of the salts due to the compactness of the substratum.
	Environmental parameters	➤ Mangroves develop under specific environmental conditions. ➤ They require a tropical climate, fine-grained alluvial soil, shores protected from strong waves and tidal action, brackish or saline water, and a wide tidal range. ➤ These factors determine their occurrence, size, species composition, distribution, and zonation. ➤ Together, these conditions make mangroves a unique, self-sustaining, and highly productive ecosystem.
	Climate	➤ Climate plays a key role in the growth of mangroves. Light, temperature, rainfall, and wind strongly influence the ecosystem. ➤ Sunlight is essential for photosynthesis and plant growth. Mangrove plants require high-intensity, full sunlight, making tropical coastal regions ideal for them. ➤ Rainfall helps wash away excess surface salts and reduces soil salinity, making the land suitable for mangrove growth. ➤ It also affects air and water temperature and salinity levels, which influence the survival of mangrove species. ➤ Mangroves grow best in areas receiving annual rainfall between 1500 and 3000 mm.
<u>Q.NO - 25</u> Identify the river of the Indian sub-continent on the basis of the following information:	<u>TEST 01 - Q.NO - 48</u> Which one of the following tributaries of the Indus River system flows entirely within India? (a) Chenab (b) Sutlej (c) Jhelum (d) Beas	

1. It has an antecedent drainage system.
2. It flows through three countries.
3. It originates in the Tibetan Plateau and is an important river for irrigation.

4. It does not form distributaries.

Select the answer from the following:

- (a) Brahmaputra
- (b) Indus
- (c) Sutlej**
- (d) Teesta

EXPLANATION:

The Chenab River, a river in the Indian subcontinent, flows through northwestern India and northeastern and eastern Pakistan. The Chenab is formed by the confluence of two streams, Chandra and Bhaga, in the western (Punjab) Himalayas in India's Himachal Pradesh state.

- It flows west through Jammu and Kashmir between the steep cliffs of the Siwalik Range (south) and the Lesser Himalayas (north). Turning southwest, it continues into Pakistan, descending from the uplands into the broad alluvial lowlands of Punjab province.
- After receiving the Jhelum River near Trimmu, the Chenab empties into the Sutlej River, a tributary of the Indus River. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**



Sutlej River, the longest of the five tributaries of the Indus River. It rises on the north slope of the Himalayas in Lake La'nga in southwestern Tibet, at an elevation above 4,600 metres.

- Flowing northwestward and then west-southwestward through Himalayan gorges, it enters and crosses the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh before beginning its flow through the Punjab plain near Nangal, Punjab state.
- Continuing southwestward in a broad channel, it receives the Beas River and forms 65 miles (105 km) of the India-Pakistan border before entering Pakistan and flowing another 220 miles (350 km) to join the Chenab River west of Bahawalpur. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**



Jhelum River, a river of northwestern India and northern and eastern Pakistan. It constitutes the westernmost of the five rivers of the Punjab region that merge with the Indus River in eastern Pakistan.

The Jhelum rises from a deep spring at Vernag, in the western Jammu and Kashmir union territory. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**



Beas River, a river in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab states, northwestern India.

The Beas rises at an elevation of 14,308 feet (4,361 metres) at Rohtang Pass in the western (Punjab) Himalayas (a section of the vast Himalayas Mountain range), in central Himachal Pradesh. The Beas flows entirely within India, joining the Sutlej in the Indian state of Punjab. **So, Option (d) is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

INDUS RIVER

About

- The Indus originates in the northern slopes of the Kailash range in Tibet near Lake Manasarovar. It follows a north-westerly course through Tibet. It enters Indian territory in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Several tributaries - the Zaskar, the Shyok, the Nubra and the Hunza join it in the Kashmir region.
- The main tributaries of the Indus in India are the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej.



Ravi River

- Ravi River, in northwestern India and northeastern Pakistan. It rises in the Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh state, India, and flows west-northwest past Chamba, turning southwest at the boundary of the Jammu and Kashmir union territory.
- The river then flows to the Pakistani border and along it for more than 50 miles (80 km) before entering Pakistan's Punjab province.
- It flows past Lahore and turns west near Kamalia, emptying into the Chenab River south of Ahmadpur Sial after a course of about 450 miles (725 km).



TEST 08 – Q.NO - 42

Consider the following pairs:

Sl. no.	River	Associated Geographic Areas
1	Jhelum	Pir Panjal Range
2	Ravi	Dhauladhar Range
3	Beas	Kullu Valley
4	Sutlej	Shipki La Pass

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

EXPLANATION:

Indian drainage system consists of a large number of small and big rivers. The Jhelum, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej are part of Indus River system.

Jhelum river:

- It is an important tributary of the Indus, rises from a spring at Verinag situated at the foot of the Pir Panjal in the south-eastern part of the valley of Kashmir.
- It flows through Srinagar and the Wular lake before entering Pakistan through a deep narrow gorge. It joins the Chenab near Jhang in Pakistan. **So, Row 1 is correct.**

Ravi river:

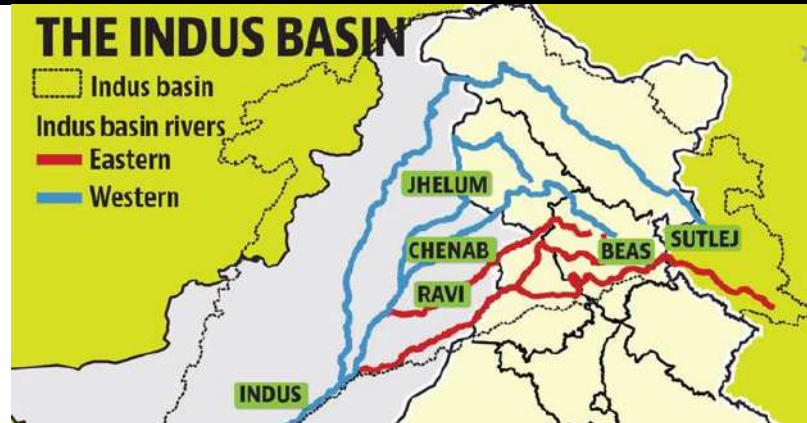
- It is another important tributary of the Indus.
- It rises west of the Rohtang pass in the Kullu hills of Himachal Pradesh and flows through the Chamba valley of the state.
- Before entering Pakistan and joining the Chenab near Sarai Sidhu, it drains the area lying between the southeastern part of the Pir Panjal and the Dhauladhar ranges. **So, Row 2 is correct.**

Beas river:

- It is another important tributary of the Indus, originating from the Beas Kund near the Rohtang Pass at an elevation of 4,000m above the mean sea level.
- The river flows through the Kullu valley and forms gorges at Kati and Largi in the Dhauladhar range.
- It enters the Punjab plains where it meets the Satluj near Harike. **So, Row 3 is correct.**

Satluj river:

- It originates in the 'Raksas tal' near Mansarovar at an altitude of 4555m in Tibet, where it is known as Langchen Khambab.
- It flows almost parallel to the Indus for about 400 km before entering India, and comes out of a gorge at Rupar.
- It passes through the Shipki La on the Himalayan ranges and enters the Punjab plains. It is an antecedent river.
- It is a very important tributary as it feeds the canal system of the Bhakra Nangal project. **So, Row 4 is correct.**



