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UPSC PRELIMS 2025 REFLECTIONS

INDEX



PRESTORMING REFLECTIONS



PREFIT REFLECTIONS



IAS PARLIAMENT REFLECTIONS



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UPSC PRELIMINARY 2025 – PRESTORMING REFLECTIONS

Out of 100 Questions asked in UPSC Civil Service Preliminary Examination, 2025.

54 questions are reflected from the PRESTORMING TEST SERIES 2025.

- Total number of questions directly reflected – 38
- Total number of questions partially reflected – 16

UPSC PRELIMS 2025- PRESTORMING DIRECT REFLECTIONS

UPSC 2025 - SERIES B	PRESTORMING 2024-2025 DIRECT REFLECTIONS
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Q.NO. 7</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>I. It is expected that Majorana 1 chip will enable quantum computing.</p> <p>II. Majorana 1 chip has been introduced by Amazon Web Services (AWS).</p> <p>III. Deep learning is a subset of machine learning.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO. 24 – Q.NO. 86</u></p> <p>Willow and Ocelot, recently seen in the news, are:</p> <p>(a) New exoplanets discovered by the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). (b) Advanced quantum computing processors developed for high-performance computing. (c) Next-generation superconducting materials developed for fusion energy research (d) Genetically modified crops designed to enhance drought resistance and yield.</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Majorana 1, Willow, and Ocelot are advanced quantum computing processors developed for high-performance computing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, Amazon launched its first-ever in-house quantum computing chip, Ocelot. This nine-qubit chip is designed to help Amazon build highly efficient hardware systems. Compared to current approaches, Ocelot can reduce the costs of implementing quantum error correction by up to 90 per cent. ➤ Microsoft introduced its quantum computing chip, Majorana 1, which can potentially be scaled to a million qubits. ➤ Google has announced a new quantum chip, Willow, which it says can solve a computational problem in just less than five minutes, a task that would take the world's fastest supercomputers 10 septillion years to complete. This breakthrough in quantum computing was demonstrated when Willow outperformed the Frontier supercomputer in a benchmark algorithm, marking a significant step forward for the company's ambitions in quantum technology. So, Option (b) is correct.

Q.NO. 8

With reference to monoclonal antibodies, often mentioned in news, consider the following statements:

- I. They are man-made proteins.
- II. They stimulate immunological function due to their ability to bind to specific antigens.
- III. They are used in treating viral infections like that of Nipah virus.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST- 2 – Q.NO.36

With reference to Monoclonal Antibodies, consider the following statements :

- 1. They are laboratory made proteins.
- 2. They bind to one antigen only.
- 3. They stimulate the own immune system.

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:

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the behaviour of antibodies produced by the immune system to protect against diseases and foreign substances.

Monoclonal antibodies stimulate the body's immune system by targeting pathogens directly and triggering other immune response effects.

Antibodies are produced naturally by the body and help the immune system recognise germs that cause disease, such as bacteria and viruses, and mark them for destruction. Like the body's own antibodies, monoclonal antibodies recognise specific targets. Many monoclonal antibodies are used to treat cancer. **So, Statements 1 and 3 are correct.**

Monoclonal antibodies can bind to specific targets in the body, such as antigens. There are many kinds of monoclonal antibodies, and each monoclonal antibody is made so that it binds to only one antigen that able to target a specific chemical or specific cells in the body. Monoclonal antibodies are being used in the diagnosis and treatment of many diseases, including some types of cancer. They can be used alone or to carry drugs, toxins, or radioactive substances directly to cancer cells. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Q.NO. 11

Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

Studies indicate that carbon dioxide emissions from cement industry account for more than 5% of global carbon emissions.

Statement II:

Silica-bearing clay is mixed with limestone while manufacturing cement.

Statement III:

Limestone is converted into lime during clinker production for cement manufacturing.

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

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

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST- 1 – Q.NO.33

Consider the following :

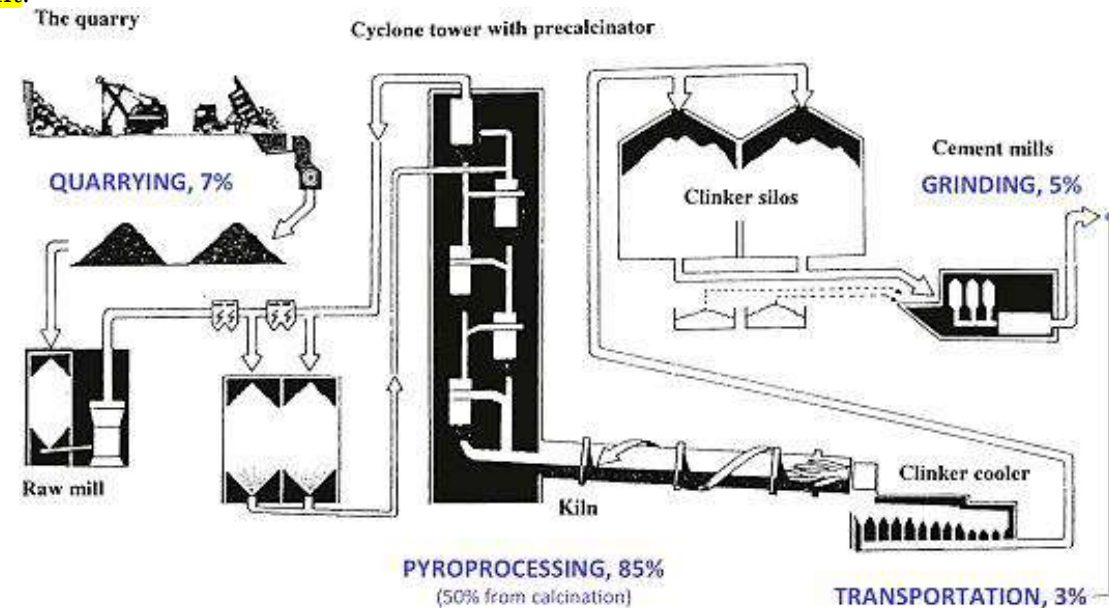
1. Sulphur Dioxide
2. Nitrogen Dioxide
3. Hydrochloric acid
4. Heavy metals
5. Hydrogen Fluoride

How many of the pollutants mentioned above are released from the Cement Industry ?

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

EXPLANATION:

Cement manufacturing is a significant mineral commodity industry. Ninety per cent of emissions from cement making are from the kiln, where limestone and silica (shale and sand) are heated to high temperatures (~1450°C) to chemically create the material called clinker necessary in making cement.



According to the World Economic Forum, global cement manufacturing is responsible for about 8% of the world's total CO₂ emissions.

- The cement industry has been categorized as highly polluting by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- The main pollutants emitted from cement industries include Particulate Matter, Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂).
- Furthermore, cement factories produce several heavy metals such as arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), mercury (Hg), nickel (Ni), lead (Pb), zinc (Zn), and copper (Cu).
- In addition to the emission of greenhouse gases and primary air pollutants, cement production also releases a range of other hazardous atmospheric substances.
- These include hydrogen chloride (HCl), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans (PCDD/Fs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and fluorides.
- Hydrogen fluoride is used in many applications and its most important use is in the chemical industry for the production of most fluorine-containing chemicals. Cement and glass industries are concerned of their HF releases.
- Hydrogen fluoride (HF) can be released during the manufacture of cement. Fluoride, present in raw materials like limestone, can be converted into HF during the high-temperature processes of cement production. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

Q.NO. 14

Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

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

Statement II:

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

TEST NO.12 – Q.NO.24

Which of the statements related to the global carbon market finalised at the COP29 Climate Summit in Baku is **not** correct ?

- (a) A global carbon market enables countries to bilaterally trade carbon credits.
- (b) Article 6 of the Paris Agreement has provisions related to carbon credit trade.
- (c) Planting trees or putting up wind farms in poorer countries are considered carbon credits.
- (d) All the above statements are correct.**

EXPLANATION:

In the annual climate conference, COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, countries voted to clear a much-delayed agreement to finalise a global carbon market. Such a market would allow countries to trade carbon credits – certified reductions of carbon emissions – among themselves and whose prices are determined as a consequence of emission caps imposed by countries. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

Statement III:

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

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

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

The market itself follows from a section in the Paris Agreement called Article 6. Sub-sections of the Article spell out how countries can bilaterally trade carbon among themselves (Art 6.2) and participate in a global carbon market (6.4). This global carbon market has the potential to direct resources to the developing world. **So, Options (b) and (c) are correct.**

TEST NO.13 – Q.NO.61

Which of the following are the key outcomes of the Bonn Climate Change Conference 2024 ?

1. Global Goal on Adaptation strategies, which focus on adjusting to the effects of climate change.
2. Market-based and non-market-based approaches to carbon reduction under the Paris Agreement.
3. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) is to mobilise substantial financial resources from developed nations to support climate action in developing countries.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

The Subsidiary Bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC SB60) will reconvene at the World Conference Center Bonn. These sessions, often referred to as interim negotiations, hold significant weight in shaping the agenda for the upcoming climate conference slated for Nov 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Key Outcomes of Bonn Climate Change Conference 2024 are:

- Adaptation strategies – which focus on adjusting to the effects of climate change, and mitigation strategies – aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, were also at the center of negotiations. A significant portion of the Bonn discussions centred on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). Established in the 2015 Paris Agreement, the goal seeks to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change. The Adaptation Committee’s report highlighted that while some progress has been made, many

	<p>countries, particularly developing nations, still lack the necessary resources and infrastructure to implement effective adaptation strategies. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 6: Paris Agreement includes provisions for both market-based and non-market-based approaches to carbon reduction. Delegates focused on ensuring that carbon markets operate with high transparency and environmental integrity. So, Statement 2 is correct. ➤ Climate Finance: New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) aims to mobilise substantial financial resources from developed nations to support climate action in developing countries. This goal is set to replace the \$100 billion target established at COP21 in Paris. So, Statement 3 is correct.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Q.NO. 22</u></p> <p>Consider the following subjects with regard to Non-Cooperation Programme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boycott of law-courts and foreign cloth 2. Observance of strict non-violence 3. Retention of titles and honours without using them in public 4. Establishment of Panchayats for settling disputes. <p>How many of the above were parts of Non-Cooperation Programme?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All the four</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.11 – Q.NO.29</u></p> <p>Which of the following is considered to be the major reason for the reluctance of several established leaders of the Indian National Congress to accept Gandhi's resolution of non-cooperation in 1920 ?</p> <p>(a) Boycott of government schools and courts (b) Boycott of council elections (c) Opening of Congress membership to all men and women of the age of 21 or more (d) Reorganization of Provincial Congress Committees on a linguistic basis</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>After the first world war, the British removed the Khalifa from power in Turkey. Hence, the Muslims started the Khilafat movement in India for the restoration of the Khalifa's position. The Khilafat issue was not directly linked 'with politics in India but the Khilafat leaders were eager in enlisting the support of Hindus. Gandhi saw in this, an opportunity to bring about Hindu-Muslim unity against the British.</p> <p>The Central Khilafat Committee met at Allahabad from 1st to 3rd June 1920. The meeting was attended by a number of Congress and Khilafat leaders. In this meeting a programme of non-cooperation towards the Government was declared. This was to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Boycott of titles conferred by the Government, ➤ Boycott of civil services, army and police, i.e. all government jobs, and ➤ Non-payment of taxes to the Government. <p>August 1, 1920 was fixed as the date to start the movement. Gandhi insisted that unless the Punjab and Khilafat wrongs were undone there was to be non-cooperation with the Government.</p>

However, for the success of this movement, Congress support was essential. Therefore, Gandhi's efforts now were to make the Congress adopt the non-cooperation programme. It was not an easy task for Gandhi to get the entire Congress to approve his programme of political action.

Gandhi made a concerted bid to convince Tilak of the virtues of Satyagraha and of the expediency of an alliance with the Muslim community over Khilafat. However, Tilak was sceptical of Satyagraha as an instrument of politics. A lot depended on Tilak's attitude whether to be hostile or neutral. But, unfortunately he passed away on 1st August '1920. LalaLajpat Rai and C.R. Das vehemently opposed the Gandhian idea of boycotting council elections.

The programme of non-cooperation and boycott was then placed before the Provincial Congress Committees (PCC) for their opinions. The PCC of the United Provinces after prolonged debate approved of the principle of non-cooperation, gradual boycott of government schools and colleges, government offices, British goods. But there were reservations about the boycott of the legislative councils. The Bombay PCC approved of non-cooperation as the legitimate method of agitation, but it objected to boycott of council and only recommended boycott of British goods as a first stage. The Bengal PCC agreed to accept the principle of non-cooperation but disagreed with the idea of council boycott. The Madras PCC approved the policies of non-cooperation but rejected Gandhi's programme.

Therefore, Boycott of council elections is considered to be the major reason for the reluctance of several established leaders of the Indian National Congress to accept Gandhi's resolution of non-cooperation in 1920. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In his famous book Hind Swaraj (1909) Mahatma Gandhi declared that British rule was established in India with the cooperation of Indians, and had survived only because of this cooperation. If Indians refused to cooperate, British rule in India would collapse within a year, and Swaraj would come. ➤ Gandhiji proposed that the non-Cooperation movement should unfold in stages. It should begin with the surrender of titles that the government awarded, and a boycott of civil services, army, police, courts and legislative councils, schools, and foreign goods. Then, in case the government used repression, a full civil disobedience campaign would be launched.



		<p>➤ Many within the Congress were, however, concerned about the proposals. They were reluctant to boycott the council elections scheduled for November 1920, and they feared that the movement might lead to popular violence. In the months between September and December there was an intense tussle within the Congress. For a while there seemed no meeting point between the supporters and the opponents of the movement. Finally, at the Congress session at Nagpur in December 1920, a compromise was worked out and the Non-Cooperation programme was adopted.</p>
	Programme of the non-cooperation movement	<p>At a special session in Calcutta, the Congress approved a non-cooperation programme till the Punjab and Khilafat wrongs were removed and swaraj was established. The programme was to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Boycott of government schools and colleges; ➤ Boycott of law courts and dispensation of justice through panchayats instead; boycott of legislative councils (there were some differences over this as some leaders like C.R. Das were not willing to include a boycott of councils, but bowed to Congress discipline; these leaders boycotted elections held in November 1920, and the majority of the voters too stayed away); ➤ Boycott of foreign cloth and use of khadi instead; also practice of hand-spinning to be done; ➤ Renunciation of government honours and titles; the second phase could include mass civil disobedience including resignation from government service, and non-payment of taxes. <p>During the movement, the participants were supposed to work for Hindu-Muslim unity and for removal of untouchability, all the time remaining non-violent.</p>
	People's Response	<p>➤ Middle Class- People from the middle classes led the movement at the beginning, but later they showed a lot of reservations about Gandhi's programme. In places like Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, which were centres of elite politicians, the response to Gandhi's call was very limited.</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Business Class - The economic boycott received support from the Indian business group because they had benefited from the nationalists' emphasis on the use of swadeshi. But a section of the big business remained sceptical towards the movement. They seemed to be afraid of labour unrest in their factories. ➤ Peasants -Peasants participation was massive. Although the Congress was against class war, the masses broke this restraint. In Bihar, the confrontation between the 'lower and upper castes' on the issue of the former taking the sacred thread got merged with the Non-Cooperation Movement. In general, the peasants turned against the landlords and the traders. The movement gave an opportunity to the toiling masses to express their real feelings against the British as well as against their Indian masters and oppressors (landlords and traders). ➤ Students - Students became active volunteers of the movement, and thousands of them left government schools and colleges and joined national schools and colleges. The newly opened national institutions like the Kashi Vidyapeeth, the Gujarat Vidyapeeth, and the Jamila MiliaIslamia and others accommodated many students. ➤ Women - Women gave up purdah and offered their ornaments for the Tilak Fund. They joined the movement in large numbers and took active part in picketing before the shops selling foreign cloth and liquor.
	<p>Withdrawal of non-cooperation movement</p>	<p>ChauriChaura Incident: The village named Chauri-Chaura (Gorakhpur district in United Provinces) has found a place in history books due to an incident of violence on February 5, 1922, which was to prompt Gandhi to withdraw the movement. The police here had beaten up the leader of a group of volunteers campaigning against liquor sale and high food prices, and then opened fire on the crowd which had come to protest before the police station. The agitated crowd torched the police station with policemen inside who had taken shelter there; those who tried to flee were hacked to death and thrown back into the fire. Twenty-two policemen were killed in the violence. Gandhi, not happy with the increasingly violent trend of the movement, immediately announced the withdrawal of the movement.</p>



Q.NO. 26

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

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

TEST NO.23 – Q.NO.23

Which one of the following rulers conquered the territory of Srivijaya ?

- (a) Vijayalaya Chola
- (b) Rajaraja Chola
- (c) Parantaka Chola I
- (d) Rajendra Chola**

EXPLANATION:

Srivijaya, the most important Hindu kingdom in Sumatra, was founded in 670 CE. It emerged as a great centre of trade and culture with its developed maritime polity. The kingdom later evolved into Shailendra Empire, which was a great maritime and commercial power. I-tsing informs us that Srivijaya supplanted the Malayu kingdom in Sumatra in the late 7th century and promoted Buddhism. The Vat Sema Murong inscription (dated 775 CE) emphasizes the rapid rise of Srivijaya as the overlord of the neighbouring territories and as a significant naval and commercial power.

- The Chola navy was technologically more advanced. **Rajendra Chola, in 1025, sent a huge naval fleet against the Srivijayas, and the Cholas won a decisive victory. So, Option (d) is correct.**
- The Srivijaya ruler was captured. The Chola invasion and the raids of the city, Srivijaya, along with 12 other port cities on the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and the Nicobar Islands, are mentioned in an inscription at a temple at Tanjavur.
- The incident is also recorded in one of the most significant Malay literary works, Sejarah Malayu.

Q.NO. 27

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

Territorial region River flowing in a region

- I. Asmaka : Godavari
II. Kamboja : Vipasa
III. Avanti : Mahanadi
IV. Kosala : Sarayu

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

TEST NO.16 – Q.NO.38

Consider the following statements :

1. All the mahajanapada states were monarchical in nature.
2. The political fight among the mahajanapada states ultimately led to the rise of Magadha as the most powerful state and the center of a vast empire.
3. Bimbisara, ruler of Magadha, took control over the Kasi under the policy of matrimonial alliance.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION:

The period c.600-300 BCE marks the beginning of the early historical period in north India. It was a major landmark in Indian history which had far reaching consequences.

For the first time in Indian history, several territorial political entities emerged. These were called the mahajanapadas, and they spread over most of north India.

Most of these states were monarchical in nature but some of them, called gana-sangha, had an oligarcharical system of governance.

Most of the monarchical mahajanapadas were concentrated in the fertile Ganga plains. In contrast, the gana-sanghas lay around their periphery, in the Himalayan foothills, or in north-western India, Punjab and Sindh or central and western India.

In this system unlike monarchies, where a hereditary king rules, administration was run by an elected king with the help of a large council or assemblies comprising heads of all important clans and families. This system was certainly more democratic than monarchy, though the common man had no participation in the administration. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The list of sixteen mahajanapadas states are:

Sl. No.	Mahajanapadas	Capital	Modern location
1	Anga	Champa	Munger and Bhagalpur
2	Magadh	Girivraja / Rajagir	Gaya and Patna



3	Kasi	Kasi	Banaras
4	Vatsa	Kausambi	Allahabad
5	Kosala	Sravasti	Eastern Uttar Pradesh
6	Saurasena	Mathura	Mathura
7	Panchala	Ahichchatra and Kampilya	Western Uttar Pradesh
8	Kuru	Indraprastha	Merrut and S.E. Haryana
9	Matsya	Viratnagar	Jaipur
10	Chedi	Sothivati / Banda	Bundelkhanda
11	Avanti	Ujjain / Mahismati	Madhya Pradesh & Malwa
12	Gandhar	Taxila	Rawalpindi
13	Kamboj	Pooncha	Rajori & Hajra (Kashmir)
14	Asmaka	Pratisthan / Paithan	Bank of Godavari
15	Vajji	Vaishali	Vaishali
16	Malla	Kusinara	Deoria & U.P.

The political fight among these mahajanapadas led ultimately to one of them namely Magadh to emerge as the most powerful state and the centre of a vast empire.

The earliest important ruler of Magadh was the king Bimbisara, who ruled for 52 years from 544 BC to 492 BC. He pursued a three-pronged policy, namely, matrimonial alliances, friendship with strong rulers and conquest of weak neighbours to expand the empire.

Under the policy of matrimonial alliances, he married the sister of Prasenjit, the king of Kosala. She brought in dowry the territory of Kashi, which yielded a revenue of 1,00,000 coins. The control over Kasi and friendship with Prasenajit allowed Magadh to concentrate on other areas. He also conquered Anga by defeating its ruler Brahmadatta. **So, Statements 2 and 3 are correct.**

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST- 2 – Q.NO.22

Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. Hampi is located on the banks of the Tungabhadra River.
2. Ayodhya is located on the banks of the Sarayu River.
3. Nagarjunakonda is located on the southern bank of the Krishna River.
4. Pandharpur is located on the banks of the Narmada River.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the Bellary district of central Karnataka, lies on the banks of the Tungabhadra River and spans 4,187.24 hectares.

It served as the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire (14th–16th century CE), the last great Hindu kingdom in South India.

The site is characterized by its riverine landscape, rocky hills, and open plains, and features notable monuments such as the Krishna Temple Complex, Narasimha, Ganesa, Hemakuta group of temples, Achyutaraya Temple, Vitthala Temple, Pattabhirama Temple, and the Lotus Mahal. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Ayodhya, also known as Saket, is an ancient city situated on the banks of the sacred Sarayu River in Uttar Pradesh. It is revered as the birthplace of Lord Ram and served as the capital of the ancient Kosala Kingdom.

The Sarayu, originating from Lake Mansarovar in the Himalayas, is a significant tributary of the Ganga River and flows through China, Nepal, and India before merging with the Ganga in Bihar's Saran district. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The city of Nagarjunakonda was protected naturally on one side by the river Krishna and on the other side by the hilly terrain. Nagarjunakonda hill, named after Nagarjuna, a Buddhist teacher, is located in the Andhra region.

It lies on the right bank of the river Krishna in Machilipatnam of Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. It is a valley nestled between the Nallamalai range on three sides and the river Krishna on one side.

The Krishna Basin extends over Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka, covering nearly 8% of the country's total geographical area. It is bounded by the Balaghat range on the north, the Eastern Ghats on the south and east and the Western Ghats on the west. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

Pandharpur, also known as the Southern Kashi of India, is located on the banks of the river Bhima, which is alternatively known as Chandrabhaga because of its crescent-shaped meandering.

It is the spiritual hub for millions of devotees of Lord Vithoba, a form of Lord Krishna. The iconic Shri Vitthal-Rukmini Mandir is the centrepiece of devotion, history, and culture, attracting pilgrims from across India. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

Q.NO.30

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

TEST NO.11 – Q.NO.29

Which of the following is considered to be the major reason for the reluctance of several established leaders of the Indian National Congress to accept Gandhi's resolution of non-cooperation in 1920 ?

- (a) Boycott of government schools and courts
- (b) Boycott of council elections**
- (c) Opening of Congress membership to all men and women of the age of 21 or more
- (d) Reorganization of Provincial Congress Committees on a linguistic basis

EXPLANATION:

After the first world war, the British removed the Khalifa from power in Turkey. Hence, the Muslims started the Khilafat movement in India for the restoration of the Khalifa's position. The Khilafat issue was not directly linked 'with politics in India but the Khilafat leaders were eager in enlisting the support of Hindus. Gandhi saw in this, an opportunity to bring about Hindu-Muslim unity against the British.

The Central Khilafat Committee met at Allahabad from 1st to 3rd June 1920. The meeting was attended by a number of Congress and Khilafat leaders. In this meeting a programme of non-cooperation towards the Government was declared. This was to include:

- Boycott of titles conferred by the Government,
- Boycott of civil services, army and police, i.e. all government jobs, and
- Non-payment of taxes to the Government.

August 1, 1920 was fixed as the date to start the movement. Gandhi insisted that unless the Punjab and Khilafat wrongs were undone there was to be non-cooperation with the Government. However, for the success of this movement, Congress support was essential. Therefore, Gandhi's efforts now were to make the Congress adopt the non-cooperation programme. It was not an easy task for Gandhi to get the entire Congress to approve his programme of political action.

Gandhi made a concerted bid to convince Tilak of the virtues of Satyagraha and of the expediency of an alliance with the Muslim community over Khilafat. However, Tilak was sceptical of Satyagraha as an instrument of politics. A lot depended on Tilak's attitude whether to be hostile or neutral. But, unfortunately he passed away on 1st August '1920. LalaLajpat Rai and C.R. Das vehemently opposed the Gandhian idea of boycotting council elections.

The programme of non-cooperation and boycott was then placed before the Provincial Congress Committees (PCC) for their opinions. The PCC of the United Provinces after prolonged debate approved of the principle of non-cooperation, gradual boycott of government schools and colleges,

government offices, British goods. But there were reservations about the boycott of the legislative councils. The Bombay PCC approved of non-cooperation as the legitimate method of agitation, but it objected to boycott of council and only recommended boycott of British goods as a first stage. The Bengal PCC agreed to accept the principle of non-cooperation but disagreed with the idea of council boycott. The Madras PCC approved the policies of non-cooperation but rejected Gandhi's programme.

Therefore, Boycott of council elections is considered to be the major reason for the reluctance of several established leaders of the Indian National Congress to accept Gandhi's resolution of non-cooperation in 1920. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In his famous book Hind Swaraj (1909) Mahatma Gandhi declared that British rule was established in India with the cooperation of Indians, and had survived only because of this cooperation. If Indians refused to cooperate, British rule in India would collapse within a year, and Swaraj would come. ➤ Gandhiji proposed that the non-Cooperation movement should unfold in stages. It should begin with the surrender of titles that the government awarded, and a boycott of civil services, army, police, courts and legislative councils, schools, and foreign goods. Then, in case the government used repression, a full civil disobedience campaign would be launched. ➤ Many within the Congress were, however, concerned about the proposals. They were reluctant to boycott the council elections scheduled for November 1920, and they feared that the movement might lead to popular violence. In the months between September and December there was an intense tussle within the Congress. For a while there seemed no meeting point between the supporters and the opponents of the movement. Finally, at the Congress session at Nagpur in December 1920, a compromise was worked out and the Non-Cooperation programme was adopted.
Programme of the non-cooperation movement	<p>At a special session in Calcutta, the Congress approved a non-cooperation programme till the Punjab and Khilafat wrongs were removed and swaraj was established. The programme was to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Boycott of government schools and colleges; ➤ Boycott of law courts and dispensation of justice through panchayats instead; boycott of legislative councils (there were some differences over this as some



	<p>leaders like C.R. Das were not willing to include a boycott of councils, but bowed to Congress discipline; these leaders boycotted elections held in November 1920, and the majority of the voters too stayed away);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Boycott of foreign cloth and use of khadi instead; also practice of hand-spinning to be done; ➤ Renunciation of government honours and titles; the second phase could include mass civil disobedience including resignation from government service, and non-payment of taxes. <p>During the movement, the participants were supposed to work for Hindu-Muslim unity and for removal of untouchability, all the time remaining non-violent.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Q.NO. 31</u></p> <p>With reference to investments, consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Bonds II. Hedge Funds III. Stocks IV. Venture Capital <p>How many of the above are treated as Alternative Investment Funds?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All the four 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO. 22 – Q.NO.63</u></p> <p>With reference to financial sector reforms in Budget 2025-26, consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high-level committee has been proposed to review and rationalize non-financial sector regulations. 2. A new regulatory framework for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) investing in startups has been introduced. 3. The Government has proposed a mechanism to ensure coordinated regulation of pension products. <p>Which of the statements given above are correct ?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>The government has announced the establishment of a High-Level Committee tasked with reviewing all non-financial sector regulations, certifications, licenses, and permissions. This initiative aims to strengthen trust-based economic governance and enhance the ease of doing business, particularly concerning inspections and compliances. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>An Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) is a privately pooled investment vehicle that invests in alternative asset classes such as private equity, venture capital, hedge funds, real estate, commodities, and derivatives. It is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).</p>

In the 2025 Budget it was highlighted that, the Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) for start-up have received commitments of more than ₹91,000 crore.

Now, in the current Budget, it was announced that a new Fund of Funds for the start-ups, with expanded scope and a fresh contribution of ₹ 10,000 crore, will be set up.

The objective of the proposed Fund of Funds (FOF) for start-ups is to enable investment support through additional deployment of Rs. 10,000 crores. Through its investments, the fund of fund will enable start-ups to drive innovation and foster entrepreneurship. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

In the Union Budget for 2025-26, Finance Minister has announced the establishment of a forum dedicated to regulatory coordination and the development of pension products. This initiative aims to enhance collaboration among key stakeholders in the pension sector, focusing on the adequacy and sustainability of post-retirement income. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

TEST NO.21 – Q.NO.61

The Alternate Investment Fund includes funds covered under which of the following regulations ?

1. The SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996
2. The SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

Alternative Investment Fund or AIF means any fund established or incorporated in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors.

- An AIF under the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012 can be established or incorporated in the form of a trust or a company or a limited liability partnership or a body corporate. Most of the AIFs registered with SEBI are in trust form.
- AIF does not include funds covered under the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996, SEBI

(Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 or any other regulations of the Board to regulate fund management activities.

So, Option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ALTERNATE INVESTMENT FUND	
Recently in News	Alternative investment funds gain currency as fundraising tops Rs 5 trillion
Functions	<p>Alternative Investment Fund is a privately pooled investment vehicle. Their main activity involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collection of funds from investors. Such investors can be Indian as well as foreign. ➤ Investment of such collected funds as per their defined investment policies <p>They are required to work for the benefit of their investors.</p>
Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ AIFs that invest in startups, early-stage ventures, and small and medium enterprises fall under Category I AIFs. ➤ Category II AIFs, which account for nearly two-thirds of the investments made, invest in real estate funds, private equity funds, funds for distressed assets, etc. ➤ The third category includes hedge funds and other funds that use complex trading strategies.
Purpose of Introduction of AIF Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Alternative Investment Fund Regulations were introduced with a view to regularizing pooled funds not covered under any of the previous regulations in India. ➤ These regulations require such funds to be registered and operated as per these provisions. ➤ This was to cover such pooled investment funds under a legal umbrella. These funds can receive capital from Indian as well as foreign investors.

Q.NO. 36

Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST- 3 – Q.NO.31

With reference to the Critical Mineral Regulations in India, consider the following statements :

1. Revenue generated from the mineral auctions is allotted to the concerned State Governments as per the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act 2023.
2. The government of India has increased customs duties on the majority of critical minerals in the Union budget for 2024-25.

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:

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.

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, was amended in 2023 to increase exploration and mining of critical minerals. Consequently, the Ministry of Mines has auctioned 24 blocks of strategic minerals. Further, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has undertaken 368 exploration projects for critical minerals over the past three years, with 195 projects currently underway in FS 2024-25. Further, for FY 2025-26, GSI is going to take up 227 projects for various critical minerals. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Government of India has eliminated customs duties on the majority of critical minerals in the Union Budget 2024-25. This will increase the availability of critical minerals in the country and will encourage the industry to set up processing facilities in India. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

TEST NO.11 – Q.NO.24

With reference to Mineral Security Finance Network, consider the following statements :

1. It is a new initiative that stems from the Minerals Security Partnership.
2. It is a US-led initiative to strengthen cooperation among members to secure supply chains for critical minerals.
3. India at Mineral Security Partnership will catalyse public and private investment in critical

mineral supply chains globally.

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 Minerals Security Finance Network (MSFN) is a new initiative that stems from the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), a framework established by the US in 2022. MSFN is a US-led initiative aiming to strengthen cooperation among members to secure supply chains for critical minerals.

Under this new partnership, signatory nations acknowledged that the scope and scale of meeting the rapidly increasing global demand for critical minerals to achieve the proposed clean energy transition were “beyond the purview of any single institution” and that the public sector and private sector in member countries “would need to work together to deploy capital into new and existing markets in this sector”.

This new partnership brings together DFIs (development finance institutions) and ECAs (export credit agencies) from the participating nations to “create synergies, and increase impact”. **So, Statement 1 is correct and Statement 2 is correct.**

India had been inducted into the MSP, a US-led collaboration of 14 countries that aimed to catalyze public and private investment in critical mineral supply chains globally.

India’s inclusion had particular significance given that one of the key elements of the growth strategy is powered by an ambitious shift in the mobility space through the conversion of a large part of public and private transport to electric vehicles. This, alongside a concerted electronics manufacturing and semiconductor push, underlines the need to secure the supply of critical minerals. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MINERALS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP	
Aim	The Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) aims to accelerate the development of diverse and sustainable critical energy minerals supply chains by working with host governments and industry to facilitate targeted financial and diplomatic support for strategic projects along the value chain.



	Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The MSP is a collaboration of 14 countries and the EU to catalyze public and private investment in responsible critical minerals supply chains globally. ➤ MSP partners include Australia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union (represented by the European Commission).
	About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The MSP considers projects along the full clean energy value chain, from mining, extraction, and secondary recovery to processing and refining and ultimately to recycling. ➤ The MSP focuses on the minerals and metals supply chains most relevant for clean energy technologies. These include – but are not limited to – lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese, graphite, rare earth elements, and copper. ➤ MSP partners strive to elevate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards across the global minerals sector. The MSP commits to support only those projects that meet high, internationally recognized ESG standards, promote local value addition, and uplift communities in recognition that all countries can benefit from the global clean energy transition. ➤ The MSP aims to use partners' economic and diplomatic engagement and other forms of support to make strategic critical minerals projects more likely to succeed where appropriate for host governments. ➤ The MSP commits to consult frequently and transparently with countries that are not MSP partners, particularly those with significant mineral reserves and those that aspire to move up the critical minerals value chain, to evaluate how best to support responsible commercialization of mineral resources. MSP activities will advance the economic objectives of all countries involved.
	Challenges	<p>The MSP directly addresses four major critical minerals challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Diversifying and stabilizing global supply chains; ➤ Investment in those supply chains; ➤ Promoting high environmental, social, and governance standards in the mining, processing, and recycling sectors; and ➤ Increasing recycling of critical minerals.

TEST NO.20 – Q.NO.59

With reference to the Marbles, consider the following statements :

1. It is classified as a minor mineral under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act of 1957.
 2. Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of marble in India
 3. The presence of large limestone deposits will hinder the formation of marble.
- How many of the above-given statements are correct ?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

EXPLANATION:

Marble is a 'Minor Mineral' as defined under Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. The term "marble" is derived from the Latin word Murmur which in turn is said to have been coined from the Greek word Marmorous, meaning shining stone. It is known for its pleasant colours, smooth and uniform texture, moderate hardness, and amenability to be quarried into big blocks, smooth & shiny polished surface and silky feel. Marble occupies a unique position among other dimension stones because of its aesthetic value. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

With an annual production of more than 40 million metric tons, Rajasthan is by far the biggest marble producer among the Indian states. Numerous states, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat are home to the nation's vast reserves. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

State	Production (Million Tonnes/year)	Famous Quarries
Rajasthan	20+	Makrana
Madhya Pradesh	15	Bundelkhand Region
Gujarat	10	Cambay, Dungri
Andhra Pradesh	5	Kurnool District

Rajasthan possesses vast deposits of Limestone, spread over in 25 districts. Based on this, 23 major cement plants, having an installed capacity of 69.75 million tonnes are in production. The

Department has notified number of cement grade Limestone blocks for setting up new major cement plants, yet 42 explored blocks are available for notification.

Marble is a metamorphic rock formed by the alteration of limestone by heat and pressure. The calcite in the limestone changes and fossils and layering in the original limestone disappear as interlocking grains grow. If the limestone is pure, a white marble is formed. So, limestone is not a hindered for the formation of marble. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

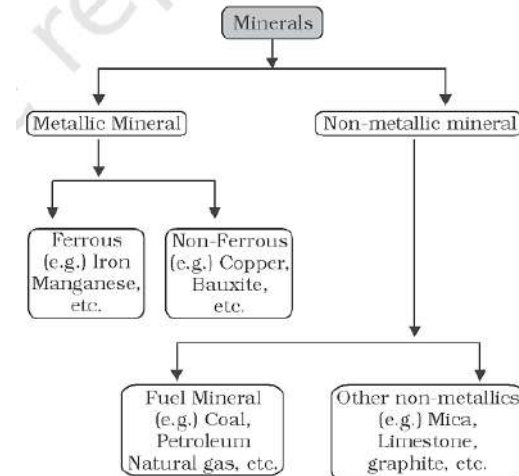
DISTRIBUTION OF MINERALS IN INDIA

About

A mineral is a naturally occurring, inorganic substance with a definite chemical composition and a crystalline structure. India is endowed with a rich variety of mineral.

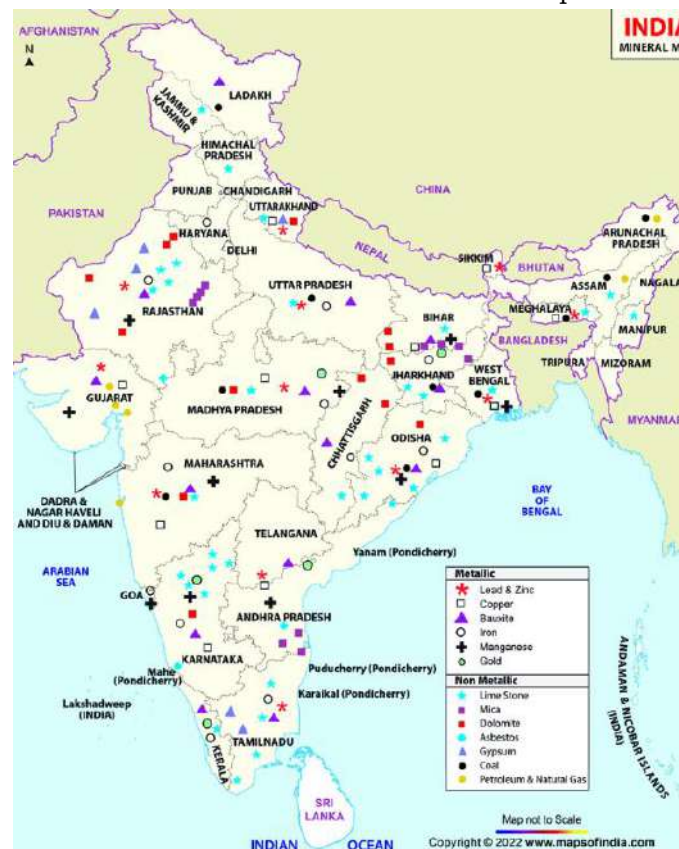
resources due to its varied geological structure

On the basis of chemical and physical properties, minerals may be grouped under two main categories of metallics and non-metallics.



