



Monthly Editorial Quiz (Consolidation)

**March
2025**

Practice Question

1. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)':
 1. The PMMVY Scheme is being implemented as per provisions under Section 4 of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013
 2. The benefit is available to a woman for the first two living children irrespective of the gender of the children.
 3. ₹5,000 will be given for the first child, and ₹6,000 will be provided for the second child.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to the Right to Information, consider the following statements:
 1. The Supreme Court upheld the right to information as part of the fundamental right to free speech and expression in the State of U.P. v. Raj Narain (1975).
 2. The Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 changed the tenure of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) to a 3-year term.

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

3. Consider the following statements about 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit 2025':
 1. This Summit held in Paris is the 3rd summit, following the Bletchley Park Summit (UK 2023) and the Seoul Summit (South Korea 2024).
 2. Public Interest AI Platform and Incubator was launched to bridge public-private AI efforts.
 3. A Joint Statement on "Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet" was signed by 58 countries in this summit.

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

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

4. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution, the responsibility for conducting the elections of the President and Vice President is entrusted to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Statement-II: It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950 (celebrated as National Voters' Day).

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 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.

5. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Cryptocurrency':

1. Cryptocurrency is a decentralised digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security. Examples include Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple and Litecoin.
2. Cryptocurrency transactions are documented on a public digital ledger known as the blockchain.

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

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

6. Consider the following member:

1. Prime Minister (Chairperson)
2. Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha
3. Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
4. Lok Sabha Speaker

How many of the above is/are **not** part of the selection committee, for the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners?

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

7. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: COP29 of UNFCCC reached a landmark agreement to finalise the mechanisms for a centralised carbon market under the United Nations (UN).

Statement-II: Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism seeks to develop a centralised, United Nations-managed carbon emissions offset and trading system.

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 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.

8. With reference to the Paris Agreement, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a legally binding global agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- 2. It replaced the Montreal Protocol which was an earlier agreement to deal with climate change.
- 3. Each country is required to submit and update their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) every 5 years under the Paris Agreement.

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

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

9. Regarding the wetlands, consider the following statements:

- 1. Wetlands are ecotone, having land transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- 2. Wetlands store large amounts of carbon in their soil and vegetation, helping to mitigate climate change.
- 3. The Montreux Record is a list of wetland sites recognized under the Ramsar Convention as being of international importance.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

10. The term Deepfake often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A type of deep-sea exploration technology used to map the ocean floor.
- B. A technique that uses artificial intelligence to create realistic but fake images, videos, or audio recordings.
- C. A cybersecurity method to detect and prevent phishing attacks.
- D. A financial scam involving deep investments in fake stock markets.

11. Regarding Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), consider the following statements:

- 1. It plays a crucial role in financial inclusion, particularly benefiting marginalized groups, including women, by promoting social equity and economic empowerment.
- 2. The Ministry of Finance regulates MFIs under the NBFC-MFI framework (2014), which covers client protection, borrower safeguards, privacy, and credit pricing.
- 3. Microfinance loans are collateral-free for households with annual incomes up to Rs 3 lakh.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

12. Consider the following statements:

- 1. In the European Union (EU), Germany has the largest population, France is largest by area, and the Smallest Country is Malta.
- 2. The Schengen Area allows free movement for all EU members.
- 3. The EU aims to become climate-neutral by 2050 and reduce emissions by 55% by 2030.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

13. Consider the following statements:

1. Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
2. Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per the Delimitation Act after every Census.
3. The Delimitation Commission in India is a high-power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called into question before any court.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

14. Consider the following statements:

1. The textiles and apparel industry is India's second-largest employer after agriculture.
2. India is the largest textile exporter globally.

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

15. Q7. Regarding Manipur, consider the following statements:

1. It is known as 'Kangleipak' or 'Sanaleipak' (golden land) to its inhabitants.
2. It is bounded by Assam in the north, Nagaland in the west, Mizoram in the southwest, and Myanmar in the east and southeast.

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

16. The Three-Language Formula (TLF) often seen in news is best described as:

- A. A constitutional provision that mandates all Indians to learn three languages.
- B. A system requiring schoolchildren in India to learn three languages, one of which is a regional language, another is Hindi or English, and a third is a modern Indian language.

- C. A policy that encourages students to learn three languages, primarily focusing on cultural exchange and diplomacy.
- D. A formula to teach students three different languages from various countries to foster a global perspective.

17. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report (2024) is released by which of the following?

- A. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- B. United Nations (UN)
- C. World Bank
- D. None of the above

18. Regarding the Sacred Groves, consider the following statements:

1. They are tracts of virgin forests preserved by local people due to cultural and religious beliefs.
2. They serve as refuges for diverse flora and fauna and maintain clean water ecosystems.
3. They are prominent in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

19. ERONET, often seen in news, is best described as:

- A. A social media platform for citizens to discuss election issues.
- B. A web-based platform used by election officials for managing voter registrations and updates.
- C. A mobile app designed for voters to cast ballots electronically.
- D. A government portal for political parties to register candidates.

20. Arrange the following events in chronological order.

1. The East India Company established the first Presidency Bank in Calcutta.
2. The stock exchange in Ahmedabad was established.
3. A committee was set up under the chair, Sir Wilfrid Atlay.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1-2-3
- B. 3-2-1
- C. 2-1-3
- D. None

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

21. Regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), consider the following statements:
1. It was established in 1949 with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty.
 2. The membership is open to all the members of the United Nations.
 3. Any decision to invite a country to join the Alliance is taken based on consensus among all Allies.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
 - B. Only Two
 - C. All Three
 - D. None
22. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) often seen in the news is best described as:
- A. The European Union (EU) tool, designed to place a fair price on carbon emissions from the production of carbon-intensive goods entering the EU and to promote cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.
 - B. A tax applied only to EU-based companies that produce carbon-intensive goods, aimed at reducing emissions within the EU.
 - C. A financial penalty on EU consumers for purchasing carbon-intensive goods from non-EU countries, designed to discourage consumption.
 - D. A voluntary program for non-EU countries to reduce carbon emissions in exchange for trade benefits with the EU.
23. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** Geoengineering refers to large-scale interventions aimed at altering the Earth's climate system (more specifically, solar radiation management) to counteract the effects of global warming.
- Statement-II:** Geoengineering would address the root causes of climate change without presenting any significant new risks.
- 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 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
24. The term "green colonialism" often seen in news is best described as:
- A. The introduction of eco-friendly technologies in the Global South to promote sustainable development.
 - B. A term describing efforts by the Global North to control the agricultural practices of the Global South for food security.
 - C. The collaboration between developed and developing countries to create equitable environmental policies.
 - D. The use of mineral resources from the Global South by the Global North to manage its energy transition and reduce emissions.
25. Consider the following statements:
1. The three-language formula was first proposed by the Kothari Commission(1964-66).
 2. The three-language formula is a language learning policy introduced in the 1968 National Policy on Education.
 3. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recommends using the home language/mother tongue as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5 to promote regional languages.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
 - B. Only Two
 - C. All Three
 - D. None
26. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** Gender budgeting is a strategic tool used by governments to allocate resources efficiently based on the distinct needs of different genders.
- Statement-II:** The concept of gender budgeting, introduced in 2005-06, has maintained an average share of five percent of total budgetary allocations over the years.
- 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 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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

27. Regarding Offshore Mining, consider the following statements:

1. Offshore mining involves extracting minerals or precious stones from the seabed.
2. India launched its first-ever offshore critical mineral auction in 2024, offering 13 blocks across the Arabian Sea and Andaman Sea.
3. Offshore Areas (Existence of Mineral Resources) Rules, 2024, apply to all minerals in offshore areas, including mineral oils and hydrocarbons.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

28. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are largely driven by modifiable lifestyle factors, including tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, and alcohol consumption.