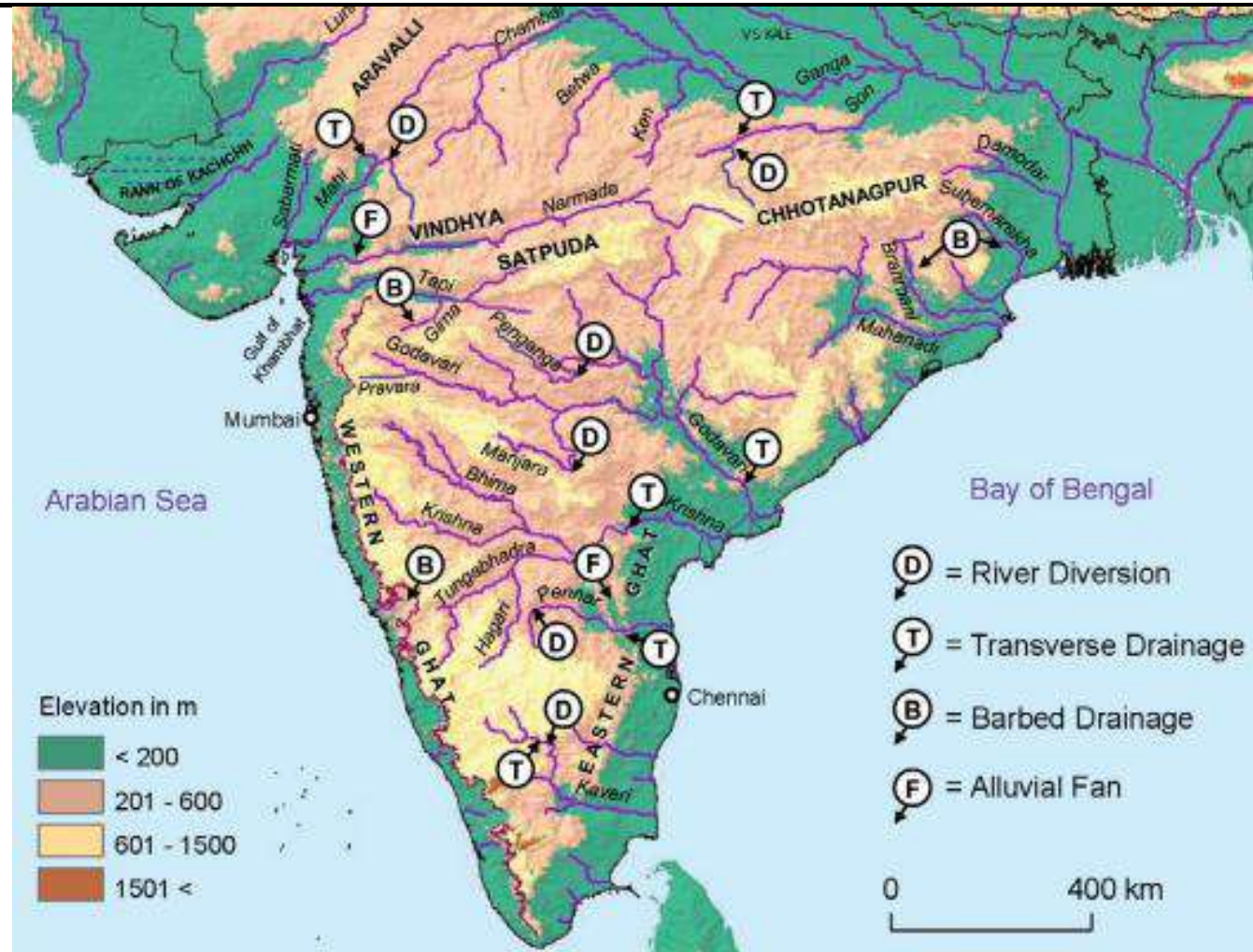
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MAJOR RIVER SYSTEMS OF THE PENINSULAR DRAINAGE

Mahanadi	➤ Rises near Sihawa in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh. ➤ Flows through Odisha and discharges its water into the Bay of Bengal ➤ Has a catchment area of about 1.42 lakh sq. km ➤ 53% of its drainage basin lies in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, while 47% lies in Odisha. ➤ Some navigation is possible in the lower course of the river.
Godavari	➤ The largest Peninsular river system, also called the Dakshin Ganga. ➤ Rises in the Nasik district of Maharashtra and flows eastward to the Bay of Bengal. ➤ Its tributaries run through Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh ➤ Has a length of about 1,465 km and a catchment area of 3.13 lakh sq. km. ➤ Drainage distribution: 49% in Maharashtra, 20% in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and the rest in Andhra Pradesh ➤ Major tributaries: Penganga, Indravati, Pranhita, and Manjra. ➤ Subjected to heavy floods in its lower reaches south of Polavaram, where it forms a picturesque gorge. ➤ Navigable only in its deltaic stretch. ➤ After Rajahmundry, it splits into several branches, forming a large delta.
Krishna	➤ The second-largest east-flowing Peninsular River ➤ Originates near Mahabaleshwar in the Sahyadri Hills. ➤ Has a total length of 1,401 km. ➤ Major tributaries: Koyna, Tungabhadra, and Bhima.



		➤ Catchment area distribution: 27% in Maharashtra, 44% in Karnataka, and 29% in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana.
	Kaveri	➤ Originates in the Brahmagiri Hills of Kodagu district, Karnataka (at an elevation of 1,341 m). ➤ Has a length of 800 km and a drainage area of 81,155 sq. km. ➤ Drainage distribution: 3% in Kerala, 41% in Karnataka, and 56% in Tamil Nadu. ➤ Tributaries: Kabini, Bhavani, and Amravati. ➤ The upper catchment receives rainfall during the southwest monsoon, while the lower catchment receives rainfall during the northeast monsoon. ➤ Hence, the river carries water throughout the year with less fluctuation than other Peninsular r
	Narmada	➤ Originates on the western flank of the Amarkantak Plateau at an altitude of about 1,057 m. ➤ Flows in a rift valley between the Satpura (south) and Vindhya (north) ranges. ➤ Forms a picturesque gorge in the Marble Rocks and the Dhuandhar Falls near Jabalpur. ➤ Has a length of 1,312 km and a catchment area of 98,796 sq. km. ➤ Empties into the Arabian Sea, south of Bharuch, forming a 27 km long estuary. ➤ The Sardar Sarovar Project is constructed on this river.
	Tapi	➤ Another west-flowing river, originating from Multai in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh. ➤ Has a length of 724 km and drains an area of 65,145 sq. km. ➤ Drainage distribution: 79% in Maharashtra, 15% in Madhya Pradesh, and 6% in Gujarat.
	Luni	➤ The largest river system of Rajasthan, west of the Aravalli Range. ➤ Originates near Pushkar in two branches—Saraswati and Sabarmati—which join at Govindgarh ➤ Flows westward from the Aravallis, then southwest to join the Rann of Kachchh. ➤ The entire river system is ephemeral (flows mainly during monsoon).



TEST 08 – Q.NO - 45

45. Consider the following pairs:

Sl. no.	Column A	Column B
1	Sutlej and Subansiri rivers	Antecedent Rivers
2	Jhelum and Chambal Rivers	Flows through a Gorge
3	Narmada and Damodar Rivers	Flows through a Rift Valley

How many pairs given above are **not** correctly matched?

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

EXPLANATION:

Antecedent river drainage develops when the stream exists prior to the topography and the original course of flow is maintained despite the change in the underlying rock structure.

A prominent example is the Himalayan River Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra, which have their presence before the uplift of the Himalayas and maintain their courses through gorges in the mountain.

➤ **The Sutlej:** It originates in the 'Raksas tal' near Mansarovar at an altitude of 4,555 m in Tibet where it is known as Langchen Khambab. It is an antecedent river.

➤ **The Kosi:** It is an antecedent river with its source to the north of Mount Everest in Tibet, where its mainstream Arun rises.

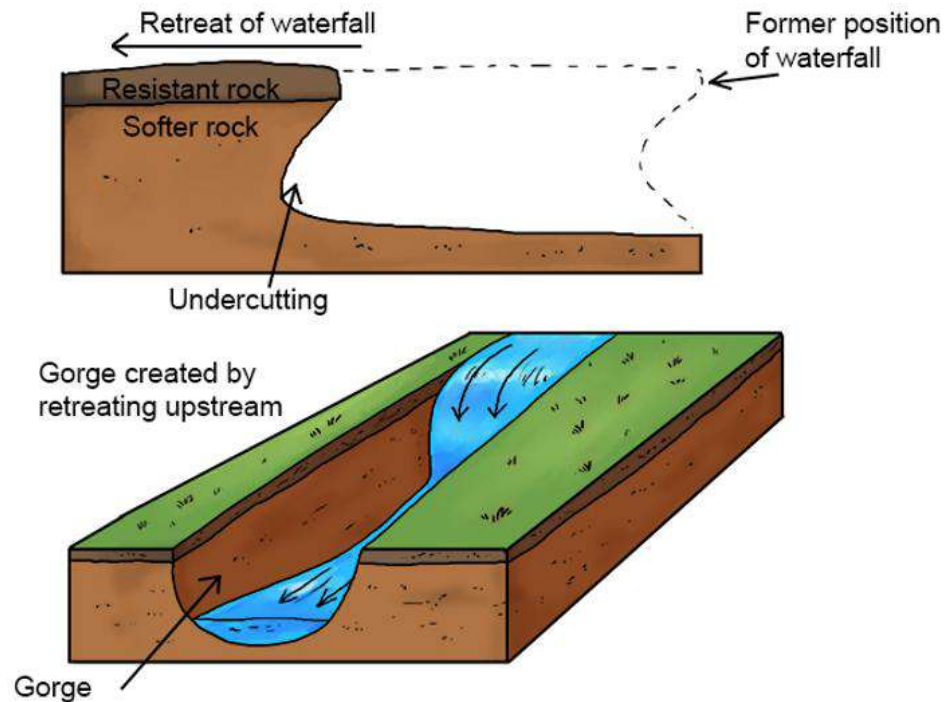
➤ **The Subansiri:** The Brahmaputra receives numerous tributaries in its 750 km long journey through the Assam valley. Its major left bank tributaries are the Burhi Dihing and Dhansari (South) whereas the important right bank tributaries are the Subansiri, Kameng, Manas and Sankosh. The Subansiri which has its origin in Tibet, is an antecedent river. **So, Pair 1 is correct.**

The Himalayan drainage system has evolved through a long geological history. It mainly includes the Ganga, the Indus and the Brahmaputra river basins.