- Most of the metallic minerals in India occur in the peninsular plateau region in the old crystalline rocks.
- Over 97 per cent of coal reserves occur in the valleys of Damodar, Sone, Mahanadi and Godavari.

- Petroleum reserves are located in the sedimentary basins of Assam, Gujarat and Mumbai High i.e. off-shore region in the Arabian Sea. New reserves have been located in the Krishna-Godavari and Kaveri basins.
- Most of the major mineral resources occur to the east of a line linking Mangaluru and Kanpur.
- Minerals are generally concentrated in three broad belts in India. There may be some sporadic occurrences here and there in isolated pockets.



The North-Eastern

- This belt covers Chhotanagpur (Jharkhand), Odisha Plateau, West Bengal and parts of Chhattisgarh.



	Plateau Region	➤ It has variety of minerals viz. iron ore coal, manganese, bauxite, mica.
	The South-Western Plateau Region	<p>This belt extends over Karnataka, Goa and contiguous Tamil Nadu uplands and Kerala. This belt is rich in ferrous metals and bauxite. It also contains high grade iron ore, manganese and limestone.</p> <p>This belt lacks in coal deposits except Neyveli lignite. It does not have as diversified mineral deposits as the north-eastern belt.</p> <p>Kerala has deposits of monazite and thorium, bauxite clay. Goa has iron ore deposits.</p>
	The North-Western Region	<p>This belt extends along Aravali in Rajasthan and part of Gujarat and minerals are associated with Dharwar system of rocks. Copper, zinc have been major minerals.</p> <p>Rajasthan is rich in building stones i.e. sandstone, granite, marble. Gypsum and Fuller's earth deposits are also extensive.</p> <p>Dolomite and limestone provide raw materials for cement industry.</p> <p>Gujarat is known for its petroleum deposits. Gujarat and Rajasthan both have rich sources of salt.</p>
	Himalayan belt	<p>The Himalayan belt is another mineral belt where copper, lead, zinc, cobalt and tungsten are known to occur.</p> <p>They occur on both the eastern and western parts. Assam valley has mineral oil deposits.</p> <p>Besides oil resources are also found in off-shore-areas near Mumbai Coast (Mumbai High).</p>

Q.NO. 40

Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST- 1- Q.NO.57

14. Which of the following are part of the revenue receipts of the Union budget ?

- 1. Income tax collected from residents
- 2. Earnings from government companies
- 3. Proceeds from the sale of shares of government companies
- 4. Recovery of loans given to other countries
- 5. Salaries paid to government employees

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

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

- Tax revenues, an important component of revenue receipts, have for long been divided into
 - Direct taxes (personal income tax collected from residents) and firms (corporation tax).
So, Statement 1 is correct.
 - Indirect taxes like excise taxes (duties levied on goods produced within the country), customs duties (taxes imposed on goods imported into and exported out of India) and service tax.

Other direct taxes like wealth tax, gift tax and estate duty (now abolished) have never brought in large amount of revenue and thus have been referred to as 'paper taxes'.

- Non-tax revenue of the central government mainly consists of
 - Interest receipts on account of loans by the central government,
 - Dividends and Profits on investments made by the government (Earnings from government companies), **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
 - Fees and other receipts for services rendered by the government.

Cash grants-in-aid from foreign countries and international organisations are also included.

<p>Capital receipts are those receipts of the government which either create liability or cause any reduction in the assets of the government. The major sources of capital receipts of the central government are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Borrowings ➤ Recovery of Loans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <input type="checkbox"/> The money the government had lent out in the past in India (states, UTs, PSUs, etc.) and abroad their capital comes back to the government when the borrowers repay them as capital receipts. So, Statement 4 is not correct. ○ <input type="checkbox"/> The interests which come to the government on such loans are part of the revenue receipts. ➤ Disinvestment - Resale of shares of public sector undertakings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <input type="checkbox"/> Selling its shares to general public and to financial institutions. This selling of shares of public sector undertakings by the government is known as 'disinvestment of public sector undertakings'. So, Statement 3 is not correct. <p>When government incurs expenditure that neither creates any asset nor reduces any liability, such expenditure is known as revenue expenditure. For Example, payment of salaries to government employees, maintenance of public property, providing free education and health services to people, etc constitute revenue expenditure. These do not create any public asset. So, Statement 5 is not correct.</p>
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Q.NO. 41

Consider the following countries:

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

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

- (a) Only three

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST- 2 – Q.NO.06

With reference to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), consider the following statements :

1. It is a military alliance founded against the backdrop of World War I.
2. USA is the only non-European country to be a part of NATO.
3. Norway is the latest member to join NATO.

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

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

(b) Only four

(c) Only five

(d) All the six

EXPLANATION:

NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, was formed in 1949 with the aim, first and foremost, of acting as a deterrent to the threat of Soviet expansion in Europe after World War II (Not World War I).

Beyond that, the United States saw it as a tool to prevent the resurgence of nationalist tendencies in Europe and to foster political integration on the continent. Its origins, however, actually go back to 1947, when the United Kingdom and France signed the Treaty of Dunkirk as an alliance to counter the eventuality of a German attack in the aftermath of the war. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

On 4 April 1949, the Foreign Ministers from 12 countries signed the North Atlantic Treaty (also known as the Washington Treaty) at the Departmental Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

NATO's founding member countries were: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The United States and Canada are the two non-European countries that are members of NATO.

So, Statement 2 is not correct.

At present, NATO has 32 member countries. These countries, called NATO Allies, are sovereign states that come together through NATO to discuss political and security issues and make collective decisions by consensus.

➤ Norway is a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Norway has been an active participant in NATO since the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington on the 4th of April 1949.

➤ Recently, Sweden has officially become the 32nd member of NATO, a landmark moment for the historically neutral country and the Western military alliance. For Sweden, it marks the end of a 20-month-long wait that started in May 2022 when it submitted its application to join alongside Finland, prompted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST- 3 – Q.NO.38

India is a full-time member of which of the following organizations ?

1. International Criminal Court
2. International Energy Agency
3. Association of South East Nations

4. North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) **None**

EXPLANATION:

The International Criminal Court, headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, was established under a 1998 treaty called the “Rome Statute”.

It “investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.”

- Presently, 123 countries, including Britain, Japan, Afghanistan, and Germany, are parties to the Rome Statute. However, the USA has kept its distance, maintaining that the ICC should not exercise jurisdiction over citizens of countries that are not parties to it.
- India is not a member, nor are China and the US.
- Palestine became the 123rd member of the Rome Treaty on April 1, 2015.
- Israel is not a Party to the Rome Statute. However, the ICC does have jurisdiction over crimes committed by nationals of both State Parties and non-state Parties (such as Israel) on the territory of a State Party (such as Palestine). **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The International Energy Agency (IEA) is an international intergovernmental organization based in Paris that was established in 1974. Its stated mandate is to maintain the stability of the international oil supply, although its mission has expanded in recent years to emphasize the promotion of renewable energy sources.

- The IEA is made up of 32 Member countries.
- The IEA family also includes thirteen Association countries. Four countries are currently seeking IEA membership: Chile, Colombia, Israel and Costa Rica.
- India, which joined the IEA Family as an Association country in 2017, sent a formal request for full membership to IEA ministers in October 2023.

India becoming an IEA member would mark a huge, consequential change in international energy governance. As the world’s most populous country, India is set to play an increasingly central role in efforts to safeguard energy security, drive inclusive energy transitions, and combat climate

	<p>change. India is yet to get full-time membership in the International Energy Agency (IEA). So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p> <p>The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) had been formed in 1967 by 5 countries, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia. Brunei joined it when it became independent in 1984. Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam joined in 1997 and Cambodia in 1999, bringing its total membership to its current strength of 10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ASEAN was formed to promote social, economic and cultural cooperation as well as regional peace and security. ➤ The members of ASEAN opened their economies steadily to trade and investment with each other as well as with other countries, especially the West. ➤ India became a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN in 1992. In 1996, it became a Full Dialogue Partner and also a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). ➤ India is not a member of ASEAN primarily due to its geographical location. So, Statement 3 is not correct. <p>North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), military alliance established in 1949 that sought to create a counterweight to Soviet armies stationed in central and eastern Europe after World War II.</p> <p>Following the end of the Cold War, NATO was reconceived as a “cooperative-security” organization. It has 32 member states, and India is not a member of NATO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NATO’s original members in 1949 were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. ➤ The countries that joined NATO after its founding are Greece and Turkey (1952); West Germany (1955; from 1990 as Germany); Spain (1982); the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland (1999); Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia (2004); Albania and Croatia (2009); Montenegro (2017); North Macedonia (2020); Finland (2023); and Sweden (2024). So, Statement 4 is not correct.
<p align="center"><u>Q.NO. 44</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements about turmeric during the year 2022-23:</p> <p>I. India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric in the world.</p> <p>II. More than 30 varieties of turmeric are</p>	<p align="center"><u>TEST 25 – Q.NO.36</u></p> <p>With reference to the “National Turmeric Board” in India, consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a statutory body. 2. It is a regulatory body attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. 3. Its head office is situated in Nizamabad. 4. It contains representatives from exporters and producers bodies.

grown in India.

III. Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are major turmeric producing States in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION:

The National Turmeric Board (NTB) was established by the Government of India that functions as a regulatory body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The NTB is not a statutory body, as it was established through a government notification and not by an act of Parliament. **So, Statements 1 and 2 are not correct.**

The National Turmeric Board will provide leadership on turmeric related matters, augment the efforts, and facilitate greater coordination with Spices Board and other Government agencies in development and growth of the turmeric sector.

In addition to representatives from various ministries, the National Turmeric Board will also include members from exporter and producer bodies.

The headquarters of the Board has been set up at Nizamabad., Telangana. **So, Statements 3 and 4 are correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NATIONAL TURMERIC BOARD

Recently in News	Union Minister of Commerce and Industry on (January 14, 2025), inaugurated the National Turmeric Board (NTB) to be headquartered in Nizamabad with Palle Ganga Reddy as its first chairperson at New Delhi.
About	<p>The National Turmeric Board will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country.</p> <p>India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. India has more than 62% share of world trade.</p> <p>During 2023-24, 1.62 lakh tonnes of turmeric and turmeric products valued at 226.5 million USD was exported.</p>
National Turmeric Board	➤ The National Turmeric Board will have a Chairperson appointed by the Central Government and members from various ministries, including AYUSH, Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, and Commerce & Industry.

- It will also include state government representatives (on a rotation basis), research institutions, turmeric farmers, and exporters.
- A Secretary will be appointed by the Department of Commerce.

TEST 26 – Q.NO.71

With reference to turmeric, which one of the following statements is **not** correct ?

- (a) It is a perennial herbaceous plant of the ginger family.
- (b) India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world.
- (c) Turmeric is known as the ‘Golden Spice’.
- (d) **Lakadong Turmeric is a variant of turmeric found in the state of Assam.**

EXPLANATION:

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) is a perennial herbaceous plant of the ginger family; the tuberous rhizomes (underground stems) of which have been used from antiquity as a condiment, a textile dye, and medically as an aromatic stimulant. Native to southern India and Indonesia, turmeric is widely cultivated on the mainland and in the islands of the Indian Ocean. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. In the year 2022-23, an area of 3.24 lakh ha was under turmeric cultivation in India with a production of 11.61 lakh tonnes (over 75% of global turmeric production).

- India has more than 62% share of world trade. During 2023-24, 1.62 lakh tonnes of turmeric and turmeric products valued at 226.5 million USD were exported.
- More than 30 varieties of Turmeric are grown in India and it is grown in over 20 states in the country. The largest producing states of Turmeric are Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

Turmeric is an ancient spice derived from the rhizomes of *Curcuma longa*, which is a member of the ginger family (Zingiberaceae). Also known as ‘Golden Spice of India,’ turmeric has been used in India for medicinal purposes for centuries.

It has been used in traditional medicine as a household remedy for various diseases, including biliary disorders, anorexia, cough, diabetic wounds, hepatic disorders, rheumatism and sinusitis. In addition to its use as a spice and pigment, turmeric and its constituents mainly curcumin and essential oils shows a wide spectrum of biological actions. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

The Lakadong turmeric is considered one of the best in the world due to its medicinal properties and curcumin content of up to 12%. The curcumin content of other turmeric varieties is 2-3%. Geographical indication (GI) tag for Lakadong was started in 2019 to prevent the unauthorised use of the unique variety. Lakadong turmeric is a variant of turmeric found in the state of Meghalaya (not in Assam) received the GI tag in November 2023. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NATIONAL TURMERIC BOARD	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Board will pay special attention to the welfare of the turmeric farmers spread across 20 states, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and others. ➤ There is immense potential in increasing turmeric production in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and formation of the Turmeric Board will boost income of turmeric producers in the country. ➤ The National Turmeric Board, is headquartered at Nizamabad, Telangana. ➤ In addition to the Chairperson of the Board, representatives of Ministry of AYUSH, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Department of Agriculture &



- Farmers Welfare and Department of Commerce have also been nominated.
- Representatives from the top two turmeric growing states of Maharashtra and Telangana and from the state of Meghalaya, which is famous for its Lakadong Turmeric, will also be part of the Board.
 - States will be represented on the Board by rotation. The National Turmeric Board will focus on the overall development and growth of the turmeric sector in the country.

Q.NO. 47

Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

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

Statement II:

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

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

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

TEST NO.02 – Q.NO.59

Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

The isotherms closer to the equator show minimal variation, even during the months of extreme seasonal temperatures.

Statement-II :

The insolation near the equator is consistent throughout the year.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

The temperature distribution is generally shown on the map with the help of isotherms. The Isotherms are lines joining places having equal temperatures. The isotherms can be drawn to show the temperature distribution of any given period, such as a day, a month or a season. The isotherms of the months of January and July are more interesting for climatologists as these are the months of climatic extremes in both hemispheres.

Month of January	Month of July
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In January, the Winter season begins in the northern hemisphere, and the summer season begins in the southern hemisphere. ➤ Its main reason is the position of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The sun's position is vertically overhead near the tropic of Cancer in July. ➤ Therefore, the northern hemisphere experiences summer seasons. ➤ High temperatures are experienced in the

sun, which is vertically overhead near the tropic of Capricorn.

- High-temperature regions are in the southern hemisphere, i.e. north-west Argentina, east-central Africa, Borneo and central Australia.
- We can see Isotherms of 30° Celsius passing through these regions.

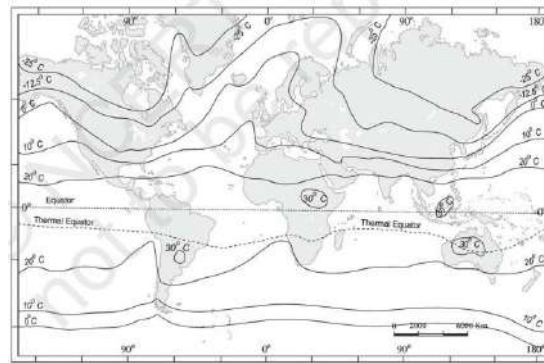


Figure 9.4 (a): The distribution of surface air temperature in the month of January

entire northern hemisphere, and an isotherms line of 30° Celsius is located between 10° north and 40° north latitudes. Places like the south-eastern U.S.A, the Sahara, Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, the Gobi Desert, Chani and Thar Desert of India have high temperatures.

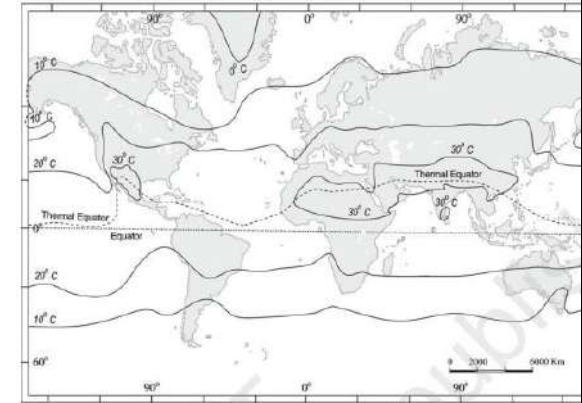


Figure 9.4 (b): The distribution of surface air temperature in the month of July

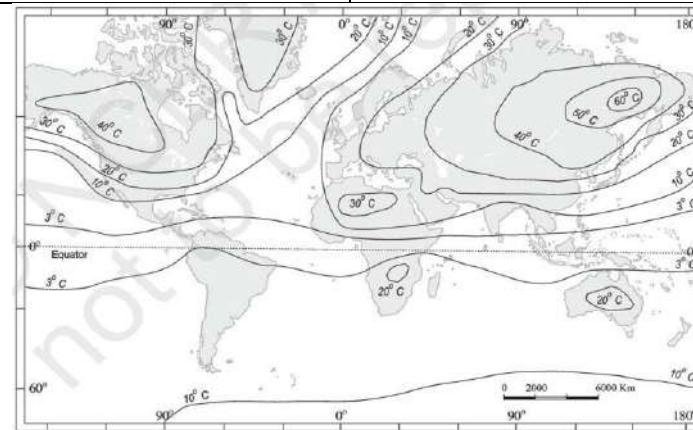
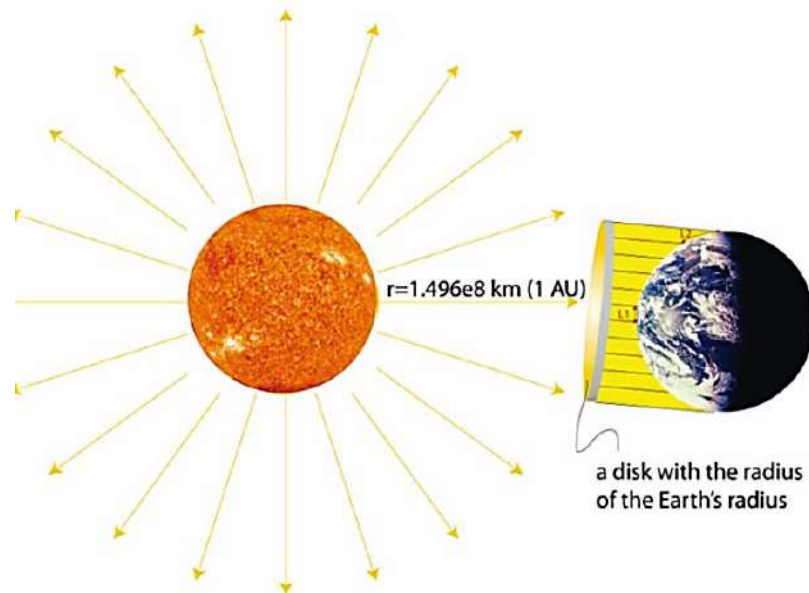


Figure 9.5: The range of temperature between January and July

From the above study of the isotherms line of January and July, we found lines change very little in position over the equator. **So, Statement I is correct.**

The earth's surface receives most of its energy in short wavelengths. The energy received by the earth is known as incoming solar radiation which in short is termed insolation. The total amount of solar energy received varies as per different latitudes. It is intense in amount at the lower latitudes and gradually decreases towards higher latitudes. The vertical position of the sun's rays at the equator almost throughout the year, favours the high amount of isolations consistently. The inclination of the sun's rays increases from the equator (low latitude) to the poles (high latitudes). **So, Statement II is correct.**



Hence, due to consistent insolation at the equator, we find very little change in the isotherm lines. **Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I**

Q.NO. 49

Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

TEST NO.20 – Q.NO.47

Consider the following statements :

Statement I :

The temperature decreases with an increase in altitude until the Karman line is reached.

Statement II :

Earth's surface absorbs incoming solar radiation and heats the atmosphere from below.

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

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

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

EXPLANATION:

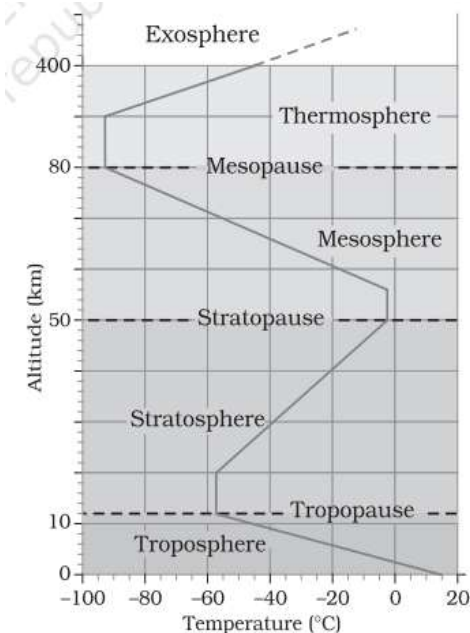
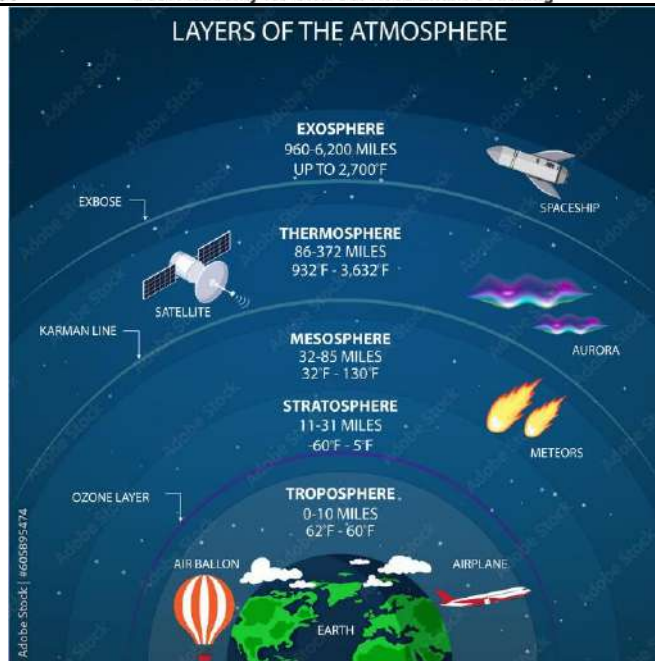
Earth's atmosphere is a multi-layered gas envelope held by gravity. It contains gases and tiny suspended particles. Based on thermal characteristics, Earth's atmosphere is said to have five layers: the troposphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Thermosphere and Exosphere. The temperature difference that can be seen in different Atmospheric Layers are mentioned below:

- Troposphere (lowest layer): Temperature decreases with altitude.(above sea level to 10 km)
- Stratosphere: Temperature increases with altitude due to the ozone layer absorbing UV radiation.
- Mesosphere: Temperature decreases with height (50-90 km).
- Thermosphere: Temperature increases with altitude due to high-energy solar radiation.
- Exosphere: It is the outermost layer .

The Karman Line is an imaginary line located in 100 km above sea level, it marks the boundary between Earth's atmosphere and space. There is no major difference in air pressure or composition across it.

The approximate boundary between our atmosphere and outer space, known as the Kármán Line, is in the thermosphere, at an altitude of about 100 km.

In the lower layers of the Earth's atmosphere (mainly the troposphere), the temperature typically decreases with increasing altitude until you reach the Kármán line, which is considered the boundary between the Earth's atmosphere and outer space, located at an altitude of approximately 100 kilometres (62 miles). . **So, Statement I is not correct.**



The Earth absorbs most of the energy reaching its surface, and a small fraction is reflected. In total, approximately 70% of incoming radiation is absorbed by the atmosphere and the Earth's surface, while around 30% is reflected back to space and does not heat the surface. The Earth radiates energy at wavelengths much longer than the Sun because it is colder. Part of this longwave radiation is absorbed by greenhouse gases, which then radiate energy into all directions, including downwards and, thereby trapping heat in the atmosphere. **So, Statement II is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

LAYERS OF THE ATMOSPHERE

About

The Earth's atmosphere is divided into several layers, each with unique characteristics.

Troposphere

The troposphere is the lowest layer, extending up to about 10 km above sea level. It contains 99% of atmospheric water vapor, making it home to most clouds. As altitude

increases, air pressure decreases, and temperatures drop.

Stratosphere

Above the troposphere, the stratosphere extends up to 50 km. This layer contains the ozone layer, which absorbs UV radiation, increasing temperature with altitude. The stratosphere lacks turbulence, making it ideal for commercial jets. The jet stream flows near its boundary with the troposphere.

Mesosphere

The mesosphere extends up to 85 km. It is the coldest layer, with temperatures reaching -90°C. Most meteors burn up here, and air pressure is extremely low.

Thermosphere

Above the mesosphere, the thermosphere absorbs high-energy X-rays and UV radiation, causing extreme temperatures between 500°C and 2,000°C. Despite this, the air is too thin to feel heat. The Kármán Line (100 km) lies within this layer, marking the transition to space. Many satellites orbit in this region.

Exosphere

The exosphere is the outermost layer, gradually fading into space. Air particles here are sparse and slowly escape into space. The boundary varies but can extend up to 190,000 km, nearly halfway to the Moon.

Ionosphere

The ionosphere is not a distinct layer but overlaps parts of the mesosphere and thermosphere. Solar radiation ionizes gases, creating electrically charged particles. This layer is responsible for phenomena like the aurora borealis and aurora australis.

**Solar
Radiation**

Solar radiation is shortwave, high-energy radiation, including visible light. It is the total visible and invisible electromagnetic radiation emitted by the Sun.

When solar radiation is absorbed, it transfers its energy to the Earth's surface or atmosphere, causing the temperature of the land, air, or water to increase.

Because Earth is much cooler than the Sun, it re-radiates energy as longwave, lower-energy wavelengths than it absorbs.

This absorbed energy is re-radiated as infrared radiation, which we feel as heat.



TEST NO.02 – Q.NO.55

Consider the following statements :

1. The atmosphere is primarily heated by reflected solar radiation.
2. Carbon dioxide is transparent to the incoming solar radiation.
3. Water vapour does not contribute to the greenhouse effect.

How many of the above statements are **not** correct ?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

EXPLANATION:

The insolation the earth receives is in short waveforms and heats up its surface. After being heated, the earth becomes a radiating body, and it radiates energy to the atmosphere in the long waveform. This energy heats up the atmosphere from below. The air in contact with the land gets heated slowly, and the upper layers in contact with the lower layers also get heated. This process is known as terrestrial radiation. Thus, The atmosphere is primarily heated by reflected solar radiation. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The greenhouse effect occurs through radiation energy from the sun in the form of ultraviolet, visible and near-infrared radiation that is captured by the planet's atmosphere to warm the planet's surface—it is essential to support life. Carbon dioxide is Earth's most important greenhouse gas: a gas that absorbs and radiates heat. Unlike oxygen or nitrogen (which make up most of our atmosphere), greenhouse gases absorb heat radiating from the Earth's surface and re-release it in all directions—including back toward Earth's surface. Without carbon dioxide, Earth's natural greenhouse effect would be too weak to keep the average global surface temperature above freezing. By adding more carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, people are supercharging the natural greenhouse effect, causing global temperatures to rise. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

About 75 % of the solar energy reaching the earth is absorbed by the earth's surface, which increases its temperature. The rest of the heat radiates back to the atmosphere. Some of the heat is trapped by gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, chlorofluorocarbon compounds (CFCs) and water vapour in the atmosphere. Thus, they add to the heating of the atmosphere. This causes global warming. Water vapour does contribute to the greenhouse effect by trapping heat radiated from the Earth's surface. **Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

HEAT BUDGET

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The earth as a whole does not accumulate or loose heat. It maintains its temperature. This can happen only if the amount of heat received in the form of insolation equals the amount lost by the earth through terrestrial radiation. ➤ Consider that the insolation received at the top of the atmosphere is 100 per cent. While passing through the atmosphere, some amount of energy is reflected, scattered and absorbed. Only the remaining part reaches the earth's surface. ➤ Roughly 35 units are reflected back to space even before reaching the earth's surface. ➤ Of these, 27 units are reflected back from the top of the clouds and 2 units from the snow and ice-covered areas of the earth. The reflected amount of radiation is called the albedo of the earth. ➤ The remaining 65 units are absorbed, 14 units within the atmosphere and 51 units by the earth's surface. ➤ The earth radiates back 51 units in the form of terrestrial radiation. Of these, 17 units are radiated to space directly, and the remaining 34 units are absorbed by the atmosphere (6 units absorbed directly by the atmosphere, 9 units through convection and turbulence and 19 units through latent heat of condensation). ➤ 48 units absorbed by the atmosphere (14 units from insolation +34 units from terrestrial radiation) are also radiated back into space. ➤ Thus, the total radiation returning from the earth and the atmosphere respectively is $17+48=65$ units which balance the total of 65 units received from the sun. This is termed the heat budget or heat balance of the earth.
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Q.NO. 51

Consider the following Statements:

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

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

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

TEST NO. 15 – Q.NO.19

Consider the following statements :

1. The enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act gave the constitutional status to the Panchayat Raj institutions.
2. The 73rd Amendment act gave a definite shape to Article 40 of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION:

The 73rd Amendment Act of 1992 added a new Part IX to the constitution titled “The Panchayats”, covering provisions from Articles 243 to 243(O), and a new Eleventh Schedule covering 29 subjects within the functions of the Panchayats. Thus, the 73rd Amendment Act gave the Panchayat Raj institutions constitutional status. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The 73rd Amendment 1992 implements article 40 of the DPSP, which says that “State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government” and have upgraded them from non-justifiable to justifiable part of the constitution and has put a constitutional obligation upon states to enact the Panchayati Raj Acts as per provisions of the Part IX. However, states have been given enough freedom to consider their geographical, politico-administrative and other conditions while adopting the Panchayati Raj System. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

73RD AMENDMENT OF PANCHAYATI RAJ IN INDIA

Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gram Sabha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gram Sabha is a body consisting of all the persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level. ○ Gram Sabha is the only permanent unit in the Panchayati Raj system and has not been constituted for a particular period. Although it serves as the
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- foundation of the Panchayati Raj, it is not among the three tiers of the same.
- The powers and functions of Gram Sabha are fixed by the state legislature by law.
- 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 a 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. But at the village level, the election of the chairperson of 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 for reservation of seats for SCs and STs at every level of Panchayat. The seats are to be reserved for SCs and STs in proportion to their population at each level.
 - Out of the Reserved Seats, 1/3rd have to be reserved for the women of the SC and ST.
 - Out of the total number of seats to be filled by the direct elections, 1/3rd have to be reserved for women. There has been a pending amendment bill that seeks to increase reservations 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 reservations for the offices of the Chairpersons.
- Duration of Panchayats
- A clear term for 5 years has been provided for the Panchayats, and elections must occur before the expiry of the term. However, the Panchayat may be dissolved earlier on specific grounds in accordance with the state legislation.
 - In that case, the elections must take place before the expiry of 6 months of the dissolution.



- Disqualification of Members
 - Article 243F makes provisions for disqualifications from the membership. As per this article, any person who is qualified to become an MLA is qualified to become a member of the Panchayat, but for Panchayat, the minimum age prescribed is 21 years. Further, the disqualification criteria are to be decided by the state legislature by law.
- Finance Commission

State Government needs to appoint a finance commission every five years, which shall review the financial position of the Panchayats and make recommendations on the following:

 - The Distribution of the taxes, duties, tolls, fees, etc., levied by the State, which is to be divided between the Panchayats.
 - Allocation of proceeds between various tiers.
 - Taxes, tolls, fees assigned to Panchayats
 - Grant in aids.

This report of the Finance Commission would be laid on the table in the State legislature. Further, the Union Finance Commission also suggests the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Funds of States to supplement the resources of the panchayats in the states.

Q.NO. 52

Consider the following statements in respect of BIMSTEC:

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

TEST NO.21 – Q.NO.72

With reference to the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), consider the following statements:

1. BIMSTEC Summit has the authority to admit new members into the grouping.
2. BIMSTEC is considered a legal personality.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization that was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration. The BIMSTEC is open to new members and observers after a historic first charter of the grouping came into force on 20 May 2024.

- With the coming into force of the Charter, which was adopted at the 5th summit of the BIMSTEC leaders, the grouping has acquired a 'legal personality' and will be able to enter into structured diplomatic dialogue with other groupings and countries. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The BIMSTEC Summit is the supreme decision-making body in BIMSTEC, comprising the heads of state and government of BIMSTEC member states. The Charter establishes the legal and institutional framework for cooperation in the region, confers legal personality on the organisation, enables admission of new members and observers, and empowers the conclusion of agreements with other countries and organizations. So, Statement 1 is correct.
- It enables the BIMSTEC to engage with the UN and other international organizations as well as regional organizations to pursue development partnerships to enhance cooperation in the Bay of Bengal region and deal with shared developmental and security-related challenges.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BIMSTEC	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Initially known as BIST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation), the organization is now known as BIMSTEC and comprises seven Member States, with the admission of Myanmar on 22 December 1997 and Bhutan and Nepal in February 2004.➤ On 06 June 1997, representatives of the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand came together in Bangkok and signed the 'Declaration on the Establishment of the Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIST-EC)'.➤ The main aim of the regional group was the promotion of economic cooperation between countries bordering the Bay of Bengal.➤ Cooperation within the BIMSTEC will be complementary to and not be a substitute for bilateral, sub-regional, regional or multilateral cooperation involving the Member States.➤ BIMSTEC, as an inter-governmental organization, is hereby conferred legal personality.➤ The BIMSTEC Secretariat was established in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Members of BIMSTEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Member States of BIMSTEC are the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Republic of India, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nepal, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and the Kingdom of Thailand.
Rights and Obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Member States of BIMSTEC shall have equal rights and obligations under this Charter.➤ The Member States of BIMSTEC shall take all measures that they deem necessary, including enactment of appropriate domestic legislation to effectively implement provisions of this Charter and to comply with all obligations of membership.



TEST NO.05 – Q.NO.36

In which one of the following groups are all four countries members of BIMSTEC ?

- (a) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
- (b) Indonesia, Japan, South Korea and Singapore
- (c) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- (d) **India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Thailand**

EXPLANATION:

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization that was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration. Initially known as BIST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation), the organisation is now known as BIMSTEC and comprises seven Member States with the admission of Myanmar on 22 December 1997, and Bhutan and Nepal in February 2004. On 06 June 1997, representatives of the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand came together in Bangkok, and signed the 'Declaration on the Establishment of the Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIST-EC)'. The Member states of BIMSTEC are, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BIMSTEC	
About	<p>BIMSTEC is a five-tiered organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Summit comprising the Heads of State or Government of the Member States➤ The Ministerial Meeting comprising the Ministers dealing with foreign relations of the Member States➤ The Sectoral Ministerial Meetings comprising the Ministers of line ministries responsible for carrying out the activities of the respective sectors➤ The Senior Officials' Meeting consisting of the Foreign Secretaries/ Secretaries/ appropriate Senior officials nominated by the BIMSTEC Member States➤ The BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) comprising senior officials of the respective National Focal Points.

Q.NO. 55

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

TEST NO.23 – Q.NO.56

25. Consider the following pairs :

Sl. No.	International agreement/set up		Subject
1.	Bletchley Declaration	-	Addressing the risk of Artificial Intelligence
2.	Cyberspace Declaration	-	Application of international law to cyberspace by the United Nations.
3.	Pact for the future	-	Global climate compact

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION:

The “Bletchley Declaration” – described by the UK Government as a ‘world-first’ agreement – was endorsed by 28 countries (including the US, Saudi Arabia, China and the UK) and the European Union (EU).

The Declaration signifies a collective commitment to proactively manage potential risks associated with so-called “frontier AI” (i.e., highly capable general-purpose AI models) to ensure such models are developed and deployed in a safe and responsible way. In particular, the signatories commit through the Declaration to identify AI safety risks (primarily through scientific and evidence-based research) and to build risk-based policies to ensure safety in light of such risks. **So, Pair (1) is correct.**

Recently, the European Council approved a declaration by the European Union (EU) (Not by United Nations) and its member states on a common understanding of the application of international law to cyberspace. The Declaration acknowledges that malicious behaviour in cyberspace, including ransomware, is increasing in scale, severity, sophistication, and impact, presenting a major challenge and threat to the functioning of European societies, economies, and way of life. **So, Pair (2) is not correct.**

World leaders adopt a Pact for the Future that includes a Global Digital Compact (Not a Global

Climate Pact) and a Declaration on Future Generations. The Pact covers a broad range of themes, including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations, and the transformation of global governance. Its primary objective is to ensure that international institutions are equipped to navigate a world vastly different from the one in which they were created. **So, Pair (3) is not correct.**

Q.NO. 57

Consider the following statements with regard to BRICS:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

TEST NO.27 – Q.NO.97

As of now the BRICS, an intergovernmental organization, which of the following are the members?

1. Nigeria
2. Egypt
3. Ethiopia
4. Indonesia
5. Iran
6. United Arab Emirates

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, Indonesia became the first Southeast Asian nation to join BRICS formally.

- BRICS is an informal grouping of countries that has evolved into an intergovernmental organization. It has become a pivotal force in shaping the global economic landscape, fostering cooperation in trade, investment, technology, and global governance.
- Initially comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the bloc expanded following the 2023 BRICS summit, which formally invited Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates to join.
- **In 2025, Indonesia became a full member, further strengthening the group's global influence.**

- BRICS nations collectively represent approximately 3.3 billion people, accounting for over 40% of the world's population. Their economies contribute an estimated 37.3% of global GDP, highlighting their significant economic weight.
- With vast consumer markets and a large workforce, BRICS has emerged as a key driver of global economic growth, playing a crucial role in reshaping the international economic order.
- The BRICS heads of state meet annually, with each member assuming a one-year chairmanship to set priorities and host the summit. The bloc operates on consensus-based decision-making and remains largely informal, lacking a charter, secretariat, or common funds. Russia currently holds the chairmanship for 2024.

Thus, except Nigeria, All the other countries are members of BRICS. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

■ Founding member ■ New member ■ Prospective member





TEST NO.01 – Q.NO.04

26. Consider the following countries:

1. Egypt
2. UAE
3. Argentina
4. Iran
5. Ethiopia

How many of the above-mentioned countries have recently joined the BRICS grouping as full-time permanent members?

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

EXPLANATION:

BRICS is an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Economist Jim O'Neill created the term BRIC in 2001 (for Brazil, Russia, India, and China) with the belief that these economies would dominate global growth by 2050. South Africa was added to the list in 2010. BRICS is an informal group of states. Till 2023, BRICS comprises the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa as the permanent members.