Statement-II: The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) (NP-NCD) aims to promote health through behaviour change by engaging communities, civil society, media, and development partners.

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 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

29. Regarding the delimitation, consider the following statements:

1. Delimitation means the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies.
2. The last delimitation exercise that changed the state-wise composition of the Lok Sabha was completed in 1976 and done based on the 1971 census.
3. The 87th Amendment Act of 2003 provided for the delimitation of constituencies based on the 2001 census and not the 1991 census.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

30. Consider the following statements:

1. In 1949, the Constituent Assembly designated Hindi in Devanagari script as the national language of the Union of India.
2. Article 210 states that the language to be used in the legislature can be the official language of the state, Hindi, or English.
3. Hindi is one of the 22 languages listed in the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

31. Which of the following is **not** an objective of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)?

1. Empowering women and protecting their health.
2. Reducing the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel.
3. Preventing young children from a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution by burning fossil fuel.
4. Eliminating poverty from India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

32. Regarding the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), consider the following statements:

1. The CTBT is a multilateral treaty aimed at banning all nuclear explosions, whether for military or peaceful purposes.
2. India has signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



33. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Graphic Processing Units (GPUs) are critical for training and building large-scale Artificial Intelligence (AI) models and are essential for advanced AI applications.

Statement-II: The IndiaAI Mission aims to establish a robust AI computing infrastructure in India to support the development and testing of AI systems.

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 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

34. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Blockchain Technology is a decentralised, digital ledger that records transactions across a network of computers.
- 2. Blockchain is the foundation of cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and has applications from supply chain management to decentralised finance (DeFi).

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

35. Regarding the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), consider the following statements:

- 1. The National Board for Wildlife is a statutory Board constituted officially in 2003 under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- 2. The NBWL is chaired by the Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change and is responsible for the promotion of conservation and development of wildlife and forests.
- 3. The standing committee of NBWL is chaired by the Chief Ministers of states on a rotational basis.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

36. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Prohibition of Simultaneous Membership Rules, 1950, mandates an MLA resign from one assembly within 10 days if elected to multiple state legislative assemblies.
- 2. If a person is elected to two houses, a vacancy is created that must be filled by a by-election within six months under Section 151A of the Representation of Peoples Act 1951.

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

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

37. Which of the following comes under the jurisdiction of Lokpal?

- 1. Judges of the Supreme Court and High Court.
- 2. Prime Minister
- 3. Government Officials (Group A-D).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

38. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Swadeshi Movement had its roots in the anti-partition movement, which was started to oppose Lord Curzon's decision to divide the province of Bengal.
- 2. In the 1906 Calcutta Session, the Indian National Congress, led by Dadabhai Naoroji, declared self-government (Swaraj) as its goal.

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

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

39. The One-China Policy often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. The One-China Policy states that Taiwan is part of China, and only the People's Republic of China (PRC) represents the legitimate government of all of China.
- B. The PRC and the Republic of China (ROC) share equal recognition as the legitimate government of China.
- C. Taiwan is an independent nation with no claims to China.
- D. The ROC has sovereignty over all of China, including Taiwan.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



40. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Urban heat island is a local and temporary phenomenon in which certain pockets within a city are experiencing higher heat load than its surrounding area.

Statement-II: In urban areas, the rise of heat happens due to buildings and houses of cities made of concrete, where the heat is trapped and not able to dissipate easily. 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 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

Urban heat island is a local and temporary phenomenon in which certain pockets within a city experience a higher heat load than its surrounding area. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**

In urban areas, the rise of heat happens due to buildings and houses of cities made of **concrete**, where the heat is trapped and not able to dissipate easily. **Hence, statement-II is correct.**

41. Consider the following statements:

1. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of children a woman would have by the end of their reproductive years (ages 15 to 49).
2. A TFR of 2.1 is considered the replacement level, where each generation replaces itself without significant population growth or decline.
3. Southern states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka achieved replacement-level fertility earlier than northern states.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

42. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Women's Rights and Gender Equality
- B. Climate Change Policies
- C. Space Exploration Initiatives
- D. International Trade Agreements

43. Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI), often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. An AI model capable of creating new content, such as text, images, or music, based on patterns learned from data.
- B. A rule-based AI system that follows predefined instructions to perform tasks.
- C. A machine learning approach that focuses solely on data classification and prediction.
- D. An AI technique used only for automating repetitive tasks without generating new content.

44. Consider the following statements:

1. Classical computers use bits to process information in binary, following classical physics principles.
2. The working of a quantum computer is based on the principles of quantum mechanics, an area of physics that deals with the smallest particles in the universe.
3. Quantum computers use qubits, which can be in states 0, 1, or a superposition of both, enabling advanced computations.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

45. Regarding the Uniform Civil Code, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to a single set of laws governing personal matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, and succession for all citizens of India.
2. It is mentioned in Article 44 of the Indian Constitution as a Directive Principle of State Policy.

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

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

46. Regarding the Navratna company status, consider the following statements:

1. A Navratna company is permitted to invest up to Rs. 1,000 crore or 15% of its net worth in a single project without the government's approval.
2. Unlike Maharatna, it cannot form joint ventures or go in for mergers and acquisitions.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

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

47. Regarding the India Meteorological Department (IMD), consider the following statements:

1. IMD is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting, and seismology in India, established in 1875.
2. It operates under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

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

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

48. Consider the following statements:

1. The periodic delimitation exercise redraws the boundaries of the Lok Sabha and State assembly constituencies so that the voters are evenly distributed across them.
2. Delimitation was carried out every ten years after Independence, with the first Delimitation Commission established in 1952.

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

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

49. Consider the following statements:

1. A circular economy focuses on durable, reusable, and recyclable products, ensuring materials are continuously repurposed, remanufactured, or used for various purposes.
2. The Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific was launched in 2009 to promote 3R principles and resource efficiency.
3. The Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013-2023) sets binding goals for a resource-efficient and circular economy.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

50. Regarding Tuberculosis (TB), consider the following statements:

1. It is an infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis that mainly affects the lungs.
2. TB disproportionately affects adults in low and middle-income countries, with over 80% of cases and deaths occurring in these regions.

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

51. Consider the following statements:

1. Diego Garcia is located in the Indian Ocean, and it is the largest island of the Chagos Archipelago.
2. It is administered by India but leased to the United States in 1966 for military purposes.