These rivers pass through the giant gorges carved out by the erosional activity carried on simultaneously with the uplift of the Himalayas. Besides deep gorges, these rivers also form V-shaped valleys, rapids and waterfalls in their mountainous course.

➤ **The Jhelum:** It is an important tributary of the Indus, rises from a spring at Verinag situated at the foot of the Pir Panjal in the south-eastern part of the valley of Kashmir. It flows through Srinagar and the Wular lake before entering Pakistan through a deep narrow gorge. It joins the Chenab near Jhang in Pakistan.

- **The Chambal:** It rises near Mhow in the Malwa plateau of Madhya Pradesh and flows northwards through a gorge upwards of Kota in Rajasthan. **So, Pair 2 is correct.**



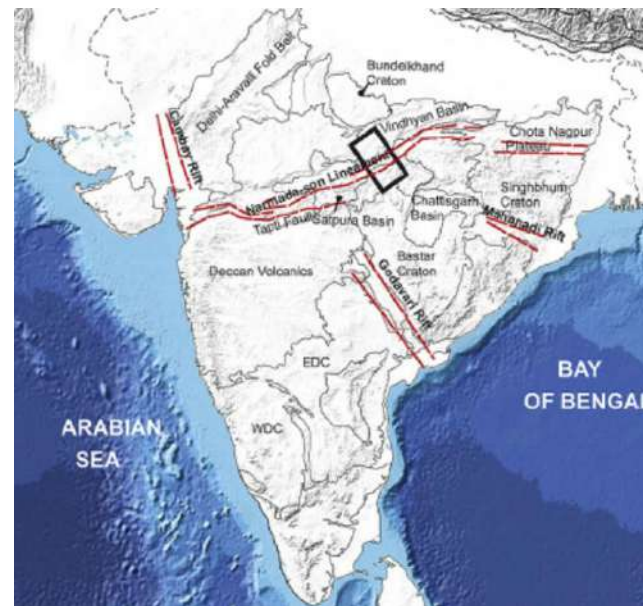
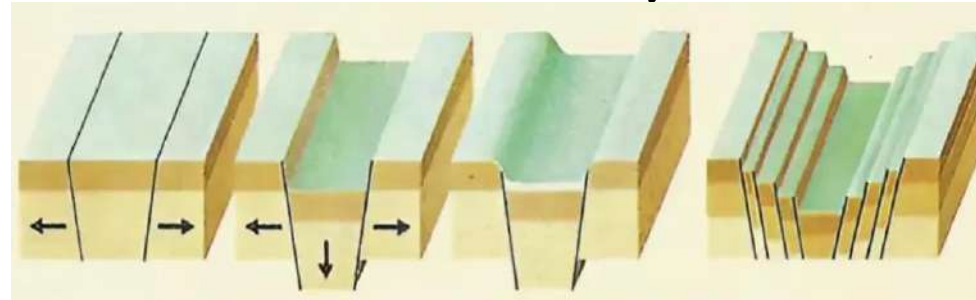
A rift valley is a lowland region that forms where Earth's tectonic plates move apart, or rift. Rift valleys are found on land and at the bottom of the ocean, where they are created by the process of seafloor spreading.

Rift valleys differ from river valleys and glacial valleys in that they are created by tectonic activity and not the process of erosion.

- **The Damodar:** It is a tributary of the Ganga River occupies the eastern margins of the Chotanagpur Plateau where it flows through a rift valley and finally joins the Hugli. The Barakar is its main tributary.
- **The Narmada:** It originates on the western flank of the Amarkantak plateau at a height of about 1,057 m. The Narmada and the Tapi which flow through the rift valley. The Narmada 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. **So, Pair 3 is correct.**

Formation of rift valley



TEST 20 – Q.NO - 62

Which of the following is the antecedent river, known as Langchen Khambab in Tibet, that enters India through Himachal Pradesh at the Shipkila Pass, is joined by the Spiti River, cuts deep gorges across the Himalayan ranges, and finally enters the Punjab Plains after cutting a gorge through the Naina Devi Dhar?

- (a) River Beas
- (b) River Ravi
- (c) River Jhelum
- (d) **River Sutlej**

EXPLANATION:

The Sutluj originates in the 'Raksas tal' near Mansarovar at an altitude of 4555 m in Tibet where it is known as Langchen Khambab.

- It flows almost parallel to the Indus for about 400m before entering India, and comes out of a gorge at Rupar.
- It passes through the Shipki La pass on the Himalayan ranges and enters the Punjab plains.
- It is an antecedent river. It is a significant tributary as it feeds the canal system of the Bhakra Nangal project.
- The Sutlej moves in a northwestern direction and enters Himachal Pradesh at the Shipki Pass, where it is joined by the river Spiti.
- It cuts deep gorges in the range of the Himalayas and finally enters the Punjab plain after cutting a gorge in a hill range, the Naina Devi Dhar.
- This is where the Bhakra Dam, which has a huge water reservoir called Gobind Sagar, has been built.
- It bends west below the river Rupar and is later joined by the Beas.
- In this way, Pakistan moves adjacent to Sulemanki and is further connected by the Chenab. It has an entire length of approximately 1500 km.

Thus, the above description is about the river Sutluj. **So, Option (d) is correct.**



Q.NO – 26

Which of the following with reference to Indian States is/are not correct?

1. Uttar Pradesh shares its boundary with the highest

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST II – Q.NO – 94

1. Which of the following State/UT borders only one neighbouring country?
(a) Jammu and Kashmir
 (b) Arunachal Pradesh
 (c) Mizoram
 (d) None of the above

number of other Indian States.

2. Rajasthan shares the longest international border among all Indian States.
3. Sikkim is the only State that shares its boundary with just one other Indian State.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

India shares its land and maritime boundaries with several countries. India shares **land borders with seven countries:** Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Afghanistan. **India shares maritime borders with Sri Lanka and the Maldives.** A total of 9 countries share borders with India. Out of these, 7 countries share land borders, while 2 countries share sea borders with India. Bhutan is the smallest neighbouring country of India in terms of land borders.

- **Jammu and Kashmir** shares a border with **Pakistan**.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** shares a border with **China and Myanmar**
- **Mizoram** shares a border with **Myanmar and Bangladesh**

Thus, Jammu and Kashmir borders only one neighbouring country. **So, Option (a) is correct.**



Q.NO - 27

Which of the following statements with regard to the arrival of Amur Falcons at Doyang Lake in Nagaland each year from Mongolia is/are correct?

1. It showcases how sustained local conservation efforts can contribute to the arrival and protection of international migratory birds.
2. It reflects the global success of advanced tracking technologies that guide migratory birds back to their

TEST 13- Q.NO - 73

With reference to the Bonn Convention, consider the following statements:

- 1) It is an intergovernmental treaty concluded under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme.
- 2) It is the only global convention specializing in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and their migratory routes.
- 3) It has a special focus on Europe and Asia, and its executive body facilitates allocation of major portion of financial aids to these regions.