In January 2024, Under Russia's Presidency, BRICS announced the induction of five full members as part of an expansion of the groupings. The grouping has become a 10-nation body now, with Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates joining as its new members, awaiting confirmation from Saudi Arabia. Argentina has withdrawn the country from becoming a member of BRICS groupings. **So, Option (c) is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BRICS	
Recently in News	Five new nations become full members of BRICS.
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The leaders of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) countries met for the first time in St. Petersburg, Russia, on the margins of the G8 Outreach Summit in July 2006. Shortly afterwards, in September 2006, the group was formalised as BRIC during the 1st BRIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which met on the sidelines of the General Debate of the UN Assembly in New York City. ➤ After a series of high-level meetings, the 1st BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on 16 June 2009. ➤ BRIC group was renamed as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) after South Africa was accepted as a full member at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in September 2010. Accordingly, South Africa attended the 3rd BRICS Summit in Sanya, China, on 14 April 2011. ➤ The group operates as an informal confederation of nations that meets annually at the BRICS convention. There, members and heads of state seek to build economic cooperation between the nations. ➤ The head of state of a member nation acts as the chairman of the group, rotating once a year.

TEST NO.10 – Q.NO.13

27. The term “BRICS Bridge”, recently seen in the news, is related to :

- (a) **A proposed cross-border settlement system.**
- (b) A joint infrastructure project connecting BRICS nations.
- (c) Human space missions by BRICS nations.
- (d) A trade agreement focused on agricultural exports in BRICS nations.

EXPLANATION:

The BRICS Bridge initiative refers to a proposed digital payment platform aimed at facilitating cross-border transactions between BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) countries in their respective local currencies, bypassing the US dollar and Western financial systems.

BRICS Bridge is set to revolutionise the remittance landscape by offering a secure, low-cost alternative to existing payment systems. This new infrastructure could reshape how funds are transferred across borders, benefiting individuals and businesses while challenging traditional financial networks.

By bypassing traditional intermediaries and facilitating direct currency exchange, the BRICS Bridge can significantly reduce transaction costs, especially for remittances.

The BRICS Bridge could promote financial inclusion by providing access to affordable and efficient payment services for underserved populations. By creating an independent payment system, the BRICS nations can reduce their reliance on Western-dominated financial infrastructure, strengthening their economic sovereignty. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BRICS BRIDGE	
Recently in news	In its role as BRICS chair for 2024, Russia announced plans ahead of the Kazan summit to create the BRICS Cross-Border Payment Initiative (BCBPI) and develop an alternative to Swift for use by BRICS expanding group of member states.
About	The new payments messaging system, also known as Brics Bridge and Brics Clear, would aim to provide genuine alternatives to the US dollar which remains dominant in international trade in favour of the bloc's own currencies; this, in turn, would curtail the US's economic influence and limit its ability to use the dollar "as a weapon", in Putin's words, against the bloc's member states.
Origin of BRIC	Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill originally coined the term in a 2001 research paper in which he argued that the growth of what was then the "BRIC" countries (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) was poised to challenge the dominant G7 wealthy economies.

BRICS Nations

- The BRICS is a forum for cooperation among a group of leading emerging economies.
- The BRICS includes nine countries: Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, the Russian Federation, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates.
 - Established in 2009, BRICS was founded on the premise that international institutions were overly dominated by Western powers and had ceased to serve developing countries.
 - The bloc has sought to coordinate its members' economic and diplomatic policies, found new financial institutions, and reduce dependence on the U.S. dollar.

■ Original members ■ New members



BRICS Presidency in 2024

- The Russian Federation holds the BRICS Presidency in 2024.
- The priorities of the Russian Presidency are:
- Policy and security
 - Cooperation in economy and finance
 - Cooperation in the humanitarian and cultural spheres.

TEST NO.14 – Q.NO.14

28. Which of the following statements about the Kazan declaration is correct ?

- (a) **It is to strengthen multilateralism for global development and security among BRICS countries.**
- (b) It is a trade agreement to promote economic cooperation between the World Trade Organization (WTO) members.
- (c) It is an environmental treaty signed between the United Nations member countries to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions.
- (d) It is the comprehensive economic cooperation agreement between India and Australia.

EXPLANATION:

The 16th BRICS Summit was held under Russia's Chairship, in Kazan, October 2024. The Summit provided an important platform for strengthening dialogue and cooperation between the New Development Bank and BRICS as well as other emerging markets and developing countries

The BRICS leaders had productive discussions including on strengthening multilateralism, countering terrorism, fostering economic growth, pursuing sustainable development and bringing spotlight on the concerns of the Global South. The leaders welcomed the 13 new BRICS partner countries.

The meeting in Kazan underlined BRICS's ambition to foster relations with the Global South, and its aim of shaping an alternative multipolar world order, particularly in the global financial and trade system.

Kazan Declaration 16th BRICS Summit held under the theme: "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security".

So, Option (a) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BRICS	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ BRICS is an intergovernmental organisation that is comprised of Brazil, China, India, Russia, and South Africa. On 1 January 2024, BRICS admitted four new members: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia has been invited to join but has yet to accept the invitation. ➤ BRICS represents about 45% of the world's population (compared with the G7's 10%) and accounts for 37.3% of global gross domestic product –more than twice as much as

	<p>the EU (14.5 %).</p> <p>➤ The recent expansion stresses BRICS's goal to create an alternative world order by giving greater prominence to the perspectives of the Global South and making them more central to global discussions.</p>
<p>Q.NO. 60</p> <p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>I. In the finals of the 45th Chess Olympiad held in 2024, Gukesh Dommaraju became the world's youngest winner after defeating the Russian player Lan Nepomniachtchi.</p> <p>II. Abhimanyu Mishra, an American chess player, holds the record of becoming world's youngest ever Grandmaster.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?</p> <p>(a) I only (b) II only (c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II</p>	<p>AIMT3 – Q.NO.90</p> <p>29. With reference to Chess, consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Chess Olympiad is conducted as a part of the Summer Olympics. 2. India has won both men's and women's gold medals in the 45th Chess Olympiad 2024. 3. No chess player has received the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award so far. <p>How many of the above statements is/are correct ?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>The Chess Olympiad is a team tournament for chess players from all over the world. The event is organised by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and is held every two years, not part of the Summer Olympics. The first Olympiad was held in 1927, and the event has been held regularly since 1950. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) considers chess a sport and recognises the International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation (FIDE) as an official federation. Yet, chess is not yet an Olympic sport. So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> <p>Both Indian Men and Women teams won their first-ever gold medals at the 45th Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary.</p> <p>The men's team clinched their victory by defeating Slovenia in the final round. Star players like D Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, and R Praggnanandhaa were pivotal in their success, particularly shining in the 11th round. Meanwhile, the women's team triumphed over Azerbaijan with a dominant 3.5-0.5 score to seal their gold medal. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p>

D Gukesh became the 18th World Chess Champion by defeating Ding Liren (CHN). He is also the youngest world champion determined in a match format. After Vishwanathan Anand, Gukesh became the second Indian to become a World Champion. Before that, he also won double Gold at the 45th Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary. Both Gukesh and Vantika won individual and team Gold. D. Gukesh received the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2024. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

Q.NO. 66

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

TEST NO.27 – Q.NO.98

Consider the following statements :

1. Both Indian and American constitutions provide pardoning powers to their Presidents.
2. The pardoning power of the Indian President is an executive power.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the President of India to grant pardons to persons who have been tried and convicted of any offence in all cases where the:

- Punishment or sentence is for an offence against a Union Law;
- Punishment or sentence is by a court martial (military court);
- The sentence is a sentence of death.

The pardoning power of the President of India is independent of the Judiciary; it is an executive power. However, the President, while exercising this power, does not sit as a court of appeal. The objective of conferring this power on the President is two-fold: to keep the door open for correcting any judicial errors in the operation of law and to afford relief from a sentence which the President regards as unduly harsh.

The American Constitution provides the President with the right to grant reprieves or pardons under Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution. This near-absolute authority is notably insulated from oversight -- neither Congress nor the Judiciary can review or overturn it.

Therefore, Both Indian and American constitutions provide pardoning powers to their Presidents, and the Pardoning power of the President of India is an executive power. **So, Statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

Q.NO. 67

Consider the following statements :

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

TEST 8 – Q.NO.22,70

Consider the following statements :

1. The Speaker of Lok Sabha can be removed by an ordinary majority.
2. The Speaker of Lok Sabha submits their resignation to the President of India.
3. The Speaker vacates the office once the newly elected Lok Sabha meets.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION :

Part V, Article-94 of the Indian constitution deals with the vacation and resignation of, and removal from, the offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

The term of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker is co-terminus with the Lok Sabha. However, the office may terminate early also, if he/she ceases to be a member of the House or resigns or is removed from office by a resolution, passed by a absolute majority of all the members of the House. **So,**

Statement 1 is not correct.

A member holding office as Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the House of the People—

- Shall vacate his office if he ceases to be a member of the House of the People;
- May at any time, by writing under his hand addressed, if such member is the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, and if such member is the Deputy Speaker, to the Speaker, resign his office;

So, Statement 2 is not correct.

- May be removed from his office by a resolution of the House of the People passed by a majority of all the then members of the House:

Provided that no resolution for the purpose of clause (c) shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution:

Provided further that, whenever the House of the People is dissolved, the Speaker shall not vacate his office until immediately before the first meeting of the House of the People after the dissolution.

So, Statement 3 is correct.



Consider the following statements :

In a scenario when the resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration, then

1. The Speaker can preside over the House.
2. The Speaker shall have the right to speak in the House
3. The Speaker can take part in the proceedings of the House
4. The Speaker shall have the right to vote for equality of votes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION :

The Speaker is elected by the Lok Sabha from amongst its members (as soon as may be, after its first sitting). Whenever the office of the Speaker falls vacant, the Lok Sabha elects another member to fill the vacancy. The date of election of the Speaker is fixed by the President. Usually, the Speaker remains in office during the life of the Lok Sabha. However, he has to vacate his office earlier in any of the following three cases:

- if he ceases to be a member of the Lok Sabha;
- if he resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker; and
- if he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all then members of the Lok Sabha. Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice.

When a resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration of the House, Under Article 96(1) in the Constitution of India, The Speaker or the Deputy Speaker not to preside while a resolution for his removal from office is under consideration .At any sitting of the House of the People, while any resolution for the removal of the Speaker from his office is under consideration, the Speaker, or while any resolution for the removal of the Deputy Speaker from his office is under consideration, the Deputy Speaker, shall not, though he is present, preside, and the provisions of clause (2) of article 95 shall apply in relation to every such sitting as they apply in relation to a sitting from which the Speaker, or, as the case may be, the Deputy Speaker, is absent. **So, Statement 1 is not correct**

Under article 96(2) in the Indian constitution, The Speaker shall have the right to speak in, and otherwise to take part in the proceedings of, the House of the People while any resolution for his

removal from office is under consideration in the House and shall, notwithstanding anything in article 100, be entitled to vote only in the first instance on such resolution or on any other matter during such proceedings but not in the case of an equality of votes. **So, Statement 2 is correct, Statement 3 is correct, and Statement 4 is not correct.**

Q.NO. 68

Consider the following statements:

- I. If any question arises as to whether a Member of the House of the People has become subject to disqualification under the 10th Schedule, the President's decision in accordance with the opinion of the Council of Union Ministers shall be final.
- II. There is not mention of the word 'political party' in the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST- 2 – Q.NO.13

Which of the following is/are the provisions of the 10th Schedule to the Indian Constitution ?

1. The Speaker's decision of disqualification is subject to judicial review, initially at the High Court and thereafter, through an appeal in the Supreme Court.
2. Disqualification petitions under the 10th Schedule are to be decided within three months from the date of filing.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

The Anti-Defection Law, added by the 52nd Amendment Act 1985, disqualifies legislators who defect from their party. It introduced Tenth Schedule and aimed to prevent political instability. The 91st Amendment Act 2003 later removed the exemption for party splits to stop misuse, allowing disqualification unless a merger involves two-thirds of members.

- Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be decided by the presiding officer of the House. Originally, the act provided that the decision of the presiding officer is final and cannot be questioned in any court.
- However, in the Kihoto Hollohan case (1993), the Supreme Court declared this provision unconstitutional on the grounds that it seeks to take away the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and the high courts. It held that the presiding officer while deciding a question under the Tenth Schedule, functions as a tribunal.
- Hence, his decision, like that of any other tribunal, is subject to judicial review on the grounds of mala fides, perversity, etc. Thus, the appeal was first made in the concerned High Court and thereafter appealed against the High Court order in the Supreme Court. However, the court rejected the contention that the vesting of adjudicatory powers in the presiding officer is by

itself invalid on the grounds of political bias. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution does not specify any timeframe for deciding on the disqualification petitions. While recently the Supreme Court has urged Speakers to act within a "reasonable time," it has not laid down a fixed period.

The Supreme Court has encouraged timely decisions in cases like *Keisham Meghachandra Singh*, but this is not a statutory requirement. While courts have set deadlines in specific cases, such as the 2023 Maharashtra case, these are case-specific directions, not rules laid out in the Tenth Schedule. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Q.NO. 69

Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

In India, State Governments have no power for making rules for grant of concessions in respect of extraction of minor minerals even though such minerals are located in their territories.

Statement II:

In India, the Central Government has the power to notify minor minerals under the relevant law.

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

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

TEST NO. 22 – Q.NO.87

Consider the following minerals :

1. Barytes
2. Felspar
3. Mica
4. Quartz

How many of the minerals given above are classified as Major minerals in India by the Ministry of Mines ?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Ministry of Mines vide gazette notification dated 20th February 2025 has shifted minerals Barytes, Felspar, Mica and Quartz from the list of minor minerals to the category of major minerals.

- Quartz, Felspar and Mica are found in pegmatite rocks, which are an important source of many critical minerals such as Beryl, Lithium, Niobium, Tantalum, Molybdenum, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, etc.
- These minerals have a vital role in various new technologies, energy transition, spacecraft industries, the healthcare sector, etc.
- When the leases of Quartz, Felspar and Mica are granted as minor mineral leases, the leaseholders do not declare the existence of critical minerals or extract the critical minerals

associated with it, such as Lithium, Beryl, etc., as their primary objective is to use these minerals as minor minerals for construction, glass / ceramic making, etc. Consequently, the critical minerals associated with these minerals are neither extracted nor reported.

- In view of the importance of these minerals, the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Mines & Minerals Sector recommended that these minerals be shifted from the list of minor minerals to the category of major minerals. Once categorised as major minerals, there would be an increase in exploration and scientific mining of these minerals which are an important source of many critical minerals. **So, Statements 1, 2, 3 and 4 are correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MINOR MINERALS IN INDIA

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minor minerals are those which are declared as such by the Central Government in the exercise of the powers conferred by Section I (A) of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957. They are further revised and notified from time to time in the Gazette of India. ➤ As minor minerals fall outside the purview of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), their statistics are collected by the State Geological Departments under the Minor Mineral Concession Rules framed by the respective State Governments for regulating the extraction of such minerals.
Minor Minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bentonite ➤ Boulder ➤ Brick earth ➤ Building Stones ➤ Chalcedony or Corundum ➤ Fuller's earth ➤ Grave ➤ Lime Stone ➤ Marble ➤ Murram ➤ Ordinary Clay



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ordinary Sand ➤ Ordinary Earth ➤ Pebbles or Kankar ➤ Quartzite and Sandstone ➤ Road metal ➤ Shale ➤ Shingle ➤ Slate
<p align="center"><u>Q.NO. 70</u></p> <p>Which organization has enacted the nature Restoration Law (NRL) to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss?</p> <p>(a) The European Union</p> <p>(b) The World Bank</p> <p>(c) The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development</p> <p>(d) The Food and Agriculture Organization</p>	<p><u>TEST NO.26 – Q.NO.84</u></p>	
	<p>With reference to Nature Restoration Law, which of the following statements is/are correct ?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The law sets legally binding targets for restoring terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems 2. It was adopted by G7 countries during COP29 to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). <p>Select the answer using the code given below :</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>The European Council formally adopted the – first of its kind – regulation on nature restoration. The Nature Restoration Regulation is the first continent-wide, comprehensive law of its kind. It is a key element of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which sets legally binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. This law aims to put measures in place to restore at least 20% of the EU’s land and sea areas by 2030, and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. It sets specific, legally binding targets and obligations for nature restoration in each of the listed ecosystems – from terrestrial to marine, freshwater and urban ecosystems. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>The Nature Restoration Law is an initiative of the European Union (EU), not the G7 countries. It was not adopted during COP29 of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p>	

Q.NO. 72

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

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

TEST NO.14 – Q.NO.100

Consider the following pairs :

Sl. No.	Corridors mentioned in the news	Their objectives
1.	India – Myanmar – Thailand Trilateral Highway	Bolstering the regional economic integration and expanding India's influence in Southeast Asia.
2.	International North-South Transport Corridor	Connects Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran
3.	India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor	Improve connectivity and economic cooperation between Asia and Europe.

How many of the pairs given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway aims to bolster regional economic integration and expand India's influence in Southeast Asia. The Kolkata-Bangkok Highway, also known as the Trilateral Highway, is an ambitious project aimed at enhancing connectivity between India, Myanmar, and Thailand. Stretching from Kolkata in India to Bangkok in Thailand, the highway will pass through Myanmar, facilitating improved trade relations and regional integration. This project, which aligns with India's Look East Policy, is part of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and is poised to be one of the longest highway projects in India. **So, Pair 1 is correct.**

International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), is a multi-modal transportation established in 12 SEP 2000 in St. Petersburg, by Iran, Russia and India for the purpose of promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States. This agreement was eventually ratified by 13 countries — India, Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Tajikistan, Turkey and Ukraine. This corridor connects India Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Islamic republic of IRAN, then is connected to St. Petersburg and North European via Russian Federation. **So, Pair 2 is Correct.**

	<p>India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is an important initiative that can add to India's maritime security and faster movement of goods between Europe and Asia. It is an ambitious plan that connects India, the Gulf, and Europe in an unprecedented trade of goods, hydrogen pipelines, data, and renewable energy. This initiative bears massive advantages to the member states and even regional non-participating countries. The countries experience intensified digital connectivity, economic diversification, and financial growth from the dividends. So, Pair 3 is Correct.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Q.NO. 75</u></p> <p>A country's fiscal deficit stands at Rs. 50,000 crores. It is receiving Rs.10,000 crores through non-debt creating capital receipts. The country's interest liabilities are Rs.1,500 crores. What is the gross primary deficit?</p> <p>(a) Rs. 48,500 crores (b) Rs. 51,500 crores (c) Rs. 58,500 crores (d) None of the above</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ALL INDIA MOCK TEST- 2 – Q.NO.57</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A fiscal deficit indicates the amount of money the Government needs to borrow, excluding the interest component. 2. A zero primary deficit indicates that the interest payment obligations of the Government is zero. 3. Effective Revenue Deficit is the difference between revenue deficit and interest payment. <p>Which of the statements given above are correct ?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) None of the above</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>A fiscal deficit is defined as the discrepancy between a government's revenue and its expenditures over a designated timeframe, usually a fiscal year. The interest payments on past loans are a significant part of that expenditure.</p> <p>In simpler terms, it represents the amount the government needs to borrow to bridge the gap between its expenses and revenues.</p> <p>A high Fiscal Deficit often stems from excessive or unnecessary government spending.</p> <p>Fiscal Deficit = Total Expenditure - Total Revenue Receipts + Recovery of Loans + Other Receipts.</p> <p>In the case of the calculation of the primary deficit, the interest component is excluded.</p> <p>So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> <p>Primary Deficit refers to the fiscal deficit of the current year excluding interest payments on previous borrowings. It highlights the government's borrowing needs based solely on current</p>

	<p>expenditures and revenues, without taking into account the interest liabilities from past debt. Primary Deficit = Fiscal Deficit – Interest Payments</p> <p>A zero primary deficit indicates that all borrowing by the government is being used solely to meet interest payments on earlier loans, not for new or current expenditure. This suggests that the government's revenue is sufficient to cover its non-interest expenses. So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p> <p>Effective Revenue Deficit is the difference between Revenue Deficit and Grants in-Aid for Creation of Capital Assets.</p> <p>Effective revenue deficit (ERD) is a new term introduced in the Union Budget 2011–12. The concept of effective revenue deficit has been suggested by the Rangarajan Committee on Public Expenditure. It is aimed to deduct the money used out of borrowing to finance capital expenditure thus creating space for increased capital spending.</p> <p>On the other hand, 'revenue deficit' (RD) is the difference between revenue receipts and revenue expenditures. Here, revenue expenditures include all the grants which the Union Government gives to the state governments and the UTs— some of which create assets.</p> <p>So, Statement 3 is not correct.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Q.NO. 76</u></p> <p>Which of the following statements with regard to recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission of India are correct?</p> <p>I. It has recommended grants of Rs.4,800 crores from the year 2022-23 to the year 2025-26 for incentivizing States to enhance educational outcomes.</p> <p>II. 45% of the net proceeds of Union taxes are to be shared with States.</p> <p>III. Rs.45,000 crores are to be kept as performance-based incentive for all States for carrying out agricultural reforms.</p> <p>IV. It reintroduced tax effort criteria to reward fiscal performance.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST 2 – Q.NO.44</u></p> <p>Which of the following is the primary criterion used to allocate the major share of union taxes to each state in India ?</p> <p>(a) Income distance (b) Demographic performance (c) Area (d) Population</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Article 270 of the Constitution provides for the scheme of distribution of net tax proceeds collected by the Union government between the Centre and the States.</p> <p>The taxes that are shared between the Centre and the States include corporation tax, personal income tax, Central GST, the Centre's share of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST), etc. This division is based on the recommendation of the Finance Commission (FC), which is constituted every five years as per the terms of Article 280. The divisible pool, however, does not include cess and surcharge that the Centre levies.</p> <p>The share of States from the divisible pool (Vertical devolution – between Union and States) stands at 41% as per the recommendation of the 15th FC. The distribution among the States (horizontal devolution) is based on various criteria mentioned below in the table:</p>

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Table 1 : The criteria for horizontal devolution among States over the last five FCs

Criteria	11th FC 2000-05	12th FC 2005-10	13th FC 2010-15	14th FC 2015-20	15th FC 2021-26
Income Distance	62.5	50	47.5	50	45
Population (1971 Census)	10	25	25	17.5	-
Population (2011 Census)	-	-	-	10	15
Area	7.5	10	10	15	15
Forest cover	-	-	-	7.5	-
Forest and ecology	-	-	-	-	10
Infrastructure index	7.5	-	-	-	-
Fiscal discipline	7.5	7.5	17.5	-	-
Demographic performance	-	-	-	-	12.5
Tax effort	5	7.5	-	-	2.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100

If we look at the Table showing how weights changed in the devolution formula across finance commissions, we can see income distance has the largest weight in the devolution formula. It was quite high at 62.5 in 2005.

Though the weight for income distance has been lowered subsequently, as States' resource-generation capacity improved, it is still quite high: 45 per cent.

Income distance' is the distance of a State's income from the State with the highest per capita income. States with lower per capita income would be given a higher share to maintain equity among States. Income distance is calculated by deducting the GSDP per capita of a state from the GSDP per capita of the state that scores the highest on this metric. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

Q.NO. 77

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

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

TEST NO.10 – Q.NO.52

The World Employment and Social Outlook report, which highlights disparities between high and low-income countries, is published by which of the following ?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) **International Labour Organization**
- (c) World Bank
- (d) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

EXPLANATION:

The International Labour Organization publishes the World Employment and Social Outlook report annually. The 2024 report reveals a complex global employment scenario. It forecasts a slight increase in global unemployment in 2024, signalling emerging labour market challenges.

- The report highlights disparities between high and low-income countries, noting higher unemployment and poverty rates in lower-income nations.
- It also points out that a significant portion of the global workforce remains in informal employment. Key concerns include worsening income inequality and the impact of inflation on real incomes, especially in G20 countries.
- The report underscores the need for policy interventions focused on social justice to ensure a fair and sustainable global economic recovery. The report highlights gender disparities in employment opportunities and earnings. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

IMPORTANT REPORTS AND INDEXES BY LEADING ORGANIZATION	
Recently in News	The September update of the World Employment and Social Outlook 2024 finds upward pressure on inequality as the labour income share stagnates and a large share of youth remains out of employment, education, or training. It also indicates slow progress on key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the 2030 deadline approaches.
World Economic Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The World Economic Forum is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation. ➤ Established in 1971, the forum provides a global, impartial, not-for-profit platform for meaningful connections between stakeholders to establish trust and build initiatives for cooperation and progress.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The World Economic Forum has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland and offices in New York and San Francisco in the United States, in Beijing, China and in Tokyo, Japan. Some of the important reports and indexes published by WEF are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Global Risks Report ○ Global Risks report ○ Travel and Tourism Development Index. ○ Chief Economists Outlook.
	World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The World Bank is an international development organization owned by 187 countries. Its role is to reduce poverty by lending money to the governments of its poorer members to improve their economies and improve the standard of living of their people. ➤ The World Bank was established in 1944 to help rebuild Europe and Japan after World War II. Its official name was the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). When it first began operations in 1946, it had 38 members. ➤ The Bank lends money to middle-income countries at interest rates lower than the rates on loans from commercial banks. In addition, the Bank lends money at no interest to the poorest developing countries, those that often cannot find other sources of loans. Some of the important reports published by the World Bank are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Global Economic prospects ○ Global Financial Development Report ○ International Debt Statistics ○ World Development Reports ○ World Development Indicators
	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (The predecessor of OECD) was established on Dec. 14, 1960, by 18 European nations, plus the United States and Canada. ➤ OECD is a group of 37 member countries that discuss and develop economic and social policy. ➤ OECD members are typically democratic countries that support free-market economies.



		<p>The organisation is headquartered in the Chateau de la Muette in Paris, France. In 1961, the OECD from the December 1960 convention went into effect, and the United States and Canada joined the European members of the OEEC, which changed its name to OECD to reflect the broader membership.</p> <p>The OECD maintains a so-called "black list" of nations that are considered uncooperative tax havens. India is not a member of the OECD.</p>
	<p>International Labour Organisation</p>	<p>➤ ILO was created in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I to reflect the belief that universal and lasting peace can be accomplished only if it is based on social justice. ILO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.</p> <p>➤ It is the only tripartite U.N. agency that 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.</p> <p>➤ Some of the important reports Published by ILO are as follows:</p> <p>➤ World Social Protection Report</p> <p>➤ Global Wage Report</p> <p>➤ World Employment and Social Outlook</p> <p>➤ World of Work Report</p>
<p><u>Q.NO. 80</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements about 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana' :</p> <p>I. It targets installation of one crore solar rooftop panels in the residential sector.</p> <p>II. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy aims to impart training on installation, operation, maintenance and repairs of solar rooftop systems at grassroot levels.</p> <p>III. It aims to create more than three lakhs skilled manpower through fresh skilling, and up-skilling, under scheme component of capacity building.</p>	<p><u>TEST NO.22 – Q.NO.44</u></p> <p>With reference to the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, consider the following statements:</p> <p>1. The scheme was launched with the target of providing rooftop solar power to one crore households by 2027.</p> <p>2. It offers a subsidy of up to 40% and provides collateral-free, low-interest loans for installing rooftop solar systems.</p> <p>3. The initiative aims to add 100 GW of solar capacity through residential rooftop installations.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct ?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative, is transforming India's energy landscape with a bold vision to supply solar power to one crore households by March 2027.

By March 2025, installations under the scheme are expected to exceed 10 lakh, with the numbers doubling to 20 lakh by October 2025, reaching 40 lakh by March 2026, and ultimately achieving the target of one crore by March 2027. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Projected Growth in Installations under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana



The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, launched in Feb 2024, aims to provide free electricity to households by facilitating the installation of rooftop solar panels.

- The scheme offers a subsidy of up to 40 per cent to households, making renewable energy more affordable and accessible.
- Collateral-Free LoAns: Households will have access to collateral-free, low-interest loans at around 7% interest for the installation of residential rooftop solar (RTS) systems up to 3 kW.

So, Statement 2 is correct.

The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is expected to have far-reaching outcomes, both for individual households and the nation as a whole:

Expansion of Solar Capacity: The scheme is projected to add 30 GW (not 100 GW) of solar capacity through rooftop installations in the residential sector, significantly contributing to India's renewable energy goals. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

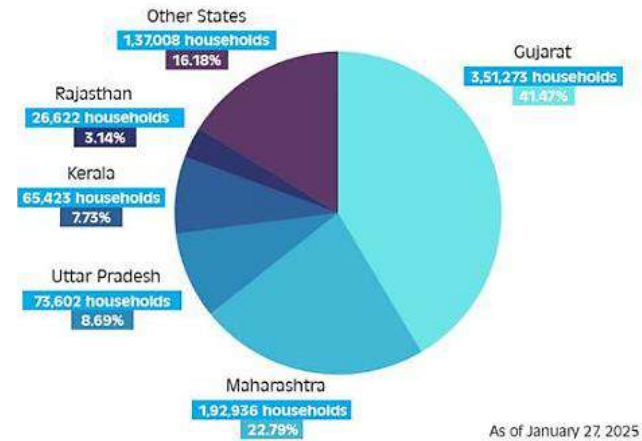
PM SURYA GHAR: MUFT BIJLI YOJANA

Recently in News	PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) will mark its first anniversary, celebrating a year of empowering households with affordable solar energy and accelerating India's transition to a sustainable future.		
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The scheme has already benefitted 8.46 lakh households through rooftop solar installations. ➤ The rapid adoption of solar energy is evident in the tenfold increase in monthly installation rates, which now stand at around 70,000 installations per month, significantly surpassing pre-scheme levels. ➤ So far, ₹4,308.66 crore has been disbursed as Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to 5.54 lakh residential consumers, with an average subsidy of ₹77,800 per household. ➤ Additionally, an estimated 45% of the beneficiaries are now receiving zero electricity bills, depending on their solar power generation and consumption patterns. 		
Key Benefits	<p>The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana offers several significant benefits to participating households:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Free Electricity for Households: The scheme provides households with free electricity through the installation of subsidized rooftop solar panels, significantly reducing their energy costs. ➤ Increased Use of Renewable Energy: The scheme encourages the adoption of renewable energy sources, contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy mix in India. ➤ Reduced Carbon Emissions: The transition to solar energy under this scheme will help lower carbon emissions, supporting India's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. 		
Subsidy Details	The subsidy provided under the scheme varies based on the household's average monthly electricity consumption and the corresponding suitable rooftop solar plant capacity:		
	Average Monthly Electricity Consumption	Suitable Rooftop Solar Plant Capacity	Subsidy Support



		(units)		
		0-150	1-2 kW	₹ 30,000/- to ₹ 60,000/-
		150-300	2-3 kW	₹ 60,000/- to ₹ 78,000/-
		> 300	Above 3 kW	₹ 78,000/-
	Impact	<p>The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is expected to have far-reaching outcomes, both for individual households and the nation as a whole:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Household Savings and Income Generation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Households will benefit from significant savings on their electricity bills. Additionally, they will have the opportunity to earn extra income by selling surplus power generated by their rooftop solar systems to DISCOMs. ➤ For instance, a 3-kW system can generate over 300 units per month on average, providing a reliable source of energy and potential revenue. ➤ Environmental Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Over the 25-year lifetime of these rooftop systems, it is estimated that the scheme will generate 1000 BUs of electricity while reducing CO2 emissions by 720 million tonnes, making a substantial positive impact on the environment. ➤ Job Creation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The scheme is also expected to create approximately 17 lakh direct jobs across various sectors, including manufacturing, logistics, supply chain, sales, installation, operations and maintenance (O&M), and other services, thereby boosting employment and economic growth in the country. 		

Top 5 states



TEST NO.20 – Q.NO.12

With reference to the PM Surya Ghar : Muft Bijli Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It focuses on supplying solar power to one lakh households by 2030.
2. It aims to reduce electricity costs for the government.
3. Households will be eligible for collateral-free loans for the installation of rooftop solar panels.
4. It can boost job creation in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana Launched in Feb 2024, the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative, is designed to promote rooftop solar energy adoption in residential areas. By providing financial incentives and subsidies for solar panel installation, the scheme enables households to generate their electricity, reducing their dependence on the national grid and lowering electricity bills.

The initiative has a bold vision to supply solar power to one crore households by March 2027. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

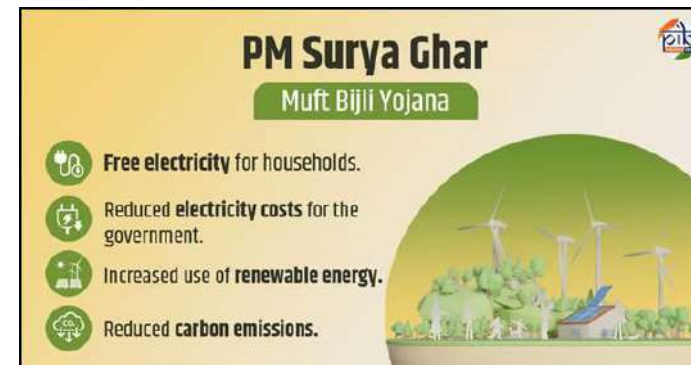
**Projected Growth in Installations under
PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**



The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana offers several significant benefits to participating households:

- **Free Electricity for Households:** The scheme provides households with free electricity through the installation of subsidized rooftop solar panels, significantly reducing their energy costs.
- **Reduced Electricity Costs for the Government:** By promoting the widespread use of solar power, the scheme is expected to save the government an estimated ₹75,000 crore annually in electricity costs.
- **Increased Use of Renewable Energy:** The scheme encourages the adoption of renewable energy sources, contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy mix in India.
- **Reduced Carbon Emissions:** The transition to solar energy under this scheme will help lower carbon emissions, supporting India's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.

So, Statement 2 is correct.



The subsidy provided under the scheme varies based on the household's average monthly electricity consumption and the corresponding suitable rooftop solar plant capacity.

- Households will have access to collateral-free, low-interest loans at around 7% interest for the installation of residential rooftop solar (RTS) systems up to 3 kW.

Average Monthly Electricity Consumption (units)	Suitable Rooftop Solar Plant Capacity	Subsidy Support
0-150	1-2 kW	₹ 30,000/- to ₹ 60,000/-
150-300	2-3 kW	₹ 60,000/- to ₹ 78,000/-
> 300	Above 3 kW	₹ 78,000/-

So, Statement 3 is correct.

The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is expected to have far-reaching outcomes, both for individual households and the nation as a whole:

- Household Savings and Income Generation,
- Expansion of Solar Capacity,
- Environmental Benefits,
- **Job Creation: The scheme is also expected to create approximately 17 lakh direct jobs across various sectors, including manufacturing, logistics, supply chain, sales, installation, operations and maintenance (O&M), and other services, thereby boosting employment and economic growth in the country. So, Statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PM SURYA GHAR :MUFT BIJLI YOJANA

About

- The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is set to significantly reshape India's energy landscape by empowering millions of households with solar power. With installations projected to exceed 10 lakh by March 2025, and reaching the target of one crore by March 2027, the scheme is on track to deliver widespread benefits.
- Through substantial subsidies, accessible financing options, and a focus on renewable energy, the initiative will not only provide free electricity to households but also contribute to significant savings for the government, reduced carbon emissions, and job creation.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Model Solar Village initiative further supports rural areas in becoming energy self-reliant, underscoring the government's commitment to sustainable development. ➤ This ambitious programme sets India on a path toward a greener, more energy-efficient future, reinforcing its leadership in renewable energy. ➤ The scheme offers a subsidy of up to 40 percent to households, making renewable energy more affordable and accessible. ➤ In just nine months, 6.3 lakh installations have been completed, resulting in an impressive monthly installation rate of 70,000, ten times higher than the pre-scheme average. ➤ With a goal to benefit one crore households, the program is also expected to save the government ₹75,000 crores annually in electricity costs. <p>This transformative initiative empowers millions to adopt clean energy, reinforcing India's commitment to sustainable development and energy innovation.</p>
	Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage rooftop solar adoption in residential sectors. ➤ Provide financial incentives and subsidies for solar panel installation. ➤ Enable households to generate their own electricity, reducing dependency on the grid. ➤ Reduce electricity bills by allowing households to generate and sell surplus solar energy to the grid.
	Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Household Savings and Income Generation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Households will benefit from significant savings on their electricity bills. Additionally, they will have the opportunity to earn extra income by selling surplus power generated by their rooftop solar systems to DISCOMs. ○ For instance, a 3-kW system can generate over 300 units per month on average, providing a reliable source of energy and potential revenue. ➤ Expansion of Solar Capacity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The scheme is projected to add 30 GW of solar capacity through rooftop installations in the residential sector, significantly contributing to India's renewable energy goals.



	<p>➤ Environmental Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Over the 25-year lifetime of these rooftop systems, it is estimated that the scheme will generate 1000 BUs of electricity while reducing CO2 emissions by 720 million tonnes, making a substantial positive impact on the environment.
<p align="center"><u>Q.NO. 83</u></p> <p>With reference to India, consider the following:</p> <p>I. The Inter-state Council II. The National Security Council III. Zonal Councils</p> <p>How many of the above were established as per the provisions of the Constitution of India?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None</p>	<p align="center"><u>TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.46</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements :</p> <p>Statement-I : The Inter-State Water Disputes Act empowers the central government to set up an ad hoc tribunal to adjudicate Interstate river water disputes.</p> <p>Statement-II : As per the Constitution, Parliament has the authority to adjudicate disputes or complaints regarding the inter-state rivers or river valleys.</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?</p> <p>(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I. (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I. (c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect. (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION :</u></p> <p>Article 262 of the Constitution provides for the adjudication of interstate water disputes. It makes two provisions,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley. ➤ Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint. <p>Under this provision, the Parliament has enacted two laws [the River Boards Act (1956) and the Inter-State Water Disputes Act (1956)]. The River Boards Act provides for the establishment of river boards for the regulation and development of inter-state river and river valleys. A river board is established by the Central Government on the request of the state governments concerned to advise them. The Inter-State Water Disputes Act empowers the Central Government to set up an ad hoc tribunal for the adjudication of a dispute between two or more states in</p>

relation to the waters of an inter-state river or river valley.
The decision of the Tribunal would be final and binding on the parties to the dispute. Neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to have jurisdiction in respect to any water dispute that may be referred to such a tribunal under this Act. **So, Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION :

INTER-STATE COUNCILS	
About	<p>➤ Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states. Thus, the President can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment. He can define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organization and procedure.</p> <p>➤ Even though the president is empowered to define the duties of an inter-state council, Article 263 specifies the duties that can be assigned to it in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ enquiring into and advising upon disputes which may arise between states; ➤ investigating and discussing subjects in which the states or the Centre and the states have a common interest; ➤ making recommendations upon any such subject, and particularly for the better coordination of policy and action on it. ➤ The Council's function to enquire and advice upon inter-state disputes is complementary to the Supreme Court's jurisdiction under Article 131 to decide a legal controversy between the governments. ➤ The Council can deal with any controversy whether legal or non-legal, but its function is advisory unlike that of the court which gives a binding decision. ➤ Under the above provisions of Article 263, the president has established the following councils to make recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action in the related subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Central Council of Health and Family Welfare ➤ Central Council of Local Government ➤ Four Regional Councils for Sales Tax for the Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern Zones



TEST NO.19 – Q.NO.18

Which one of the following articles provides for the establishment of the Inter-State Council ?