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

52. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 19 of the constitution guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression and is typically invoked against the state.
2. Article 19(2) of the Constitution outlines eight grounds, such as national security and foreign relations, for limiting freedom of speech and expression.

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

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

53. Consider the following statements:

1. The term 'tribe' is defined in the sixth schedule of the Indian constitution.
2. The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the setting up of a Tribes' Advisory Council in each of the States having Scheduled Areas.
3. Article 275 provides for the grant of special funds by the Union Government to the State Government for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes

Prepare with Drishti IAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

54. Regarding Cryptocurrency, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centralized currency controlled and regulated by the central bank of the country.
2. Transactions with cryptocurrency are recorded on a public digital ledger called blockchain.
3. Users can acquire cryptocurrency through a process called "mining", which involves using computer power to solve complex mathematical equations.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

55. Regarding the National Population Register (NPR), consider the following statements:

1. The National Population Register (NPR) is a database containing a list of all usual residents of the country.
2. Its objective is to have a comprehensive identity database of people residing in the country.
3. NPR was first collected in 2010 and is yet to be updated.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

56. Consider the following statements:

1. The World Trade Organization (WTO) was formed under the Marrakesh Agreement signed in 1994.
2. WTO succeeded the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which had regulated world trade since 1948.
3. GATT focused on trade in goods, while WTO covers trade in goods, services, and intellectual property, including creations, designs, and inventions.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

57. Regarding the Purchasing Managers Index, consider the following statements:

1. It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors, and then a composite index is also constructed.
2. It is published at the beginning of each month by NITI Aayog and is regarded as a reliable leading indicator of economic activity.

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

58. Regarding the Avalanche, consider the following statements:

1. It is the rapid flow of snow, ice, and debris down a mountain slope.
2. It peaks from December to April, driven by heavy winter snowfall and the spring thaw, which weakens snow layers.
3. It is always caused by natural forces, carrying earth, rocks, and rubble, leading to destruction.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

59. The Karakoram Anomaly, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A phenomenon where glaciers in the Karakoram Range are stable or gaining mass despite global glacier retreat.
- B. A geological event causing frequent earthquakes in the Karakoram Range.
- C. A sudden increase in volcanic activity in the Karakoram region.
- D. A rare weather pattern that leads to excessive rainfall in the Karakoram Range.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

60. Consider the following statements:

1. At the Nagpur session of the Indian National Congress in December 1920, it was decided to reorganize the Provincial Congress Committees on a linguistic basis.
2. The Dar Commission (1948) assessed state reorganization on linguistic lines but prioritized administrative efficiency over linguistic homogeneity.
3. Fazal Ali Commission (1953-1955) recommended the creation of linguistic states but with certain reservations to ensure national integration and administrative convenience.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

61. Consider the following statements:

1. India, for the first time, secured a rank within the top ten among 133 global economies in the Global Innovation Index 2024.
2. In 2024, India's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) as a percentage of GDP was around 5%.

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

62. Consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Assam and is the largest undisturbed representative area in the Brahmaputra Valley floodplain.
2. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.
3. It also has more than 250 seasonal water bodies, besides the Diphlu River running through it.

Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

- A. Manas National Park
- B. Kaziranga National Park
- C. Nameri National Park
- D. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

63. Regarding Bitcoin, consider the following statements:

1. Bitcoin has value because people assign worth to it, not due to any intrinsic value.
2. The total number of Bitcoins that can be mined is limited by its underlying algorithm.
3. They rely on scarcity to maintain value, making them volatile investments.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

64. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The AIF scheme aims to benefit all stakeholders in the agricultural ecosystem by contributing to the holistic development of the agriculture sector.

Statement-II: The Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) offers interest-free loans to ease the financial burden on farmers.

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 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

65. Consider the following statements:

1. As a "central geographic point," it is important for commerce and connectivity in the Indian Ocean.
2. As a member of the African Union, Indian Ocean Rim Association, and the Indian Ocean Commission, it is a stepping stone to multiple geographies.
3. It is also a founding member of the 'Small Island Developing States' (SIDS).

Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

- A. Maldives
- B. Mauritius
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Seychelles

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

66. Consider the following statements:

1. Iran is located at a strategic and crucial geographical location between the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.
2. Makran is part of the plateau of Balochistan, which is shared between Pakistan and Iran.
3. The Strait of Hormuz is a 'choke point' through which much of the world's oil supply passes and is thus strategically important.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

67. Regarding the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.
2. Established in 1957 as the "Atoms for Peace" organization, the IAEA operates independently of the United Nations under its founding treaty, the Statute of the IAEA.

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

68. Consider the following statements:

1. A strategic reserve is a stockpile of vital resources kept by governments or large organisations to provide a safety net during hard times.
2. India maintains a strategic reserve of petroleum and bitcoins.

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

69. Regarding the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements:

1. The Delimitation Commission in India is a high-power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called into question before any court.

2. The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them.

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

70. The "Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States Index," 2024, was recently released by which of the following:

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- C. National Development Council
- D. Ministry of Rural Development

71. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the fourth planet from the Sun and the second smallest in the Solar System after Mercury.
2. It is called the "Red Planet" because iron minerals oxidise in its atmosphere, causing the surface to look red.
3. It has two small moons named Phobos and Deimos.

Which of the following planets best matches the above description?

- A. Mars
- B. Jupiter
- C. Venus
- D. Saturn

72. Regarding the Tribunals, consider the following statements:

1. A tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that deals with the resolution of disputes pertaining to administration, taxation, environment, securities, etc.
2. Tribunals were introduced in the Indian Constitution through the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, as they were not part of the original Constitution.
3. Article 323-A deals with Administrative Tribunals for public service matters.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



73. Regarding the President's Rule, consider the following statements:
1. A proclamation of President's Rule must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months.
 2. President's Rule lasts six months initially and can be extended up to 3 years with Parliament's approval every six months.
 3. Laws made during the President's Rule automatically get repealed once President Rule is repealed.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

74. Consider the following statements:

1. The World Trade Organization (WTO) system operates on the most favoured nation (MFN) principle, which prohibits discrimination between trading partners.
2. Special and differential treatment (S&DT) allows developing countries to offer less than full reciprocity in their tariff commitments towards developed countries.

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

75. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Dandi March was an act of nonviolent civil disobedience led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

Statement-II: Mahatma Gandhi recognized the salt tax as a particularly oppressive measure and saw it as an opportunity to mobilise the masses in a non-violent protest against British rule.

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 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

76. Regarding Deflation, consider the following statements:

1. Deflation is a general decline in prices for goods and services, typically associated with a contraction in the supply of money and credit in the economy.
2. During deflation, the purchasing power of currency rises over time.

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

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

77. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1982 that comprises five small-island states in the Western Indian Ocean.
2. It has its own regional agenda and has made impressive headway in the design and implementation of a regional maritime security architecture in the Western Indian Ocean.
3. In 2012, it was one of the four regional organisations to launch the MASE Programme.

Which of the following organisations best matches the above description?

- A. Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- B. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- C. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- D. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

78. Regarding the IndiaAI Mission, consider the following statements:

1. The 'Safe & Trusted AI' pillar under the IndiaAI Mission emphasizes the need for a balanced, technology-enabled, and India-specific approach to AI governance.
2. IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IBD) under the Digital India Corporation (DIC) of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) is its implementation agency.