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

EXPLANATION:

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention after the city in which it was signed) aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range. It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme, concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. Since the Convention's entry into force in 1979, its membership has grown steadily to include 126 Parties from Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Europe and Oceania. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Bonn Convention (CMS) is the only global treaty dedicated to the conservation of migratory species, their habitats, and migration routes. It also collaborates with international organizations, NGOs, media, and the corporate sector to support conservation efforts. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is a United Nations environmental treaty that provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. The Convention has 117 Parties from Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. This unique treaty brings together governments and wildlife experts to address the conservation needs of terrestrial, aquatic, and avian migratory species and their habitats worldwide, without focusing specifically on Europe or Asia. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**



stopover sites. 2. It confirms that Amur Falcons have adapted to permanent residency in India due to favourable habitat changes. Select the answer using the code given below : (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 3 only	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>About</td><td> ➤ The CMS is an environmental treaty of the UN that provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. ➤ It is the only global convention specialising in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes. ➤ The pact was signed in 1979 in Germany and is known as the Bonn Convention. ➤ CMS brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range ➤ Appendix I of the Convention lists 'Threatened Migratory Species' ➤ CMS Parties strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them. ➤ Appendix II lists 'Migratory Species requiring international cooperation'. </td></tr> <tr> <td>India and the CMS</td><td> ➤ India has been a Party to the CMS since 1983. According to the MoEF&CC, India hosts several migratory species, including Amur Falcons, Bar-headed Geese, Black-necked Cranes, Marine Turtles, Dugongs, and Humpback Whales. ➤ India is part of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF), a major bird migration route covering areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans, supporting 279 populations of 182 migratory waterbird species, including 29 globally threatened species. ➤ India has launched a National Action Plan for the conservation of migratory species under the Central Asian Flyway. </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS)		About	➤ The CMS is an environmental treaty of the UN that provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. ➤ It is the only global convention specialising in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes. ➤ The pact was signed in 1979 in Germany and is known as the Bonn Convention. ➤ CMS brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range ➤ Appendix I of the Convention lists 'Threatened Migratory Species' ➤ CMS Parties strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them. ➤ Appendix II lists 'Migratory Species requiring international cooperation'.	India and the CMS	➤ India has been a Party to the CMS since 1983. According to the MoEF&CC, India hosts several migratory species, including Amur Falcons, Bar-headed Geese, Black-necked Cranes, Marine Turtles, Dugongs, and Humpback Whales. ➤ India is part of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF), a major bird migration route covering areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans, supporting 279 populations of 182 migratory waterbird species, including 29 globally threatened species. ➤ India has launched a National Action Plan for the conservation of migratory species under the Central Asian Flyway.
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Q.NO – 28 Which among the following is/are the objective(s) of the Rainfed Area Development (RAD)	TEST 13- Q.NO – 52 Consider the following statements: 1) Protecting the poor through an inclusive and sustainable development strategy, sensitive to climate change. 2) Efficient and cost-effective strategies for end-use demand-side management. 3) New and innovative market, regulatory, and voluntary mechanisms for sustainable development. 4) Effective implementation through unique linkages – with civil society, LGUs, and public-private partnerships.						

initiative under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) ? 1. Encouraging monoculture in rainfed areas 2. Increasing rice cultivation in irrigated regions 3. Enhancing productivity and minimising climatic risks through Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) Select the answer using the code given below : (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 3 only	How many of the above are principles of India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All four EXPLANATION: The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) outlines a national strategy that aims to enable the country to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability of India's development path. It stresses that maintaining a high growth rate is essential for increasing living standards of the vast majority of people of India and reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. The Principles of National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) are: ➤ Protecting the poor through an inclusive and sustainable development strategy, sensitive to climate change. So, Statement 1 is correct. ➤ Achieving national growth and poverty alleviation objectives while ensuring ecological sustainability. ➤ Efficient and cost-effective strategies for end-use demand-side management. So, Statement 2 is correct. ➤ Extensive and accelerated deployment of appropriate technologies for adaptation and mitigation. ➤ New and innovative market, regulatory, and voluntary mechanisms for sustainable development. So, Statement 3 is correct. ➤ Effective implementation through unique linkages – with civil society, LGUs, and public-private partnerships. So, Statement 4 is correct. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE (NAPCC)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>About</td><td> There are eight —National Missions which form the core of the National Action Plan. They focus on promoting understanding of climate change, adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation ➤ National Solar Mission (NSM) - The NSM was launched with the objective of establishing India as a global leader in solar energy, by creating the policy conditions for solar technology diffusion across the country as quickly as possible. </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE (NAPCC)		About	There are eight —National Missions which form the core of the National Action Plan. They focus on promoting understanding of climate change, adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation ➤ National Solar Mission (NSM) - The NSM was launched with the objective of establishing India as a global leader in solar energy, by creating the policy conditions for solar technology diffusion across the country as quickly as possible.
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	➤ National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency - NMEEE aims to strengthen the market for energy efficiency by creating conducive regulatory and policy regime and has envisaged fostering innovative and sustainable business models to the energy efficiency sector. ➤ National Mission on Sustainable Habitat - The key deliverables of the Mission include: ○ Development of sustainable habitat standards that lead to robust development strategies while simultaneously addressing climate change related concerns. ○ Preparation of city development plans that comprehensively address adaptation and mitigation concerns. ○ Preparation of comprehensive mobility plans that enable cities to undertake long-term, energy efficient and cost effective transport planning. ○ Capacity building for undertaking activities relevant to the Mission. ➤ National Water Mission – The mission will ensure integrated water resource management helping to conserve water, minimize wastage and ensure more equitable distribution both across and within states. ➤ National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system - This particular mission sets the goal to prevent melting of the Himalayan glaciers and to protect biodiversity in the Himalayan region. ➤ National Mission for a Green India - The Mission aims at responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures. ➤ National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)- The mission aims at making agriculture more productive, sustainable, remunerative and climate resilient by promoting location specific integrated /composite farming systems; soil and moisture conservation measures; comprehensive soil health management; efficient water management practices and mainstreaming rain-fed technologies. ➤ National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC) – It seeks to build a vibrant and dynamic knowledge system that would inform and support national action for responding effectively to the objective of ecologically sustainable development.
Q.NO – 43 Which of the following statements with regard to stealth technology is/are correct?	TEST 21- Q.NO- 8 With reference to BrahMos-NG (Next Generation), consider the following: 1. BrahMos is named after the Brahmaputra and Mius rivers in India and Russia. 2. It is designed to have a reduced weight and size compared to the existing BrahMos missile. 3. BrahMos-NG can be mounted on the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas. 4. BrahMos-NG will retain 290 km range, attain speeds up to Mach 3.5, and feature a reduced radar cross-section to enhance stealth.

1. Stealth objects have a very small radar cross-section and are coated with Radar Absorbing Material. 2. Stealth objects can be detected using specific frequencies. 3. Stealth objects are coated with metamaterials to increase the scattering of electromagnetic radiation. Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3	Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only (b) 2, 3, and 4 only (c) 1, 2, and 3 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 EXPLANATION: In 1998, a joint venture was established between the Indian Defence Ministry's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's Mashinostroyeniye Company, forming BrahMos Aerospace. ➤ BrahMos is a joint venture between India and Russia, named after the Brahmaputra and Moskva (Moscow) rivers (not Mius river). So, Statement 1 is not correct. ➤ BRAHMOS is a two-stage supersonic cruise missile, based on an earlier Russian cruise missile design. ➤ Its first stage consists of a solid propellant booster that accelerates the missile to supersonic speed before separating. ➤ It can be launched from land, ships, submarines and aircraft against surface and sea-based targets. The missile was inducted in 2005 in an anti-ship variant. BRAHMOS-NG (Next-Generation) Weapon System has been envisioned as a smaller, lighter, smarter and stealthier derivative of the existing BRAHMOS. ➤ BrahMos-NG has been designed to be more compact than the standard BrahMos missile. ➤ Its reduced size enables deployment from smaller aircraft, naval vessels and potentially submarines, while retaining its supersonic speed and strike capability. ➤ This versatility makes it an attractive option for countries seeking powerful and flexible strike systems without major modifications to existing platforms. So, Statement 2 is correct.
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BRAHMOS-NG Weapon System is planned to be fielded in air-launched configuration. This new airborne precision weapon would be developed for integration on the **Sukhoi-30MKI air combat platform** of the Indian Air Force, and further **would be adapted for light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas. So, Statement 3 is correct.**

The BrahMos NG will be designed for compatibility with a wider range of platforms, including smaller delivery systems.

- BrahMos NG is a more compact missile with the same capabilities as its predecessor.
- Despite its reduced size, the new missile will retain its **predecessor's formidable 290 km range** while achieving a top speed of Mach 3.5. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**
- **The next-generation missile will also have a lower radar cross-section, enhancing its stealth capabilities.**
- It will also feature an indigenous seeker with an **Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar**, further improving its accuracy and targeting efficiency.

Q.NO – 47

Which of the following statements with regard to drone swarms is/are correct?