- (a) Article 262
- (b) Article 248
- (c) Article 263**
- (d) Article 272

EXPLANATION:

The Inter-State Council was established under Article 263 of the Constitution of India through a Presidential Order dated 28th May 1990.

- The Council consists of:-
 - Prime Minister – Chairman
 - Chief Ministers of all States – Members
 - Chief Ministers of Union Territories having a Legislative Assembly and Administrators of UTs not having a Legislative Assembly – Members
 - Six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister – Members
- The President of India can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment.
- He can define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organisation and procedure.
- Even though the president is empowered to define the duties of an inter-state council, Article 263 specifies the duties that can be assigned to it in the following manner:
 - Enquiring into and advising upon disputes which may arise between states;
 - Investigating and discussing subjects in which the states or the Centre and the states have a common interest; and
 - Making recommendations upon any such subject, and particularly for the better co-ordination of policy and action on it. **So, Option (c) is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CENTRE-STATE Relations

About	<p>The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations (1983–88) made a strong case for the establishment of a permanent Inter-State Council under Article 263 of the Constitution.</p> <p>It recommended that in order to differentiate the Inter-State Council from other bodies established under the same Article 263, it must be called as the Inter-Governmental Council.</p>
Article 262	<p>Article 262 of the Constitution provides for the adjudication of inter- state water disputes. It makes two provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.➤ Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint.➤ Under this provision, the Parliament has enacted two laws [the River Boards Act (1956) and the Inter-State Water Disputes Act (1956)].
Article 248	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Articles 245 to 255 in Part XI of India's Constitution spell out legislative relations between the Centre and the States.➤ Article 248 of the Indian Constitution deals with the Residuary powers of legislation.➤ The Residuary powers legislation is given to Centre, and Parliament of India alone can make legislation on the subjects not included in any of the three lists (Union List, State List, and Concurrent List).➤ This residuary power consists of the power to levy any residuary taxes also.
Article 272 (Repealed)	<p>Taxes which are levied and collected by the Union and may be distributed between the Union and the States (Repealed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Under Article 272 of the Constitution, union duties on excise other than that on medicinal and toilet preparations as mentioned in the union list are levied and collected by the centre, but if Parliament provides by law may be shared between the centre and the states. The states' share has been successively increased.



- The Constitution (Eightieth Amendment) Act, 2000 has altered the pattern of sharing of Central taxes between the Centre and the States in a fundamental way.
- Prior to this amendment, Taxes on Income other than agriculture income and Union duties of excise were shared with States under articles 270 and 272 respectively.
- The Eightieth Amendment Act has substituted a new article for article 270 and omitted the old article 272.

TEST NO.27 – Q.NO.03

With reference to the Interstate Council, consider the following statements :

1. The Indian Constitution provides for the establishment of the Interstate Council.
2. The Sarkaria Commission recommended the formation of this Council.
3. The Prime Minister serves as the Chairperson of this Council.
4. It provides advice on disputes related to Centre-State and Inter-State relations.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Inter-State Council was established under Article 263 of the Constitution of India through a Presidential Order dated May 28, 1990.

According to Article 263, the President can create this Council if it is felt that public interest would benefit from it. The duties of the Council, as outlined in Article 263, include:

Inquiring into and advising upon disputes which may have arisen between States;

- Investigating and discussing subjects of common interest between two or more States or between the Union and one or more States;
- Making recommendations on any such subject, particularly for the better coordination of policy and action with respect to that subject.

The President, by order, may establish such a Council and define the nature of its duties, as well as its organization and procedures. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations (1983–88) made a strong case for the establishment of a permanent Inter-State Council under Article 263 of the Constitution. It recommended that in order to differentiate the Inter-State Council from other bodies established under the same Article 263, it must be called the Inter-Governmental Council. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The Prime Minister is the chairman of the Inter-State Council, whose members include the Chief Ministers of all states and UTs with legislative assemblies and Administrators of other UTs. Six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Centre's Council of Ministers, nominated by the Prime Minister, are also its members. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

The Inter-State Council is a platform established to promote coordination and cooperation between the Centre and the States, as well as among the States. It acts as an advisory body that provides support on disputes and issues related to Centre-State and inter-State relations. The Council mainly serves as a forum for discussion and consultation among different levels of government. Although its role is not binding, it plays an important part in strengthening cooperative federalism in India. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.37

Consider the following statements with respect to Zonal Councils:

1. They are established under the provisions of the States Re-organisation Act, 1956.
2. They are chaired by the Prime Minister.
3. The ministers of the state nominated by the Chief Minister act as members of Zonal Councils.
4. The Chief Secretaries of the States represented in the Zonal Councils act as the Secretary of the respective Council.

How many of the statements given above are **not** correct?

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

EXPLANATION :

The Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies. They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956. The act divided the country

into five zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone.

While forming these zones, several factors have been taken into account which include: the natural divisions of the country, the river systems and means of communication, the cultural and linguistic affinity and the requirements of economic development, security and law and order.

So, Statement 1 is correct.

The home minister of Central government is the common chairman of the five zonal councils. Each chief minister acts as a vice-chairman of the council by rotation, holding office for a period of one year at a time.

So, Statement 2 is not correct.

Organisational structure of Zonal Councils:

➤ Chairman

The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.

➤ Vice Chairman

The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice- Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.

➤ Members

Chief Minister and two other Ministers as nominated by the Governor from each of the States and two members from Union Territories included in the zone.

So, Statement 3 is not correct.

➤ Advisers

One officer nominated by the Planning Commission for each of the Zonal Councils, Chief Secretaries and another officer/Development Commissioner nominated by each of the States included in the Zone;

Union Ministers are also invited to participate in the meetings of Zonal Councils depending upon necessity.

According to Section 19 (1) of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, each Zonal Council shall have a secretarial staff consisting of a Secretary, a Joint Secretary and such other officers as the Chairman may consider necessary to appoint.

The Chief Secretaries of the States represented in such Zonal Councils act as the Secretary of the respective Council by rotation, holding office for a period of one year at a time. The Joint Secretary of Zonal Councils is a Director Level officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs belonging to All India

Services or Central Secretariat Service. To assist the Joint Secretary, there are other 19 sanctioned posts in the Zonal Council Secretariat. The posts of Joint Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Chowkidar are temporary ones whereas other posts are permanent.

So, Statement 4 is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION :

THE ZONAL COUNCILS	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bringing out national integration ➤ Arresting the growth of acute State consciousness, regionalism, linguism and particularistic tendencies ➤ Enabling the Centre and the States to co-operate and exchange ideas and experiences ➤ Establishing a climate of co-operation amongst the States for successful speedy execution of development projects.
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Each Zonal Council is an advisory body and may discuss any matter in which some or all of the States represented in that Council, or the Union and one or more of the States represented in that Council, have a common interest. ➤ In particular, a Zonal Council may discuss, and make recommendations with regard to,- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <input type="checkbox"/> any matter of common interest in the field of economic and social planning ➤ <input type="checkbox"/> any matter concerning border disputes, linguistic minorities or inter-State transport ➤ <input type="checkbox"/> any matter connected with, or arising out of, the re-organisation of the States under the States Reorganisation Act.



Q.NO. 84

Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.23

33. Consider the following statements with respect to Chief Minister :

1. She/He has the duty to communicate to the Governor of the State all decisions related to proposal for legislation.
2. She/He can be dismissed by the Governor of the State at any time.
3. She/He are members of the National Development Council.
4. She/He advises the Governor on the appointment of the State Election Commissioner.
5. She/He is responsible for allocating portfolios among the council of ministers.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION :

In the scheme of the parliamentary system of government provided by the Constitution, the Governor is the nominal executive authority (de jure executive), and the Chief Minister is the real executive authority (de facto executive). In other words, the Governor is the head of the state, while the Chief Minister is the head of the government. Thus, the position of the Chief Minister at the state level is analogous to the position of the prime minister at the Centre.

According to Article 167 of the Indian Constitution, it shall be the duty of the Chief Minister:

- To communicate to the Governor of the state all decisions of the council of ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the state and proposals for legislation;
- To furnish such information relating to the administration of the affairs of the state and proposals for legislation as the Governor may call for;
- If the Governor so requires, submit for the consideration of the council of ministers any matter on which a decision has been made by a minister but which has not been considered by the council. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The term of the Chief Minister is not fixed, and he holds office during the pleasure of the Governor. However, this does not mean that the Governor can dismiss him at any time. He cannot be dismissed by the Governor as long as he enjoys the majority support in the legislative assembly. But, if he loses the confidence of the assembly, he must resign, or the Governor can dismiss him.

Therefore, the Governor cannot dismiss the Chief Minister at any time as long as the Chief Minister enjoys the majority support. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

The National Development Council was set up in 1952. It is an apex body for decision-making and deliberations on development matters, presided over by the Prime Minister of India and comprising Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of all the States and UTs, Administrators of Union Territories and Members of the Planning Commission. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

According to Article 163 of the Indian Constitution, there shall be a council of ministers with the Chief Minister as the head to aid and advise the Governor on the exercise of his functions, except in so far as he is required to exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion.

Chief Ministers advise the Governor with regard to the appointment of important officials like advocate general, chairman and members of the state public service commission, state election commissioner, and so on. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

The Chief Minister enjoys the following powers as head of the State Council of Ministers:

- The Governor appoints only those persons as ministers who are recommended by the Chief Minister.
- He allocates and reshuffles the portfolios among ministers.
- He can ask a minister to resign or advise the Governor to dismiss him in case of a difference of opinion.
- He presides over the meetings of the Council of Ministers and influences its decisions.
- He guides, directs, controls and coordinates the activities of all the ministers.
- He can bring about the collapse of the council of ministers by resigning from office. Since the Chief Minister is the head of the Council of Ministers, his resignation or death automatically dissolves the Council of Ministers. On the other hand, the resignation or death of any other minister merely creates a vacancy that the Chief Minister may or may not like to fill. **So, Statement 5 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION :

CHIEF MINISTER	
Appointment	➤ The Constitution does not contain any specific procedure for the selection and appointment of the Chief Minister. Article 164 only says that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor. However, this does not imply that the Governor is free to appoint anyone as the Chief Minister.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In accordance with the conventions of the parliamentary system of government, the Governor has to appoint the leader of the majority party in the state legislative assembly as the Chief Minister.
	Oath, Term and Salary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Before the Chief Minister enters his office, the Governor administers to him the oaths of office and secrecy. ➤ The term of the Chief Minister is not fixed, and he holds office at the pleasure of the Governor. However, this does not mean that the Governor can dismiss him at any time. He cannot be dismissed by the Governor as long as he enjoys the majority support in the legislative assembly.6 But, if he loses the confidence of the assembly, he must resign, or the Governor can dismiss him. ➤ The salary and allowances of the Chief Minister are determined by the state legislature. In addition to the salary and allowances, which are payable to a member of the state legislature, he gets a sumptuary allowance, free accommodation, travelling allowance, medical facilities, etc.
	Powers And Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In Relation to the Governor ➤ He is the principal channel of communication between the Governor and the council of ministers.It is the duty of the Chief Minister: ➤ To communicate to the Governor of the state all decisions of the council of ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the state and proposals for legislation; ➤ To furnish such information relating to the administration of the affairs of the state and proposals for legislation as the Governor may call for; ➤ If the Governor so requires, submit for the consideration of the council of ministers any matter on which a decision has been made by a minister but has not been considered by the council. ➤ He advises the Governor with regard to the appointment of important officials like advocate general, chairman and members of the state public service commission, state election commissioner, and so on. ➤ In Relation to the State Legislature ➤ He advises the Governor with regard to the summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the state legislature.



- He can recommend the dissolution of the legislative assembly to the Governor at any time.
- He announces the government policies on the floor of the house.

TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.27

Consider the following statements:

1. The Governor must act on the advice of the Council of Ministers, except in specific situations provided by the Constitution.
 2. The advice tendered by Ministers to the Governor can be inquired only in the Supreme Court.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are **not** correct?

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

EXPLANATION :

According to the Indian Constitution, under article 163, the Governor acts with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in most cases. However, the Constitution outlines specific situations in which the Governor can act independently, such as during the formation of the government, instances of constitutional crises, or when recommending President's Rule.

The governor has constitutional discretion in the following cases:

- Reservation of a bill for the consideration of the President.
- Recommendation for the imposition of the President's Rule in the state.
- While exercising his functions as the administrator of an adjoining union territory (in case of additional charge).
- Determining the amount payable by the Government of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to an autonomous Tribal District Council as royalty accruing from licenses for mineral exploration.
- Seeking information from the chief minister regarding the state's administrative and legislative matters.

In addition to the above constitutional discretion (i.e., the express discretion mentioned in the Constitution), the governor, like the president, also has situational discretion (i.e., the hidden

	<p>discretion derived from the exigencies of a prevailing political situation) in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Appointment of chief minister when no party has a clear-cut majority in the state legislative assembly or when the chief minister in office dies suddenly and there is no obvious successor. ➤ Dismissal of the council of ministers when it cannot prove the confidence of the state legislative assembly. ➤ Dissolution of the state legislative assembly if the council of ministers has lost its majority. <p>So, statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>Article 163(3) of the Constitution states that the advice tendered by Ministers to the Governor cannot be inquired into by any court, including the Supreme Court. Hence, no judicial inquiry is permissible regarding the advice given to the Governor. So, statement 2 is not correct.</p>								
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Q.NO. 85</u></p> <p>Consider the following pairs</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Provision in the Constitution of India</th><th style="text-align: left;">Stated under</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>I. Separation of Judiciary from the Executive in the Public services of State</td><td>The Directive Principles of the State Policy</td></tr> <tr> <td>II. Valuing and preserving of the rich heritage of our composite culture.</td><td>The fundamental Duties</td></tr> <tr> <td>III. Prohibition of employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories</td><td>The Fundamental Rights</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p>	Provision in the Constitution of India	Stated under	I. Separation of Judiciary from the Executive in the Public services of State	The Directive Principles of the State Policy	II. Valuing and preserving of the rich heritage of our composite culture.	The fundamental Duties	III. Prohibition of employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories	The Fundamental Rights	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.01 – Q.NO.29</u></p> <p>Which one of the following duties is not embodied in the Part IVA of the Indian Constitution ?</p> <p>(a) To develop Humanism (b) To develop the spirit of inquiry and reform (c) To uphold Sovereignty and unity (d) To promote equal justice</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>The duty to promote equal justice is not embodied in Part IVA of the Constitution. Part IVA of the Indian Constitution deals with Fundamental Duties. As of now, there are 11 Fundamental duties. Originally, the Constitution of India did not contain these duties. Fundamental duties were added by the 42nd and 86th Constitutional Amendment acts. Article 51(A) says it shall be the duty of every citizen of India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem; ➤ to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom; ➤ to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India; ➤ to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
Provision in the Constitution of India	Stated under								
I. Separation of Judiciary from the Executive in the Public services of State	The Directive Principles of the State Policy								
II. Valuing and preserving of the rich heritage of our composite culture.	The fundamental Duties								
III. Prohibition of employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories	The Fundamental Rights								

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

- to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;
- to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;
- to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the ages of six and fourteen years.

Part IV (Articles 36 to 51), titled “Directive Principles of State Policy”, contains the directives and duties of the State.

To provide Equal justice and free legal aid is given in Article 39A, the State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice based on equal opportunity and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

TEST NO.01 – Q.NO.62

Consider the following statements :

1. The Constitution of India does not explicitly address the separation of the judiciary from the executive.
2. The provision for the protection of the environment is provided in both the Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India.

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:

The Constitution of India explicitly mentions the separation of the judiciary from the executive under Article 50. It states that the state must take the necessary steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the state. It will restrict the authorities' unfair use of their power or positions and promote the democratic form of government. Article 50 is a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) under Part IV of the Constitution. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Article 21 and Article 48(A) has the Provisions relating to Environment Protection in India. Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, inserted an express provision pertaining to environmental protection in Part IV in the form of Article 48A. It reads as follows: The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country. After the insertion of an express provision in Part IV along with other provisions in other parts of the Constitution, it became incumbent on the part of the State to protect the environment and to promote a clean environment. As stated earlier directive principles are fundamental in the governance of the country and all the organs of the State while making laws are to apply directive principles.

Additionally, Article 21, which is fundamental rights, has been interpreted by the Supreme Court to include the right to a healthy environment. However, it does not explicitly mention in Article 21. Thus, the Protection of the Environment does not provided explicitly in Fundamental Rights of the Constitution of India. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA	
Fundamental Rights at a Glance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Right to equality (Articles 14–18) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Equality before law and equal protection of laws (Article 14). ○ Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15). ○ Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment (Article 16). ○ Abolition of untouchability and prohibition of its practice (Article 17). ○ Abolition of titles except military and academic (Article 18). ➤ Right to freedom (Articles 19–22) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protection of six rights regarding freedom of (i)speech and expression,

- (ii) assembly, (iii) association, (iv) movement, (v) residence, and (vi) profession (Article 19).
- Protection in respect of conviction for offences (Article 20).
- Protection of life and personal liberty (Article 21).
- Right to elementary education (Article 21A).
- Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases (Article 22).
- **Right** against exploitation (Articles 23–24)
 - Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour (Article 23).
 - **Prohibition of employment of children in factories, etc. (Article 24).**
- Right to freedom of religion (Article 25–28)
 - Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion (Article 25).
 - Freedom to manage religious affairs (Article 26).
 - Freedom from payment of taxes for the promotion of any religion (Article 27).
 - Freedom from attending religious instruction or worship in certain educational institutions (Article 28).
- **Cultural** and educational rights (Articles 29–30)
 - Protection of language, script and culture of minorities (Article 29).
 - Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions (Article 30).
- Right to constitutional remedies (Article 32)
 - Right to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of fundamental rights including the writs of (i) habeas corpus, (ii) mandamus, (iii) prohibition, (iv) certiorari, and (v) quo warranto (Article 32).

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST- 02 – Q.NO.12

A 13-year-old child is employed in a garment factory in Mumbai, Maharashtra, due to the financial struggles of his family. Because of the extended work hours, he is unable to attend school and rarely has any opportunity for leisure activities or socializing with peers. Which of the following Fundamental Rights are violated in this scenario ?

1. Article 16
2. Article 21A
3. Article 23
4. Article 32

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

The situation involves 13-year-old child rights concerning education, child labour, and other related protections. This violates a few Articles of Fundamental Rights enshrined in Part III of the Indian Constitution.

Article 21A declares that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such a manner as the State may determine. Forcing a 13-year-old child to work and the negligence of guardians and government to intervene and failing to give the child the right to free and compulsory is a violation of the Fundamental right under Article 21A. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Article 23 of the Constitution prohibits trafficking in human beings, begar (forced labour), and similar forms of exploitation, making violations punishable by law. Compelling a 13-year-old to work under harsh conditions, particularly due to financial hardship, amounts to forced labour. This is a clear violation of Article 23. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

Article 24 prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in any factory, mine or other hazardous activities like construction work or railway. But it does not prohibit their employment in any harmless or innocent work.

Article 16 is related to equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of employment or appointment to any office under the State, while Article 32 is related to Constitutional remedies. **So, Statements 1 and 4 are not correct.**

Q.NO. 86

Consider the following statements:
With reference to the Constitution of India, if

TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.69

Consider the following statements :
1. Governors are responsible for notifying Scheduled Areas within their States.

an area in a state is declared as Scheduled Area under the Fifth Schedule.

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

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

2. Governors of the concerned States are required to submit annual reports to the Prime Minister on the administration of Scheduled Areas in the States.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 244 of the Indian constitution deals with the administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas in India. According to article 244, the President after consultation with the Governor of the State may shall declare an area to be a Scheduled Area. Thus, it is the President of India and not the Governor of the state who is responsible for notifying Scheduled Areas within their respective States. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

According to the Constitution of India, Governors of states with Scheduled Areas are mandated to submit annual reports to the President (not the Prime minister) regarding the administration of these areas. This requirement is outlined in Article 244, which deals with the administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FIFTH SCHEDULE OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in any State mentioned in Part I of the First Schedule, except for the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.➤ At present, 10 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana have Fifth Schedule Areas.
Key Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Administration and Control: The Governor of the State may, by public notification, direct that any particular Act of Parliament or State Legislature shall not apply to a Scheduled Area or any part thereof, or shall apply subject to exceptions and modifications specified in the notification.

	<p>➤ Tribes Advisory Council: A Tribes Advisory Council shall be established in certain States (Madras, Bombay, West Bengal, Bihar, Central Provinces and Berar, and Orissa) to advise the Governor on matters related to Scheduled Tribes.</p> <p>➤ Estimated Receipts and Expenditure: The estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to Scheduled Areas shall be shown separately in the Annual Financial Statement of the State.</p> <p>➤ Exclusion or Inclusion: The President may, by order, exclude any area from or include any area in the Scheduled Areas.</p>
Criteria	<p>The criteria followed for declaring an area as Scheduled Area are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preponderance Of Tribal Population; ➤ Compactness And Reasonable Size Of The Area; ➤ Under-Developed Nature Of The Area; And ➤ Marked Disparity In Economic Standard Of The People. <p>These criteria are not spelt out in the Constitution of India but have become well established. They embody principles followed in declaring 'Excluded' and 'Partially-Excluded' Areas under the Government of India Act 1935.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.19 – Q.NO.58</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements :</p> <p>Statement I : The Constitution of India under Article 244 envisages a special system of administration for scheduled areas.</p> <p>Statement II : These areas are inhabited by tribals who have not assimilated much into the life of the mainstream population and have their roots in their own culture and civilizations.</p> <p>Which of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?</p> <p>(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.</p> <p>(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.</p> <p>(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.</p> <p>(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct</p>	

EXPLANATION:

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

The areas inhabited by tribal people have been treated differently from the other areas in the country because they are inhabited by 'aboriginals' who are socially and economically rather backwards, and special efforts need to be made to improve their condition. They have not assimilated much into the lives and ways of the other people in the country. These areas have hitherto been anthropological specimens. The tribal people still have their roots in their own culture, customs and civilization. These areas are, therefore, treated differently by the Constitution, and a sizeable amount of autonomy has been given to these people for self-government. This special system of administration is designed to protect their unique cultural identity and ensure their welfare.

Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SCHEDULED AND TRIBAL AREAS	
Recently in News	The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has issued notices to the Centre and the West Bengal government, seeking factual and action-taken reports on the issues of child marriage, human trafficking, human-wildlife conflict and corruption plaguing the state's Sundarbans region. The tribal population (2,11,927) in the region, comprising primarily the Munda, Santhal, Bhumij and Oraon tribes, remains marginalized despite being the earliest settlers.
About	Part X of the Constitution lays down special provisions for the administration of Scheduled and Tribal Areas, such as the setting up of Tribes Advisory Councils and Autonomous District Councils.



		<p>Article 244 (1): The provisions of the Fifth Schedule shall apply to the administration and control of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in any State other than the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.</p> <p>Article 244 (2): The provisions of the Sixth Schedule shall apply to the administration of the tribal areas in the States of Assam Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.</p>
	Fifth Schedule	<p>About: It shall apply to the administration and control of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in any State other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.</p> <p>Purpose: To protect the interests and rights of the tribals in their land, habitat and economy. To preserve the communities' customs and traditions and to ensure a faster socio-economic development in the "Scheduled Areas".</p> <p>Application: Scheduled areas are predominantly inhabited by tribes specified as "Scheduled Tribes" and located in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan</p> <p>Power: The President has the authority to declare any area as a Scheduled Area or renounce a Scheduled Area or part of a Scheduled Area as a non-scheduled Area in consultation with the Governor of the concerned State</p> <p>Special mechanism: The Tribal Advisory Council is constituted by the Governor of a State, which has Scheduled Areas to deal with the welfare and advancement of Scheduled tribes in states.</p>
	Sixth Schedule	<p>About: It shall apply to the administration of the tribal areas in Assam Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.</p> <p>Purpose: Considering the distinct life and outlook of the tribals in the Northeast (erstwhile State of Assam), the Constituent Assembly recognized the necessity of a separate administrative structure for the tribals in the region.</p>



		<p>Application: Currently, there are 10 Autonomous District Councils in North East</p> <p>Power: The Governor of the State is empowered to determine the area or areas as administrative units of the Autonomous Districts and Autonomous Regions.</p> <p>Special mechanism: Autonomous District Councils and Regional Councils endowed with certain legislative, executive, judicial and financial powers</p>
	<p>Scheduled Area</p>	<p>The criteria followed for declaring any area as a "Scheduled Area" under the Fifth Schedule are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The preponderance of the tribal population, ➤ The compactness and reasonable size of the area, ➤ A viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk and ➤ Economic backwardness of the area as compared to the neighbouring areas.
<p align="center"><u>Q.NO. 88</u></p> <p>Consider the following subjects under the Constitution of India:</p> <p>I. List I – Union List, in the Seventh Schedule</p> <p>II. Extent of the executive power of a State</p> <p>III. Conditions of the Governor's office</p> <p>For a constitutional amendment with respect to which of the above, ratification by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States is required before presenting the bill to the President of India for assent?</p> <p>(a) I and II only</p> <p>(b) II and III only</p> <p>(c) I and III only</p> <p>(d) I, II and III</p>	<p align="center"><u>TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.15</u></p> <p>Regarding the procedure for amendment, which of the following statements is not correct ?</p> <p>(a) It can be initiated by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament or the state legislature.</p> <p>(b) The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the President.</p> <p>(c) There is no provision for holding a joint sitting of the two houses for the purpose of deliberation and passage of the bill.</p> <p>(d) The bill must be passed in each house by a special majority.</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION :</u></p> <p>Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the powers of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure. It states that the Parliament may, in the exercise of its constituent power, amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of the Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose. However, the Parliament cannot amend those provisions which form the 'basic structure' of the Constitution. This was ruled by the Supreme Court in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973).</p>	

- The procedure for the amendment of the Constitution, as laid down in Article 368, is as follows:
- An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament and not in the state legislatures. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**
 - The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the President. **So, Option (b) is correct.**
 - The bill must be passed in each House by a special majority, that is, a majority of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting. **So, Option (d) is correct.**
 - Each House must pass the bill separately. In case of a disagreement between the two Houses, there is no provision for holding a joint sitting of the two Houses for the purpose of deliberation and passage of the bill. **So, Option (c) is correct.**
 - If the bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.
 - After duly passed by both Houses of Parliament and ratified by the state legislatures, where necessary, the bill is presented to the President for assent.
 - The President must give his assent to the bill. He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration by the Parliament.
 - After the President's assent, the bill becomes an Act (i.e., a constitutional amendment act), and the Constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the Act.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION :

TYPES OF AMENDMENTS	
About	Article 368 provides for two types of amendments, that is, by a special majority of Parliament and also through the ratification of half of the states by a simple majority. But, some other articles provide for the amendment of certain provisions of the Constitution by a simple majority of Parliament, that is, a majority of the members of each House present and voting (similar to the ordinary legislative process). Notably, these amendments are not deemed to be amendments to the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368. Therefore, the Constitution can be amended in three ways:



		<p>Amendment by a simple majority of the Parliament.</p> <p>Amendment by a special majority of the Parliament.</p> <p>Amendment by a special majority of the Parliament and the ratification of half of the state legislatures.</p>
	Amendment by Simple Majority	<p>A number of provisions in the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368. These provisions include:</p> <p>Admission or establishment of new states.</p> <p>Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states.</p> <p>Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.</p> <p>Second Schedule—emoluments, allowances, privileges and so on of the President, the governors, the Speakers, judges, etc.</p> <p>Quorum in Parliament. 6. Salaries and allowances of the members of Parliament.</p> <p>Rules of procedure in Parliament.</p> <p>Privileges of the Parliament, its members and its committees.</p> <p>Use of English language in Parliament.</p> <p>Number of puisne judges in the Supreme Court.</p> <p>Conferment of more jurisdiction on the Supreme Court.</p> <p>Use of official language.</p> <p>Citizenship—acquisition and termination.</p> <p>Elections to Parliament and state legislatures.</p> <p>Delimitation of constituencies.</p> <p>Union territories.</p> <p>Fifth Schedule—administration of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.</p> <p>Sixth Schedule—administration of tribal areas</p>
	Amendment by Special Majority	<p>➤ The provisions which can be amended in this way include:</p> <p>Fundamental Rights.</p> <p>Directive Principles of State Policy.</p> <p>All other provisions which are not covered by the first and third categories.</p>



**Amendment
by Special
Majority and
Consent of
States**

Those provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority. The following provisions can be amended in this way:

Election of the President and its manner.

Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.

Supreme Court and high courts.

Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.

Goods and Services Tax Council.

Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.

Representation of states in Parliament.

Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368 itself).

TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.57

Consider the following :

1. Rules of procedure in Parliament
2. Quorum in Parliament
3. Union territories
4. Delimitation of constituencies
5. Use of official language

How many of the above provisions in the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the two houses of parliament outside the scope of Article 368 ?

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

(d) All five

EXPLANATION :

Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the powers of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure. It states that the Parliament may, in the exercise of its constituent power, amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of the Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose. However, the Parliament cannot amend

those provisions which form the 'basic structure' of the Constitution. The Supreme Court ruled this in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973).

A number of provisions in the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368. These provisions include:

- Rules of procedure in Parliament
- Quorum in Parliament.
- Union territories.
- Admission or establishment of new states.
- Delimitation of constituencies.
- Use of official language.
- Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states.
- Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.
- Second Schedule—emoluments, allowances, privileges and so on of the president, the governors, the Speakers, judges, etc.
- Salaries and allowances of the members of Parliament.
- Privileges of the Parliament, its members and its committees.
- Use of English language in Parliament.
- Number of puisne judges in the Supreme Court.
- Conferment of more jurisdiction on the Supreme Court.
- Citizenship—acquisition and termination.
- Elections to Parliament and state legislatures.
- Fifth Schedule—administration of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.
- Sixth Schedule—administration of tribal areas. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION :

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

About	Article 368 provides for two types of amendments, that is, by a special majority of Parliament and also through the ratification of half of the states by a simple majority. But, some other articles provide for the amendment of certain provisions of the Constitution by a simple majority of Parliament, that is, a majority of the members of each House present and voting (similar to the ordinary legislative process). Notably, these amendments are not deemed to be amendments to the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368.
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	Types	<p>The Constitution can be amended in three ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amendment by a simple majority of the Parliament, ➤ Amendment by a special majority of the Parliament, and ➤ Amendment by a special majority of the Parliament and the ratification of half of the state legislatures.
	By Special Majority	<p>The majority of the provisions in the Constitution need to be amended by a special majority of the Parliament, that is, a majority of the total membership of each House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of each House present and voting. The expression 'total membership' means the total number of members comprising the House, irrespective of fact whether there are vacancies or absentees.</p> <p>The provisions which can be amended by this way include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fundamental Rights; ➤ Directive Principles of State Policy; and ➤ All other provisions which are not covered by the first and third categories
	By Special Majority with ratification of States	<p>Those provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority. If one or some or all the remaining states take no action on the bill, it does not matter; the moment half of the states give their consent, the formality is completed. There is no time limit within which the states should give their consent to the bill.</p> <p>The following provisions can be amended in this way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Election of the President and its manner. ➤ Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states. ➤ Supreme Court and high courts. ➤ Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states. ➤ Goods and Services Tax Council. ➤ Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule. ➤ Representation of states in Parliament. ➤ Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368 itself).

Q.NO. 89

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

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

TEST NO.25 – Q.NO.20

During his/her term of office, the President and the Governor of the particular state enjoy protection in which of the following ?

1. He/she is not answerable to any court
2. No review by a court as appointed by either House of Parliament on the conduct of the president or the Governor
3. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted against them
4. No process of imprisonment
5. No civil proceedings in any act done by them

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

Under Article- 361 of the Indian constitution, The President of India and the Governor of States enjoy the following immunities:

- The President or the Governor is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his office. However, their conduct can be reviewed by a court or tribunal if it is related to impeachment proceedings under Article 61. **So, Statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is not correct.**
- No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the President or the Governor in any court during his term of office. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- No process for the arrest or imprisonment of the President or the Governor shall be issued from any court during his term of office. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**
- No civil proceedings against the President or the Governor shall be instituted during his term of office in any court in respect of any act done by him in his personal capacity, whether before or after he entered upon his office, until the expiration of two months next after notice has been delivered to him. Thus, after giving two months' notice, civil proceedings can be instituted against them (The President and The Governor) during his term of office in respect of his personal acts. **So, Statement 5 is not correct.**

This ensures that the President and Governors can perform their duties without legal interference, while also allowing for legal action after they leave office or with proper notice in civil matters.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ORIGINS OF GOVERNOR'S IMMUNITY

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The protection given to the President and the Governor can be traced to the Latin maxim rex non potest peccare or “the king can do no wrong”, which is rooted in English legal traditions. ➤ The Constituent Assembly discussed the introduction of Article 361 — or Draft Article 302 as it was known then — on September 8, 1949. ➤ On criminal immunity, Assembly Member H V Kamath from the Indian National Congress raised certain prescient questions. ➤ In case the President, or the Governor, commits a crime, he asked “Does this clause mean that no proceedings can be instituted against him (the President or the Governor) during the whole prescribed term, or whether it means while he is in office only”. ➤ He also asked if the President should remove “a Governor or a Ruler committing a criminal act” in case a prima facie case is made against the Governor concerned. ➤ However, the article was adopted without any further debate on criminal immunity. ➤ In the last decade, the courts have shed light on what it means for criminal proceedings to be “instituted” against the Governor, and when the protection under Article 361(2) lapses.
Judicial Interpretation of Article 361	<p>Protection for Governors in Criminal Cases the 2017 Babri Masjid case, the Supreme Court ruled that Kalyan Singh (then Rajasthan Governor) could not be tried while in office. However, legal proceedings could continue once he left office.</p> <p>Protection from Malicious Publicity 2015, the Madhya Pradesh High Court stated that Governors have absolute protection from defamatory campaigns to safeguard the dignity of their office.</p>

the Vyapam scam case, then Governor Ram Naresh Yadav was accused, but the court removed his name from the FIR while he was in office.

Governor's Immunity in Civil Cases

the 2006 Rameshwar Prasad case, the Supreme Court ruled that while Governors have full immunity for official actions, courts can still review their decisions if they act in bad faith or beyond their constitutional powers.

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST- 2- Q-76

Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. The Governor of a State enjoys complete immunity from arrest in both civil and criminal cases during their term in office.
2. Persons against whom a charge sheet has been filed are disqualified from being appointed as Ministers in the State Council of Ministers.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

With reference to the equality before the law, the President of India and the Governor of States enjoy the following immunities (Article 361):

- The President or the Governor is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of office.
- No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the President or the Governor in any court during his term of office.
- No process for the arrest or imprisonment of the President or Governor shall be issued from any court during his term of office.
- No civil proceedings against the President or the Governor shall be instituted during his term of office in any court in respect of an act done by him in his personal capacity, whether before or after he entered upon his office, until the expiration of two months next after notice has been delivered to him. Thus, civil proceedings can be initiated against the President and Governor for their personal actions only after giving a notice period of two months. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Articles 75 and 164 of the Constitution deal with the appointment, tenure, responsibility, qualifications, oath and, salaries and allowances of the ministers. The Constitution does not contain any limitation as to who can or cannot be included in the Council of Ministers", and hence, no new disqualification could be added to prevent charge-sheeted persons from being appointed as Ministers. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Q.NO. 92

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

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

TEST -23- Q-100

With reference to Dhokra artwork, consider the following statements :

1. Dhokra is a non-ferrous metal casting style which uses the lost-wax technique.
2. It is highly unique where the pieces do not have any form of joints.
3. The dancing girl statue from Mohenjo-Daro is an example of Dhokra art.

How many of the statements given above are correct ?