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



79. Regarding the Due process of law, consider the following statements:

1. Due process of law is the application by the state of all legal rules and principles pertaining to a case so all legal rights that are owed to a person are respected.
2. In the IR Coelho case, 2007, due process was judicially recognised as part of the right to life and personal liberty.

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

80. Consider the following statements:

1. India is the world's largest oil importer and consumer and relies on imports for over 85% of its crude needs.
2. Russia supplies two-thirds of India's crude imports.
3. India is a founding member of the International Energy Agency (IEA).

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

81. A venture capital (VC) fund often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. A fund that investors commit for investment in early-stage companies.
- B. A government program providing loans to startups.
- C. A savings account with high interest rates.
- D. A type of mutual fund focused on bonds.

82. Consider the following statements:

1. A tariff is a tax imposed by the government of a country on imports or exports of goods.
2. Anti-dumping duties are tariffs imposed on imported goods that are believed to be priced below fair market value, aiming to protect domestic industries from unfair competition.
3. Import quotas limit the quantity of a specific good that can be bought from a country, helping domestic producers retain market share.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

83. Regarding the Patent, consider the following statements:

1. The patent system in India is governed by the Patents Act, 1970, which was amended in 2003 and 2005.
2. Section 3(d) of the Patents Act, 1970, prevents patents from being granted for minor improvements to already patented medicines, thereby avoiding the extension of patent monopolies.
3. The term of every patent granted is 10 years from the date of filing of the application.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

84. Regarding the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an integrated scheme for school education covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII.
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the Ministry of Education in 2018, with a 60:40 funding split between the Centre and most 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

85. Consider the following statements:

1. It is part of the upper Vindhyan hills and was historically a hunting ground for Mughal emperors and the Maharaja of Gwalior.
2. It is part of one of India's 32 major tiger corridors, operationalized through the Tiger Conservation Plan under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. The park has a rich ecosystem, including lakes, dry deciduous, and dry thorn forests, and is home to species like tigers, leopards, Nilgai, Chinkara, Chousingha, and various deer species.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

Which of the following national parks best matches the above description?

- A. Madhav National Park
- B. Sariska National Park
- C. Ranthambore National Park
- D. Panna National Park

86. Consider the following statements:

1. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands consist of the northern Andaman Islands and the southern Nicobar Islands, separated by the 2° Channel.
2. Great Nicobar Island is the largest and southernmost island of the Nicobar group, consisting primarily of tropical rainforest in the southeastern Bay of Bengal.
3. Indira Point on the island, India's southernmost point, is located 90 nautical miles from Sabang at the northern tip of Sumatra, the largest island of the Indonesian archipelago.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

87. Consider the following statements:

1. The Giant Leatherback is the largest of all marine turtles and has been around since the time of the dinosaurs.
2. All seven species of sea turtles are currently listed as Appendix IV under CITES.
3. Galathea Bay on Great Nicobar Island is a key nesting site for four marine turtle species in the northern Indian Ocean.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

88. Consider the following statements:

1. Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites, orbiting closer to Earth, deliver stronger signals and faster speeds compared to traditional fixed-satellite systems.
2. Signals travel faster through space than fiber-optic cables, and satellite internet has the potential to rival or even surpass existing ground-based networks.

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

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

89. Regarding the Election Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
2. Originally, the commission had only one election commissioner, but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it was made a multi-member body.

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

90. Which of the following is **not** an indicator of the Human Development Index?

1. Life expectancy at birth
2. Mean years of schooling
3. Gross national income
4. Environmental sustainability

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

91. Regarding the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), consider the following statements:

1. It is the total monetary value of all finished goods and services produced within a country's borders over a specific period.
2. It includes production by both domestic and foreign companies operating within the country.

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

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

92. Regarding UN Peacekeeping, consider the following statements:

1. UN Peacekeeping is a vital tool employed by the United Nations to help countries navigate the path from conflict to peace.
2. Peacekeeping operations require the consent of the main parties involved in the conflict.
3. The first UN peacekeeping mission was established on the India-Pakistan border in 1947.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

93. Consider the following statements:

1. Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) are international bodies responsible for managing and conserving fish stocks in specific ocean regions.
2. Article 87 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) limits fishing freedom on the high seas, making it illegal for vessels from States that fail to meet its conditions.
3. The International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) is an official boundary separating territorial waters, defining maritime jurisdiction, and regulating fishing.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

94. Which of the following countries shares a border with Syria?

1. Turkey
2. Iran
3. Israel
4. Lebanon

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

95. Starlink, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A deep-space exploration mission by NASA
- B. A satellite-based internet service by SpaceX
- C. A new cryptocurrency launched by Tesla
- D. A global weather monitoring system

96. Regarding the carbon credit, consider the following statements:

1. It was introduced in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and reinforced by the 2015 Paris Agreement, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through carbon trading.
2. Under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, countries are prohibited from transferring carbon credits among themselves.

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

97. Regarding the APAAR ID (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry), consider the following statements:

1. It assigns a unique and permanent 12-digit ID to each student, consolidating their academic records into a single accessible platform.
2. It is introduced in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020 and the National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCrF).

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

98. Which of the following best describes the 5th Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

- A. It deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas.
- B. It outlines the procedure for the impeachment of the President of India.
- C. It defines the powers and functions of the Supreme Court of India.
- D. It deals with the protection of fundamental rights of non-citizens in India.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

99. Consider the following statements:

1. It was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire in the 14th century.
2. One of the unique features of temples at this site is the wide chariot streets flanked by the row of pillared mandapas.
3. It was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986.

Which of the following places best matches the above description?

- A. Hampi
- B. Badami
- C. Agra
- D. Pattadakal

100. Regarding the Yamuna River, consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the major tributaries of the Ganges in Northern India.
2. It has its source in the Yamunotri Glacier on the southwestern sides of Banderpooch crests in the lower Himalayan ranges.
3. Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, and Harangi are its important tributaries.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

101. Regarding the Khilafat Movement, consider the following statements:

1. The campaign in defense of the Caliph of Turkey was led by Shaukat Ali, Muhammad Ali, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
2. In 1920, the Indian National Congress, under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi, supported the Muslims' cause and launched a non-violent non-cooperation campaign.
3. Gandhi's suspension of the non-cooperation movement due to the Chauri Chaura incident and his arrest in March 1922 led to a weakening of the Khilafat movement.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

102. Consider the following statements:

1. Gupta Emperor Kumaragupta (Shakraditya) of the Gupta dynasty founded it in 427 CE in modern Bihar in the early 5th century.
2. During King Harshavardhana's reign (606-647 AD), Chinese scholar Xuan Zang came here and studied for about 5 years.
3. In 670 AD, another Chinese pilgrim, I-Tsing visited it.

Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

- A. Nalanda University
- B. Takshashila University
- C. Vikramshila University
- D. Ujjain University

103. Fentanyl, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A new zombie drug gripping the United States population.
- B. A type of high-performance sports car.
- C. A mathematical model for forecasting financial markets.
- D. A rare species of tropical fish.

104. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002, on the recommendations of the Raghavan committee.

Statement-II: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002.

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 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

105. Regarding the International Criminal Court (ICC), consider the following statements:

1. It prosecutes individuals accused of the most serious international crimes, including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression.
2. It is governed by the international treaty known as the Rome Statute.
3. When a situation is not within the Court's jurisdiction, the United Nations Security Council can refer the situation to the ICC granting it jurisdiction.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

106. The Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) is released by which of the following?

- A. World Economic Forum (WEF)
- B. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- C. World Bank
- D. International Labour Organization (ILO)

107. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India, through Article 47, underlines the state's responsibility to improve public health care.
2. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005 opened public health system roles to non-medical public health specialists.

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

108. Regarding satellite communication, consider the following statements:

1. It is widely recognized that satcom services will provide continuous connectivity to low-lying, rural, and disaster-prone areas.
2. Satcom services always have lower latency than terrestrial broadband.
3. Satellite-based Internet is considered more resilient than terrestrial services due to its fewer ground components, making it less susceptible to damage from extreme weather.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

109. Regarding the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), consider the following statements:

1. PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by the government.

2. Launched in 2018, it offers a sum insured of Rs.5 lakh per member per family for secondary and tertiary care.

3. The National Health Authority (NHA) has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860, for its effective implementation.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

110. Consider the following statements:

1. The government of India has recently designated cancer as a notifiable disease in India.
2. A notified disease refers to a situation where all suspected, probable cases and deaths must be legally reported to the government by both private and public hospitals.

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

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

111. Regarding the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. The Union Government, inspired by the success of the Aspirational Districts Programme, launched the 'Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' in collaboration with states.
2. The programme will focus on 100 districts characterized by low productivity, moderate crop intensity, and below-average credit parameters, utilizing the convergence of existing schemes and specialized measures.
3. With a target to benefit 1.7 crore farmers, the programme aims to boost agricultural productivity, promote crop diversification, enhance post-harvest storage, improved irrigation facilities, and increase access to both long-term and short-term credit.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

112. Global horizontal irradiance (GHI), often seen in the news is best described as:
- Global horizontal irradiance (GHI) is the total sunlight received by a unit area, including both direct and diffused light.
 - Global horizontal irradiance (GHI) is the measurement of the amount of sunlight absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere.
 - Global horizontal irradiance (GHI) is the measure of sunlight reflected off the Earth's surface.
 - Global horizontal irradiance (GHI) is the energy produced by solar panels at ground level.

113. Regarding the Yemen, consider the following statements:

- Yemen is located on the southwestern tip of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Yemen is bordered by the Red Sea to the south and the Gulf of Aden to the west.
- Eastern Yemen is part of the Rub' al-Khali, the world's fifth-largest desert, also known as "the Empty Quarter," which holds the longest continuous stretch of sand on Earth.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

114. Regarding Starlink, consider the following statements:

- Unlike traditional satellite providers, Starlink uses a network of low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellites that communicate with each other to provide high-speed, low-latency internet.
- Starlink differs from traditional satellite connections as its LEO constellation consists of satellites only a few hundred kilometers from Earth's surface.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

115. Regarding the European Union (EU), consider the following statements:

- The EU was founded in 1951 by six countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) after the First World War.
- France is the largest while Malta is the smallest EU country in terms of surface area.

- Bulgaria and Romania have most recently joined the EU.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

116. Regarding the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, consider the following statements:

- It is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2023 to provide comprehensive support to traditional artisans and craftspeople engaged in manual and tool-based work.
- Collateral-free loans are provided in the form of 'Enterprise Development Loans' with interest subvention to promote business growth under the scheme.
- The National Steering Committee (NSC), formed by the Ministry of MSME, will make key policy decisions and approve modifications to the Scheme.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

117. Regarding the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), consider the following statements:

- The OECD is an intergovernmental economic organization, founded to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
- Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high Human Development Index (HDI) and are regarded as developed countries.
- India has been an OECD Key Partner since 2007, alongside Brazil, China, Indonesia, and South Africa.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

118. Regarding the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. Launched in 2024 by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) it aims to provide free electricity to every household in India by installing rooftop solar panels.
2. It will be implemented by the National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA) at the national level and State Implementation Agencies (SIA) at the state level.
3. One Model Solar Village per district will be created to promote solar energy.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

119. mBridge project often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. A global initiative to connect rural communities with healthcare services through telemedicine.
- B. A cross-border payment system designed to facilitate efficient currency exchange and reduce transaction costs.
- C. A blockchain-based platform for secure data sharing in the healthcare sector.
- D. An international project focused on enhancing digital infrastructure in underserved regions.

120. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest freshwater lake in India and the second-largest freshwater lake in Asia.
2. It is fed by the Jhelum River.
3. The lake lies at an altitude of 1,580 m on the foothills of Haramuk Mountain.
4. The lake basin was formed as a result of tectonic activity.

Which of the following lakes best matches the above description?

- A. Wular Lake
- B. Sambhar Lake
- C. Loktak Lake
- D. Pulicat Lake

121. Regarding the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), consider the following statements:

1. It empowers the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to investigate and prosecute cases under UAPA across the country.

2. The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.

3. Under UAPA only Indian nationals can be charged.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

122. The terms Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle are often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Drug trafficking
- B. Natural disasters
- C. Space exploration
- D. Economic growth

123. Regarding the Wheat, consider the following statements:

1. Wheat is a rabi crop that requires a cool growing season and bright sunshine at the time of ripening.
2. India is the world's biggest wheat producer.

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

124. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCNG) envisages a National Ganga Council under the chairmanship of the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Statement-II: The Namami Gange Programme is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of the National River Ganga.

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 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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

125. Which of the following correctly describes the heat wave conditions:
- A heatwave occurs when the maximum temperature reaches at least 40°C in plains and at least 30°C in hilly regions.
 - A heat wave occurs when the minimum temperature reaches at least 35°C in plains and at least 25°C in hilly regions.
 - A heat wave occurs when the maximum temperature exceeds 45°C in both plains and hilly regions.
 - A heat wave occurs when the maximum temperature reaches at least 35°C in plains and 25°C in hilly regions.

126. Consider the following pairs:

Initiative		Objective
1.	DigiLocker	Biometrics-based system for airport entry
2.	DigiYatra	Facilitates seamless digital payment transactions
3.	UPI	Secure cloud-based platform for storing and sharing digital documents
4.	ONDC	Government-backed open protocol for decentralized e-commerce

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

127. Regarding the Notifiable Disease, consider the following statements:

- It must be legally reported to government authorities by healthcare providers for real-time epidemiological tracking, resource allocation, and early intervention.
- The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 governs the notification and regulation of epidemic disease (rapid spread of disease to a large number) reporting.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) mandates notification for certain diseases to aid in global disease surveillance and control.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

128. The Munshi-Ayyangar formula is often seen in the news in the context of:

- The creation of the Indian National Congress.
- A compromise regarding the official language of India.
- The development of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The establishment of the Reserve Bank of India.