1. They use Terahertz band of frequency

TEST 17 – Q.NO -80

Consider the following statements:

1. Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) spoofing can disrupt runway warning systems at airports.
2. GNSS spoofing can generate warning signals in aircraft systems.
3. The Inertial Reference System supports the navigation of an aeroplane.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

to communicate with the command centre. 2. Individual drones in the swarm can communicate with other drones in the swarm. 3. GPS Spoofing is a commonly used technique to counter drone swarm attack. Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3	EXPLANATION: Modern aircraft systems rely heavily on Global Navigation Satellite System signals (GNSS) for accurate position, navigation, and timing. When these signals are tampered with, it can affect many systems, including terrain and runway warning systems, automatic braking, surveillance, and communication links between pilots and air traffic control. So, Statement 1 is correct. GNSS spoofing doesn't immediately hamper the safety of an aircraft, as aircraft systems are built with several redundancies, including the Inertial Reference System (A solid-state unit of three Ring Laser Gyros detecting accelerations in 3 dimensions; they may also contain quartz accelerometers) that's also used for navigation, which continue to operate safely for up to five hours even if a primary system fails. So, Statement 3 is correct. But such interference, whether intentional or accidental, can threaten safety by reducing pilot awareness, generating false alerts, and increasing their workload. So, Statement 2 is correct. The problem is harder to manage because affected areas are not always mentioned in notice to airmen (NOTAM), leaving crews unprepared. Even after leaving the impacted area, some systems may not recover properly, continuing to give false alerts or navigation errors. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: GNSS SPOOFING In early November, aircraft flying over Delhi encountered GNSS spoofing or manipulated Global Navigation Satellite System signals, catching pilots off guard as there had been no prior warning of such activity. Such interference is rare, barring in India's border regions or conflict zones. ➤ Aircraft flying over Delhi reported incidents of GNSS spoofing. These counterfeit signals cause erroneous navigation data in the cockpit, including incorrect aircraft positions and terrain warnings. ➤ The disruption in navigational equipment often requires manual intervention, with controllers providing direct navigation guidance to the cockpit crew. ➤ GNSS spoofing, or misleading satellite signals sent to trick air-borne receivers such as enemy drones, is increasingly used in modern warfare and is a growing menace for aircraft systems that rely on GNSS signals. ➤ It is a relatively recent phenomenon seen in conflict regions in West Asia, eastern Russia, and India's border with Pakistan and Myanmar since 2023.
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	➤ But such activity had not previously been documented over inland metropolitan airspace, barring sporadic instances of GNSS-jamming (blocking of GNSS signals) during VIP flight movements or Republic Day security protocols. However, this time, no notice to airmen (NOTAM) was issued, warning of military exercises in Delhi that could explain why these signals were being encountered. ➤ Primary actors currently carrying out GPS spoofing include military units targeting hostile drones in conflict zones or GPS-guided ammunition and missiles. But there have also been allegations of malicious attempts to target civilian aircraft, particularly against Russia.
Q.NO – 55 Consider the following statements with reference to the Constitution of India: 1. There is no Article in the Constitution of India that specifies that the Constitution of India will be officially called the 'Constitution of India'. 2. There is no Article in the Constitution of India that specifies that the Indian Independence Act, 1947 and the	TEST 19 – Q.NO -15 Consider the following statements: 1. The final draft of the Constitution was introduced by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Assembly on November 26, 1949. 2. Preamble was the foremost part of the Constitution to be enacted by the Assembly. 3. All the provisions of the Constitution came into force only on January 26, 1950. How many of the above statements is/are correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None EXPLANATION: The Drafting Committee was elected on August 29, 1947. The Committee worked for 141 days to prepare the Draft Constitution. The Draft Constitution initially contained 315 articles and 8 Schedules before deliberations. The Drafting Committee, chaired by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, was the most important committee of the Constituent Assembly. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar introduced the final draft of the Constitution to the Assembly on November 04, 1948, for the first reading. The Assembly held a general discussion on the draft for five days, concluding on November 09, 1948. So, Statement 1 is not correct.

Government of India Act, 1935 stand repealed.

3. There is no Article in the Constitution of India that mentions 26 January, 1950 as the date of the commencement of the Constitution of India.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

- (a) All three statements are correct.
- (b) There is no correct statement.**
- (c) There are two correct statements that include statement 3.
- (d) There is only one correct statement.

The Preamble to the Indian Constitution is based on the 'Objectives Resolution', drafted and moved by Pandit Nehru, and adopted by the Constituent Assembly. It has been amended by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act (1976), which added three new words —Socialist, Secular and Integrity. The Constitution as adopted on November 26, 1949, contained a Preamble, 395 Articles and 8 Schedules. The Preamble was enacted after the entire Constitution was already enacted. Thus, Preamble was not the foremost part of the Constitution to be enacted by the Assembly. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Article 394 deals with the commencement of the Constitution. As per the provision, articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 60, 324, 366, 367, 379, 380, 388, 391, 392 and 393 shall come into force at once, and the remaining provisions of this Constitution shall come into force on the twenty-sixth day of January, 1950, which day is referred to in this Constitution as the commencement of this Constitution. Thus, not all the provisions of the Constitution came into force only on January 26, 1950. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

Q.NO – 57

Consider the following statements about the provisions pertaining to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in India:

1. Provisions regarding the administration of the Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are given in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2. Some tribes of India are entitled to

TEST 15 – Q.NO - 1

Consider the following states:

1. Assam
2. Tripura
3. Meghalaya

How many of the above states have tribal areas administered under the fifth schedule of the Indian Constitution?

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

EXPLANATION:

According to the Constitution of India, the provisions of the Fifth Schedule apply to the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in any State other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. The provisions of the Sixth Schedule apply to the administration of tribal areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. At present, ten States—Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana—have areas governed under the Fifth Schedule. Further, tribal habitations in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir have not been brought under either the Fifth Schedule or the Sixth Schedule. Therefore, the administration of tribal areas of Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya comes under the purview of sixth schedule (not the Fifth schedule) of the Constitution. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

TEST 19 – Q.NO - 22

With reference to 73rd CAA, consider the following:

1. All the members and chairpersons of the panchayat at the village, intermediate, and district levels shall be directly elected by the people.
2. A minimum of 30 percent of total seats are reserved for the Schedule Caste and the Schedule Tribes.
3. A minimum of 30 percent of total seats are reserved for women.

exemption from paying Income Tax on certain incomes. 3. The Constitution of India provides for reservation of seats in Panchayats for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct? (a) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2. (b) There are two correct statements,	How many of the above statements is/ are correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None EXPLANATION: The 73rd Amendment of 1992 added a new Part IX to the Constitution titled “The Panchayats” covering provisions from Article 243 to 243(O); and a new Eleventh Schedule covering 29 subjects within the functions of the Panchayats. Three Tiers of Panchayati Raj: > Part IX provides for a 3-tier Panchayat system, which would be constituted in every state at the village level, intermediate level, and district level. This provision brought uniformity in the Panchayati Raj structure in India. > However, the states that had having population below 20 Lakh were given an option not to have the intermediate level. > All the members of these three levels are elected. Further, the chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels is indirectly elected from amongst the elected members. So, Statement 1 is not correct. > But at the village level, the election of the chairperson of the Panchayat (Sarpanch) may be direct or indirect as provided by the state in its own Panchayati Raj Act. Reservation in Panchayats: There is a provision of reservation of seats for the Schedule Caste (SCs) and the Schedule Tribes (STs) at every level of the Panchayat. > The seats are to be reserved for SCs and STs in proportion to their population at each level, not a fixed minimum 30%. Out of the Reserved Seats, 1/3rd have to be reserved for the women of the SC and ST. So, Statement 2 is not correct.
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that are statements 1 and 3. (c) There is only one correct statement. (d) All three statements are correct.	➤ Out of the total number of seats to be filled by the direct elections, 1/3rd have to be reserved for women. I.e., not less than one-third (≈33%) of total seats (including chairpersons) for women. Thus, it is not minimum 30 percentage. So, Statement 3 is not correct. ➤ There has been an amendment bill pending that seeks to increase reservation for women to 50%. ➤ The reserved seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in the Panchayat. ➤ The State by law may also provide for reservations for the offices of the Chairpersons.
<u>Q.NO – 60</u> Consider the following statements about Mission Sudarshan Chakra of India: 1. It aims to enhance India's air defence, ballistic missile defence and aerial offensive capabilities. 2. This Mission is being designed to enhance rapid, precise, and powerful defence responses, reinforcing India's	<u>TEST 10 – Q.NO - 40</u> Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Mission Sudarshan Chakra? (a) Expanding renewable energy production to achieve net-zero emissions. (b) To promote port-led development and enhance coastal connectivity. (c) Addressing malnutrition among women and children. (d) To develop indigenous aerial defence systems by 2035. <u>EXPLANATION:</u> Recently, the Prime Minister of India announced Mission Sudarshan Chakra—an initiative to develop an indigenous aerial defence system by 2035, designed not only to neutralise enemy attacks but also to provide strong retaliatory capability. This announcement was made during the Independence Day address on August 15, 2025. Mission Sudarshan Chakra aims to develop an indigenous, multi-layered air and missile defence system for India by 2035. The mission is part of a broader plan to strengthen India's conventional (non-nuclear) missile capabilities, including the induction of systems such as the 500-km range Pralay missile, the

strategic autonomy.