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

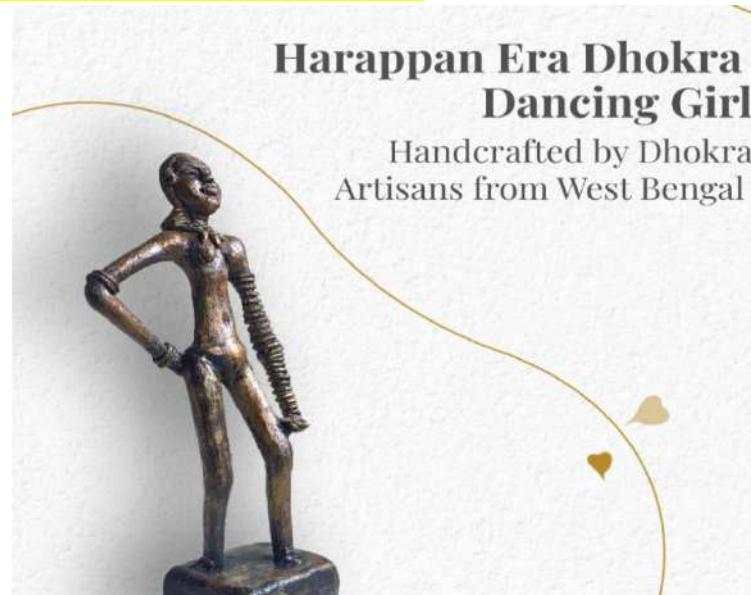
EXPLANATION:

Dhokra is a metal-casted art that uses the ancient lost-wax casting technique. This art is said to be the first of its kind to use non-ferrous metals like copper and its alloys, such as brass (a mix of zinc and copper) or bronze (tin and copper), which do not contain iron. Going back to the Age of Metallurgy, the extracting of metal from minerals, about 4,000 years ago, it uses the process of annealing, where a metal is heated to very high temperatures and allowed to cool slowly, while it takes the shape of an artefact. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Dhokra artefacts are unique as the pieces do not have any joints. The 12-step process is painstakingly complex. The artisans first create a clay core roughly in the shape of the final sculpture, which is then covered by a layer composed of pure beeswax, tree raisins and oil. The wax is applied in an even layer, and thin strips of it are used to decorate in fine detail. The quality of wax detailing ascertains the excellence of the final product. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Dokra, or Dhokra, is a traditional craft practiced since the Indus Valley Civilisation. It is a set of metal products made using the Madhu Chestan Vidhan or cire perdue technique or lost-wax technique. This metal casting technique has been timelessly connected to the lives of individuals,

and professionals who make cast metal items. Dhokra is a traditional form of metal casting practiced for over 4000 years and is believed to date back to the Indus Valley Civilization, where the earliest use of bronze in the subcontinent has been found. Dancing Girl, a bronze statue recovered from the Mohenjo-daro region is an example of this. This statue is a paradigm of today's Dhokra made using the lost-wax technique. So, Statement 3 is correct.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DHOKRA ARTWORK	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Dhokra art is unique because while most of the metal craftsmen are associated with hammering to mold the metal, the Dhokras simply employ the lost wax technique. It is a conventional process of making metalware using casting, forging, or shaping and has been implemented in Indian craft for ages. ➤ According to the available records, there was no difference between an artist and a craftsman in ancient India. Each group of craftsmen, such as the architects, poets, sculptors, painters, carpenters, and weavers were



		organized in guilds. The craftsmen learnt the nuances of their profession from masters and continued to promote the craft with every passing generation.
	The process	<p>The Dhokras use the lost wax casting process to manufacture brass articles and images. This technique entails making a wax prototype of the item, coating it with terracotta, followed by melting the wax, a cavity is made around the terracotta model through which molten metal is poured to produce the final product.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In this era of technological advancements, the original lost-wax technique is still in use in India, Nepal, and some parts of South India, but the procedure has been developed and rechristened as investment casting in the Western world.➤ The process of casting by Cireperdue can be divided into four main stages: molding, casting, and finishing; and the other includes modeling. All the stages are critical so that every aspect of the finished product is visually appealing and correctly operational. The materials and tools that are utilized by the Dhokra artisans have changed over the years and with the advancement of technology the process is also mechanized to some extent. Yet, the fundamental concepts and approach are preserved.➤ Most of the Dhokra artisans of the present generation learn this art form when they are young from their fellow elders. However, there has been a modern twist in the design although the traditional methods of designing and the types of art continue to be implemented.

Q.NO-99

Consider the following pairs:

Country	Resource-rich in
I. Botswana	: Diamond
II. Chile	: Lithium
III. Indonesia	: Nickel

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

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

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST- 3- Q-24

Consider the following pairs :

Sl. No.	Element		Country with Largest Reserves
1.	Lithium	-	Chile
2.	Cobalt	-	Democratic Republic of Congo
3.	Graphite	-	China
4.	Rare Earth Elements	-	Australia
5.	Nickel	-	Indonesia

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched ?

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

EXPLANATION:

Lithium is widely used in rechargeable batteries for electronic devices, electric vehicles, and renewable energy storage systems, as well as in ceramics, glass, and pharmaceutical applications.

Lithium is currently extracted from two primary sources: hard rock mines or as brine from salt flats and lakes, from where it is recovered using evaporation tanks.

- Half of the world's lithium resources are concentrated in Latin America (mostly Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina), Australia, and China.
- In 2021, almost 90% of lithium mining happened in Chile, China, and Australia, with Australia leading production.
- Chile holds the largest lithium reserves in the world at 9.3 million metric tons. The country reportedly hosts most of the world's "economically extractable" lithium reserves, and its Salar de Atacama region houses approximately 33 percent of the world's lithium reserve base. **So, Pair 1 is correct.**

Cobalt is a critical material for the energy transition, with increased demand in recent years due to its essential role in lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles (EVs), energy storage and other technologies.

Cobalt is an important component in the popular nickel-manganese-cobalt (NMC) battery. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the country with the largest cobalt reserves by far, with 6,000,000 metric tons (MT) of the battery metal in the ground. **So, Pair 2 is correct.**

Graphite is an excellent conductor of heat and electricity and also has the highest strength of any natural material. Graphite is found in metamorphic and igneous rock in many regions of the world, but especially Asia and East Africa.

In 2024, China had the world's largest reserves of natural graphite, at approximately 81 million metric tons. **So, Pair 3 is correct.**

Rare-earth elements (REEs) are some of the most valuable resources on Earth. Even though these are elements that occur naturally, they are rarely found in quantities large enough to mine. Therefore, when they are uncovered in suitable quantities, they are immediately valuable. There are seventeen rare earth elements in total, all of which are chemically metallic. Some of the most common examples of rare-earth elements include cerium, yttrium, and lanthanum.

- China has the largest amount, with around 44 million metric tons, and is actively mining them.
- Vietnam and Brazil also have large reserves—each has about half as much as China—and are beginning to extract them.
- Other countries like Russia, India, and Australia also have some rare earth metals, while the United States has about 1.5 million metric tons. **So, Pair 4 is not correct.**

Nickel is a metallic element with a silvery-white, shiny appearance. It is the fifth-most common element on Earth and occurs extensively in the Earth's crust and core. Nickel, along with iron, is also a common element in meteorites. Nickel occurs naturally in soil and water. It is also an essential nutrient for plants.

Indonesia has the highest nickel reserves in the world, coming in at 55 million metric tons, and it also takes the top spot for nickel production, with 1.8 million MT. **So, Pair 5 is correct.s**



UPSC PRELIMS 2025- PRESTORMING PARTIAL REFLECTIONS

UPSC 2025 - SERIES B	PRESTORMING 2024-2025 PARTIAL REFLECTIONS
<p>Q.NO. 1</p> <p>Consider the following types of vehicles:</p> <p>I. Full battery electric vehicles</p> <p>II. Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles</p> <p>III. Fuel cell electric hybrid vehicles</p> <p>How many of the above are considered as alternative powertrain vehicles?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) All the three</p> <p>(d) None</p>	<p>TEST NO. 3 – Q.NO. 4</p> <p>Consider the following statements with respect to India's first indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is jointly developed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the Inland Waterways Authority of India.2. It emits no noise, produces no emissions, and releases no pollutants.3. The hydrogen fuel cells used in this ferry boat do not require recharging. <p>How many of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) All three</p> <p>(d) None</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>The Prime Minister of India virtually launched India's first indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell ferry. The vessel is manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), not by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the Inland Waterways Authority of India. After rigorous trials, Cochin Shipyard Limited handed the ferry to the Inland Waterways Authority of India. It will be deployed for service at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> <p>The hydrogen fuel cell-powered vessel has zero emission, zero noise and is energy-efficient, which makes it more environment-friendly. Since there are no moving parts, the ferry requires less maintenance than combustion vessels. The adoption of green hydrogen as a maritime fuel is at the forefront of the country's commitment to a sustainable future that aims for net zero emissions by 2070. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>A hydrogen fuel cell generates electricity by utilizing the chemical energy of hydrogen. It releases only pure water, not discharging pollutants. Hydrogen is loaded into cells. The energy within the hydrogen is converted into electricity and heat, which is then used to power the vessel's propulsion mechanism. In the fuel cell, the hydrogen reacts with the oxygen in the air to produce electricity. Unlike batteries, hydrogen fuel cells do not require recharging. Provided an uninterrupted supply of fuel and oxygen, these cells would work continuously. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FIRST INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED HYDROGEN FUEL CELL FERRY

Recently in news	The Prime Minister launched India's first Indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel under the Harit Nauka initiative.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Hydrogen fuel cell vessel is a 24-meter-long catamaran which can carry 50 people in its air-conditioned passenger area. ➤ The accommodation area has been constructed with high-quality fibreglass reinforced plastic, similar to metro train coaches. Hydrogen fuel cell vessels do not use conventional batteries as the primary storage house of electrical energy. ➤ The vessels run on hydrogen fuel, which is stored in cylinders. This boat has five hydrogen cylinders that can carry 40kg of hydrogen and support eight hours of operations. The vessel is also fitted with a 3-kW solar panel.
National Green Hydrogen Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The National Hydrogen Mission aims to make India a hub for producing and exporting green hydrogen. ➤ India's foray into hydrogen fuel cell technology in maritime transport is a critical component of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, aiming to create a global competitive advantage in this emerging field. ➤ The government's support, evidenced by covering 75% of the project cost, underscores the national strategy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. ➤ The ferry reduces the environmental impact and positions India as a frontrunner in adopting alternative fuels in the maritime sector.
Grey, Blue and Green hydrogen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grey Hydrogen: It is produced via coal or lignite gasification (black or brown) or via a process called steam methane reformation (SMR) of natural gas or methane (grey). These tend to be primarily carbon-intensive processes. ➤ Blue Hydrogen: It is produced via natural gas or coal gasification combined with carbon capture storage (CCS) or carbon capture use (CCU) technologies to reduce carbon emissions. ➤ Green Hydrogen: It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy. The carbon intensity ultimately depends on the carbon neutrality of the source of electricity (i.e., the more renewable

energy there is in the electricity fuel mix, the "greener" the hydrogen produced).

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST -1 – Q.NO. 72

Consider the following

Statement I :

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV) produce less environmental pollution.

Statement II :

FCEVs produces electrical energy from Liquid Hydrogen with efficiencies up to 60%

Statement III :

Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) based fuel cells produce water and water vapour as by-product

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

EXPLANATION:

Hydrogen Fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) use a propulsion system similar to that of electric vehicles, where energy stored as hydrogen is converted to electricity by the fuel cell.

- Unlike conventional internal combustion engine vehicles, FCEV vehicles produce no harmful tailpipe emissions-they only emit water vapour and warm air. **So, Statement I is correct.**
- Fuel cells have several benefits over conventional combustion-based technologies. Fuel cells can operate at higher efficiencies than combustion engines and can convert the chemical energy in the liquid hydrogen fuel directly to electrical energy with efficiencies of up to 60%. **So, Statement II is correct.**
- The most common type of fuel cell for vehicle applications is the polymer electrolyte membrane (PEM) fuel cell, also known as the PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) fuel cell. In a PEM fuel cell, an electrolyte membrane is sandwiched between a positive electrode (cathode) and a negative electrode (anode). Hydrogen is introduced to the anode, and oxygen (from air) is introduced to the cathode. The hydrogen molecules break apart into protons and electrons due to an electrochemical reaction aided by a catalyst. Protons then travel through the membrane to the cathode. The electrons are forced to travel through an external circuit to perform work

(providing power to the electric motor) and then recombine with the protons on the cathode side, where the protons, electrons, and oxygen molecules combine to form water and water vapour. **Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, and both of them explain Statement I.**

Q.NO. 2

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

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

(d) None

TEST NO. 2 – Q.NO. 88

Consider the following statements regarding High-Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) :

- 1. HAPS are unmanned aerial vehicles that fly in the stratosphere.
- 2. HAPS are more flexible than satellites in their ability to map places and can be used for surveillance.
- 3. Only jet fuel is used to power HAPS.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION:

HAPS, or High Altitude Pseudo-Satellites, function similarly to unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) but operate in the stratosphere, well above the altitude of commercial air traffic. These advanced systems are designed to harness solar energy, supported by a battery system, enabling them to remain airborne for extended periods, often lasting several days. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

A fully working HAPS can be used for a variety of applications, from surveillance to beaming 5G waves. They can double up as “towers in the sky” and are more flexible than satellites in mapping a piece of land from above. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Pseudo-satellites (HAPS) are unmanned vehicles that take advantage of weak stratospheric winds and solar energy to operate without interfering with current commercial aviation and with enough endurance to provide long-term services as satellites do. **They are powered by solar cells (not jet fuel) and can fly continuously in the atmosphere for days. So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

Q.NO. 3

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

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

How many of the above usually make up battery cathodes?

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

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST -3 – Q.NO.24

Consider the following pairs :

Sl.No.	Element		Country with Largest Reserves
1.	Lithium	-	Chile
2.	Cobalt	-	Democratic Republic of Congo
3.	Graphite	-	China
4.	Rare Earth Elements	-	Australia
5.	Nickel	-	Indonesia

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched ?

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

EXPLANATION:

Lithium is widely used in rechargeable batteries for electronic devices, electric vehicles, and renewable energy storage systems, as well as in ceramics, glass, and pharmaceutical applications.

Lithium is currently extracted from two primary sources: hard rock mines or as brine from salt flats and lakes, from where it is recovered using evaporation tanks.

- Half of the world's lithium resources are concentrated in Latin America (mostly Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina), Australia, and China.
- In 2021, almost 90% of lithium mining happened in Chile, China, and Australia, with Australia leading production.
- Chile holds the largest lithium reserves in the world at 9.3 million metric tons. The country reportedly hosts most of the world's "economically extractable" lithium reserves, and its Salar de Atacama region houses approximately 33 percent of the world's lithium reserve base. **So, Pair 1 is correct.**

Cobalt is a critical material for the energy transition, with increased demand in recent years due to its essential role in lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles (EVs), energy storage and other technologies.

Cobalt is an important component in the popular nickel-manganese-cobalt (NMC) battery. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the country with the largest cobalt reserves by far, with 6,000,000 metric tons (MT) of the battery metal in the ground. **So, Pair 2 is correct.**

Graphite is an excellent conductor of heat and electricity and also has the highest strength of any natural material. Graphite is found in metamorphic and igneous rock in many regions of the world, but especially Asia and East Africa.

In 2024, China had the world's largest reserves of natural graphite, at approximately 81 million metric tons. **So, Pair 3 is correct.**

Rare-earth elements (REEs) are some of the most valuable resources on Earth. Even though these are elements that occur naturally, they are rarely found in quantities large enough to mine. Therefore, when they are uncovered in suitable quantities, they are immediately valuable. There are seventeen rare earth elements in total, all of which are chemically metallic.

Some of the most common examples of rare-earth elements include cerium, yttrium, and lanthanum.

- China has the largest amount, with around 44 million metric tons, and is actively mining them.
- Vietnam and Brazil also have large reserves—each has about half as much as China—and are beginning to extract them.
- Other countries like Russia, India, and Australia also have some rare earth metals, while the United States has about 1.5 million metric tons. **So, Pair 4 is not correct.**

Nickel is a metallic element with a silvery-white, shiny appearance. It is the fifth-most common element on Earth and occurs extensively in the Earth's crust and core. Nickel, along with iron, is also a common element in meteorites. Nickel occurs naturally in soil and water. It is also an essential nutrient for plants.

Indonesia has the highest nickel reserves in the world, coming in at 55 million metric tons, and it also takes the top spot for nickel production, with 1.8 million MT. **So, Pair 5 is correct.**

Q.NO. 9

Consider the following statements:

I. No virus can survive in ocean waters.

II. No virus can infect bacteria.

III. No virus can change the cellular transcriptional activity in host cells.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

TEST NO. 12 – Q.NO.65

Which one of the following best describes the term 'obelisks' ?

- (a) A new enzyme found in the human gut that is responsible for breaking down complex carbohydrates.
- (b) A new form of fragments of RNA found in the human gut.**
- (c) A new group of micro-organism found in the human intestine that enhances the absorption of protein.
- (d) A new chemical substance found in the human liver that neutralises the effects of cancer-causing agents in the food consumed.

EXPLANATION:

Obelisks are a newly discovered class of viroid-like elements, not bacteria, that inhabit the human gut and mouth, and their characteristics and functions are distinct from those of known biological agents.

Obelisks bear some resemblance to viroids—tiny, circular fragments of single-stranded RNA.

Where obelisks differ is in their shape and structure, they are rolled into a rod shape instead of remaining a flat circle, and their RNA sequences don't match any known viroid sequences. They are also the first viroidlike elements to be detected in bacterial cells, rather than in more complex organisms. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

VIRUS AND VIROIDS

Similarities

- Viruses and viroids are two types of small, infectious agents.
- They are non-living particles, and their replication occurs only inside a living cell.
- Also, they lack cellular machinery for their replication.
- However, both particles contain nucleic acids.
- Besides, both cause diseases in their host.

VIRUS VERSUS VIROIDS

VIRUS	VIROIDS
A small infectious agent that replicates only inside the living cells of other organisms	The infectious particles smaller than any of the known viruses, serving as an agent of certain plant diseases
A nucleoprotein particle	RNA particles
A small particle	Smaller than viruses
Contains either DNA or RNA as their nucleic acids	Contain a short strand of circular, single-stranded RNA as their nucleic acid
Contains a protein coat surrounding its nucleic acid	Do not contain a protein coat
Different types of viruses can infect different forms of hosts including animal, plant or bacterial cells	Infect only plant cells
Produces proteins during their replication	Do not produce proteins during replication
Examples: EBV, adenoviruses, hepatitis B, influenza A, etc.	Examples: Potato spindle tuber viroid, Avsunviroidae, etc.
	Visit www.PEDIAA.com

Q.NO. 16

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

(c) I, II and III

- (d) None of the above statements is correct

ALL INDIA MOCK TEST – 01 – Q.NO.37

Consider the following statements:

Statement 1:

Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) significantly reduces carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and industrial applications, which account for about 50% of all greenhouse gas emissions.

Statement 2:

CCUS reduces carbon emissions by storing carbon without entering the atmosphere.

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

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I

- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

EXPLANATION:

Globally, the power and industrial sectors contribute to about 50% of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) programme aims to reduce carbon emissions by either storing or reusing it so that captured carbon dioxide does not enter the atmosphere. Department of Science and Technology (DST) aims to nurture the area of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage through the emphasis on research and development and capacity building of both human resources as well as infrastructure to evolve technologies and methodologies that address issues related to high capital costs, safety, logistics and high auxiliary power consumption.

CCUS refers to a suite of technologies that can play an important and diverse role in meeting global energy and climate goals. It involves three major steps:

- **Capture:** The separation of CO₂ from other gases produced at large industrial process facilities such as coal and natural-gas-fired power plants, steel mills, cement plants and refineries. The CO₂ can also be captured directly from the atmosphere via Direct Air Capture (DAC) technology.
- **Transport:** If not being used on-site, the captured CO₂ is compressed and transported via pipelines, trucks, ships or other methods by pipeline, ship, rail or truck to a suitable site for geological storage or utilisation.

➤ Storage/Utilisation: CO₂ is injected into deep underground rock formations, usually at depths of one kilometre or more. Alternatively, the CO₂ is used as a resource to create valuable products or services.

Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.

Q.NO. 19

Consider the following pairs:

Plant	Description
1. Cassava	: Woody Shrub
2. Ginger	: Herb with pseudostem
3. Malabar spinach	: Herbaceous climber
4. Mint	: Annual shrub
5. Papaya	: Woody shrub

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only two

(b) Only three

(c) Only four

(d) All the five

TEST NO.25 – Q.NO.34

Consider the following statements :

1. Cassava is a starchy root crop mainly cultivated in the Western areas of India.
2. Under the National policy on Biofuels 2018, Cassava is used as raw material for ethanol production.
3. A 'Kukurro house' is a traditional agricultural practice used for cultivation of Cassava to ensure the crop's genetic diversity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) **2 and 3 only**

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) None

EXPLANATION:

Cassava is the most important starchy root crop grown in the tropics and is mainly cultivated in southern peninsular India (not in the Western areas of India). Introduced during seventeenth century by Portuguese, the crop played a significant role to overcome food shortage among the low-income group of people in Kerala. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The National Policy on Biofuels - 2018 expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of Sugarcane Juice, Sugar containing materials like Sugar Beet, Sweet Sorghum, Starch containing materials like Corn, Cassava, Damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, Rotten Potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Cassava (also known as 'Yuca' or 'Manioc') is a root vegetable that feeds around a billion people worldwide. For this reason, it is often known as 'bread of the tropics'

➤ A recent study found that Indigenous practices like 'Kukurro houses' have ensured crop's genetic diversity. Indigenous Brazilian farmers and their belief in Kukurro, the caterpillar god with whom they decorate their farming implements.

- In Kukurro's honour, farmers occasionally plant stems of high-yielding and resilient cassava plants in close proximity in special 'Kukurro houses'. This enables seed-based sexual reproduction, resulting in 'cassava from the sky', rescuing genetic diversity to the system. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CASSAVA	
About	<p>Cassava (<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz) is one of the most important tropical root and tuber crops and is grown for its starchy tuberous roots. It belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ According to the prevailing knowledge, cultivated cassava originated in South America and was domesticated less than 10,000 years ago with evidence of ancient cultivation in Brazil, Peru, Columbia and Venezuela. ➤ Cassava was introduced to India by the Portuguese when they landed in the Malabar region, presently part of the Kerala state, during the 17th century, from Brazil. ➤ Cassava cultivation in India is mostly confined to Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and North-Eastern hill region. ➤ Considering its nature as an industrial raw material for starch production, cassava cultivation is catching up in non-traditional areas like Maharashtra and Gujarat. ➤ In Kerala, it is grown both under upland as well as under low land conditions. ➤ It is also raised as an inter-crop in coconut gardens under homestead farming situation. ➤ In Tamil Nadu, the crop is cultivated in plains and hills. Tamil Nadu is the only place in the world where cassava is raised under irrigation in plains.



Q.NO. 21

Consider the following statements about Raja Ram Mohan Roy:

1. He possessed great love and respect for the traditional philosophical system of the East.
2. He desired his countrymen to accept the rational and scientific approach and the principle of human dignity and social equality of all men and women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

TEST NO.04 – Q.NO.49

Consider the following statements:

1. Brahmo Samaj was based on the essential principle of monotheism.
2. The first Secretary of Brahmo Samaj was Dwaraknath Tagore.
3. Raja Ram Mohan Roy created a sense of awareness among the people and made the reform emerge from within the society itself.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Raja Rammohan Roy (1772–1833), often called the father of the Indian Renaissance and the maker of Modern India, was a versatile genius.

- He founded the Brahmo Sabha in August 1828; it was later renamed Brahmo Samaj. Through the Sabha, he wanted to institutionalize his ideas and mission. The Samaj was committed to "the worship and adoration of the Eternal, Unsearchable, Immutable Being who is the Author and Preserver of the Universe".

- Prayers, meditation, and readings of the Upanishads were to be the forms of worship, and no graven image, statue or sculpture, carving, painting, picture, portrait, etc., were to be allowed in the Samaj buildings, thus underlining the Samaj's opposition to idolatry and meaningless rituals.
- The long-term agenda of the Brahmo Samaj—to purify Hinduism and preach monotheism—was based on the twin pillars of reason and the Vedas and Upanishads.
- The Samaj also tried to incorporate teachings of other religions and kept its emphasis on human dignity, opposition to idolatry, and criticism of social evils such as sati.

So, Statement 1 is correct.

Dwarkanath Tagore was the Rabindranath's grandfather. Dwarkanath was a close friend of Rammohun Roy. They worked together on several projects and Dwarkanath helped Rammohan Roy found the Brahmo Sabha, the society that would later become Brahmo Samaj. After Rammohun left for England, Dwarkanath was the pradhanacharya or principal of the Brahmo Sabha. Tarachand Chakravarti (Not Dwarkanath Tagore) was the first secretary of Brahmo Samaj. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

The technique of reform from within was initiated by Rammohun Roy and followed throughout the nineteenth century. The advocates of this method believed that any reform, in order to be effective, had to emerge from within the society itself. As a result, the main thrust of their efforts was to create a sense of awareness among the people. They tried to do this by publishing tracts and organizing debates and discussions on various social problems. Rammohun's campaign against sati, Vidyasagar's pamphlets on widow marriage and B.M. Malabari's efforts to increase the age of consent are examples of the technique. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SOCIO-CULTURAL REFORM MOVEMENTS

Raja Rammohan Roy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raja Rammohan Roy (1772–1833), often called the father of the Indian Renaissance and the maker of Modern India, was a man of versatile genius. ➤ In 1814, he set up the Atmiya Sabha (or Society of Friends) in Calcutta to propagate the monotheistic ideals of the Vedanta and to campaign against idolatry, caste rigidities, meaningless rituals, and other social ills. ➤ In his book Precepts of Jesus (1820), he tried to separate the moral and philosophical message of the New Testament, which he praised, from its miracle
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		<p>stories. He earned the wrath of missionaries over his advocacy to incorporate the message of Christ into Hinduism.</p> <p>➤ He stood for a creative and intellectual process of selecting the best from different cultures, over which, again, he faced orthodox reaction.</p> <p>➤ Founded the Brahmo Sabha in August 1828. Later renamed to Brahmo Samaj.</p> <p>➤ The features of Brahmo Samaj are as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ It denounced polytheism and idol worship;○ It discarded faith in divine avatars (incarnations);○ It denied that any scripture could enjoy the status of ultimate authority transcending human reason and conscience.○ It took no definite stand on the doctrine of karma and transmigration of the soul and left it to individual Brahmos to believe either way.○ It criticized the caste system.
<p><u>Q.NO. 25</u></p> <p>Fa-hien (faxian), the Chinese pilgrim, travelled to India during the reign of</p> <p>(a) Samudragupta</p> <p>(b) Chandragupta II</p> <p>(c) Kumaragupta I</p> <p>(b) Skandagupta</p>	<p><u>TEST NO.23 – Q.NO.70</u></p> <p>Consider the following foreign travellers :</p> <p>1. Nicolo Conti</p> <p>2. Fernao Nuniz</p> <p>3. Duarto Barbosa</p> <p>4. Abdur Razzaq</p> <p>How many of the above-mentioned travellers wrote about the magnificence of the Vijayanagar empire?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) Only three</p> <p>(d) All four</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>The history of the Vijayanagar Empire constitutes an important chapter in the history of India. Four dynasties – Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva and Aravidu – ruled Vijayanagar from A.D. 1336 to 1672. The sources for the study of Vijayanagar are varied, including literary, archaeological, and numismatic sources. Many foreign travellers visited the Vijayanagar Empire in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and their accounts are also valuable.</p>	

- Venetian traveller Nicolo de Conti,
- Persian traveller Abdur Razzak,
- Duarte Barbosa Portuguese explorer
- Fernao Nuniz from Portuguese
- The Portuguese traveller Domingo Paes was among them who left valuable accounts on the socio-economic conditions of the Vijayanagar Empire. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FOREIGN TRAVELLERS	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ François Bernier The French physician and traveller François Bernier visited India in the 17th century CE and wrote about the Mughal court in his book 'Travels in the Mugol Empire', offering a European perspective on Indian society and politics. He worked as a physician to Dara Shikoh. ➤ Jean-Baptiste Tavernier The French gem merchant and traveller Jean-Baptiste Tavernier visited India in the 17th century CE and documented his travels. He collected precious stones for his business in Europe, he acquired the 'Hope Diamond' and sold it to Louis XIV. ➤ Ibn Battuta The Moroccan explorer Ibn Battuta visited India in the 14th century CE and recorded his experiences in his book Kitab Alrahila, during Mohd. Bin Tughlaq's reign, he also provided a detailed description of Indian dishes like halwa, almond pudding, barley water, and coconut trees. ➤ Marco Polo The Venetian merchant and explorer Marco Polo visited India in the late 13th century CE, describing the wealth, customs, and grandeur of Indian cities in his travelogue. ➤ Al-Masudi The Arab historian and geographer Al-Masudi visited India in the 10th century CE, documenting the diverse cultures and trade practices. He was a renowned climatologist and described the periodic winds from the Bay of Bengal. ➤ Fa-Hien The Chinese Buddhist monk Fa-Hien travelled to India in the 5th century CE during the Gupta period to study Buddhism and left detailed accounts of his journey, highlighting the religious and cultural practices of the time.



		<p>➤ Hiuen-Tsang Another Chinese traveller, Hiuen-Tsang, visited India in the 7th century CE during the Harsha dynasty and wrote extensively about the flourishing Buddhist culture, Indian society, sati, and religion.</p> <p>➤ Megasthene The Greek ambassador of Seleucus I Nicator, Megasthenes, visited India around 300 BCE in the Mauryan empire. He noted his observations in "Indica," providing valuable information about ancient Indian society.</p>
<p align="center"><u>Q.NO. 29</u></p> <p>Ashokan inscriptions suggest that the "Pradeshika", Rajuka' and 'Yukta' were important officers at the</p> <p>(a) village-level administration</p> <p>(b) district-level administration</p> <p>(c) provincial administration</p> <p>(d) level of the central administration</p>	<p align="center"><u>TEST NO.28 – Q.NO.82</u></p> <p>With reference to Mauryan administration, consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Mauryan territories were directly ruled by the King. 2. Dharmathikarin was responsible for collection of land revenue during Maurya rule. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are not correct ?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 only</p> <p>(c) Both 1 and 2</p> <p>(d) Neither 1 nor 2</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>Mauryans developed an organized and elaborate system of administration. There was a central administration directly under the King. However, the entire Empire was divided into two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The kingdom that was under the direct rule of the King and ➤ The Vassal states <p>The Mauryan territory that was directly ruled by the King was divided into a number of provinces called 'Janapadas.' Ashoka had five provinces with capitals, namely Taxila, Ujjain, Tosali, Suvarnagiri, and Pataliputra. Each province was subdivided into a number of districts, and each district was again subdivided into a number of units.</p> <p>However, in addition to these centrally ruled Mauryan territories, there were vassal states. They enjoyed a great deal of autonomy.</p> <p>The provincial administration worked on similar lines to the central administration. The Mauryan Emperor directly ruled the east and central parts of the Empire. The other areas were ruled by the provincial Governors. The provincial governors were responsible for the day-to-day administration of provinces. They were expected to consult on important matters. Therefore, not all the territories</p>	

	<p>were directly ruled by the King. So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> <p>The King was the head of the judiciary and the highest court of appeal and personally listened to the appeals of the people. However, since the Mauryan Empire's administration was huge, he appointed judges for the purpose. The Supreme Court was located in the capital, and the Chief Justice was called 'Dharmathikarin.' There were also subordinate courts at the provincial capitals and districts under 'Amatyas.' In villages and towns, cases were settled by the 'Gramavradha' and 'Nagaravyavaharikamahamatra', respectively.</p> <p>The duties of revenue administration were carried out by officials like Viniyuktaka, Rajuka, Uparika, Dashparadhika, and others. Land revenue was the chief source of revenue among the 18 sources of revenue. It was generally fixed at one-sixth of the total produce. The greater part of the revenue generated was spent on public welfare. So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Q.NO. 37</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>Statement I : As regards returns from an investment in a company, generally, bondholders are considered to be relatively at lower risk than stockholders.</p> <p>Statement II: Bondholders are lenders to a company whereas stockholders are its owners.</p> <p>Statement III: For repayment purpose, bond-holders are prioritized over stockholders by a company. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(a) Both statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I</p> <p>(b) Both statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explain Statement II</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.03 – Q.NO.38</u></p> <p>2. Consider the following statements with reference to convertible debentures :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a type of unsecured long-term debt. 2. It is issued by a private company. 3. It is provided with no underlying collateral. 4. It pays regular interest payments to bondholders. <p>How many of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All four</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>A convertible debenture is a type of unsecured long-term debt issued by a private company that can be converted into shares of equity stock after a specified period. Convertible debentures are usually unsecured bonds or loans, often with no underlying collateral backing up the debt. These long-term debt securities pay interest returns to the bondholder like any other bond. The unique feature of convertible debentures is that they are exchangeable for stock at specified times. So, Statement 1, 2 and 3 are correct.</p> <p>Convertible debentures are a unique hybrid financial instrument blending characteristics of both debt and equity. When companies issue convertible debentures, they essentially offer fixed-rate</p>

- (c) Only one of the Statement II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

loans to bondholders, ensuring regular interest payments.

Convertible debentures tend to offer lower interest rates compared to traditional bonds. This is because investors are willing to accept reduced interest returns in exchange for the valuable option to convert their loans into common shares. By holding convertible debentures, investors get the opportunity to benefit from potential increases in the company's stock price. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DEBENTURES	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A debenture is a type of debt instrument that is not backed by any collateral and usually has a term greater than 10 years. ➤ Debentures are backed only by the creditworthiness and reputation of the issuer. ➤ Both corporations and governments frequently issue debentures to raise capital or funds. ➤ Some debentures can convert to equity shares while others cannot.
Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Just as there are convertible debentures, there are also non-convertible debentures whereby the debt cannot be converted into equity. ➤ As a result, non-convertible debentures will offer higher interest rates than their convertible counterparts since investors do not have the option to convert to stock. ➤ Partly-convertible debentures are also a version of this type of debt. These loans have a predetermined portion that can be converted to stock. The conversion ratio is determined at the onset of the debt issuance. ➤ Fully-convertible debentures have the option to convert all of the debt into equity shares based on the terms outlined at the debt issuance. It's important that investors research the type of debenture they're considering for investment including if or when there is a conversion option, the conversion ratio, and the time frame for when a conversion to equity can occur.

Q. NO – 45

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

TEST 02 – Q.NO.05

Which principle states that the Earth's lithosphere floats on the semi-ductile asthenosphere and adjusts to maintain gravitational equilibrium ?

- (a) Plate Tectonics theory
- (b) Theory of Isostasy**
- (c) Continental Drift theory
- (d) Thermal Convection

EXPLANATION:

Isostasy is the state of gravitational equilibrium between Earth's crust (lithosphere) and mantle such that the crust "floats" at an elevation that depends on its thickness and density. It is a dynamic process where the crust and mantle must adjust to maintain equilibrium as the Earth changes.

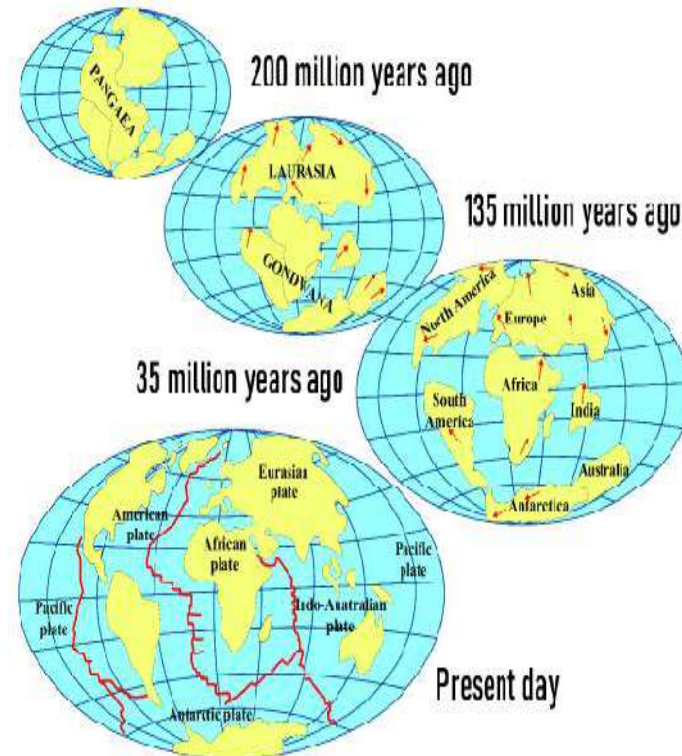
For example, when glaciers melt, they remove weight from the crust. This causes the crust to rise. Conversely, when glaciers form, they add weight to the crust, causing it to sink.

Isostasy can also be affected by tectonic activity, such as the formation of new mountains or the subduction of oceanic crust. Thus, the theory of Isostasy states that the Earth's lithosphere floats on the semi-fluid asthenosphere and adjusts to maintain gravitational equilibrium. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

OTHER THEORIES

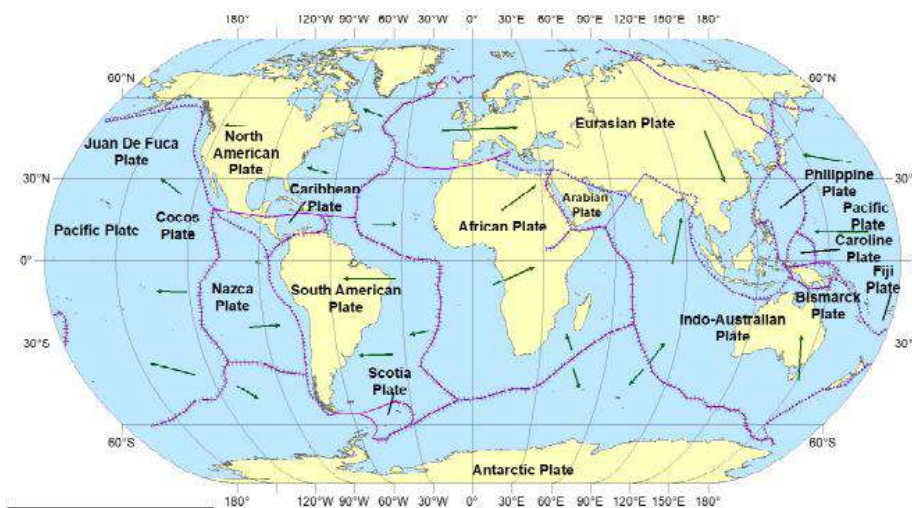
Continental Drift theory	<p>According to Alfred Wegener, the entire landmass of the globe was together about 280 million years ago. It was termed Pangea, a supercontinent.</p> <p>The huge water body surrounding the Pangea was known as Panthalasa. From 280 to 150 million years ago, Pangea was broken latitudinally into northern and southern parts known as Laurasia (Angaraland) and Gondwanaland, respectively. Both of them drifted away, and in between, a shallow sea emerged by filling up the water from Panthalasa.</p> <p>It was known as the Tethys Sea. Later on, Laurasia and Gondwanaland rifted and finally drifted to form the present-day distribution of land and water on the earth.</p>
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**Plate
Tectonics
theory**

According to plate tectonic theory, the earth's surface comprises several plates. Plates are the solid and rigid upper part above the asthenosphere segmented into several blocks. Those blocks are known as lithospheric plates. There are seven major plates.

- Eurasian plate
- African plate
- Indo-Australian plate
- Pacific plate
- North American plate
- South American plate
- Antarctic plate.



Thermal Convection

- Thermal convection is a fundamental concept in physics that describes the transfer of heat through the movement of fluids (liquids or gases) due to differences in temperature.
- Arthur Holmes, a renowned English geologist, proposed the concept of thermal convection in the Earth's mantle in the late 1920s.
- According to his theory, the Earth's mantle contains convection cells that dissipate radioactive heat and drive the movement of the crust at the surface.

Q.NO. 54

GPS-Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) uses a system of ground stations to provide necessary augmentation.

Which of the following statements is/are correct in respect of GAGAN?

- I. It is designed to provide additional accuracy and integrity.
- II. It will allow more uniform and higher quality air traffic management.