129. Consider the following statements:

- The 'Maratha Military Landscapes' is a network of 12 forts and fortifications that represent the extraordinary military system and strategy of the Maratha rulers in the 17th-19th centuries.
- The Maratha Military Landscapes of India are the only ones to be included in the Tentative List of World Heritage sites from India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

130. Regarding the Natural Farming (NF), consider the following statements:

- It is a chemical-free traditional farming method, considered an agroecology-based diversified farming system that integrates crops, trees, and livestock with functional biodiversity.
- Unlike organic farming, which allows external organic inputs, only on-farm inputs are used in natural farming.
- The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) targets to cover 1 crore farmers and 7.5 lakh hectares area in two years.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

131. The "Baby feet" phenomenon often experienced by astronauts after extended space travel is best described as:

- The soft, hypersensitive soles of the feet that cause pain and discomfort when walking upon returning to Earth.
- The loss of sensation in the feet due to prolonged exposure to zero gravity.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



- C. The swelling of feet and legs caused by fluid retention in space.
- D. The development of blisters and skin irritation from the lack of footwear in space.

132. Regarding the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act), 2023, consider the following statements:

1. It empowers individuals to control their personal data, including rights to access, correction, and erasure.
2. Sensitive data must be stored and processed within India for security and enforcement.
3. It establishes the Data Protection Board of India (DPBI) for compliance and grievance handling.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

133. Regarding the Zonal councils, consider the following statements:

1. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru proposed Zonal Councils in 1956 to promote cooperative governance among reorganized states.
2. The North Eastern States are not included in the Zonal Councils and their special problems are looked after by the North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972.
3. The Prime Minister is the Chairman of each of the zonal Councils.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

134. Consider the following statements:

1. Articles 51(c), and 253 of the Constitution mandate respect for international treaties to which India is a party.
2. India has signed the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) but has yet to ratify it.

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

135. Open Market Operations (OMOs) often seen in the news are best described as:

- A. The buying and selling of government securities by a central bank to regulate money supply.
- B. The process of buying and selling stocks on the open market.
- C. The issuance of new government bonds to raise funds.
- D. The exchange of foreign currencies by central banks.

136. Consider the following statements:

1. Remittances are the funds or goods that migrants send back to their families in their home country to provide financial support.
2. In 2023, India topped in remittances inflow list, followed by Mexico and China.

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

137. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (EC) as per the CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

Statement-II: The CEC can be removed from office only through a process similar to that of a Supreme Court judge by Parliament, while ECs can only be removed on the recommendation of the CEC.

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 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

138. Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a multi-member body consisting of a Chairperson and six members appointed by the Central Government.
2. It is a statutory body established under an act that was brought to replace the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969.
3. Its members are drawn from various fields, including law, economics, business administration, and public affairs.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

Which of the following bodies best matches the above description?

- A. Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- B. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- C. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- D. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)

139. Regarding the World Trade Organisation (WTO), consider the following statements:

1. The WTO's global system lowers trade barriers through negotiation and operates under the principle of non-discrimination.
2. The WTO has maintained strong ties with the UN since its establishment, governed by the 1995 "Arrangements for Effective Cooperation" agreement.
3. The WTO's highest decision-making body is the Ministerial Conference, held biennially, bringing together all member countries and customs unions.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

140. Regarding the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), consider the following statements:

1. It is an important international human rights treaty that, along with other key documents, forms the International Bill of Human Rights.
2. It obligates countries to protect and preserve basic human rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech, and gender equality.
3. It came into force in 1976 but India is yet to ratify it.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

141. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the world's largest gulf.
2. It is bordered by Cuba, Mexico, and the United States.
3. It connects to the Atlantic Ocean via the Straits of Florida and to the Caribbean Sea via the Yucatán Channel.

Which of the following best matches the above description?

- A. Gulf of Mexico
- B. Persian Gulf
- C. Bay of Bengal
- D. Gulf of Aden

142. Regarding the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), consider the following statements:

1. The JJM was launched in 2019 to provide drinking tap water supply to every rural household by 2024, targeting 55 liters per person per day.
2. The fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.

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

143. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Government Securities (G-Sec) carry practically no risk of default and are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.

Statement-II: A G-Sec is a type of debt instrument issued by the government to borrow money from the public to finance its Fiscal Deficit.

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 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

144. Regarding the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), consider the following statements:

1. Monetization through NMP involves both core assets and disinvestment of non-core assets.
2. The timeline for the NMP has been strategically set to be co-terminus with the remaining period under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

145. Which of the following are members of the Five Eyes Alliance?

1. Australia
2. France
3. New Zealand
4. United Kingdom
5. United States

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 3, 4 and 5
- B. 1 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2, 3 and 5 only

146. Regarding the heatwaves, consider the following statements:

1. Heat wave is considered if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C or more for Plains and at least 30°C or more for Hilly regions.
2. High temperature in itself is not fatal but the combination of high temperature and high humidity, referred to as the wet bulb temperature, is what makes heatwaves deadly.

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

147. Regarding the budget, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution refers to the budget as the 'annual financial statement'.
2. The Railway Budget was separated from the General Budget in 1924 on the recommendations of the Acworth Committee Report (1921).
3. No money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India except under appropriation made by law.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

148. Regarding the Indian Ocean Rim Association, consider the following statements:

1. It is a security alliance among countries bordering the Indian Ocean.
2. Membership is open to all sovereign states of the Indian Ocean Rim willing to subscribe to the principles and objectives of the Charter.

3. IORA's apex body is the Council of (Foreign) Ministers (COM) which meets annually.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

149. Consider the following statements:

1. He was born to Shahaji Bhonsle, a Maratha general who held the jagirs of Pune and Supe under the Bijapur Sultanate.
2. He displayed his military zeal for the first time in 1645 when as a teenager, he successfully got control of the Torna Fort which was under Bijapur.
3. He raided Mughal territory near Ahmednagar and in Junnar, 1657.
4. He took on the titles of Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas, and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Shivaji Maharaj
- B. Sambhaji Maharaj
- C. Rajaram Maharaj
- D. None of the above

150. Regarding the critical minerals, consider the following statements:

1. India's National Critical Mineral Mission encompasses all stages of the value chain, including mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products.
2. Today, about 70-80% of rare earth elements (REE) extraction and processing are controlled by India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

151. Consider the following statements:

1. The collegium system empowers the judiciary to recommend appointments and transfers of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts, with the government having a limited role.
2. After the Third Judges Case (1998), the central government and the Supreme Court formalised High Court judge appointments through a Memorandum of Procedure (MoP).

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

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

152. Consider the following statements:

1. Iran, formerly Persia, lies at the crossroads of Central Asia, South Asia, and the Arab Middle East, with key access to the Persian Gulf.
2. Iran's rugged mountains and vast deserts isolate it from its neighbors and the outside world.
3. The north features a narrow fertile strip along the Caspian Sea, while the south has lowlands bordering the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

153. Regarding the census, consider the following statements:

1. India's first synchronized census occurred in 1881 under W.C. Plowden, the then Census Commissioner of India.
2. The Census of India Act, 1948 provides the legal framework, but it doesn't specify a mandatory frequency.
3. The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs, oversees the responsibility of conducting the census.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

154. Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB), often seen in the news are best described as:

- A. A government security denominated in grams of gold, offering an investment alternative to physical gold.
- B. A form of physical gold that can be traded in the stock market.
- C. A gold-backed savings account with interest paid in gold.
- D. A type of mutual fund investing in gold stocks.

155. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The World Trade Organization (WTO) allows developing countries like India to protect their agricultural sector through higher tariffs and subsidies.

Statement-II: The principle of "non-reciprocity" states that developed countries should not expect equal market access in return for concessions granted to developing economies.

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 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

156. Which of the following countries are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)?

1. Belgium
2. Canada
3. Denmark
4. Finland

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

157. The concept of positive liberty is best described as:

- A. The freedom to act without interference from others, focusing only on the absence of external restraints.
- B. The ability to achieve personal development through social, political, and material conditions, fostering an environment where individuals can fully realize their potential.
- C. The notion that freedom is best achieved by limiting government intervention in personal matters.
- D. The idea that freedom means the right to act in any way without regard to societal structures or constraints.

158. Consider the following statements:

1. Delimitation means the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies.
2. The last delimitation exercise that changed the state-wise composition of the Lok Sabha was completed in 1976 and done based on the 1971 census.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

3. The determination of the seats to be allocated for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies is not part of the delimitation process.

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

- A. Only One
B. Only Two
C. All Three
D. None

159. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an island in the Indian Ocean, situated to the east of Madagascar, approximately 2,400 kilometers off the east coast of Africa.
2. The island lies in the Southern Hemisphere, just above the Tropic of Capricorn.
3. Despite its location in the Indian Ocean, it is considered an African island nation.

Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

- A. Mauritius
B. Seychelles
C. Comoros
D. Reunion

160. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the third primary nutrient other than nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P).
2. It plays an important role in yield and quality of crops.
3. It helps in the development of roots and stems and increases in use efficiency of water and nutrients.
4. It provides plants resistance from disease and stress including drought, high temperature, and salinity.

Which of the following nutrients best matches the above description?

- A. Potassium (K)
B. Magnesium (Mg)
C. Sulfur (S)
D. Calcium (Ca)

161. Consider the following statements:

1. The impeachment process for a Supreme Court(SC) judge is outlined in Article 124(4) of the Constitution of India, with Article 218 extending the same provisions to High Court(HC) judges.
2. A simple majority in the Lok Sabha is enough for an impeachment motion against an SC or HC judge to pass.

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

162. Q2. The Food Waste Index Report 2024, is released by which of the following?

- A. World Health Organization (WHO)
B. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
C. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
D. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

163. Consider the following statements:

1. In 2024, India received a record 14.3% of global remittances, making it the top recipient, followed by Mexico and China.
2. The Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 regulates all foreign exchange transactions in India.
3. Remittances are recorded under the current account of the Balance of Payments (BoP) as unilateral transfers.

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

- A. Only One
B. Only Two
C. All Three
D. None

164. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Census data are essential for delimitation, guiding the re-drawing of electoral boundaries based on geographical contiguity, population density, and socio-economic factors.

Statement-II: The President appoints a Delimitation Commission headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court, comprising the Chief Election Commissioner or his representative, and the State Election Commissioners.

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 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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

165. Consider the following statements:

1. The Coal resources of India are available in older Gondwana Formations of peninsular India and younger tertiary formations of the north-eastern region.
2. Peat is the first stage of transformation from wood to coal with low calorific value and less than 40% carbon content.
3. Anthracite is the best quality of coal with the highest calorific value and carries 80 to 95% carbon content.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

166. Regarding the SARFAESI Act, 2002, consider the following statements:

1. It allows banks and financial institutions to recover their dues efficiently without needing court intervention.
2. It helps to purchase and manage NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) by establishing ARCs (Asset Reconstruction Companies) to retrieve such assets from the banks.

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

167. Consider the following statements:

1. He gave the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan," emphasising the importance of both soldiers and farmers in nation-building.
2. He was the first person to be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna (1966).
3. He died suddenly in Tashkent on 11th January 1966, shortly after signing the Tashkent Declaration.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Lal Bahadur Shastri
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru
- C. Indira Gandhi
- D. Subhas Chandra Bose

168. Consider the following statements:

1. Dumping occurs when a country sells goods in another country's market at a price lower than what is charged in its own domestic market.
2. Under WTO rules, a country can impose anti-dumping duties to offset the effects of dumping, up to the margin of dumping, which is the difference between the normal value and the export price.
3. The anti-dumping duty is levied over and above the normal customs duty chargeable on importing the goods.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

169. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 19 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, with reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2) for issues like contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to offenses.
2. In India, defamation can be a civil wrong or a criminal offense, depending on the objective it seeks to achieve.
3. The Supreme Court has ruled that the criminal provisions of defamation are unconstitutional and in conflict with the right to free speech.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

170. Regarding the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO), consider the following statements:

1. The CDSCO under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.
2. CDSCO along with state regulators, is jointly responsible for the grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs such as blood and blood products, vaccines, etc.

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

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



171. Round tripping, which is often seen in news is best described as:
- Money leaving the country to avoid taxes and then returning as foreign investment.
 - Money being transferred abroad for the purpose of laundering.
 - Foreign investment that is used to bypass trade tariffs.
 - Capital being invested in foreign assets to strengthen domestic currency.

172. Regarding the lead poisoning, consider the following statements:

- It is caused by the absorption of Lead in the system and is characterised especially by fatigue, abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhoea, etc.
- Children are particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning because their bodies are still developing.
- In India, there is currently no dedicated legislative framework that specifically targets its prevention and mitigation.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

173. C-PACE, which was recently in the news, is best described as:

- A new digital payment system for corporate transactions.
- A centralized platform for processing corporate strikes and exits.
- A specialized tribunal for resolving corporate disputes.
- A regulatory body responsible for corporate tax compliance.

174. Regarding the Cooperative banks, consider the following statements:

- Cooperative banks in India function under a dual regulatory framework, dividing banking and managerial oversight between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS).
- RBI can revoke the license of a Co-operative Bank if it ceases banking operations or fails to meet the conditions set by RBI.

- Cooperative banks are more resilient to economic downturns, as they avoid high-risk assets, demonstrated by UCBs during the 2008 global financial crisis.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

175. Equalization Levy, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A tax imposed on goods and services traded within India.
- A direct tax imposed on foreign digital service providers to tax income generated from digital transactions in India.
- A tax on Indian businesses for foreign investment.
- A tax on domestic companies exporting services.