3. One of the aims of this Mission is to cover all public places of India by an expanded nationwide security shield by 2035.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1 only

Q.NO – 61

Consider the following statements about river bridges connecting India with neighbouring countries:

1. 'Maitri Setu', built over Feni river, connects Ramgarh in India with Sabroom in Bangladesh.

1,000-km range long-range land-attack cruise missile, and the planned extension of the BrahMos missile’s strike range from 450 km to 800 km. Hence, the primary objective of Mission Sudarshan Chakra is the development of indigenous aerial defence systems.

So, Option (d) is correct.

TEST 8 – Q.NO - 32

Consider the following information:

Sl. no.	Infrastructure Project	Significance	Connects
1.	Sudarshan Setu	India’s longest Cable stayed bridge	Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka island
2.	Sonamarg Tunnel	World’s Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet	Srinagar and Sonamarg
3.	Maitri Setu	India’s longest bridge	Tripura in India with Chittagong in Bangladesh

2. Jhulaghat suspension bridge connects India with Myanmar. 3. Mechi bridge and its approaches connect Panitanki Bypass in India with Kakarvitta in Nepal. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 1 only (d) 3 only	How many of the above rows is/are correctly matched? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None EXPLANATION: The Maitri Setu bridge has been built over the Feni River, which forms part of the boundary between India's Tripura State and Bangladesh. ➤ The 1.9 km long bridge connects Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh, providing direct road access to the Chittagong Port, about 80 km away. ➤ It plays a vital role in enhancing trade and connectivity between the two countries. Dhola-Sadia Bridge: Bhupen Hazarika Setu (Dhola-Sadiya Bridge), Assam. Spanning 9.15 kilometres over the Lohit River, the Dhola-Sadiya Bridge is India's longest river bridge. Opened in 2017, it connects Assam with Arunachal Pradesh. Thus, Maitri Setu bridge is not the longest bridge of India. So, Row (3) is not correct.
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Q.NO – 63				MOCK TEST II (Online) – Q.NO - 55	
With reference to the organisations under the Government of India, consider the following details:				With reference to the Central Bureau of Investigation, consider the following statements:	
Sl. No.	Organisation	Function	Controlling Union Ministry	- It is a statutory body established under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act. - It can investigate cases relating to infringement of laws concerning export and import control. - State governments can request CBI to take up any case of public importance for investigation.	
1.	Central Economic Intelligence	To coordinate between	Ministry of Home Affairs		

	Bureau (CEIB)	various law enforcement agencies	
2.	Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)	To investigate complex corporate frauds	Ministry of Finance
3.	Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	To preserve values in public life and ensure the health of the national economy	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension

In how many of the above rows are the given details correctly matched?

- (a) 1
(b) 2
(c) 3
(d) None

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was established in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The Delhi Special Police Establishment was also merged with the CBI and was made one of the divisions of the CBI. Later, the CBI was transferred to the Ministry of Personnel.

- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. So, Statement 1 is not correct.
- The CBI is the main investigating agency of the Central Government. It plays an important role in preventing corruption and maintaining integrity in administration. It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal. The CBI is a multidisciplinary investigation agency of the Government of India and undertakes investigation of corruption-related cases, economic offences and cases of conventional crime.

The functions of CBI are:

- Investigating cases of corruption, bribery, and misconduct of Central government employees.
- Investigating cases relating to infringement of fiscal and economic laws, that is, breach of laws concerning export and import control, customs and central excise, income tax, foreign exchange regulations and so on. However, such cases are taken up either in consultation with or at the request of the department concerned. So, Statement 2 is correct.
- Investigating serious crimes, having national and international ramifications, committed by organised gangs of professional criminals.
- Coordinating the activities of the anti-corruption agencies and the various state police forces.
- Taking up, on the request of a state government, any case of public importance for investigation.

- Maintaining crime statistics and disseminating criminal information. The CBI normally confines its activities in the anti-corruption field to offences committed by the employees of the Central Government and Union Territories and their public sector undertakings. It takes up investigation of conventional crimes like murder, kidnapping, rape etc., on reference from the state governments or when directed by the Supreme Court/High Courts.
- CBI can also take up the investigations when State Governments transfer specific cases in view of their political sensitivity, those attracting large media attention, etc., by issuing specific case-wise notification to transfer the already registered case from the State Police Organisation to CBI with the consent of Government of India. So, Statement 3 is correct. ➤ As per section 2 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 (DSPE Act), CBI can suo-moto take up the investigation of offences notified in section 3 only in the Union Territories. Taking an investigation by CBI within the boundaries of a State requires prior consent of that State as per Section 6 of the DSPE Act. The Central Government can authorise CBI to investigate such a crime in a State, but only with the consent of the concerned State Government. The Supreme Court and High Courts, however, can order CBI to investigate such a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of the State.

Q.NO – 65

Consider the following statements, with respect to the AI Impact Summit, 2026 held in New Delhi:

1. The Summit's intellectual framework was based on three foundational Sutras: People, Planning, and Progress.
2. The Preamble of the Summit stresses

TEST 25 – Q.NO - 51

With reference to the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact, consider the following statements:

1. It advocates equitable sharing of the benefits of AI guided by the principle of "Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya."
2. Secure & Trusted AI and AI for Defence are among the key pillars forming the foundation of global AI cooperation under the Declaration.

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

Democratising AI Resources, which acknowledges the Charter for Democratic Diffusion of AI as a binding framework to support locally relevant innovation and strengthen resilient AI ecosystems while respecting national laws. 3. The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact was structured around seven Chakras (Pillars), which included Access for Social Empowerment, AI for Science, and Secure and Trusted AI. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 3 only	EXPLANATION: The AI Impact Summit 2026, recently held in New Delhi, concluded with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact, marking a significant milestone in global cooperation on artificial intelligence. The Declaration has been endorsed by 92 countries and international organisations, reflecting a broad-based global consensus on leveraging AI for economic growth and social goods. Guided by the principle of "Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya" (Welfare for all, Happiness for all), the Declaration underscores that the benefits of AI must be equitably shared across humanity. So, Statement 1 is correct. The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact emphasises: Strengthening international cooperation and multistakeholder engagement Respect for national sovereignty Advancing AI through accessible and trustworthy frameworks SEVEN PILLARS (CHAKRAS) OF ACTION: The Declaration is structured around seven key pillars, forming the foundation of global AI cooperation: Democratising AI Resources Economic Growth & Social Good Secure & Trusted AI AI for Science (Not for Defence) Access for Social Empowerment Human Capital Development Resilient, Efficient & Innovative AI Systems. So, Statement 2 is not correct.
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<u>Q.NO – 66</u> Which of the following connectivity projects is/are a part of cooperation between India and the ASEAN member countries? 1. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project 2. IMT Trilateral Highway 3. Agartala-Akhaura Rail Line Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 2 only	<u>TEST 10 – Q.NO -12</u> Under which one of the following initiatives has the Sittwe Port been strategically developed? (a) Sagarmala Programme (b) Bharatmala Pariyojana (c) Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (d) International North-South Transport Corridor <u>EXPLANATION:</u> Sittwe Port has been developed as part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP). Once operational, the port will provide multimodal transit connectivity between India and Southeast Asia. This transit project aims to connect Kolkata Port (India) to Mizoram (India) through Sittwe Port (capital of Rakhine State) in Myanmar via a combination of sea, river (Kaladan River), and road routes. The port was built under a framework agreement between India and Myanmar to create a transit transport facility on the Kaladan River, linking Sittwe Port in Myanmar with the state of Mizoram in India. The main objective of the KMTTP is to give Mizoram access to the sea through Sittwe Port. The project includes: A 158 km waterway on the Kaladan River from Sittwe to Paletwa in Myanmar, and A 109 km road from Paletwa to Zorinpui on the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram. Currently, the distance between Kolkata and Mizoram is about 1850 km, taking 7–8 days of travel. During the monsoon, landslides often block roads, disconnecting parts of the Northeast. With the Kaladan project, the distance will reduce to about 930 km, cutting travel time by 2–3 days. The route will help transport major commodities such as food grains, fertilisers, construction materials, fruits, and machinery more efficiently. So, Option (c) is correct.
<u>Q.NO – 70</u> Consider the following UN organisations /agencies:	<u>TEST 18 – Q.NO - 26</u> Which among the following is correct regarding the UN Funds and UN Programmes? (a) UN Funds are permanent in nature, whereas UN Programmes are temporary. (b) UN Funds rely on voluntary contributions from member states.