TEST NO.22 – Q.NO.4

24. Consider the following pairs :

Sl.No	Navigation System		Country / Region
1.	GLONASS	-	European Union
2.	Galileo	-	Russia
3.	QZSS	-	China
4.	Beidou	-	Japan

III. It will provide benefits only in aviation but not in other modes of transportation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched ?

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

EXPLANATION:

GLONASS was developed by Russia, the then the Soviet Union (not European Union) as an experimental military communications system during the 1970s.

When the Cold War ended, the Soviet Union recognized that GLONASS had commercial applications through the system's ability to transmit weather broadcasts, communications, navigation and reconnaissance data.

The first GLONASS satellite was launched in 1982, and the system was declared fully operational in 1993. Currently, GLONASS has a full deployment of 24 satellites in the constellation, which continuously transmit coded signals in two frequency bands, which can be received by users anywhere on the Earth's surface to identify their position and velocity in real-time. The primary applications of GLONASS are positioning and time transfer. **So, Pair (1) is not correct.**

Galileo is a European Union (not Russia) global navigation satellite system providing a highly accurate, guaranteed global positioning service under civilian control.

Currently providing Initial Services, Galileo is interoperable with GPS and GLONASS, as well as the US and Russian global satellite navigation systems.

By offering dual frequencies as standard, Galileo can deliver real-time positioning accuracy down to the metre range. Galileo is three times more accurate than GPS, providing 1-meter accuracy and a broad range of services.

The current Galileo system consists of 28 satellites. It has been operational since December 2016. Galileo navigation signals provide good coverage even at latitudes up to 75 degrees north, which corresponds to Norway's North Cape - the most northerly tip of Europe - and beyond. **So, Pair (2) is not correct.**

The Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) is a regional navigation satellite system commissioned by the Japanese Government (Not China). It was authorized by the Japanese government in 2002.

It is a four-satellite system that provides regional communication services and positioning information for the mobile environment. The focus of this system is on the Japan region, but it will provide service to the Asia-Oceania region.

QZSS provides limited accuracy in standalone mode, so it is viewed as a GPS augmentation service. The QZSS satellites use the same frequencies as GPS and have clocks that are synchronized with GPS time. This allows the QZSS satellites to be used as if they were additional GPS satellites. **So, Pair (3) is not correct.**

The BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) has been independently constructed and operated by China (not Japan).

Phase 2 of the BeiDou system (BDS-2) officially became operational in December 2012, providing coverage for the Asia Pacific region.

Phase 3 of the BeiDou system (BDS-3) became fully operational in 2020, and BeiDou now provides global coverage with enhanced regional coverage. As of 2021, the space segment consists of a constellation of 45 satellites.

China decided to develop BeiDou after the 1995–1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis when an unexpected disruption in GPS caused the People's Liberation Army to lose track of its ballistic missiles fired over the Taiwan Strait. **So, Pair (4) is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NAVIGATION WITH INDIAN CONSTELLATION (NAVIC)

About

To meet the positioning, navigation and timing requirements of the nation, ISRO has established a regional navigation satellite system called Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).

- NavIC was erstwhile known as the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS). It is designed with a constellation of 7 satellites and a network of ground stations operating 24 x 7.
- NavIC offers two services:
 - Standard Position Service (SPS) for civilian users
 - Restricted Service (RS) for strategic users.
- NavIC coverage area includes India and a region up to 1500 km beyond the Indian boundary.
- NavIC signals are designed to provide user position accuracy better than 20m and timing accuracy better than 50ns.
- NavIC SPS signals are interoperable with other global navigation satellite system (GNSS) signals, namely GPS, GLONASS, Galileo and BeiDou.



GAGAN

- GAGAN stands for GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation. It is a satellite-based augmentation system developed primarily for safety-of-life civil aviation applications catering to the Indian airspace.
- It provides correction and integrity messages for GPS.
- GAGAN has been established jointly by ISRO and the Airport Authority of India (AAI). It is being operated and maintained by AAI.

Q.NO. 55

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

TEST NO.23 – Q.NO.56

25. Consider the following pairs :

Sl. No.	International agreement/set up		Subject
1.	Bletchley Declaration	-	Addressing the risk of Artificial Intelligence
2.	Cyberspace Declaration	-	Application of international law to cyberspace by the United Nations.
3.	Pack for the future	-	Global climate compact

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct ?

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

EXPLANATION:

The “Bletchley Declaration” – described by the UK Government as a ‘world-first’ agreement – was endorsed by 28 countries (including the US, Saudi Arabia, China and the UK) and the European Union (EU).

The Declaration signifies a collective commitment to proactively manage potential risks associated with so-called “frontier AI” (i.e., highly capable general-purpose AI models) to ensure such models are developed and deployed in a safe and responsible way. In particular, the signatories commit through the Declaration to identify AI safety risks (primarily through scientific and evidence-based research) and to build risk-based policies to ensure safety in light of such risks. **So, Pair (1) is**

	<p>correct.</p> <p>Recently, the European Council approved a declaration by the European Union (EU) (Not by United Nations) and its member states on a common understanding of the application of international law to cyberspace. The Declaration acknowledges that malicious behaviour in cyberspace, including ransomware, is increasing in scale, severity, sophistication, and impact, presenting a major challenge and threat to the functioning of European societies, economies, and way of life. So, Pair (2) is not correct.</p> <p>World leaders adopt a Pact for the Future that includes a Global Digital Compact (Not a Global Climate Pact) and a Declaration on Future Generations. The Pact covers a broad range of themes, including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations, and the transformation of global governance. Its primary objective is to ensure that international institutions are equipped to navigate a world vastly different from the one in which they were created. So, Pair (3) is not correct.</p>
<p>Q.NO. 63</p> <p>Consider the following space missions: I. Axiom – 4 II. SpaDeX III. Gaganyaan How many of the space missions given above encourage and support micro-gravity research? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None</p>	<p>TEST NO.12 – Q.NO.28</p> <p>Consider the following statements with Bharatiya Antariksh Station :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is India's proposed space station by 2035. 2. It is intended to support India's human space missions in lower earth orbit. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Recently, the union cabinet has approved the building of the first unit of the Bharatiya Anatriksh Station (BAS-1) by extending the scope of the Gaganyaan program.</p> <p>The BAS is a modular space station that is being developed by India to support scientific research in areas like life sciences and medicine and enhance space exploration.</p> <p>The first module is expected to be launched by 2028, and the station will be fully operational by 2035. The BAS will allow studies on microgravity, human health, and life-sustaining technologies for future space missions. It positions India as a key player in space exploration, alongside nations like the US and China, which already have astronauts in space. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p>

The Gaganyaan Programme, approved in December 2018, envisages undertaking human spaceflight to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and laying the foundation of technologies needed for an Indian human space exploration programme in the long run. The vision for space in the Amrit Kaal envisages, including other things, the creation of an operational Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035 and an Indian Crewed Lunar Mission by 2040. Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS-1) is an expansion of the Gaganyaan program. Therefore, Bharatiya Anatriksh Station intended to support India's human space missions in lower earth orbit. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

GAGANYAAN	
Recently in News	The union cabinet has approved the building of the first unit of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS-1).
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gaganyaan project envisages a demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of 3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3-day mission and bringing them back safely to Earth by landing in Indian sea waters. ➤ LVM3 rocket - The well-proven and reliable heavy lift launcher of ISRO is identified as the launch vehicle for the Gaganyaan mission. It consists of solid stage, liquid stage and cryogenic stage. All systems in the LVM3 launch vehicle are re-configured to meet human rating requirements and christened Human Rated LVM3. HLVM3 will be capable of launching the Orbital Module to an intended Low Earth Orbit of 400 km. ➤ HLVM3 consists of a Crew Escape System (CES) powered by a set of quick-acting, high-burn rate solid motors, which ensures that the Crew Module, along with the crew, is taken to a safe distance in case of any emergency either at the launch pad or during the ascent phase. ➤ The orbital Module (OM) that will be Orbiting Earth comprises a Crew Module (CM) and a Service Module (SM). OM is equipped with state-of-the-art avionics systems with adequate redundancy that considers human safety. ➤ CM is a habitable space with an Earth-like environment for the crew. It is of double-walled construction consisting of a pressurized metallic Inner Structure and an unpressurized External Structure with a Thermal Protection System (TPS). It houses crew interfaces, human-centric products, a life

- support system, and avionics and deceleration systems. It is also designed for re-entry to ensure the safety of the crew during descent till touchdown.
- SM will be used for providing necessary support to CM while in orbit. It is an unpressurized structure containing thermal system, propulsion system, power systems, avionics systems and deployment mechanisms.

Q.NO. 73

Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

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

Statement II:

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

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

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

TEST 24 – Q.NO.6

30. Consider the following statements:

1. BioE3 Policy aims to develop Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry in India.
2. Biomanufacturing uses biological systems like cells to produce commercially viable products.
3. BioFoundries can enable automation of labour-intensive processes.
4. BioE3 Policy aligns with the Lifestyle for Environment initiative.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy aims at accelerating the development of technologies for bio-based products and their commercialization by setting up BioEnablers that include Bio-Artificial (Bio-AI) Intelligence Hubs, Biofoundries and Biomanufacturing Hubs across the country.

The objective of the BioE3 Policy is to set forth a framework that ensures the adoption of cutting-edge advanced technologies and aligns innovative research to promote Biomanufacturing. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Biomanufacturing is defined as manufacturing that uses biological systems, including microbes, plant cells, and enzymes, to produce commercially relevant molecules.

Instead of relying solely on chemical processes or machinery, Biomanufacturing taps into the capabilities of living organisms such as bacteria, yeast, or mammalian cells.

These organisms are engineered or cultured to produce valuable substances such as proteins, enzymes, vaccines, and even biodegradable plastics.

The process can offer significant advantages over traditional manufacturing methods, including

reduced environmental impact, improved sustainability, and the ability to create products that are harder to replicate using conventional techniques.

Biomanufacturing already plays an important role in the production of pharmaceuticals, flavours and fragrances, and cosmetic additives. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

A biofoundry is a facility that uses automation and technology to accelerate the development of biological systems. Biofoundries are used to advance research and innovation in biotechnology, chemical biology, and bioengineering.

The ability to genetically reprogram organisms for various applications—from producing sustainable biofuels and pharmaceuticals to biodegradable plastics and agricultural enhancements—gives bio-foundries a pivotal role in shaping the future of biotech industries. Biofoundries can enable automation for the processes that were once labour-intensive and time-consuming. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

The BioE3 Policy is aligned with India's vision of Green Growth (announced in the Union Budget 2023-24) and also with the 'Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)' that envisions a collective approach towards sustainability. The policy also aligns with the country's vision of a 'Net-zero' carbon economy. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BIOETHANOL

About

- Bioethanol is a type of alcohol that is obtained from different types of plants rich in cellulose, such as sugar cane, sugar beet, or some grains such as corn.
- Although it is possible to cultivate these vegetable raw materials with the aim of using them directly for bioethanol production, this fuel can also be obtained from forestry residue and agricultural waste.
- Bioethanol is divided into three types, depending on the raw material used for its production.

First-generation bioethanol: It's derived from plants cultivated expressly for its production.

Second-generation bioethanol: It comes from agricultural or urban waste, especially from the decomposition of biomass coming from wood.

Third-generation bioethanol (Advanced): Advanced bioethanol can be

		obtained from plant species that are not intended for food, such as algae. It is still in the research and development phase, so it is not currently marketed.
	Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It reduces CO₂ emissions: Although it produces CO₂ when burned, it actually comes from the CO₂ absorbed by the plant as it grows, and it is also much lower than that generated by fossil fuels; the difference ranges from 19% (from corn crops) to 86% (from biomass residues). ➤ It doesn't generate waste: Its combustion doesn't generate smells or waste, and the CO₂ generated can be captured and used in other industrial applications, such as the carbonation of drinks or freezing. For example, it reduces the amount of rubbish generated in an urban centre. ➤ It boosts the local economy: The increase in the demand for this fuel brings with it greater employment opportunities. In addition to the need for personnel to work at bioethanol plants, jobs are created in the agricultural sector to supply raw materials and other related sectors.
	Adoption of Bioethanol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The leading countries in the production and consumption of ethanol are Brazil and the US; the latter is also the main exporter of bioethanol in the world. ➤ In Europe, the country that consumes and exports the most bioethanol is France. ➤ In India, an indicative target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol was initially set for 2030 under the EBP Programme. ➤ However, in 2020, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) advanced this target to 2025. ➤ In 2013-14, the ethanol blending percentage was 1.53% for Petroleum fuels. In 2020-21, the blending percentage increased to 8.17%.

Q.NO. 98

Who among the following was the founder of the "Self-Respect Movement"?

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

TEST NO-13- Q.NO-52

Consider the following statements :

1. He wrote numerous pamphlets on anti-liquor campaigns.
2. He was described by Gandhi as the "keeper of my conscience".
3. He vehemently opposed the use of nuclear weapons and was a proponent of world peace and disarmament.
4. He advocated cooperation over Britain's war effort and opposed the Quit India Movement.

Which of the following leaders had described above ?

- (a) **C Rajagopalachari**
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) Vinayak Damodar Savarkar
- (d) C N Annadurai

EXPLANATION:

Chakravarti Rajagopalachari BR (10 December 1878 – 25 December 1972), popularly known as Rajaji or C.R., also known as Mootharignar Rajaji (Rajaji", the Scholar Emeritus"), was an Indian statesman, writer, lawyer, and Indian independence activist.

- Rajagopalachari was the last Governor-General of India. He was also the only Indian-born Governor-General, as all previous post-holders were British nationals.
- He also served as leader of the Indian National Congress, Premier of the Madras Presidency, Governor of West Bengal, Minister for Home Affairs of the Indian Union and Chief Minister of Madras state.
- Rajagopalachari founded the Swatantra Party and was one of the first recipients of India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.
- He vehemently opposed the use of nuclear weapons and was a proponent of world peace and disarmament. During his lifetime, he also acquired the nickname 'Mango of Salem'.
- Upon leaving a lucrative law practice, Rajagopalachari edited Mahatma Gandhi's journal, Young India, while Gandhi was in prison in the early 1920s. He was one of the earliest associates of Gandhi, who called him "the keeper of my conscience."
- Following Gandhi's path, he wrote numerous pamphlets on anti-liquor campaigns. Salem municipality, which he chaired, urged the madras government to reduce the number of licensed alcohol shops in the town, and he succeeded in doing so.
- He led the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha in response to the Dandi March in 1930.

- He advocated cooperation over Britain's war effort and opposed the Quit India Movement. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SELFLESS FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru



- Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was born in Allahabad on November 14, 1889.
- At the age of fifteen, he went to England and, after two years at Harrow, joined Cambridge University, where he took his tripos in Natural Sciences. He was later called to the Bar from the Inner Temple.
- He returned to India in 1912 and plunged straight into politics.
- In 1912, he attended the Bankipore Congress as a delegate and became Secretary of the Home Rule League, Allahabad, in 1919.
- In 1916, he had his first meeting with Mahatma Gandhi, and he felt immensely inspired by him.
- He organised the first Kisan March in the Pratapgarh District of Uttar Pradesh in 1920.
- Pt. Nehru became the General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee in September 1923.
- In Belgium, he attended the Congress of Oppressed Nationalities in Brussels as an official delegate of the Indian National Congress.
- He also attended the tenth-anniversary celebrations of the October Socialist Revolution in Moscow in 1927.
- He founded the 'Independence for India League', which advocated complete severance of the British connection with India, and became its General Secretary.
- In 1929, Pt. Nehru was elected President of the Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress, where complete independence for the country was adopted as the goal.

Veer Savarkar

- V.D. Savarkar was born on 28 May 1883 in Bhagur, a village near Nasik, in a family of Chitpavan Brahmins, a community that has produced noted revolutionaries like Nana Sahib (of 1857 fame) and Lokmanya Tilak.



- Savarkar matriculated from Nasik and went to Poona, where he joined the Fergusson College. There, he formed a group of students who vowed themselves to a spartan way of life for the cause of the country's freedom.
- In 1904, Savarkar, still an undergraduate, convened a meeting of nearly 200 of his trusted comrades and founded the "Abhinav Bharat"-an organisation dedicated to wresting freedom from the British rulers, if necessary, with the use of arms.
- After graduation in 1905, he studied law in Bombay. The following year, Savarkar went to London to study law on a scholarship, on the recommendation of Lokmanya Tilak, and, in due course, was admitted to Gray's Inn.
- Soon, the young revolutionary started the "Free India Society" in London as a recruiting ground for his secret organisation, the "Abhinav Bharat", and enrolled a number of Indians, including Madame Cama.
- In London, Savarkar wrote a book entitled "The First War of Independence" about the 1857 revolution. This book was promptly confiscated by the Government even before its publication. Later, Veer Savarkar was arrested in London in 1910 in connection with the Nasik Conspiracy Case.
- Savarkar was tried for sedition in 1910 in Bombay and was sentenced to double transportation for life, totalling about 50 years of rigorous imprisonment. He was lodged in the Cellular Jail in the Andamans, where he spent 12 long years of hard labour.
- Veer Savarkar was brought to Ratnagiri in 1924 and was interned there till 1937. After his release in 1937, he joined the Hindu Mahasabha. He was the President of Hindu Mahasabha for about seven years. Veer Savarkar worked relentlessly to remove untouchability through the Hindu Mahasabha. He built a temple called "Patit-Pawan Mandir" and appointed a 'harijan' as the priest in attendance.

C.N.Annadurai

- Conjeevaram (Kancheepuram in Tamil) Natarajan Annadurai, endearingly called 'Anna' (elder brother), was born on 15 September 1909 in a lower-middle-class family of the weaver community at Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu.
-



- He obtained his B.A. Honours and then the M.A. degree in Economics and Politics (1934) from Pachaiyappa's College.
- He became famous as a brilliant speaker even during his college life as he attracted students through his oratory in English and Tamil. His mastery of words earned him endearing admiration later during his political life. He had the ability to stir and stimulate people while conveying his deep and genuine concern for the people.
- At college, he was attracted by the programme and policies of the Justice Party, a party that stood for the socio-economic emancipation of the large majority of non-Brahmins.
- He became the Sub-Editor of Justice, the English daily of the Justice Party.
- Anna was attracted to Periyar's idealistic zeal for eradicating social iniquities, and he became an ardent follower of the Self-Respect Movement started by him.
- After DMK was founded in 1949, it was nurtured by Annadurai, who had a charismatic appeal to the masses. Gradually, it overtook Congress in public support.
- The DMK party became a formidable political force in Madras and, in 1957, secured a sizeable number of seats in the Madras Legislative Assembly.
- In 1962, Annadurai was elected to the Rajya Sabha, where he strongly opposed the imposition of Hindi as the sole official language of the Union.
- The year 1967 marked a watershed in the history of Tamil Nadu. In the General Elections held in this year, he had formed a strategic alliance of various parties which secured it a thumping majority



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UPSC PRELIMINARY 2025 – PREFIT REFLECTIONS

Out of 100 Questions asked in UPSC Civil Service Preliminary Examination, 2025.

31 questions are reflected from the PREFIT TEST SERIES 2025.

- Total number of questions directly reflected – 20
- Total number of questions partially reflected – 11

UPSC PRELIMS 2025 – REFLECTED QUESTIONS IN PREFIT

UPSC 2025 - SERIES B	PREFIT 2024-2025 REFLECTIONS
<p style="text-align: center;">Q.NO – 8 (DIRECT)</p> <p>With reference to monoclonal antibodies, often mentioned in news, consider the following statements:</p> <p>I. They are man-made proteins.</p> <p>II. They stimulate immunological function due to their ability to bind to specific antigens.</p> <p>III. They are used in treating viral infections like that of Nipath virus.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II only</p> <p>(b) II and III only</p> <p>(c) I and III only</p> <p>(d) I, II and III</p>	<p>With reference to Monoclonal Antibodies, consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They are laboratory made proteins. 2. They bind to one antigen only. 3. They stimulate the own immune system. <p>Which of the statements given above are correct ?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(b) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the behaviour of antibodies produced by the immune system to protect against diseases and foreign substances. Monoclonal antibodies stimulate the body's immune system by targeting pathogens directly and triggering other immune response effects. Antibodies are produced naturally by the body and help the immune system recognise germs that cause disease, such as bacteria and viruses, and mark them for destruction. Like the body's own antibodies, monoclonal antibodies recognise specific targets. Many monoclonal antibodies are used to treat cancer. So, Statements 1 and 3 are correct.</p> </div> <p>Monoclonal antibodies can bind to specific targets in the body, such as antigens. There are many kinds of monoclonal antibodies, and each monoclonal antibody is made so that it binds to only one antigen that is able to target a specific chemical or specific cells in the body. Monoclonal antibodies are being used in the diagnosis and treatment of many diseases, including some types of cancer. They can be used alone or to carry drugs, toxins, or radioactive substances directly to cancer cells. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p>



Q.NO – 16 (PARTIAL)

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Consider the following statements with respect to the Direct air carbon capture and storage:

- 1. The process can extracts CO₂ directly from the atmosphere at any location.
- 2. It uses electricity to remove CO₂ from the air.
- 3. The captured CO₂ is then compressed under high pressure and pumped into deep cal formations.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Direct air capture (DAC) technologies extract CO₂ directly from the atmosphere at any location, unlike carbon capture, which is generally carried out at the point of emissions, such as at a steel plant. The CO₂ can be permanently stored in deep geological formations or used for a variety of applications. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Direct air capture is a technology that uses chemical reactions (not electricity) to pull carbon dioxide out of the air. When air moves over these chemicals, they selectively react with and trap CO₂, allowing the other components of air to pass through. The systems use either liquid solvents or solid sorbents, which are composed of common chemicals already in use in other applications today, from soap to water filtration.

Once carbon dioxide is captured from the atmosphere, heat is typically applied to release it from the solvent or sorbent. This regenerates the solvent or sorbent for another capture cycle. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

The captured CO₂ can then be injected deep underground for sequestration in certain geologic formations or used in various products and applications.

Storage in deep geological formations is also known as 'geo-sequestration'. In this technique, CO₂ is converted into a high-pressure, liquid-like form known as 'supercritical CO₂'. Supercritical CO₂ behaves like a runny liquid and is injected directly into sedimentary rocks. The rocks may be in old oil fields, gas fields, or saline formations — rocks with porous spaces filled with salty water. Unmineable coal seams and some volcanic rocks are also suggested storage sites. Therefore, the captured CO₂ is then compressed under high pressure and pumped into deep geological formations. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**



Q.NO – 17 (PARTIAL)

Regarding Peacock tarantula (Gooty tarantula), consider the following statements:

- I. It is an omnivorous crustacean.
- II. Its natural habitat in India is only limited to some forest areas.
- III. In its natural habitat, it is an arboreal species.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Consider the following statements:

- 1. The reserve is credited with the world's first scientifically managed plantation of teak and is home to the 450-year-old 'Kannimara' teak tree.
- 2. Unique habitats such as montane and marshy grasslands, locally known as 'vayals,' are found in this reserve.
- 3. The reserve is home to the Nilgiri Tahr, South India's only wild goat, and rare species like the Tarantula spider.

Which reserve is described above?

- (a) Mudumalai Tiger reserve
- (b) Bandipur Tiger reserve
- (c) Parambikulam Tiger reserve**
- (d) Anamalai tiger reserve

EXPLANATION:

Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is located in the Chittur taluk of Palakkad district, Kerala. The climate here is moderate, with temperatures between 15°C and 32°C. It is home to the world's first scientifically

Q.NO – 19 (PARTIAL)

Consider the following pairs:

Plant Description

- I. Cassava : Woody Shrub
- II. Ginger : Herb with pseudostem
- III. Malabar spinach: Herbaceous climber
- IV. Mint : Annual shrub
- V. Papaya : Woody shrub

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

With reference to Tapioca, consider the following statements:

- 1. Tapioca is a major horticulture crop native to Southeast Asia.
- 2. The crop releases a cyanogenic glucoside toxin, which acts as a defence against herbivore consumption.
- 3. Some plants containing cyanogenic glucosides are dangerous for human beings.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The origin of Tapioca is in the tropical areas of the American continents, especially in South America. Tapioca is a horticulture plant with tuberous roots extensively cultivated annually in many tropical and subtropical regions. Cassava belongs to the class of foods, roots, and tubers and is a significant source of carbohydrates in developing countries. The plant is highly drought-resistant and also thrives in poor soil. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**



	<p>The tapioca crop releases a toxin called cyanogenic glucoside (CNglyc), which is a defence mechanism against herbivores. When the plant tissue is damaged (e.g., by herbivores feeding on it), cyanogenic glucosides are enzymatically broken down to release hydrogen cyanide (HCN), which is toxic and deters herbivores from eating it. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>Cassava, sorghum, stone fruits, bamboo roots and almonds are essential foods containing cyanogenic glycosides. The potential toxicity of a cyanogenic plant depends primarily on the potential that its consumption will produce a concentration of cyanide that is toxic to exposed humans.</p> <p>In humans, the clinical signs of acute cyanide intoxication can include rapid respiration, drop in blood pressure, dizziness, headache, stomach pains, vomiting, etc. Death due to cyanide poisoning can occur when the cyanide level exceeds the limit an individual can detoxify. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>
<p>Q.NO – 21 (DIRECT)</p> <p>Consider the following statements about Raja Ram Mohan Roy:</p> <p>I. He possessed great love and respect for the traditional philosophical system of the East.</p> <p>II. He desired his countrymen to accept the rational and scientific approach and the principle of human dignity and social equality of all men and women.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) I only</p> <p>(b) II only</p> <p>(c) Both I and II</p> <p>(d) Neither I nor II</p>	<p>Consider the following statements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He was a bold supporter of freedom of the Press and a pioneer in Indian journalism. 2. He supported David Hare's efforts to found the Hindu College in 1817. 3. In 1825, he established a Vedanta college where courses in both Indian learning and Western social and physical sciences were offered. 4. He believed in the modern scientific approach and principles of human dignity and social equality. <p>The above statements refer to who among the following reformers?</p> <p>(a) Debendranath Tagore</p> <p>(b) Rajaram Mohan Roy</p> <p>(c) Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar</p> <p>(d) Keshab Chandra Sen</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Rammohan was a determined crusader against the inhuman practice of sati. He started his anti-sati struggle in 1818.</p> <p>He did much to disseminate the benefits of modern education to his countrymen. He supported David Hare's efforts to found the Hindu College in 1817, while Roy's English school taught mechanics and Voltaire's philosophy.</p> <p>In 1825, he established a Vedanta college where courses in both Indian learning and Western social and physical sciences were offered. He also helped enrich the Bengali language by</p>



	<p>compiling a Bengali grammar book and evolving a modern, elegant prose style. As a bold supporter of freedom of the Press and as a pioneer in Indian journalism, Roy brought out journals in Bengali, Hindi, English, and Persian to educate and inform the public and represent their grievances before the government. His understanding of the universal character of the principles of liberty, equality, and justice indicated that he understood the significance of the modern age well and believed in the modern scientific approach and principles of human dignity and social equality. So, Option 3(b) is correct.</p>
<p>Q.NO – 22 (DIRECT)</p> <p>Consider the following subjects with regard to Non-Cooperation Programme?</p> <p>I. Boycott of law-courts and foreign cloth</p> <p>II. Observance of strict non-violence</p> <p>III. Retention of titles and honours without using them in public</p> <p>IV. Establishment of Panchayats for setting disputes.</p> <p>How many of the above were parts of Non-Cooperation Programme?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) Only three</p> <p>(d) All the four</p>	<p>Consider the following statements about the Non-Cooperation Movement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It included the boycott of foreign cloth and the promotion of khadi.2. The movement was formally launched in August 1920.3. The Chauri Chaura incident led to the beginning of the movement. <p>How many of the above statements are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) All three</p> <p>(d) None</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>September 1920 - At a special session in Calcutta, the Congress approved a non-cooperation programme till the Punjab and Khilafat wrongs were removed and Swaraj was established. The programme was to include—</p> <p>boycott of government schools and colleges;</p> <p>boycott of law courts and dispensation of justice through panchayats instead;</p> <p>boycott of legislative councils (there were some differences over this as some leaders like C.R. Das were not willing to include a boycott of councils but bowed to Congress discipline; these leaders boycotted elections held in November 1920, and the majority of the voters too, stayed away);</p> <p>boycott of foreign cloth and use of khadi instead; also, practice of hand-spinning to be done.</p> <p>So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>August 31, 1920 - The Khilafat Committee started a non-cooperation campaign, and the movement was formally launched. (Tilak had, incidentally, breathed his last on August 1, 1920. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p>



Chauri Chaura Incident - Chauri-Chaura (Gorakhpur district in the United Provinces) has found a place in history books due to an incident of violence on February 5, 1922, which prompted Gandhi to withdraw the movement. The police here had beaten up the leader of a group of volunteers campaigning against liquor sales and high food prices and then opened fire on the crowd, which had come to protest before the police station. Twenty-two policemen were killed in the violence. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

The Congress Non-Cooperation programme consists of which of the following?

1. Dispensation of justice through panchayats
2. Practice of hand-spinning
3. Giving up government honours and titles without resigning from government service
4. Non-payment of taxes
5. Boycott of legislative councils

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

EXPLANATION:

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

The programme was to include:

boycott of government schools and colleges;

boycott of law courts and dispensation of justice through panchayats instead;

boycott of legislative councils (there were some differences over this as some leaders like C.R. Das were not willing to include a boycott of councils but bowed to Congress discipline; these leaders boycotted elections held in November 1920, and the majority of the voters too, stayed away);

boycott of foreign cloth and use of khadi instead;

also practice of hand-spinning to be done; renunciation of government honours and titles; the second phase could include mass civil disobedience, including resignation from government service and non-payment of taxes. **So, Option (c) is correct.**



Q.NO – 24 (PARTIAL)

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

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

With reference to murals under Pallavas, consider the following statements

1. The mural paintings at Panamalai and Mandagapattu were done by Chitrakarapuli, Mahendravarman I.
2. Narasimhavarman I patronised paintings at the Kanchipuram temple.
3. Rajasimha patronised murals in Tirumalaipuram caves and Jaina caves at Sittanvasal.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The tradition of painting in Tamil Nadu in the preceding centuries has had regional variations during the regimes of the Pallava, Pandya, and Chola dynasties. The Pallava kings, who succeeded the Chalukya kings in parts of South India, were also patrons of arts. Mahendravarman I, who ruled in the seventh century, was responsible for building temples in Panamalai, Mandagapattu, and Kanchipuram. The inscription at Mandagapattu mentions Mahendravarman I with numerous titles, such as Vichitrachitta (curious-minded), Chitrakarapuli (tiger among artists), Chaityakari (temple builder), which show his interest in art activities. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Panamalai figure of a female divinity is drawn gracefully. Paintings at the Kanchipuram temple were patronised by the Pallava king, Rajasimha. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

When the Pandyas rose to power, they, too, patronised Art. Tirumalaipuram caves and Jaina caves at Sittanvasal are some of the surviving examples. A few fragmented layers of paintings can be seen in Tirumalaipuram. In Sittanvasal, the paintings are visible on the ceilings of shrines, in verandas, and on the brackets. On the pillars of the veranda are seen dancing figures of celestial nymphs. The contours of the figures are firmly drawn and painted in vermilion red on a lighter background. The body is rendered in yellow with subtle modelling.

So, Statement 3 is not correct.

Q.NO – 25 (DIRECT)

Fa-hien (faxian), the Chinese pilgrim, travelled to India during the reign of

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

With reference to religion, consider the following statements

1. The Chinese pilgrims Fa Hien and Hsuan Tsang came to India during the reign of Chandragupta II and Harsha, respectively, and said that Buddhism was flourishing in India.
2. Harsha convened an assembly at Kanauj to publicize Hinayana Buddhism.
3. Nalanda developed as a great centre of education for Hinayana Buddhism during the Harsha period.



	<p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) 3 only (d) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>The Chinese travellers Fa-Hien and Hsuan Tsang were Buddhists and came to this country to visit the Buddhist shrines and study Buddhism. Fa-hsien travelled during the reign of Chandragupta II at the beginning of the fifth century. Fa-hsien provides a picture of Indian society during the Gupta period, with a focus on Buddhist practices and the economic and religious conditions of the time.</p> <p>The reign of Harsha is historically important because of the visit of the Chinese pilgrim Hsuan Tsang, who left China in AD 629 and travelled all the way to India. After a long stay in India, he returned to China in AD 645. He had come to study at the Buddhist University of Nalanda situated in the district of the same name in Bihar and to collect Buddhist texts from India. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>Harsha (Harshavardhana), who ruled northern India in the 7th century, was a patron of Mahayana Buddhism, not Hinayana Buddhism. He convened a great religious assembly at Kanauj around 643 CE, where Buddhist scholars from various parts of India and beyond gathered. So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p> <p>The most famous centre was Nalanda, which maintained a great Buddhist university meant for Buddhist monks. It is said to have had as many as 10,000 students, all monks. They were taught the Buddhist philosophy of the Mahayana school. Nalanda thus had a huge monastic establishment during the reign of Harshavardhana. So, Statement 3 is not correct.</p>
<p>Q.NO – 26 (DIRECT)</p> <p>Who among the following led a successful military campaign against the kingdom of Srivijaya, the powerful maritime State, which ruled the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring islands?</p> <p>(a) Amoghavarsha (Rashtrakuta) (b) Prataparudra (Kakatiya) (c) Rajendra I (Chola) (d) Vishnuvardhana (Hoysala)</p>	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rajaraja Chola conquered the Maldives Islands.2. Rajendra I helped in the construction of a Buddhist monastery at Nagapattinam.3. Rajendra I founded the city of Gangaikondacholapuram to commemorate his successful expedition to north India. <p>Which of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1 and 3 only</p>



EXPLANATION:

By these conquests, the extent of the Chola empire under Rajaraja I included the Pandya, Chera and the Tondaimandalam regions of Tamil Nadu and the Gangavadi, Nolambapadi and the Telugu Choda territories in the Deccan and the northern part of Ceylon and the Maldives Islands beyond India. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Rajaraja assumed a number of titles like Mummidhi Chola, Jayankonda and Sivapadasekara. He was a devout follower of Saivism. He completed the construction of the famous Rajarajeswara temple or Brihadeeswara temple at Tanjore in 1010 A.D. He also helped in the construction of a Buddhist monastery at Nagapattinam. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Rajendra I most famous military enterprise was his expedition to north India. The Chola army crossed the Ganges by defeating a number of rulers on its way. Rajendra defeated Mahipala I of Bengal. To commemorate this successful North-Indian campaign Rajendra founded the city of Gangaikondacholapuram and constructed the famous Rajesvaram temple in that city. He also excavated a large irrigation tank called Cholagangam on the western side of the city. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

Q.NO – 31 (PARTIAL)

With reference to investments, consider the following:

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

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

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

With reference to National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), consider the following:

- 1. NIIF is the India's first Sovereign wealth fund which was setup in 2015.
- 2. The fund is registered as Alternate Investment Fund with Security and Exchange Board of India.

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:

The National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF) is India's first-ever sovereign wealth fund (SWF). The state-owned fund was set up by the Indian Government in the year 2015. The primary goal of setting up NIIF was to optimise the economic impact largely through investing in infrastructure-related projects. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

A sovereign wealth fund is a state-owned fund. An SWF is used to invest in capital assets such as real estate, metals, stocks, and bonds. SWFs also invest in alternative investments such as private equity funds and hedge funds.



				<p>The Department of Economic Affairs gave the state-owned fund the nod in August 2015 and obtained registration under the Indian market regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in December 2015 under Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF). So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>It manages over \$4.9 billion in assets, focusing on sustainable investments and partnerships with domestic and international investors.</p> <p>The government holds a 49% stake in the NIIF.</p>
<p>Q.NO – 33 (DIRECT)</p> <p>With reference to the Government of India, consider the following information.</p>				<p>With reference to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enforcement Directorate is under the administrative control of Ministry of Finance 2. It is responsible for the enforcement of the Foreign Contribution and Regulation Act 2010 3. The Home Secretary is one of the selection committee members recommending the ED director to the central government. <p>How many of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Fighting economic crime and upholding economic regulations are the responsibilities of the Enforcement Directorate, which specializes in law enforcement and economic intelligence in India. It operates under the Ministry of Finance's Department of Revenue. The Department of Revenue receives administrative reports from the Directorate, although the Department of Economic Affairs is in charge of the FEMA's policy, legislation, and updates. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>The Directorate of Enforcement was established in 1956, with its Headquarters in New Delhi. It is responsible for the enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and certain provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (but not responsible for the enforcement of the Foreign Contribution and Regulation Act 2010). Work relating to the investigation and prosecution of cases under the PML has been entrusted to the Enforcement Directorate. So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p> <p>The selection of a suitable candidate shall be made based on the recommendations of a selection committee headed by the Central Vigilance Commissioner, including the Home Secretary, Secretary (Personnel), and Revenue Secretary. The panel recommended by the selection committee would be placed before the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for the appointment of the Director of Enforcement. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>
	Organization	Some of its functions	It works under	
I.	Directorate of Enforcement	Enforcement of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018	Internal Security Division-I, Ministry of Home Affairs	
II.	Directorate of Revenue Intelligence	Enforces the Provisions of the Customs Act, 1962	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance	
III.	Directorate General of Systems and Data Management	Carrying out big data analytics to asset tax officers for better policy and nabbing tax evaders.	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance	



<p>In how many of the above rows is the information correcting matched?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) All the three</p> <p>(d) None</p>				
<p>Q.NO – 36 (PARTIAL)</p> <p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>I. India has joined the Minerals Security Partnership as a member.</p> <p>II. India is a resource-rich country in all the 30 critical minerals that it has identified.</p> <p>III. The Parliament in 2023 has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowering the Central Government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite licence for certain critical minerals.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II only</p> <p>(b) II and III only</p> <p>(c) I and III only</p> <p>(d) I, II and III</p>	<p>Consider the following with reference to mineral securities partnership (MSP):</p> <p>1. The MSP was launched to diversify global supply chains of critical minerals.</p> <p>2. It was launched on the sidelines of the G20 meeting held in India.</p> <p>3. India is one of the founding members of this partnership.</p> <p>How many of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) All three</p> <p>(d) None</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <table><tr><td>The Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) aims to address this problem by accelerating the development of diverse critical minerals supply chains in cooperation with industry and other governments to support strategic projects and encourage investment throughout the value chain by reputable mining companies. It seeks to ensure that critical minerals are produced, processed and recycled by catalyzing investments from governments and the private sector across the full value chain. So, Statement 1 is correct.</td></tr><tr><td>The MSP was officially launched in June 2022 during the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention, not on the sidelines of a G20 meeting in India. So, Statement 2 is not correct.</td></tr><tr><td>India became the 14th member of the Mineral Security Partnership (MSP) in June 2023. The other member countries are the United States, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Commission. India is not a founding member. So, Statement 3 is not correct.</td></tr></table>	The Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) aims to address this problem by accelerating the development of diverse critical minerals supply chains in cooperation with industry and other governments to support strategic projects and encourage investment throughout the value chain by reputable mining companies. It seeks to ensure that critical minerals are produced, processed and recycled by catalyzing investments from governments and the private sector across the full value chain. So, Statement 1 is correct.	The MSP was officially launched in June 2022 during the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention, not on the sidelines of a G20 meeting in India. So, Statement 2 is not correct.	India became the 14th member of the Mineral Security Partnership (MSP) in June 2023. The other member countries are the United States, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Commission. India is not a founding member. So, Statement 3 is not correct.
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Q.NO – 38 (PARTIAL)

Consider the following statements”

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Consider the following statements about the powers and functions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

- 1. SEBI has the power to prohibit insider trading in securities and regulate substantial acquisition of shares and takeover of companies.
- 2. SEBI is responsible for promoting investor education and training of intermediaries in the securities market.
- 3. SEBI can call for information or undertake inspections of stock exchanges, mutual funds, or other persons associated with the securities market. Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

Under the SEBI Act, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been established as India's principal capital markets regulator. The SEBI Act deals with SEBI's powers and functions, including rule-making, enforcement and adjudication, and provides for the registration and regulation of market intermediaries, including stockbrokers, merchant bankers, investment advisers and portfolio managers.

Some of the powers and functions of SEBI include:

The SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations 2015 (the PIT Regulations) restrict and regulate trading by corporate insiders and connected persons on the basis of 'unpublished price sensitive information' (UPSI), as well as provide certain safeguards for handling, preservation and communication of such information; **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

SEBI should promote investors' education and training of intermediaries of securities markets. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

SEBI can call for information from, undertake inspections, conduct inquiries and audits of the stock exchanges, mutual funds, other persons associated with the securities market, intermediaries and self-regulatory organisations in the securities market. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

Promoting and regulating self-regulatory organisations.

prohibiting fraudulent and unfair trade practices relating to securities markets.



Q.NO – 40 (DIRECT)

Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

With reference to capital receipts, consider the following statements

- 1. These are incoming cash flows that create liabilities or reduce financial assets.
- 2. These non-recurrence receipts are generally tax-free.
- 3. The recovery of loans and advances, as well as the disinvestment and issue of bonus shares, are examples of debt capital receipts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Capital receipts are government receipts that create liabilities or reduce financial assets (physical or financial). They also refer to incoming cash flows. Capital receipts can be both non-debt and debt receipts. Loans from the general public, foreign governments and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) form a crucial part of capital receipts. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

It also includes small savings schemes (Post office savings accounts, National Savings Certificates, etc.), Provident Funds and net receipts obtained from the sale of shares in PSUs (disinvestment).

Capital receipts are mentioned in the liabilities section of the balance sheet and have a nature of non-recurrence. All capital receipts are tax-free, unless there is a provision to tax them. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Non-debt receipts are those that do not incur any future repayment burden for the government. Almost 75 per cent of the total budget receipts are non-debt receipts. Examples include recovery of loans and advances, disinvestment, and the issue of bonus shares.

Debt Receipts have to be repaid by the government. Around 25 percent of government expenditure is financed through borrowing. Examples of debt capital receipts are market loans, the issuance of special securities to public-sector banks, the issue of securities, short-term borrowings, treasury bills, securities against small savings, state provident funds, relief bonds, saving bonds, gold bonds, external debt, etc. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**



Q.NO – 41 (PARTIAL)

Consider the following countries:

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

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

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

India is a full-time member of which of the following organizations ?

- 1. International Criminal Court
- 2. International Energy Agency
- 3. Association of South East Nations
- 4. North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

(d) None

EXPLANATION:

The International Criminal Court, headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, was established under a 1998 treaty called the “Rome Statute”.

It “investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.”

Presently, 123 countries, including Britain, Japan, Afghanistan, and Germany, are parties to the Rome Statute. However, the USA has kept its distance, maintaining that the ICC should not exercise jurisdiction over citizens of countries that are not parties to it.

India is not a member, nor are China and the US.

Palestine became the 123rd member of the Rome Treaty on April 1, 2015.

Israel is not a Party to the Rome Statute. However, the ICC does have jurisdiction over crimes committed by nationals of both State Parties and non-state Parties (such as Israel) on the territory of a State Party (such as Palestine). **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The International Energy Agency (IEA) is an international intergovernmental organization based in Paris that was established in 1974. Its stated mandate is to maintain the stability of the international oil supply, although its mission has expanded in recent years to emphasize the promotion of renewable energy sources.

The IEA is made up of 32 Member countries.



Q.NO – 45 (DIRECT)

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Which of the following are considered as the evidence in support of the continental drift?

- 1. The matching of continents
- 2. Rocks of the same age across the oceans
- 3. The presence of tillite in six different landmasses
- 4. The presence of placer deposits along with the source rock.

Select the correct answer:

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

EXPLANATION:

Various evidence supports the continental drift theory, including Fossils: Similar fossils have been found on continents that are now separated, such as the Mesosaurus fossil on several southern continents.

Botanical evidence: The presence of glossopteris vegetation in rocks from India, Australia, South Africa, Antarctica, and other continents can be explained by the fact that these continents were once part of the same landmass called Gondwana.

The following are considered as the evidence in support of the continental drift:

Matching of continents

The shorelines of Africa and South America fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Rocks of the same age across the oceans

Radiometric dating has shown that rocks of the same age are found on different continents.

For example, Brazil's 2,000 million-year-old rocks match up with rocks in western Africa. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Presence of tillite in six different landmasses

Tillite is a sedimentary rock formed from glacial deposits. The Gondwana system of sediments has thick tillite deposits at the base, and these deposits are found in six different landmasses in the Southern Hemisphere. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

Presence of placer deposits along with the absence of source rock

The occurrence of rich placer deposits of gold in the Ghana coast and the absolute absence of source rock in the region is an amazing fact.

For example, the gold deposits of Ghana come from the Brazil plateau, which was connected to Ghana when the continents were side by side. So, Statement 4 is not **correct**.



Consider the following pieces of evidence in support of the Continental Drift Theory:

1. Jigsaw fit of continents like South America and Africa.
2. Similar fossils are found on continents separated by oceans.
3. Presence of mid-ocean ridges and seafloor spreading.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

It was Alfred Wegener—a German meteorologist, who put forth a comprehensive argument in the form of "the continental drift theory in 1912". According to Wegener, all the continents formed a single continental mass, and mega ocean surrounded the same. The supercontinent was named PANGAEA, which meant all of Earth. The mega-ocean was called PANTHALASSA, meaning all water.

Evidence in Support of the Continental Drift

The Matching of Continents (Jig-Saw-Fit)

The shorelines of Africa and South America facing each other have a remarkable and unmistakable match. It may be noted that a map produced using a computer programme to find the best fit of the Atlantic margin was presented by Bullard in 1964. It proved to be quite perfect. The match was tried at the 1,000-fathom line instead of the present shoreline.

So, Statement 1 is correct.

Distribution of Fossils When identical species of plants and animals adapted to living on land or in freshwater are found on either side of the marine barriers, a problem arises regarding accounting for such distribution. The observations that Lemurs occur in India, Madagascar and Africa led some to consider a contiguous landmass, 'Lemuria' linking these three landmasses. Other evidences supporting continental drift theory include: Rocks of Same Age Across the Oceans, Tillite, Placer Deposits. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**



Q.NO – 46 (DIRECT)

Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

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

Statement II:

Subtropical and temperate areas have less dry winds.

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

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

Consider the following statements:

Statement 1:

The higher concentration of dust particles is found in subtropical and temperate regions.

Statement 2:

The presence of dry winds is higher in the temperate and subtropical regions compared to the equatorial and polar regions.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) Both statement 1 and statement 2 are correct, and statement 2 is the correct explanation of the statement 1.**
- (b) Both statement 1 and statement 2 are correct, but statement 2 is not the correct explanation of statement 1.
- (c) Statement 1 is correct, and statement 2 is incorrect.
- (d) Statement 1 is incorrect, and statement 2 is correct.

EXPLANATION:

The atmosphere has a sufficient capacity to keep small solid particles, which may originate from different sources and include sea salts, fine soil, smoke-soot, ash, pollen, dust and disintegrated particles of meteors. Dust particles are generally concentrated in the lower layers of the atmosphere, yet convectional air currents may transport them to great heights. The higher concentration of dust particles is found in subtropical and temperate regions due to dry winds compared to equatorial and polar regions. Dust and salt particles act as hygroscopic nuclei around which water vapour condenses to produce clouds. **So, Both statement 1 and statement 2 are correct, and statement 2 is the correct explanation of the statement 1**

Q.NO – 47 (DIRECT)

Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

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

Statement II:

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

With reference to the global distribution of temperature, consider the following statements.

1. In January, the isotherms deviate to the north over the continent and to the South over the ocean.
2. In the North Hemisphere, temperature decreases over the land during January, and the isotherms bend towards the South in Europe.
3. The equatorial oceans record warmer temperatures of more than 27°C during July.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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



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

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

EXPLANATION:

Isotherms are the imaginary lines that connect places on a map that have the same atmospheric temperature. These phenomena are commonly used in meteorology to show the distribution of temperature on the Earth's surface.

In January, this is winter in the Northern Hemisphere and summer in the Southern Hemisphere. In January, the isotherms deviate north over the ocean and South over the continent. This can be seen in the North Atlantic Ocean. The presence of warm ocean currents, Gulf Stream and North Atlantic drift make the Northern Atlantic Ocean warmer and the isotherms bend towards the north. Over the land, the temperature decreases sharply, and the isotherms bend towards the South of Europe. **So, Statement 1 is not correct and Statement 2 is correct.**

In July, the isotherms generally run parallel to the latitudes. The equatorial oceans record warmer temperatures, more than 27°C. Over the land, more than 30°C is noticed in the subtropical continental region of Asia, along the 30° N latitude. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

Q.NO – 66 (DIRECT)

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Consider the following statements with reference to the pardoning power of the President:

1. The petitioner seeking a pardon is not entitled to an oral hearing by the President.
2. The President's power to grant pardons is not subject to judicial review.
3. He exclusively holds the power to grant pardons in death penalty cases.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

The Supreme Court of India established this principle in the 1988 case *Kehar Singh vs. Union of India*. In this case, the Supreme Court of India examined the President's pardoning power and laid down the following principles: The petitioner for mercy has no right to an oral hearing by the President.

The President's pardoning power is an executive power, and the President exercises it on the advice of the Prime Minister and cabinet. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Kehar Singh vs. Union of India Case (1988) – In this case, the Supreme Court of India examined the pardoning power of the President and laid down that the exercise of power by the President is not subject to judicial review except where the presidential decision is arbitrary, irrational, mala fide, or discriminatory. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**



	<p>The President can grant pardon in all cases where the sentence given is the sentence of death. The Governor cannot pardon a death sentence. He/she can only suspend, remit, or commute a death sentence. Even if a death sentence has been given under state law, the power to pardon it lies only with the President, not the Governor. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>
<p>Q.NO – 67 (DIRECT)</p> <p>Consider the following statements :</p> <p>I. On the dissolution of the House of the People, the Speaker shall not vacate his/her office until immediately before the first meeting of the House of the People after the dissolution.</p> <p>II. According to the provisions of the Constitution of India, a Member of the House of the People on being elected as Speaker shall resign from his/her political party immediately.</p> <p>III. The Speaker of the House of the People may be removed from his/her office by a resolution of the House of the People passed by a majority of all the then Members of the House, provided that no resolution shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II only</p> <p>(b) II and III only</p> <p>(c) I and III only</p> <p>(d) I, II and III</p>	<p>Consider the following statements with reference to Speaker of Lok Sabha</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Speaker is the head of the Lok Sabha, and its representative.2. When a resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration of the House, he cannot speak and take part in its proceedings.3. When the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker automatically vacates his/her office. <p>How many of the above statements are correct?</p> <p>Only one</p> <p>Only two</p> <p>All three</p> <p>None</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <div><p>Each House of Parliament has its own presiding officer. There is a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker for the Lok Sabha and a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman for the Rajya Sabha. The Speaker is the head of the Lok Sabha and its representative. He is the guardian of the powers and privileges of the members, the House as a whole and its committees. He is the principal spokesman of the House, and his decision in all Parliamentary matters is final. He is thus much more than merely the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha. In these capacities, he is vested with vast, varied and vital responsibilities and enjoys great honour, high dignity and supreme authority within the House. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p><p>When a resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration by the House, he cannot preside at the sitting of the House, though he may be present. However, he can speak and take part in the proceedings of the House at such a time and vote in the first instance, though not in the case of an equality of votes. So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p><p>It should be noted here that whenever the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker does not vacate his office and continues till the newly-elected Lok Sabha meets. So, Statement 3 is not correct.</p></div>



Q.NO – 68 (PARTIAL)

Consider the following statements:

- I. If any question arises as to whether a Member of the House of the People has become subject to disqualification under the 110th Schedule, the Present's decision in accordance with the opinion of the Council of Union Ministers shall be final.
- II. There is not mention of the word 'political party' in the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Consider the following:

1. He decides whether a bill is a money bill or not, and his decision on this question is final.
2. His decision to disqualify the members under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule is immune from judicial review.
3. To maintain impartiality, he resigns from his party after being elected as Speaker, similar to the British Speaker.

How many of the above statements is/are correct regarding the Speaker of Lok Sabha?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Speaker is elected by the Lok Sabha from amongst its Members. The Speaker is the head of the Lok Sabha and its representative. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha derives his powers and duties from three sources: the Constitution of India, the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Lok Sabha, and Parliamentary Conventions.

According to Article 110(3) of the Constitution of India, the Speaker decides whether a bill is a money bill or not, and his decision on this question is final. When a money bill is transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for recommendation and presented to the President for assent, the Speaker endorses his certificate on the bill that it is a money bill. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Q.NO – 77 (DIRECT)

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

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Consider the following statements about the objectives of the World Bank:

1. Its primary objective is the reconstruction of war-affected countries, which has been achieved.
2. It aims to eliminate poverty and promote development to raise the standard of living in developing countries.
3. It promotes technical assistance only for addressing balance of payment (BoP) issues.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Bretton Woods Conference in 1944 resulted in the formation of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank). The World Bank Group was established to support the reconstruction of Europe following World War II and continues to play a significant role in helping developing nations across various aspects of economic growth. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**



The World Bank is among the world's leading development institutions. Its mission is to fight poverty and improve living standards for people in the developing world by promoting sustainable development through loans, guarantees, risk management products, and (non-lending) analytic and advisory services. The World Bank concentrates its efforts on reaching the Millennium Development Goals aimed at sustainable poverty reduction. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

End extreme poverty by decreasing the percentage of people living on less than \$1.90 a day to no more than 3% by 2030

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. It offers support through policy advice, research and analysis, and technical assistance. Its analytical work often underpins World Bank financing and helps inform developing countries' own investments. In addition, it supports capacity development in the countries. IMF provides technical assistance for addressing balance of payment issues. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

Consider the following statements about the New Development Bank:

1. The NDB was established in 2015, and its headquarters are in Shanghai, China.
2. Only BRICS nations are eligible to become members of the NDB.
3. The voting power of each member is proportional to its subscribed shares in the capital stock of the Bank.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The New Development Bank (NDB) was created in 2015 by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the BRICS and other emerging market economies and developing countries. In 2021, the NDB began expanding its membership and admitted Bangladesh, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay as its new member countries. It was originally known as the BRICS Development Bank. The NDB headquarters are situated in Shanghai, China. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Membership in the New Development Bank is open to members of the United Nations in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Agreement. It shall also be open to borrowing and non-borrowing members. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**



	<p>The New Development Bank shall have an initial subscribed capital of US\$50 billion and an initial authorized capital of US\$100 billion. The initial subscribed capital shall be equally distributed amongst the founding members. Each member's voting power shall equal its subscribed shares in the Bank's capital stock. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>
<p>Q.NO – 79 (DIRECT)</p> <p>Consider the following countries:</p> <p>I. United Arab Emirates</p> <p>II. France</p> <p>III. Germany</p> <p>IV. Singapore</p> <p>V. Bangladesh</p> <p>How many countries amongst the above are there other than India where international merchant payments are accepted under UPI?</p> <p>(a) Only two</p> <p>(b) Only three</p> <p>(c) Only four</p> <p>(d) All the five</p>	<p>How many of the following countries have adopted the India's UPI interface for digital payments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. UAE2. Mauritius3. Srilanka4. USA <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) Only three</p> <p>(d) All four</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>As per reports, February 12, 2024 will mark the launch of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Sri Lanka and Mauritius. The expansion of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to these two popular tourist hotspots marks a significant milestone in fostering digital connectivity and facilitating faster, seamless transactions between nations.</p> <p>The inclusion of RuPay card services in Mauritius further enhances the scope of digital financial services in the region. With India's strong cultural and people-to-people ties with Sri Lanka and Mauritius, this launch is poised to benefit a diverse range of individuals, contributing to greater economic integration and cooperation.</p> <p>In February 2024, the UAE and India signed an agreement on interlinking the national payment platforms – UPI (India) and AANI (UAE), which will facilitate seamless cross-border transactions between the two countries. Hence, Saudi Arabia has not adopted.</p> <p>Bhutan: Adopted UPI in 2021, allowing Indian tourists to make UPI-based payments and accepting BHIM-UPI at merchant locations.</p> <p>man: Partnered with NPCI in October 2022 to accept UPI payments, benefiting Indian workers in the country.</p> <p>Southeast Asia: NIPL signed an agreement with Liquid Group to enable QR-based UPI payments in 10 countries, including Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore,</p>



	<p>Cambodia, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.</p> <p>Nepal: Adopted UPI in February 2022 through Gateway Payment Services, becoming the first country to deploy UPI outside India.</p> <p>France: Prime Minister of India announced during his visit to France the future use of India's UPI, allowing Indian tourists to make rupee payments using UPI from locations like the Eiffel Tower. So, Option (c) is correct.</p>	
<p>Q.NO – 80 (DIRECT)</p> <p>Consider the following statements about 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana' :</p> <p>I. It targets installation of one crore solar rooftop panels in the residential sector.</p> <p>II. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy aims to impart training on installation, operation, maintenance and repairs of solar rooftop systems at grassroot levels.</p> <p>III. It aims to create more than three lakhs skilled manpower through fresh skilling, and up-skilling, under scheme component of capacity building.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II only</p> <p>(b) I and III only</p> <p>(c) II and III only</p> <p>(d) I, II and III</p>	<p>With reference to PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is the world's largest residential rooftop solar initiative.2. It will increase the share of solar rooftop capacity and empower residential households to generate their own electricity.3. Below Poverty Line (BPL) households are eligible for free installation of solar rooftops. <p>Which of the statements given above are correct ?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3 only</p> <p>(c) 1 and 2 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is a government scheme that aims to provide free electricity to households in India. Under the scheme, households will receive a subsidy to install solar panels on their roofs, covering up to 40% of the cost of the panels. It is the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative and has achieved a historic milestone 10 lakh homes are now solar-powered as of March 2025.</p> <p>Under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Below Poverty Line (BPL) households are not specifically eligible for free installation of rooftop solar systems. Eligibility:</p> <p>The household must be an Indian citizen.</p> <p>The household must own a house with a roof that is suitable for installing solar panels.</p> <p>The household must have a valid electricity connection.</p> <p>The household must not have availed of any other subsidy for solar panels. So, Statement 1 is correct and Statement 3 is not correct.</p>	



The subsidies provided under the scheme make rooftop solar installations more affordable, which directly builds capacity by increasing the total amount of solar power generated from rooftops across the country. The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana offers several other benefits to participating households:

Free Electricity for Households: The scheme provides households with free electricity through the installation of subsidized rooftop solar panels, significantly reducing their energy costs.

Reduced Electricity Costs for the Government: By promoting the widespread use of solar power, the scheme is expected to save the government an estimated ₹75,000 crore annually in electricity costs.

Increased Use of Renewable Energy: The scheme encourages the adoption of renewable energy sources, contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy mix in India.

Reduced Carbon Emissions: The transition to solar energy under this scheme will help lower carbon emissions, supporting India's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Consider the following statements with reference to zonal councils

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. Home minister of Central government and chief ministers of all the States in the zone are participants of this Council.
3. They are only deliberative and advisory bodies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

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

Each zonal Council consists of the following members:



(d) Administrator of each union territory in the zone. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The zonal councils aim to promote cooperation and coordination between states, union territories and the Centre. They discuss and make recommendations regarding matters like economic and social planning, linguistic minorities, border disputes, interstate transport, and so on. They are only deliberative and advisory bodies. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

Consider the following regarding zonal councils:

1. Zonal councils are mentioned in the Constitution.
2. It is headed by the home minister, and its members include the chief minister of all states and two ministers from each State.
3. There are five zonal councils and all have only advisory jurisdiction.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

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

Each zonal Council consists of the following members:

(a) Home minister of the Central Government.

(b) Chief ministers of all the States in the zone.

(c) Two other ministers from each State in the zone.

(d) The administrator of each union territory in the zone. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The home minister of the Central Government is the common Chairman of the five zonal councils. The zonal councils aim to promote cooperation and coordination between states, union territories and the Centre. They discuss and make recommendations regarding matters like economic and social planning, linguistic minorities, border disputes, interstate transport, and so on. They are only deliberative and advisory bodies. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

	<p>Consider the following statements about the Inter-State Councils:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Article 262 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between the Centre and states. 2. The President is empowered to establish the inter-state Council and define the nature of duties, its organization and procedure of the Council. 3. The Council is a recommendary body, meeting at least thrice a year. <p>Which of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Article 262 of the Constitution provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes. It makes two provisions: Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley. Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint. So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> <p>Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between the Centre and states. Thus, the President can establish such a council if, at any time, it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment. He can define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organisation and procedure. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>The Council is a recommendatory body on issues relating to inter-state, centre-state and centre-union territory relations. It aims to promote coordination between them by examining, discussing, and deliberating on such issues. The Council may meet at least thrice in a year. Its meetings are held on camera, and all questions are decided upon by consensus. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>
<p>Q.NO – 84 (DIRECT)</p> <p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>I. The Constitution of India explicitly mentions that in certain spheres the Governor of a State acts in his/her own discretion.</p>	<p>With reference to the President and Governor's position, consider the following statements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Constitution envisages the possibility of the Governor and President acting at times in their own discretion without the advice of the Council of Ministers. 2. The advice tendered by the Council of Ministers is binding on the President and Governor. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p>



II. The President of India can, of his / her own, reserve a bill passed by a State Legislature of his/her consideration without it being forwarded by the Governor of the State concerned.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 163 of Part VI states that there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except in so far as he is by or under this Constitution required to exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion.

And if any question arises whether any matter is or is not a matter as respects which the Governor is by or under this Constitution required to act in his discretion, the decision of the Governor in his discretion shall be final, and the validity of anything done by the Governor shall not be called in question on the ground that he ought or ought not to have acted in his discretion. Thus, the constitutional position of the governor differs from that of the president in the following ways:

While the Constitution envisages the possibility of the governor acting at times in his discretion, no such possibility has been envisaged for the President.

After the 42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976), ministerial advice has been made binding on the President, but no such provision has been made with respect to the governor. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

The Governor can reserve a bill for the consideration of President under which of the following conditions?

1. Bill opposed to the Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Bill ultra-vires the provisions of the Constitution
3. Bill deals with compulsory acquisition of property under Article 300A of Indian Constitution

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

The Governor serves as the chief executive head of the state, but like the President, he is a nominal executive head, holding a largely symbolic or constitutional role. Additionally, the Governor functions as an agent of the central government, giving the office a dual role.



	<p>Under the Legislative powers of the Governor, he can Reserve the bill for the consideration of the President. In one case, such reservation is obligatory, where the bill passed by the state legislature endangers the position of the state high court. In addition, the Governor can reserve the bill if it opposes the directive principles of state policy. Under 31C. Saving laws that give effect to certain directive principles. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>Ultra-vires, that is, are against the provisions of the Constitution. The Union Executive is entitled to examine it from all angles, such as whether it conforms with the legislative policy and provisions of any Union law, whether it is in harmony with the scheme and provisions of the Constitution, whether it is ultra vires any existing Union regulation, whether procedural safeguards are provided for the aggrieved party, etc. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>Dealing with compulsory acquisition of property under Article 31A of the Constitution. Provides that any law regarding the acquisition of estates, etc., shall not be deemed void on the grounds that it is inconsistent</p>
<p>Q.NO – 86 (DIRECT)</p> <p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>I. With reference to the Constitution of India, if an area in a state is declared as Scheduled Area under the Fifth Schedule.</p> <p>II. the State Government loses its executive power in such areas and a local body assumes total administration.</p> <p>III. the Union Government can take over the total administration of such areas under certain circumstances on the recommendations of the Governor.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I only</p> <p>(b) II only</p> <p>(c) Both I and II</p> <p>(d) Neither I nor II</p>	<p>With reference to scheduled areas in fifth schedule, consider the following statements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Though the President can declare an area to be a scheduled area, he cannot increase or decrease its area. 2. The Governor must submit a report regarding the administration of such areas before the state assemblies annually. 3. The executive power of the Centre extends to giving directions to the states regarding the administration of scheduled areas. <p>How many of the above statements are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) All three</p> <p>(d) None</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution envisages a special system of administration for certain areas designated as ‘scheduled areas’ and ‘tribal areas’. And the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with its administration and control except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.</p> <p>The president is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area. He can also increase or decrease its area, alter its boundary, rescind such designation or make fresh orders for such re-designation on an area in consultation with the governor of the state concerned. So, Statement (1) is not correct.</p>



	<p>The governor has a special responsibility regarding such areas. He has to submit a report to the president regarding the administration of such areas, annually or whenever so required by the president. So, Statement (2) is not correct.</p> <p>The Centre can give directions to the states regarding the administration of such areas based on its executive power. So, Statement (3) is correct.</p>
<p>Q.NO – 89 (PARTIAL)</p> <p>With reference to the Indian polity, consider the following statements:</p> <p>I. The Governor of a state is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his/her office.</p> <p>II. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the Governor during his/her term of office.</p> <p>III. Members of a State Legislature are not liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said within the House.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III</p>	<p>Consider the following statements about the administration of scheduled areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sixth schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration of tribal areas in the four northeastern states. 2. The President is empowered to declare an area a scheduled area based on the criteria mentioned in the Constitution. 3. The executive power of a state extends to the scheduled area, and the Governor of the State has a special responsibility regarding such areas. <p>Which of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) 3 only (d) 1 and 3 only</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>The scheduled areas are treated differently from the other areas in the country because they are inhabited by 'aboriginals' who are socially and economically rather backwards, and special efforts need to be made to improve their condition.</p> <p>The Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the administration and management of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes. It applies to all states except Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram, administered by the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> <p>The President is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area. He can also increase or decrease its area, alter its boundary lines, rescind such designation or make fresh orders for such redesignation on an area in consultation with the Governor of the state concerned. So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p> <p>The executive power of a state extends to the scheduled areas therein. However, the Governor has a special responsibility regarding such areas. He has to submit a report to the President regarding the administration of such areas annually or whenever so required by the President. The executive power of the Centre extends to giving directions to the states regarding the administration of such areas. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>



Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. The Governor of a State enjoys complete immunity from arrest in both civil and criminal cases during their term in office.
2. Persons against whom a charge sheet has been filed are disqualified from being appointed as Ministers in the State Council of Ministers.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

EXPLANATION:

With reference to the equality before the law, the President of India and the Governor of State enjoy the following immunities (Article 361):

The President or the Governor is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of office.

No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the President or the Governor in any court during his term of office.

No process for the arrest or imprisonment of the President or Governor shall be issued from any court during his term of office.

No civil proceedings against the President or the Governor shall be instituted during his term of office in any court in respect of an act done by him in his personal capacity, whether before or after he entered upon his office, until the expiration of two months next after notice has been delivered to him. Thus, civil proceedings can be initiated against the President and Governor for their personal actions only after giving a notice period of two months. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Articles 75 and 164 of the Constitution deal with the appointment, tenure, responsibility, qualifications, oath and, salaries and allowances of the ministers. The Constitution does not contain any limitation as to who can or cannot be included in the Council of Ministers", and hence no new disqualification could be added to prevent charge-sheeted persons from being appointed as Ministers. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**



Q.NO – 92 (DIRECT)

The famous female figurine known as “Dancing Girl”, found at Mohenjo-daro, is made of

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

Consider the following regarding **the dancing girl statue** found in the Indus Valley civilization:

1. It was found at Harappa.
2. It is the world's oldest bronze statue.
3. It stands in the tribhanga dance posture wearing only ornaments.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**
- (c) All the above
- (d) None of the above

EXPLANATION:

The Dancing Girl is the world's oldest bronze sculpture, which has been dated around 3500-3000 BC. is 10.5cm in height, 5cm in width and 2.5cm in depth. Found in Mohenjo-daro, not in Harappa.

The Dancing Girl is the world's oldest bronze sculpture. This four-inch figure depicts a naked girl wearing only ornaments, which include bangles in the left arm, and an amulet and bracelet on the right arm. She stands in a 'tribhanga' dancing posture with the right hand on her hip. **So, Option (b) correct.**

Q.NO – 94 (PARTIAL)

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

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

Which of the following journals were started by Ambedkar for the upliftment of Dalits?

1. Vital Vidhwansak
2. Mooknayak
3. Bahishkrit Bharat
4. **Harijan**

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

EXPLANATION:

Gopal Baba Walangkar, also known as Gopal Krishna, is considered to be a pioneer in the movement to uplift the untouchable people from the socio-economic oppression that they had been subject to for ages. He worked against caste discrimination in the Raigad district. Walangkar became the first Dalit to launch a newspaper, the Vital Vidhwansak (Destroyer of Brahmanical or Ceremonial Pollution). **So Option 1 is not correct.**

Babasaheb Ambedkar, who had experienced the worst form of casteist discrimination during his childhood, fought against upper-caste tyranny throughout his life. In the 1920s, Ambedkar started



fortnightly newspaper, Mooknayak (Leader of the Voiceless) in 1920. Another newspaper he started with the aim of defending the rights of the depressed classes was Bahishkrit Bharat (1927). **So, Options 2 and 3 are correct.**

Mahatma Gandhi launched a whirlwind campaign against untouchability—first from jail and then, after his release in August 1933, from outside jail. While in jail, he set up the All-India Anti-Untouchability League in September 1932 and started the weekly Harijan in January 1933. **So, Option 4 is not correct.**

Q.NO – 97 (DIRECT)

Consider the following statements:

- I. Anadyr in Siberia and Nome in Alaska are a few kilo meters from each other, but when people are waking up and getting set for breakfast in these cities, it would be different days.
- II. When it is Monday in Anadyr, it is Tuesday in Nome.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct.

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

Consider the following statements about the **International Date Line:**

1. It refers to a straight line in the mid-Pacific Ocean where the date changes exactly one day when it is crossed.
2. A traveller crossing the date line from East to west loses a day, and crossing west to east gains a day.

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:

The international date line, established in 1884, passes through the mid-Pacific Ocean and roughly follows a 180-degree-longitude north-south line on the Earth. It is located halfway around the world from the prime meridian — the 0-degree longitude line in Greenwich, England. It marks where the date changes by one day when crossed. The International Date Line (IDL) is not a perfectly straight line. It deviates in some areas to avoid splitting countries or islands into different days. Therefore although it's mostly in the mid-Pacific, it is not a strictly straight line. It allows the date to change with minimal disruption to human settlements. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

A traveller crossing the International Date Line (IDL) from East to west loses a day and from west to east gains a day because of how time zones and the Earth's rotation are structured.

As the Earth rotates from west to East, the time moves forward by one day each time you cross the IDL in the east-to-west direction. So, when you cross from East to west, you are essentially "losing" a day. When you cross the IDL from west to East, you move backwards in time, effectively "gaining" a day.

Example: East to West (e.g., Tokyo to Los Angeles): Lose a day because you cross into an earlier time zone.



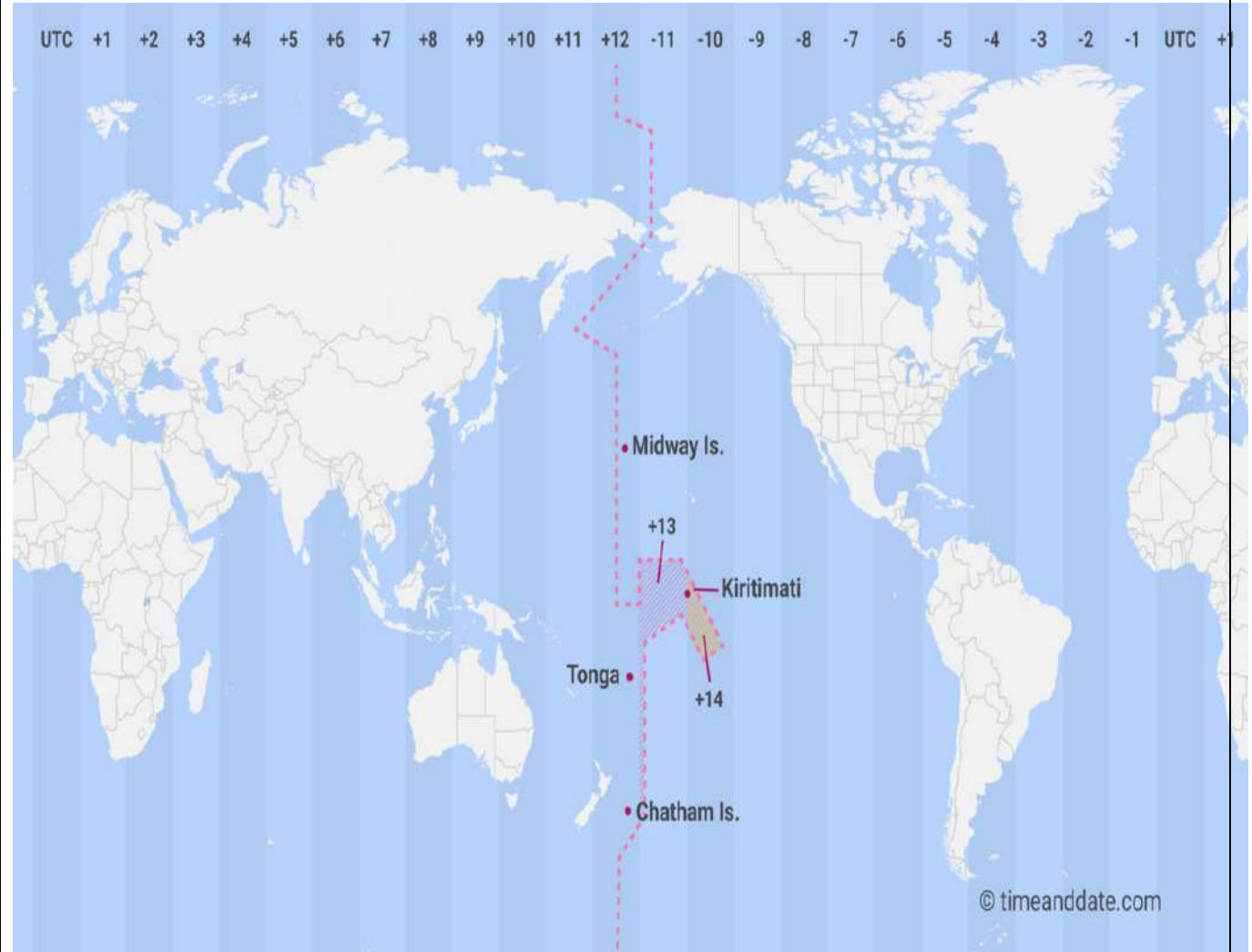
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zone. West to East (e.g., Los Angeles to Tokyo): Gain a day because you cross into a later time zone.

This ensures the calendar aligns with the Earth's rotation, maintaining a consistent worldwide time system. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**





Q.NO – 99 (DIRECT)

Consider the following pairs:

Country **Resource-rich in**

- I. Botswana : Diamond
- II. Chile : Lithium
- III. Indonesia : Nickel

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

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

Consider the following pairs :

Sl. No.	Element		Country with Largest Reserves
1.	Lithium	-	Chile
2.	Cobalt	-	Democratic Republic of Congo
3.	Graphite	-	China
4.	Rare Earth Elements	-	Australia
5.	Nickel	-	Indonesia

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched ?

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

EXPLANATION:

Lithium is widely used in rechargeable batteries for electronic devices, electric vehicles, and renewable energy storage systems, as well as in ceramics, glass, and pharmaceutical applications.

Lithium is currently extracted from two primary sources: hard rock mines or as brine from salt flats and lakes, from where it is recovered using evaporation tanks.

➤ Half of the world's lithium resources are concentrated in Latin America (mostly Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina), Australia, and China.

➤ In 2021, almost 90% of lithium mining happened in Chile, China, and Australia, with Australia leading production.