1. World Food Programme 2. United Nations Children's Fund 3. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 4. International Labour Organisation How many of the above has/have been awarded the Nobel Prize twice? (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4	(c) UN Programmes are funded through assessed contributions. (d) UN Funds function independently of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). EXPLANATION: In general, the funds and programmes are established by a resolution of the UN General Assembly and have a focused mandate. They are funded either mainly or entirely through voluntary contributions and have a governing body that reviews their activities. Coordination is facilitated through ECOSOC and the Chief Executives Board (CEB). UN Member States are elected to the governing bodies. The UN Secretary-General usually appoints the heads of the Funds, Programmes and other Entities. Funds and Programmes ➤ UNDP: UN Development Programme ➤ UNEP: UN Environment Programme ➤ UNFPA: UN Population Fund ➤ UN-Habitat: UN Human Settlements Programme ➤ UNICEF: UN Children's Fund ➤ WFP: World Food Programme So, Option (b) is correct. ➤ The permanence or temporariness is not the primary distinguishing factor. Both funds and programmes are established by the UN General Assembly with focused mandates to address humanitarian and development concerns, and they operate continuously over long periods. So, Option (a) is not correct. ➤ Both programmes and funds are financed through voluntary, not assessed, contributions. Assessed contributions fund the UN's regular budget and peacekeeping operations, as well as specialized agencies to some extent. So, Option (c) is not correct.
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- UN funds and programmes are established by a resolution of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), have governing bodies reviewed by the UNGA and ECOSOC, and their heads are usually appointed by the UN Secretary-General, coordinating their activities within the broader UN system. They are not independent of UNGA's oversight. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: UN SYSTEM Funds and Programmes

- UNDP: Headquarters: New York City, USA
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works in nearly 170 countries and territories, helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and build resilience so countries can sustain progress. As the UN's development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve Sustainable Development Goals.
- UNEP: Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established in 1972, is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator, and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment.
- UNFPA: Headquarters: New York City, USA
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.
- UN-HABITAT: Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya
- The mission of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.
- UNICEF: Headquarters: New York City, USA
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence.
- **WFP: Headquarters: Rome, Italy**

- The World Food Programme aims to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The world's largest humanitarian agency, WFP, helps almost 100 million people in approximately 88 countries with assistance every year through food or cash distributions and more. The World Food Programme was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

TEST 18 – Q.NO - 98

Consider the following statement regarding the International Labour Organization:

1. The International Labour Organization is the first specialised agency of the United Nations in 1946.
2. International Labour Organization is the only tripartite United Nation Agency to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
3. India is the founding member of International Labour Organisation.

How many of the above statements is/ are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The International Labour Organization was created in 1919 by Part XIII of the Versailles Peace Treaty ending World War I. It grew out of nineteenth-century labor and social movements which culminated in widespread demands for social justice and higher living standards for the world's working people. In 1946, after the demise of the League of Nations, the ILO became the first specialized agency associated with the United Nations. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, pursuing its founding mission that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace. The only tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919, the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 Member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

India is a founding member of the ILO and has been a permanent member of the ILO Governing Body since 1922. The first ILO office in India opened in 1928. The ILO Country Office for India and Decent Work Technical Support Team (DWT) for South Asia is a centre of technical excellence that supports all countries in South Asia in realising decent work for inclusive growth and sustainable development. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

The International Labour Organization (ILO)'s Employment and Social Trends 2026 report, released in Geneva (January 14, 2026), has warned that the global unemployment rate is projected to remain at the historically low level of 4.9% – equivalent to 186 million people – in this year. The report has found that around 284 million workers still live in extreme poverty with an earning of less than three dollars a day and added that more than two billion workers around the world remain in informal employment.

1969 Nobel Peace Prize

The 1969 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Labour Organization (ILO), a specialized agency of the United Nations founded in 1919 as part of the League of Nations, for its pioneering role in developing international legislation that establishes minimum norms for working conditions, thereby fostering social justice and cooperation among nations. **Reports**

- World Social Protection Report
- Social Dialogue Report

	➤ World Employment and Social Outlook ➤ Global Estimates of Modern Slavery ➤ Global Wage Report ➤ Global Employment Trends for Youth
<u>Q.NO - 79</u> Which of the following statements about DHRUV64 is/are correct ? 1. It is the third chip fabricated under the DIR-V Programme with an overall aim to enable the creation of microprocessors for India. 2. It is India's first homegrown 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor. Select the answer using the code given below : (a) 1 only	<u>ALL INDIA MOCK TEST - II - Q.NO - 52</u> Which of the following are computer hardware systems developed in India? 1. DHRUV64 2. Vikram 3201 3. Bhashini 4. MadhuNetra 5. Mihir 6. Prathyush Select the correct answer using the codes below: (a) 1, 2, 4 and 6 only (b) 1, 2, 5 and 6 only (c) 3, 4 and 5 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 <u>EXPLANATION:</u> Dhruv64, a 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor hardware, is India's first homegrown chip. This fully indigenous CPU was developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP). Dhruv64 was introduced under the Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) initiative, which supports chip design, testing, and prototyping using the open-source RISC-V architecture. So, Statement 1 is correct.

(b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2	VIKRAM3201 is the first fully “Make-in-India” 32-bit microprocessor that is qualified for use in the harsh environmental conditions of launch vehicles. ➤ The processor was fabricated at the 180 nm CMOS semiconductor fabrication facility of SCL, Chandigarh. ➤ It is an advanced version of the indigenously designed 16-bit VIKRAM1601 microprocessor. ➤ VIKRAM1601 has been used in the avionics systems of ISRO launch vehicles since 2009. ➤ A “Make in India” version of VIKRAM1601 was inducted in 2016 after the establishment of the 180 nm semiconductor fab at SCL, Chandigarh. So, Statement 2 is correct. BHASHINI stands for BHASHa INterface for India, a software, not primarily computer hardware, but rather an AI-powered language technology platform and digital public infrastructure (DPI) developed in India. ➤ It is an initiative aimed at democratizing access to digital content and services across India’s linguistic diversity. ➤ The initiative aligns with the objectives of the Digital India programme by promoting inclusivity and accessibility. ➤ As part of the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM), BHASHINI uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies. ➤ It helps bridge the language divide by enabling users to access content and services in their preferred languages. ➤ BHASHINI is implemented by the Digital India BHASHINI Division under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). So, Statement 3 is not correct. MadhuNETrAI (often referred to as Madhunetra) is an AI-powered mobile application designed for the early detection of diabetic retinopathy (DR), a complication of diabetes that can cause blindness. Developed by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in collaboration with Wadhwani AI and the Union Health Ministry, it is designed to facilitate quick, accurate screening, particularly in areas with limited access to eye specialists. So, Statement 4 is not correct. ➤ Mihir is a high-performance computing (HPC) system, or supercomputer, inaugurated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in India in January 2018. So, Statement 5 is correct. ➤ Pratyush is a high-performance computing (HPC) supercomputer established at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune, India.
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	• Pratyush has a peak computing power of 6.8 petaflops. • It is among the world's fastest supercomputers dedicated to weather and climate research. • The system significantly improved India's ranking in the Top500 list of global supercomputers. So, Statement 6 is correct.
<u>Q.NO – 82</u> Which of the following statements with regard to the Grand Slam Tennis Tournaments is/are correct? 1. The tournaments have a shared governance structure establishing the partnership among the four Grand Slam tournaments. 2. They are open for entry to all internationally ranked tennis players above the age of 14. 3. There is a limitation on the number of Wild Cards' a player may	<u>TEST 21 - Q.NO – 48</u> Consider the following statements: 1. He is the first male tennis player to win 400 Grand Slam singles matches. 2. He holds the record for the highest number of Australian Open men's singles titles. 3. He has spent the maximum number of weeks as World No. 1 in men's singles rankings. Which of the following tennis players is described above? (a) Roger Federer (b) Novak Djokovic (c) Rafael Nadal (d) Andy Murray <u>EXPLANATION:</u> The player described is Novak Djokovic, a Serbian tennis player. ➤ He became the first player in history to register 400 singles wins at Grand Slams after brushing aside Botic van de Zandschulp 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (4) in the third round at Melbourne Park. ➤ The victory also took Djokovic's Australian Open record to 102 wins against just 10 losses, drawing him level with Roger Federer for the most match wins at the season's opening major. ➤ The Australian Open final, Djokovic now owns 104 wins at Melbourne Park, putting him in first place among both men and women in history. ➤ Djokovic now owns at least 100 victories at the Australian Open, Roland Garros and Wimbledon, making him the only player to achieve the feat at three different major tournaments. ➤ He has spent a grand total of 281 weeks spread out over his career in the No. 1-ranked spot. ➤ That leaves him in third place for all players since the computer rankings were first employed in August 1973. ➤ He is just five weeks behind Pete Sampras and 29 short of the record held by Roger Federer (310 weeks). So, Option (b) is correct.