➤ Chile holds the largest lithium reserves in the world at 9.3 million metric tons. The country reportedly hosts most of the world's "economically extractable" lithium reserves, and its Salar de Atacama region houses approximately 33 percent of the world's lithium reserve base. **So, Pair 1 is correct.**

Cobalt is a critical material for the energy transition, with increased demand in recent years due to its essential role in lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles (EVs), energy storage and other technologies. Cobalt is an important component in the popular nickel-manganese-cobalt (NMC) battery. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the country with the largest cobalt reserves by far, with 6,000,000 metric tons (MT) of the battery metal in the ground. **So, Pair 2 is correct.**



	<p>Graphite is an excellent conductor of heat and electricity and also has the highest strength of any natural material. Graphite is found in metamorphic and igneous rock in many regions of the world, but especially Asia and East Africa.</p> <p>In 2024, China had the world's largest reserves of natural graphite, at approximately 81 million metric tons. So, Pair 3 is correct.</p>
	<p>Rare-earth elements (REEs) are some of the most valuable resources on Earth. Even though these are elements that occur naturally, they are rarely found in quantities large enough to mine. Therefore, when they are uncovered in suitable quantities, they are immediately valuable. There are seventeen rare earth elements in total, all of which are chemically metallic.</p> <p>Some of the most common examples of rare-earth elements include cerium, yttrium, and lanthanum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ China has the largest amount, with around 44 million metric tons, and is actively mining them.➤ Vietnam and Brazil also have large reserves—each has about half as much as China—and are beginning to extract them.➤ Other countries like Russia, India, and Australia also have some rare earth metals, while the United States has about 1.5 million metric tons. So, Pair 4 is not correct.
	<p>Nickel is a metallic element with a silvery-white, shiny appearance. It is the fifth-most common element on Earth and occurs extensively in the Earth's crust and core. Nickel, along with iron, is also a common element in meteorites. Nickel occurs naturally in soil and water. It is also an essential nutrient for plants.</p> <p>Indonesia has the highest nickel reserves in the world, coming in at 55 million metric tons, and it also takes the top spot for nickel production, with 1.8 million MT. So, Pair 5 is correct.</p>



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SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT REFLECTIONS



Out of the 100 questions asked in the UPSC Civil
Services (Preliminary) Examinations, 2025

21 questions reflected directly

&

20 questions reflected partially
from the IAS Parliament

Total number of questions directly reflected from Shankar IAS Parliament (including Target 2025 series)	21
Total number of questions partially reflected from Shankar IAS Parliament (including Target 2025 series)	20

**DIRECT REFLECTIONS FROM SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
(For B Series)**

S. NO	B-Series Q.No	UPSC Questions	IAS PARLIAMENT REFLECTIONS															
1.	3.	<p>In the context of electric vehicle batteries, consider the following elements: I. Cobalt II. Graphite III. Lithium IV. Nickel How many of the above usually make up battery cathodes? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All the four</p>	<p>All statements</p> <p>Prelim Bits (August 14, 2024) – click here</p> <p><u>Critical Minerals in EV</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lithium- Essential for <i>batteries in electric vehicles (EVs)</i> and energy storage systems.• Cobalt- Used in battery production, <i>particularly for EVs.</i>• Nickel- Vital for stainless steel production and <i>batteries.</i>• Platinum Group Metals (PGMs)- Used in catalytic converters, electronics, and medical devices.• Graphite- Key component in <i>batteries</i> and fuel cells. <p>Mains (December 27, 2024) - click here</p> <p><u>Electric Vehicle Batteries</u></p> <table><tr><th>Mineral</th><th>Usage</th><th>China's Dominance</th></tr><tr><td>Bismuth</td><td>Primarily used in pharmaceuticals and chemicals</td><td>80% of global refinery production</td></tr><tr><td>Lithium</td><td>Crucial for EV batteries and energy storage</td><td>58% of global refining</td></tr><tr><td>Tellurium</td><td>Important for solar power and thermoelectric devices</td><td>60% global production</td></tr><tr><td>graphite</td><td>Indispensable for EV batteries and steel production</td><td>Controls 67.2% of global output</td></tr></table>	Mineral	Usage	China's Dominance	Bismuth	Primarily used in pharmaceuticals and chemicals	80% of global refinery production	Lithium	Crucial for EV batteries and energy storage	58% of global refining	Tellurium	Important for solar power and thermoelectric devices	60% global production	graphite	Indispensable for EV batteries and steel production	Controls 67.2% of global output
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2.	8.	<p>With reference to monoclonal antibodies, often mentioned in news, consider the following statements:</p>	<p>All Statements</p> <p>Prelim Bits (September 22, 2023) – Click here</p> <p><u>Monoclonal Antibodies</u></p>															


		<p>I. They are man-made proteins.</p> <p>II. They stimulate immunological function due to their ability to bind to specific antigens.</p> <p>III. They are used in treating viral infections like that of Nipah virus.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III</p>	<p><i>India reached out to Australia to procure monoclonal antibody doses to <u>combat the Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala.</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are <u>laboratory-made proteins</u> that mimic the behaviour of antibodies produced by the immune system to protect against diseases and foreign substances. An antibody <u>attaches itself to an antigen</u>, a foreign substance, usually a disease-causing molecule and <u>helps the immune system</u> to eliminate it from the body. Monoclonal antibodies are specifically designed to target certain antigens. <p>Target 2025 Science & Technology– click here</p> <p>Mice Study on COVID's True Case</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Monoclonal antibodies are proteins made in a lab</u> that bind to one antigen only.
3.	12.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>Statement I : At the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), India refrained from signing the 'Declaration on Climate and Health'.</p> <p>Statement II: The COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health is a binding declaration; and if signed, it becomes mandatory to decarbonize health sector.</p> <p>Statement III: If India's health sector is decarbonized, the resilience of its health-care system may be compromised.</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in</p>	<p>All Statement</p> <p>Mains (December 29, 2023) – Click here</p> <p>Declaration on Climate and Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <u>non-binding</u> declaration calls for nations to reduce their greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions in the health sector swiftly, sustainably, and substantially. Signatories - 144 countries till now. India <u>neither signed</u> the declaration nor participated in official activities on World Health Day citing the lack of practicality in curbing GHG use for cooling in the health sector. They have stayed away as the initiative calls for phasing down of coal and ending the continued investment in unabated new coal-fired power plants. <p>Prelims Quiz (08-12-2023) – Click here</p> <p>COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The COP28 Declaration was not signed by the India which said that <u>greenhouse gas</u>

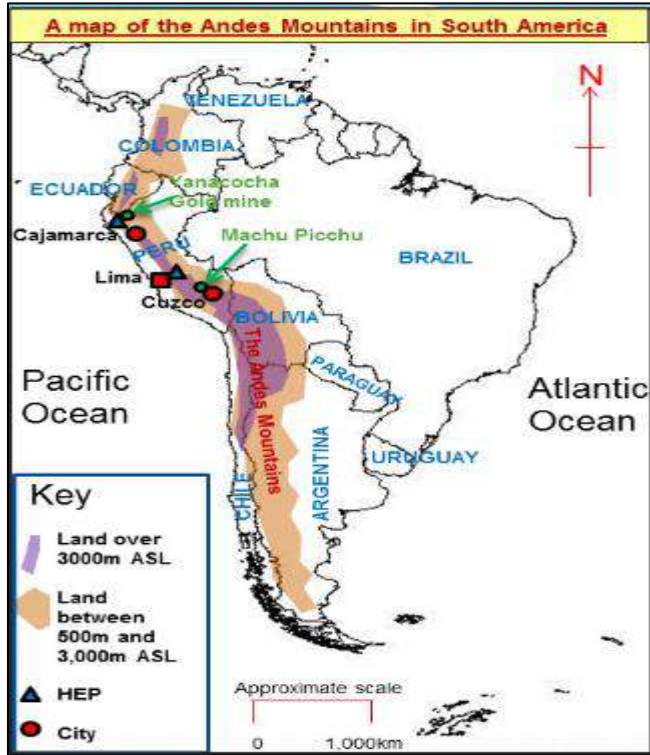
		<p>respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(a) Both statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I</p> <p>(b) Both statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I</p> <p>(c) Only one of the Statement II and III is correct and that explains Statement I</p> <p>(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct</p>	<p><u>reduction for cooling in the health sector could hinder its ability</u> to meet the growing demands for medical services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The declaration aims at promoting a holistic approach to understanding and mitigating the diverse health challenges posed by a changing climate.
4.	14.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>Statement I : Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change is frequently discussed in global discussions on sustainable development and climate change.</p> <p>Statement II: Articles 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change sets out the principles of carbon markets.</p> <p>Statement III: Articles 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change intends to promote inter- country non-market strategies to reach their climate targets.</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(a) Both statement II and Statement III are correct and both of</p>	<p>All Statements</p> <p>Mains (November 27, 2024) - Click here</p> <p><u>UN Framework About Carbon Market</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 6 – It was <u>first introduced in Paris Agreement 2015</u>, which offers <u>carbon trading</u> as a way for countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions cooperatively. Significance – Carbon markets are seen as key tool in <u>achieving net-zero goals by 2050</u>. They enable countries to balance their emissions by offsetting them through credit trading. The market allows for <u>cooperation across borders</u>, reducing the cost of implementing climate action plans. <p>Mains (December 07, 2024) - Click here</p> <p><u>Key Outcomes of COP 29</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 6 – Under this article, <u>COP 29 approved two pathways</u> for countries and companies to trade carbon offsets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 6.2 – <u>Direct country-to-country trading</u> (bilaterally trade).

		<p>them explain Statement I</p> <p>(b) Both statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I</p> <p>(c) Only one of the Statement II and III is correct and that explains Statement I</p> <p>(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct</p>	<p>◦ Article 6.4 – Separate UN-backed marketplace.</p>
5.	26.	<p>Who among the following led a successful military campaign against the kingdom of Srivijaya, the powerful maritime State, which ruled the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring islands?</p> <p>(a) Amoghavarsha (Rashtrakuta)</p> <p>(b) Prataparudra (Kakatiya)</p> <p>(c) Rajendra I (Chola)</p> <p>(d) Vishnuvardhana (Hoysala)</p>	<p>Target 2025 (History, Art & Culture) – click here (web link)</p> <p><u>Kingdom of Srivijaya</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some historical records suggest that the Islands were used as a strategic naval base by the 11th century Chola emperor, Rajendra I to carry out an attack on Srivijaya, which is in present day Indonesia.
6.	31.	<p>With reference to investments, consider the following:</p> <p>I. Bonds</p> <p>II. Hedge Funds</p> <p>III. Stocks</p> <p>IV. Venture Capital</p> <p>How many of the above are treated as Alternative Investment Funds?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) Only three</p> <p>(d) All the four</p>	<p>Statement 2 and 4</p> <p>Mains (May 22, 2025) – Click here</p> <p><u>Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of AIFs – There are three categories of AIF as per SEBI, Category I AIF – Promotes start-ups and socially beneficial sectors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples: Venture capital funds, Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) funds, infrastructure funds. Enjoys certain tax and regulatory incentives. Category II AIF – Risk free and do not undertake leverage except for day-to-day operational needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples: Private equity funds, debt funds. Category III AIF – Employ diverse or complex trading strategies.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples: Hedge funds, PIPE (Private Investment in Public Equity) funds. 																
7.	33.	<p>With reference to the Government of India, Consider the following information.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>Organization</th><th>Some of its functions</th><th>It works under</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>I.</td><td>Directorate of Enforcement</td><td>Enforcement of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018</td><td>Internal Security Division-I, Ministry of Home Affairs</td></tr> <tr> <td>II.</td><td>Directorate of Revenue Intelligence</td><td>Enforces the Provisions of the Customs Act, 1962</td><td>Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance</td></tr> <tr> <td>III.</td><td>Directorate General of Systems and Data Management</td><td>Carrying out big data analytics to assist tax officers for better policy and nabbing tax evaders.</td><td>Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In how many of the above rows is the information correctly matched? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None</p>		Organization	Some of its functions	It works under	I.	Directorate of Enforcement	Enforcement of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018	Internal Security Division-I, Ministry of Home Affairs	II.	Directorate of Revenue Intelligence	Enforces the Provisions of the Customs Act, 1962	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance	III.	Directorate General of Systems and Data Management	Carrying out big data analytics to assist tax officers for better policy and nabbing tax evaders.	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance	<p>2 statements</p> <p>Mains (April 04, 2024) – Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Enforcement Directorate (ED)</u> About- It is a premier financial investigation agency and economic law enforcement agency of the Government of India. Headquarters - New Delhi Ministry- Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. <p>One Liners (March 14, 2024) – Click here</p> <p>Operation ‘Rising Sun’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <u>Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)</u> is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India, working under the <u>Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)</u>, Ministry of Finance.
	Organization	Some of its functions	It works under																
I.	Directorate of Enforcement	Enforcement of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018	Internal Security Division-I, Ministry of Home Affairs																
II.	Directorate of Revenue Intelligence	Enforces the Provisions of the Customs Act, 1962	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance																
III.	Directorate General of Systems and Data Management	Carrying out big data analytics to assist tax officers for better policy and nabbing tax evaders.	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance																
8.	34.	<p>Consider the following statements: I. The Reserve Bank of India mandates all the listed companies in India to submit a Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR). II. In India, a company submitting a BRSR market disclosures in the report that are largely non-financial in nature. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) I only</p>	<p>All the statements</p> <p>Prelim Bits (September 13, 2023) – click here</p> <p><u>BRSR Framework</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It mandates the top 1,000 listed entities (by market capitalisation) to file BRSR as part of the Annual Report with SEBI. These listed entities report on their performance against the 9 principles as per ‘National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct’ (NGBRCs). 																

		<p>(b) II only (c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II</p>	
9.	36.	<p>Consider the following statements: I. India has joined the Minerals Security Partnership as a member. II. India is a resource-rich country in all the 30 critical minerals that it has identified. III. The Parliament in 2023 has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowering the Central Government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite license for certain critical minerals. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III</p>	<p>All statements</p> <p>Mains (December 27, 2024) – Click here</p> <p><u>Critical Minerals Import Dependency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has joined Minerals Security Partnership and the Critical Raw Materials Club to diversify its supply sources and strengthen partnerships. India is acutely vulnerable to Chinese supplies, particularly for six critical minerals where dependency exceeds 40 %. <p>Mains (August 09, 2023) – Click here</p> <p><u>Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It empowers the Central Government to exclusively auction mineral concessions for critical minerals.
10	38.	<p>Consider the following Statements I. India accounts for a very large portion of all equity option contract traded globally thus exhibiting a great boom. II. India's stock market has grown rapidly in the recent past even overtaking Hong Kong's at some Point of time. III. There is no regularly body either to warn the small investors about the risks of options trading or to act on unregistered financial advisors in this regard. Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) I and II only</p>	<p>2 Statements</p> <p>Mains (September 28, 2024) – Click here</p> <p><u>Financial Markets Performance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the world's 4th largest stock market, daily average cash-trading levels of India has surged threefold from pre-Covid levels. <p>One Liners (January 23, 2024) – Click here</p> <p><u>India's Stock Market</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India overtakes Hong Kong to become 4th-largest stock market recently.

		(b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III	
11	40.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>I. Capital receipts create a liability or cause a reduction in the assets of the Government.</p> <p>II. Borrowings and disinvestment are capital receipts.</p> <p>III. Interest received on loans creates a liability of the Government.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III</p>	<p>Two Statements</p> <p>Mains (February 05, 2024)- Click here</p> <p><u>Importance of Fiscal Consolidation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote better management and conservation of world's largest tropical peatlands-Cuvette Centrale region in Congo Basin from unregulated land use and prevent its drainage and degradation.  <p>The diagram illustrates the components of Capital Receipts and Non-Tax Revenue. Capital Receipts are divided into Recovery of Loans, Disinvestment, Borrowings, and Provident Funds. Non-Tax Revenue includes Interest receipts, Profits & Dividend, Fees & Fines, External Grants, and Special assessment.</p>
12	42.	<p>Consider the following countries:</p> <p>I. Bolivia II. Brazil III. Colombia IV. Ecuador V. Paraguay</p>	<p>All Statements</p> <p>Target 2025 (Geography) – Click here (IAS Parliament website link)</p> <p><u>The Andes</u></p>

		<p>VI. Venezuela</p> <p>Andes mountains pass through how many of the above countries?</p> <p>(a) Only two</p> <p>(b) Only three</p> <p>(c) Only four</p> <p>(d) Only five</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spans 7 countries – Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. 								
13	41.	<p>Consider the following pairs:</p> <table><tr><td>Country</td><td>Resource-rich in</td></tr><tr><td>I. Botswana:</td><td>Diamond</td></tr><tr><td>II. Chile:</td><td>Lithium</td></tr><tr><td>III. Indonesia:</td><td>Nickel</td></tr></table> <p>In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) All the three</p> <p>(d) None</p>	Country	Resource-rich in	I. Botswana:	Diamond	II. Chile:	Lithium	III. Indonesia:	Nickel	<p>2 statements</p> <p>Prelim Bits (March 19, 2025) – Click here</p> <p><u>Lithium</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major lithium reserves are concentrated in South America’s Lithium Triangle.• It encompasses areas such as <u>Bolivia, Argentina and Chile.</u> <p>Mains (January 23, 2025) – Click here</p> <p><u>Diamond Imprest Authorization (DIA) Scheme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This move comes in response to policies in diamond-producing countries like Botswana, Angola and Namibia, where manufacturers must process diamonds locally.
Country	Resource-rich in										
I. Botswana:	Diamond										
II. Chile:	Lithium										
III. Indonesia:	Nickel										
14	50.	<p>Consider the following statements about the Rashtriya Gokul Mission:</p>	<p>Statement 1 and 2</p>								

		<p>I. It is important for the upliftment of rural poor as majority of low producing indigenous animals are with small and marginal farmers and landless laborers.</p> <p>II. It was initiated to promote indigenous cattle and buffalo rearing and conservation in a scientific and holistic manner.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) I only (b) II only (c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II</p>	<p>Target 2025 (Polity & Governance) – Click here (IAS Parliament web link)</p> <p><u>Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve and develop indigenous bovine breeds in a scientific and holistic manner. Enhancing milk production and productivity of bovines to meet the growing demand of milk and making dairying more remunerative to the rural farmers of the country.
15	52	<p>Consider the following statements in respect of BIMSTEC:</p> <p>I. It is a regional organization consisting of seven member States till January 2025.</p> <p>II. It came into existence with the signing of the Dhaka Declaration, 1999.</p> <p>III. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal are founding member States of BIMSTEC.</p> <p>IV. In BIMSTEC, the subsector of 'tourism' is being led by India. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II (b) II and III (c) I and IV (d) I only</p>	<p>Statement 1,2 & 3</p> <p>Target-2025 (International Organization) – Click here (web link)</p> <p><u>BIMSTEC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in - June 1997, with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration. Founding members – BIST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation). Current Members (7) – Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.
16	58	<p>Consider the following statements about Lokpal:</p> <p>I. The power of Lokpal applies to public servants of India, but not to the Indian public servants posted outside India.</p> <p>II. The Chairperson or a Member shall not be a Member of the Parliament or a Member of the Legislature of any State or</p>	<p>Statement 1,2,4 only</p> <p>Target 2025 (Polity & Governance) – Click here (web link)</p> <p><u>Lokpal's order on complaint against High Court judge</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It investigates and prosecutes corruption against public officials in India.

		<p>Union Territory, and only the Chief Justice of India, whether incumbent or retired, has to be its Chairperson.</p> <p>III. The Chairperson or a Member shall not be a person of less than forty-five years of age on the date of assuming office as the Chairperson or Member, as the case may be.</p> <p>IV. Lokpal cannot inquire into the allegations of corruption against a sitting Prime Minister of India.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) III only (b) II and III (c) I and IV (d) None of the above statements is correct.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson is usually a <i>former Chief Justice of India</i> or a <i>former Supreme Court Judge</i>. Lokpal has jurisdiction over central government officials, members of parliament, and former and current prime ministers.
17	65.	<p>Artificial way of causing rainfall to reduce air pollution makes use of:</p> <p>(a) Silver iodide and potassium iodide (b) Silver nitrate and potassium iodide (c) Silver iodide and potassium nitrate (d) Silver nitrate and potassium chloride</p>	<p>All Statements</p> <p>Mains (April 22, 2024) – Click here</p> <p><u>Dubai Flood</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeding agents- Salts like <i>silver iodide</i>, <i>potassium iodide</i>, sodium chloride, or dry ice (solid carbon dioxide), they are released into the targeted clouds. These seeding particles facilitate the formation of larger water droplets thereby augmenting rainfall.
18	70.	<p>Which organization has enacted the nature Restoration Law (NRL) to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss?</p> <p>(a) The European Union (b) The World Bank (c) The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (d) The Food and Agriculture Organization</p>	<p>All statements</p> <p>Mains (November 21, 2024) – Click here</p> <p><u>Nature Restoration Law for India</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Restoration Law – NRL was adopted by the EU's Environmental Council in 2024 to restore the health of Europe's ecosystems.
19	72.	<p>India is one of the founding members of the International North-South</p>	<p>All statements</p>

		<p>Transport Corridor (INSTC), a multimodal transportation corridor, which will connect:</p> <p>(a) India to Central Asia a Europe via Iran</p> <p>(b) India to Central Asia via China</p> <p>(c) India to South-East Asia through Bangladesh and Myanmar</p> <p>(d) India to Europe through Azerbaijan</p>	<p>Prelim Bits (March 21, 2025) – Click here</p> <p><u>Chabahar Port</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSTC – It is a multi-modal route between India, Central Asia and Russia, reducing transit time for trade between the three regions. • Chabahar Port was a coveted strategic interest for India. • It is a critical gateway for the proposed International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
20	89.	<p>With reference to the Indian polity, consider the following statements:</p> <p>I. The Governor of a state is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his/her office.</p> <p>II. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the Governor during his/her term of office.</p> <p>III. Members of a State Legislature are not liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said within the House.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II only</p> <p>(b) II and III only</p> <p>(c) I and III only</p> <p>(d) I, II and III</p>	<p>Mains (May 08, 2024) – Click here</p> <p><u>Governor immunity from criminal prosecution</u></p> <p>What does the Constitution say about criminal prosecution against Governor?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 361- The President or the Governor is not answerable to any court the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of office. • Criminal proceedings- The article says that no criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the President or the Governor in any court during his term office. • No process to Arrest/ imprisonment- The article ensures that no process for the arrest or imprisonment of the President or Governor shall be issued from any court during his term of office. • Civil proceedings- It can be initiated against President and Governor for their personal acts after a notice period of 2 months. • Duration of immunity- The immunity provided by Article 361 is limited to duration of their in office, once their term expires or they resign from their position, they can be subject to legal proceedings like any other citizen. • Balance of powers- The article reflects the framers' intention to maintain a balance of powers between the executive, judiciary, and legislative branches of government. • Prevent interferences- By providing immunity to certain constitutional

			<p>officeholders, it aims to prevent undue interference or harassment that could impede the functioning of these offices.</p> <p>Mains (March 05, 2024) – Click here</p> <p><u>SC's stand on Parliamentary Privileges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 105(2) - No MP shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or vote given by him in Parliament and no person shall be liable in respect of the publication by or under the authority of either House of Parliament of any report, paper, votes or proceedings. • This provision exempts MPs from any legal action for any statement made or act done in the course of their duties.
21	98.	<p>Who among the following was the founder of the “Self-Respect Movement”?</p> <p>(a) Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker</p> <p>(b) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar</p> <p>(c) Bhaskarrao Jadhav</p> <p>(d) Dinkarrao Javalkar</p>	<p>Target 2025 (History, Art & Culture)</p> <p>- Click here (Web link)</p> <p><u>Periyar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He started the Self-Respect Movement and Dravidar Kazhagam.

PARTIAL REFLECTIONS

S.NO	B-Series Q.No	UPSC Questions	IAS PARLIAMENT REFLECTIONS
1.	4.	<p>Consider the following:</p> <p>I. Cigarette butts</p> <p>II. Eyeglass lenses</p> <p>III. Car tyres</p> <p>How many of them contain plastic?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) All the three</p> <p>(d) None</p>	<p>Statement III</p> <p>Prelim Bits (July 15, 2023) – Click here</p> <p><u>Tire/Tyre Particulate Pollution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tire particles pollute air, water and soil and contain a wide range of toxic organic compounds, including known carcinogens. • Also, tires contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are hazardous to human health, and react in the atmosphere to create smog. • The particulate itself washes into waterways and has been found to be a <i>significant source of oceanic microplastics</i>.

2.	5.	<p>Consider the following substances: I. Ethanol II. Nitroglycerine III. Urea</p> <p>Coal gasification technology can be used in the production of how many of them? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None</p>	<p>Statement III</p> <p>One Liners (May 17, 2025) – Click here</p> <p><u>Coal Gasification Push with new Agreements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coal Gasification - This thermo-chemical process converts coal into synthesis gas (syngas), a mixture of CO, H₂, CO₂, CH₄, and H₂O, through high-temperature reactions with limited oxygen and steam. • Syngas - Offers cleaner energy, easier transport, and serves as a feedstock for producing vital chemicals like <u>methanol, ammonia, and hydrogen,</u> alongside power generation. •
3.	9.	<p>Consider the following statements: I. No virus can survive in ocean waters. II. No virus can infect bacteria. III. No virus can change the cellular transcriptional activity in host cells.</p> <p>How many of the statements given above are correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None</p>	<p>Statement II</p> <p>Prelim Bits (May 30, 2024) – click here</p> <p><u>Phages or Bacteriophages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phages or Bacteriophages – They are <u>natural viruses</u> that can <u>selectively target and kill bacteria.</u> • Phage therapy – It is a treatment for people suffering from chronic or antibiotic-resistant infections.
4.	11.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>Statement I : Studies indicate that carbon dioxide emissions from cement industry account for more than 5% of global carbon emissions.</p> <p>Statement II: Silica-bearing clay is mixed with limestone while manufacturing cement.</p> <p>Statement III: Limestone is converted into lime</p>	<p>Statement I & III</p> <p>Mains (February 28, 2023) – click here</p> <p><u>Environment Friendly Concrete Mixtures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The production of cement, the binding element in concrete, accounted for 7% of total global carbon dioxide emissions in 2018. • Limestone calcined clay can also reduce cement use.

		<p>during clinker production for cement manufacturing.</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(a) Both statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I</p> <p>(b) Both statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I</p> <p>(c) Only one of the Statement II and III is correct and that explains Statement I</p> <p>(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct</p>	
5.	13.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>Statement I: Scientific studies suggest that a shift is taking place in the Earth's rotation and axis.</p> <p>Statement II: Solar flares and associated coronal mass ejections bombarded the Earth's outermost atmosphere with tremendous amount of energy.</p> <p>Statement III: As the Earth's polar ice melts, the water tends to move towards the equator.</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(a) Both statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I</p>	<p>Statement I & II</p> <p>Target 2025 (Geography) – Click here (web link)</p> <p><u>Changes in Tilt of Earth's Axis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers recently discovered that <i>Earth's axis has tilted</i> by 31.5 inches due to excessive groundwater extraction. <p>Statement II</p> <p>One Liners (May 21, 2025) – Click here</p> <p><u>Spectacular Bird-Wing Solar Eruption</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NASA satellites recorded the event, revealing a plasma stream extending over 1 million km, twice the Earth-Moon distance. The <u><i>eruption involved both an intense solar flare (electromagnetic radiation burst) and a significant coronal mass ejection (CME)</i></u> of charged plasma. Potential Earth Impacts - Geomagnetic storms can disrupt satellites, GPS, radio, and power grids, while also potentially enhancing

		<p>(b) Both statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I</p> <p>(c) Only one of the Statement II and III is correct and that explains Statement I</p> <p>(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct</p>	<p>auroras at lower latitudes. Space weather agencies are on high alert.</p>
6.	43.	<p>Consider the following water bodies:</p> <p>I. Lake Tanganyika</p> <p>II. Lake Tonle Sap</p> <p>III. Patos Lagoon</p> <p>Through how many of them does the Equator pass?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) All the three</p> <p>(d) None</p>	<p>Statement 1</p> <p>Prelim Bits (April 24, 2025) – Click here</p> <p>Kinshasa Floods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important Lakes Congo- Albert, Edward, Kivu, <u>Tanganyika</u>, and Mweru. <p><u>East African Rift System</u></p>
7.	44.	<p>Consider the following statements about turmeric during the year 2022-23:</p> <p>I. India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric in the world.</p> <p>II. More than 30 varieties of turmeric are grown in India.</p> <p>III. Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are major turmeric producing States in India.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II only</p> <p>(b) II and III only</p> <p>(c) I and III only</p> <p>(d) I, II and III</p>	<p>Statements 2 and 3</p> <p>Prelim Bits (September 11, 2024) – Click here</p> <p><u>Curcuma ungmensis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In India, <u>approximately 40 species of this genus are present</u>, predominantly in the <u>northeastern and southern states</u>, along with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. <p>Prelim Bits (March 08, 2025) – Click here</p> <p><u>India's Spices in Global Market</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBF), chilli, turmeric, cumin, ginger and coriander constitute approximately 76% of India's total spice exports. • India currently exports 1.5 million tonnes of spices of all kinds worth \$4.5 billion, commanding a quarter of the global spice market valued at \$20 billion.

8.	61	<p>Consider the following statements: Statement I: Some rare earth elements are using in the manufacture of flat television, screens and computer monitors. Statement II: Some rare earth elements have phosphorescent properties. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct.</p>	<p>Statement 1</p> <p>Target 2025 (Geography) – Click here (web link)</p> <p><u>Global Importance of Greenland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic importance – Greenland has valuable <u>rare earth minerals needed for telecommunications</u>, as well as uranium, billions of untapped barrels of oil and a vast supply of natural gas. <p>One Liners (April 19, 2025) – Click here</p> <p><u>China Restricts Rare Earth Elements (REEs) Exports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rare earth elements exhibit exceptional magnetic and optical properties, making them indispensable in manufacturing magnets for electric vehicles and wind turbines, as well as <u>digital displays</u>, defense systems, <u>smartphones</u>, and lasers. <p>Prelim Bits (April 17, 2025) – Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properties – Malleable with high melting and boiling points. They exhibit both strong magnetic and <u>luminescent properties</u> due to their unique electronic structure.
9.	63.	<p>Consider the following space missions: I. Axiom – 4 II. SpaDeX III. Gaganyaan How many of the space missions given above encourage and support microgravity research?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None</p>	<p>Statement 1</p> <p>Prelim Bits (August 05, 2024) – Click here</p> <p><u>Axiom-4 Mission</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and Development - The mission will support various scientific experiments and technological tests in the unique microgravity environment of space.
10.	67.	<p>Consider the following statements: I. On the dissolution of the House of the People, the Speaker shall not vacate</p>	<p>Statements 1 & 3</p> <p>Mains (May 14, 2024) – Click here</p> <p>Statement I & III</p>

		<p>his/her office until immediately before the first meeting of the House of the People after the dissolution.</p> <p>II. According to the provisions of the Constitution of India, a Member of the House of the People on being elected as Speaker shall resign from his/her political party immediately.</p> <p>III. The Speaker of the House of the People may be removed from his/her office by a resolution of the House of the People passed by a majority of all the then Members of the House, provided that no resolution shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III</p>	<p>Mains (June 13, 2024) – Click here</p> <p><u>The Lok Sabha Speaker</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>When the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker remains in his office</u> till the first meeting of the new assembly when the new speaker is elected. • Removal – Article 94 provides that a motion of no-confidence can be moved against the Speaker <u>with notice of 14 days</u>. <p><u>Election of Deputy Speaker</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They may also resign (to each other), or may be <u>removed from office by a resolution of the House</u> passed by a majority of all the then members of the House.
11.	76.	<p>Consider the following statements: Statement I: Of the two major ethanol producers in the world, i.e., Brazil and the United States of America, the former producers more ethanol than the latter. Statement II: Unlike in the United States of America where corn is the principal feedstock for ethanol production, sugarcane is the principal feedstock for ethanol production in Brazil.</p>	<p>Statement 1</p> <p>Prelim Bits (September 12, 2023)</p> <p>- Click here</p> <p><u>Global Biofuel Alliance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>US, India and Brazil contribute about 85% of the global production</u> and the 81% of consumption of ethanol.

		<p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I</p> <p>(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I</p> <p>(c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct</p> <p>(d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct</p>							
12.	77.	<p>Consider the following statements in respect of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD):</p> <p>I. It provides loans and guarantees to middle income countries.</p> <p>II. It works single-handedly to help developing countries to reduce poverty</p> <p>III. It was established to help Europe rebuild after the World War II.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I and II only</p> <p>(b) II and III only</p> <p>(c) I and III only</p> <p>(d) I, II and III</p>	<p>Statement II & III</p> <p>Mains (July 05, 2023) – Click here</p> <p><u>Reforming Multilateral Banks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A multilateral development bank (MDB) is an international financial institution chartered by two or more countries for the purpose of encouraging economic development in poorer nations.MDBs <u>originated in the aftermath of World War II to rebuild war-ravaged nations and stabilize</u> the global financial system. <table><tr><th colspan="2">Types of Multilateral Development Banks</th></tr><tr><th>International Development Banks</th><th>Regional Development Banks</th></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">World BankInternational Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)International Finance Corporation (IFC)International Development Association (IDA)</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">European Investment Bank (EIB)Asian Development Bank (ADB)New Development Bank (NDB)Eurasian Development Bank (EDB)Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)</td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Aim - To promote inclusive growth and reduce inequalities.To <u>eliminate poverty</u>To foster shared prosperity	Types of Multilateral Development Banks		International Development Banks	Regional Development Banks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">World BankInternational Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)International Finance Corporation (IFC)International Development Association (IDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">European Investment Bank (EIB)Asian Development Bank (ADB)New Development Bank (NDB)Eurasian Development Bank (EDB)Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
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13.	78.	<p>Consider the following statements in respect of RTGS and NEFT:</p> <p>I. In RTGS, the settlement time is instantaneous while in case of NEFT, it takes some time to settle payments.</p> <p>II. In RTGS, the customer is charged for inward transactions while that is not the case for NEFT.</p> <p>III. Operating hours for RTGS are restricted on certain days while this is not true for NEFT.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) I only (b) I and II (c) I and III (d) III only</p>	<p>Statement I</p> <p>Mains (February 17, 2024) – Click here</p> <p><u>RBI's restriction on Card Networks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEFT transactions are <u>settled in batches</u>, not in real-time. <p>RTGS (Real Time Gross Settlement)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a system that allows for the <u>instantaneous transfer</u> of money and/or securities between banks. It has a minimum transfer limit of Rs. 2 lakh and no maximum transfer limit.
14.	80.	<p>Consider the following statements about 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana':</p> <p>I. It targets installation of one crore solar rooftop panels in the residential sector.</p> <p>II. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy aims to impart training on installation, operation, maintenance and repairs of solar rooftop systems at grassroots levels.</p> <p>III. It aims to create more than three lakhs skilled manpower through fresh skilling, and up-skilling, under scheme component of capacity building.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) I and II only (b) I and III only (c) II and III only (d) I, II and III</p>	<p>Statement I</p> <p>Prelim Bits (May 24, 2025) – click here</p> <p><u>PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme aims to <u>benefit 1 crore households across</u> India by 2027. Objective – To promote rooftop solar panel installations in residential homes by providing substantial subsidies and making solar power affordable.
15.	82.	<p>Consider the following pairs</p> <p>I. State Description</p>	<p>Statement II & III</p> <p>Mains (August 16, 2022) – Click here</p>

		<p>Arunachal Pradesh: The capital is named after a fort, and the State has two National Parks.</p> <p>II. Nagaland: The state came into existence on the basis of a Constitutional Amendment Act.</p> <p>III. Tripura: Initially a Part 'C' State, it became a centrally administered territory with the reorganization of States in 1956 and later attained the status of a full-fledged state.</p> <p>How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None</p>	<p><u>Northeast's integration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tripura and Manipur, which were made the Part-C States after the merger with India in 1949, were also upgraded to States in 1972. • <u>Article 371A (13th Amendment Act, 1962) – Nagaland.</u> • <u>Tripura</u> and Manipur, which were <u>made the Part-C States</u> after the merger with India in <u>1949</u>, were also upgraded to States in 1972.
16.	83.	<p>With reference to India, consider the following:</p> <p>I. The Inter-state Council</p> <p>II. The National Security Council</p> <p>III. Zonal Councils</p> <p>How many of the above were established as per the provisions of the Constitution of India?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None</p>	<p>Statement 1</p> <p>Mains (December 29, 2022) – Click here</p> <p><u>Inter-state Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Article 263 of the Constitution</u> gives powers to the <u>President to set up an Inter-state Council</u> for resolution of disputes between states. • The Council is envisaged as a forum for discussion between the states and the Centre. <p>Prelim Bits (May 05, 2025) – Click here</p> <p>National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) – It was constituted in 1998 following recommendations of a special Task Force headed by K.C. Pant, then Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is part of a <u>three-tier national security management</u> system consisting of, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ National Security Council (apex body headed by the Prime Minister)

17.	85.	<p>Consider the following pairs Provision in the Constitution of India.</p> <p>I. Separation of Judiciary the Executive in the Public services of State: The Directive Principles of the State Policy.</p> <p>II. Valuing and preserving of the rich heritage of our composite culture: The fundamental Duties.</p> <p>III. Prohibition of employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories Stated under: The Fundamental Rights</p> <p>How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None</p>	<p>Statement I and II</p> <p>Mains (August 22, 2024) – Click here</p> <p><u>Rationalizing Monuments of National Importance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 49 of the Constitution enjoins the State to protect the historical and cultural heritage of the country. • Article 51A of the Constitution stipulates that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India “to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture. <p>Mains (February 19, 2025) – Click here</p> <p><u>Constitutional Morality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 50 – Ensures separation of the judiciary from the executive, <u>preventing arbitrary rule</u>.
18.	86.	<p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>I. With reference to the Constitution of India, if an area in a state is declared as Scheduled Area under the Fifth Schedule.</p> <p>II. the State Government loses its executive power in such areas and a local body assumes total administration.</p> <p>III. the Union Government can take over the total administration of such areas under certain circumstances on the recommendations of the Governor.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) I only (b) II only (c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II</p>	<p>Statement 1</p> <p>Mains (April 27, 2024) – Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifth Schedule – It shall apply to the administration and control of <u>the Scheduled Areas</u> and Scheduled Tribes in any State other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
19.	87.	<p>With reference to India, consider the following pairs: Organization Union Ministry</p>	<p>Statement II</p> <p>Mains (January 11, 2024) – Click here</p>

		<p>I. The national : Ministry of Commerce Automotive Board and Industry</p> <p>II. The Coir Board : Ministry of Heavy Industries</p> <p>III. The National Centre for Trade : Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises</p> <p>How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) One only</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) All the three</p> <p>(d) None</p>	<p><u>Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME)</u></p> <p>Coir Vikas Yojana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim- To support the establishment of new 'state of the art' coir processing units, provide modern infrastructure facilities for creating more employment opportunities, especially for women. • Implementation agency- Coir Board.
20.	100.	<p>Consider the following pairs:</p> <p>Region Country</p> <p>I. Mallorca : Italy</p> <p>II. Normandy : Spain</p> <p>III. Sardinia : France</p> <p>In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) Only one</p> <p>(b) Only two</p> <p>(c) All the three</p> <p>(d) None</p>	<p>Statement III</p> <p>Mains (November 22, 2024)- Click here</p> <p><u>India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Navy Ship INS Sumedha held Maritime PASSEX Exercise along with ITS Morosini off the <u>coast of Sardinia</u> in April, 2023. • <u>Italian</u> Navy also participated in MILAN 2024 Naval Exercises, Vishakapatnam in February, 2024.