receive to compete in a Grand Slam Tournament. Select the answer using the code given below : (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 only (d) 1, 2 and 3	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">GRAND SLAM</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>About</td><td> The term "Grand Slam" in tennis denotes the ultimate achievement for any player: winning all four premier tournaments in a single year. These tournaments—known as the majors—are the most prestigious events in professional tennis, each with unique characteristics including surface type, history, and playing conditions. The four Grand Slam tournaments are: ➤ Australian Open (hard court, Melbourne, January) ➤ French Open (clay court, Roland Garros, Paris, May–June) ➤ Wimbledon Championships (grass court, London, June–July) ➤ US Open (hard court, New York City, August–September) </td></tr> <tr> <td>Grand Slam Title winners</td><td> Novak Djokovic: 24 Rafael Nadal: 22 Roger Federer: 20 Pete Sampras: 14 Bjorn Borg: 11 Jimmy Connors: 8 </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	GRAND SLAM		About	The term "Grand Slam" in tennis denotes the ultimate achievement for any player: winning all four premier tournaments in a single year. These tournaments—known as the majors—are the most prestigious events in professional tennis, each with unique characteristics including surface type, history, and playing conditions. The four Grand Slam tournaments are: ➤ Australian Open (hard court, Melbourne, January) ➤ French Open (clay court, Roland Garros, Paris, May–June) ➤ Wimbledon Championships (grass court, London, June–July) ➤ US Open (hard court, New York City, August–September)	Grand Slam Title winners	Novak Djokovic: 24 Rafael Nadal: 22 Roger Federer: 20 Pete Sampras: 14 Bjorn Borg: 11 Jimmy Connors: 8
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<u>Q.NO – 86</u> Which of the following statements regarding the features of blockchain technology are correct? - Records stored in the database may be made visible to relevant stakeholders without risk of alteration. - Copies of the entire database are stored on multiple computers on a network, syncing within seconds.	<u>TEST 05 – Q.NO – 42 (Partial Reflection)</u> How many of the following applications can be effectively implemented using Blockchain technology? - Land title registration - Photosynthesis rate enhancement in crops - Peer-to-peer energy trading - Detection of blood pressure in a patient - Cryptocurrency payments - Real-time traffic light control based on vehicle count Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) Only three (b) Only four (c) Only five (d) All six						

3. Consortium blockchain is a blend of public and private blockchains allowing selective data access.

4. Mathematical algorithms make it impossible to change or delete any data once recorded and accepted.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

Blockchain is a shared, immutable (unchangeable) ledger that facilitates the process of recording transactions and tracking assets across a business network.

- Anything of value — such as money, property, or information — can be tracked and traded on a Blockchain network.
- **Essentially, a Blockchain is a distributed database shared across a network of computers.**
- It stores information electronically in digital form, making transactions secure, transparent, and tamper-proof.
- Blockchain is a type of Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT).
- With the help of Blockchain, not only digital currencies but also other types of assets can be digitised and securely stored.
- The technology operates through a system of data blocks, where each block is linked to the previous one, forming a chain.
- **Once data is recorded in a block and added to the chain, it cannot be altered, making Blockchain highly secure and resistant to hacking.**
- **Its main goal is to digitally secure and verify transactions and documents in a decentralised manner.**

Applications that can be effectively implemented using Blockchain technology are:

Land title registration:

- A blockchain-enabled land title registration system creates immutable records of land ownership that are digitised and stored permanently on the Blockchain.
- This ensures transparency, security, and tamper-proof recordkeeping.
- Any change in ownership — such as a sale, transfer, or mutation of title — is recorded as a new transaction on the Blockchain.
- Each new record is linked to previous transactions, forming an unalterable chain of ownership history.
- Because all data on the Blockchain is immutable and transparent, authorised stakeholders such as government agencies, utilities, insurance companies, and financial institutions can easily verify and track property details in real time.
- This reduces fraud, simplifies verification, and improves trust in the land registration process.

Example: In India, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana launched a blockchain system for land record management to prevent tampering and reduce land disputes. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Energy Trading:

- Blockchain may enable a sustainable energy trading system by implementing smart PPAs (Purchase Power Agreements), smart microgrids, REC Certificates Issuance, etc.
- Making energy resources into digital assets that can be traded on a blockchain could open new investing and trading opportunities, allowing ease of entry to the new players and fostering innovations.
- It can also lead to a community-driven change that would solve the problem of last-mile access. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

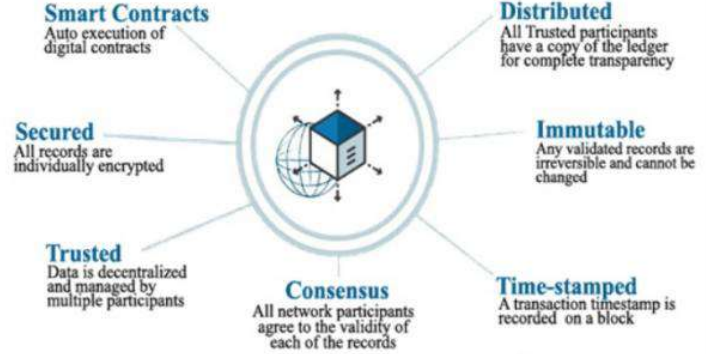
Cryptocurrency payments:

- Blockchain technology serves as the foundation for cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and Ethereum.

- A cryptocurrency is a digital form of payment that operates on a blockchain network, allowing value to be transferred directly between users without the need for intermediaries like banks.
- When a user sends cryptocurrency, credit is transferred in the form of computer code through a cryptographically signed transaction recorded on the Blockchain.
- These transactions are verified by multiple computers (nodes) in the network through a process known as consensus.
- A transaction can only be authorised and processed by someone possessing a valid private (secret) key, which proves ownership of the funds.
- These keys are securely stored in a user's digital wallet.
- Because Blockchain operates as a decentralised, borderless network, it enables faster and easier cross-border payments.
- This system bypasses traditional currency restrictions, exchange rate fluctuations, and banking infrastructure limitations, making global transactions more efficient, transparent, and cost-effective. **So, Statement 5 is correct.**
- Blockchain technology does not have real-time applications in processes such as photosynthesis rate enhancement in crops, detection of blood pressure levels in patients, or real-time traffic light control based on vehicle count. **So, Statements 2, 4 and 6 are not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY	
About	➤ Blockchain allows digital information to be recorded and distributed. ➤ Blockchain is an irreversible record of transactions, which cannot be changed, deleted or destroyed. ➤ Blockchain was first proposed in 1991 as a research project, but in the year 2009, Blockchain was used in bitcoin. ➤ Bitcoin is a cryptocurrency which is built on the basis of Block technology. ➤ Blockchain has since been used in the creation of various cryptocurrencies, decentralised finance applications, non-fungible tokens and smart contracts.

	Properties	Properties of Block Chain  The diagram illustrates the properties of a blockchain. At the center is a globe with a blue cube on top, representing a block. Seven lines radiate from this center to seven properties: Smart Contracts: Auto execution of digital contracts Distributed: All Trusted participants have a copy of the ledger for complete transparency Immutable: Any validated records are irreversible and cannot be changed Time-stamped: A transaction timestamp is recorded on a block Consensus: All network participants agree to the validity of each of the records Trusted: Data is decentralized and managed by multiple participants Secured: All records are individually encrypted
	Pros and Cons	Pros: ➤ Improved accuracy by removing human involvement in verification ➤ Cost reductions by eliminating third-party verification ➤ Decentralisation makes it harder to tamper with transactions are secure, private, and efficient ➤ Transparent technology ➤ Provides a banking alternative and a way to secure personal information for citizens of countries with unstable or underdeveloped governments Cons: ➤ Significant technology cost associated with blockchains ➤ Low number of transactions per second ➤ History of use in illicit activities, such as on the dark web ➤ Regulation varies by jurisdiction and remains uncertain ➤ Data storage limitations