176. Consider the following statements:

- Mission LiFE's green credit programme incentivises environmental initiatives by allowing individuals, farmer organisations, cooperatives, and enterprises to earn and trade green credits.
- Water green credits under Mission LiFE aim to promote water conservation, rainwater harvesting, efficient usage, and wastewater treatment.
- The water green credit system allows savings from baseline water consumption to be converted into tradable units that can be purchased by entities exceeding their water usage obligations.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

177. Regarding the National Education Policy 2020, consider the following statements:

- It transitions from the 10+2 to a 5+3+3+4 system, including children aged 3-6 in the school curriculum with an emphasis on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).
- It emphasises support for Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs), children with disabilities, and the establishment of "Bal Bhavans."
- It establishes the National Research Foundation to enhance research culture and capacity.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

178. Regarding the Finance Bill, consider the following statements:

1. It is introduced in the Lok Sabha after the presentation of the annual budget is passed by the House.
2. It can neither be rejected nor amended by the Rajya Sabha.
3. All financial bills are not money bills, but all money bills are financial bills.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

179. Consider the following statements:

1. National Science Day (NSD) is celebrated annually on 28th February to honor Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata (CV) Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect in 1928.
2. Raman Effect forms the basis of Raman Spectroscopy (analyzing molecular vibrations), widely used to study material properties.

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

180. Sahyog Portal, which was recently seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A government initiative designed to improve cooperation with social media intermediaries to ensure a safer online environment.
- B. A platform for social media users to share personal content with government officials.
- C. A tool aimed at enhancing communication between political parties and media outlets.
- D. A forum where individuals can discuss and vote on new laws and regulations.

181. Regarding World Water Day, consider the following statements:

1. World Water Day aims to raise awareness about water conservation and its sustainable management.
2. It was conceptualized at the 1992 Rio Summit and officially designated to be observed annually by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1993.
3. It aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goal 2, which talks about ensuring water and sanitation for all by 2030.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

182. Consider the following statements:

1. The Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) regulates foreign investments in India, with the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) authorized to conduct search and seizure operations under Section 37(3) of FEMA.
2. The Supreme Court of India in K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017) has recognized the right to privacy as a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the 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

183. Which of the following countries borders the Black Sea?

1. Ukraine
2. Russia
3. Bulgaria
4. Romania

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

184. Regarding the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to ensure food and nutritional security through a human life cycle approach, providing access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices.
2. It covers 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), benefiting 67% of India's total population.
3. Meal and maternity benefits of at least Rs. 6,000 for pregnant women and lactating mothers is provided under the scheme.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

185. Regarding the Information Technology Act, 2000, consider the following statements:

1. It empowers the centre to block public access to online content under specific circumstances to protect national security, sovereignty, and public order.
2. It grants "safe harbor" protection to online intermediaries, protecting them from liability for third-party content if they act neutrally.

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

186. Which of the following states shares a border with Myanmar?

1. Manipur
2. Mizoram
3. Nagaland
4. Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

187. Regarding the Hybrid Seeds, consider the following statements:

1. A hybrid seed is produced by controlled Cross-Pollination between different varieties of the same plant.
2. These are often easier and faster to grow than Heirloom Seeds.
3. Unlike traditional varieties that adapt to local climates, hybrids require specific conditions for optimal growth.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

188. Consider the following statements:

1. Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPP) are parties which have been unable to secure a sufficient percentage of votes in the Assembly or Lok Sabha polls to become either State or national parties.
2. A party is recognised as a national party if it wins 50% of seats in the Lok Sabha at a general election, and these candidates are elected from three states.
3. A party is recognised as a state party in a state if it wins 1 seat in the Lok Sabha for every 25 seats or any fraction thereof allotted to the state at a general election to the Lok Sabha from the state concerned.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

189. Regarding Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR), consider the following statements:

1. The LCR is a ratio that measures the proportion of high-quality liquid assets (HQLA) that financial institutions hold.
2. The LCR was introduced as part of the Basel III reforms following the 2008 global financial crisis.
3. The LCR may lead to banks holding more cash and issuing fewer loans, potentially slowing economic growth.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

190. Consider the following statements:

1. The term collegium system is explicitly mentioned in the Constitution of India.
2. Articles 124(2) and 217(1) deal with the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court (SC) and High Courts (HC), respectively.
3. The SC collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India and comprises four other senior-most judges.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

191. Regarding the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), consider the following statements:

1. It is a policy tool aimed at reducing Carbon Emissions by ensuring that imported goods are subject to the

same carbon costs as products produced within the European Union (EU).

2. CBAM is part of the "Fit for 55 in 2030 package", which is the EU's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels in line with the European Climate Law.

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

192. Free Movement Regime, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A mechanism created under India's Act East policy for Myanmar, allowing cross-border movement up to 16 km without a visa.
- B. An initiative for visa-free travel across 10 ASEAN countries for Indian citizens.
- C. A rule allowing individuals to work in any neighboring country without restrictions.
- D. A diplomatic agreement permitting unlimited movement across all Indian borders without a pass.

Answers

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. (B) | 2. (C) | 3. (D) | 4. (B) | 5. (D) | 6. (A) | 7. (A) | 8. (A) | 9. (C) | 10. (B) |
| 11. (B) | 12. (A) | 13. (D) | 14. (A) | 15. (A) | 16. (B) | 17. (A) | 18. (C) | 19. (B) | 20. (A) |
| 21. (B) | 22. (A) | 23. (C) | 24. (D) | 25. (C) | 26. (B) | 27. (A) | 28. (B) | 29. (C) | 30. (B) |
| 31. (A) | 32. (A) | 33. (B) | 34. (C) | 35. (A) | 36. (D) | 37. (A) | 38. (D) | 39. (A) | 40. (A) |
| 41. (C) | 42. (A) | 43. (A) | 44. (C) | 45. (D) | 46. (A) | 47. (B) | 48. (B) | 49. (A) | 50. (C) |
| 51. (A) | 52. (D) | 53. (B) | 54. (B) | 55. (B) | 56. (C) | 57. (A) | 58. (B) | 59. (A) | 60. (C) |
| 61. (D) | 62. (B) | 63. (C) | 64. (C) | 65. (B) | 66. (C) | 67. (A) | 68. (A) | 69. (C) | 70. (B) |
| 71. (A) | 72. (D) | 73. (B) | 74. (C) | 75. (A) | 76. (D) | 77. (A) | 78. (C) | 79. (A) | 80. (D) |
| 81. (A) | 82. (C) | 83. (B) | 84. (C) | 85. (A) | 86. (B) | 87. (A) | 88. (D) | 89. (C) | 90. (A) |
| 91. (D) | 92. (B) | 93. (C) | 94. (A) | 95. (B) | 96. (A) | 97. (C) | 98. (A) | 99. (A) | 100. (B) |
| 101. (C) | 102. (A) | 103. (A) | 104. (B) | 105. (C) | 106. (A) | 107. (C) | 108. (B) | 109. (B) | 110. (A) |
| 111. (D) | 112. (A) | 113. (B) | 114. (C) | 115. (B) | 116. (D) | 117. (C) | 118. (A) | 119. (B) | 120. (A) |
| 121. (B) | 122. (A) | 123. (A) | 124. (D) | 125. (A) | 126. (A) | 127. (C) | 128. (B) | 129. (A) | 130. (D) |
| 131. (A) | 132. (C) | 133. (B) | 134. (C) | 135. (A) | 136. (C) | 137. (B) | 138. (A) | 139. (C) | 140. (B) |
| 141. (A) | 142. (C) | 143. (A) | 144. (B) | 145. (A) | 146. (C) | 147. (C) | 148. (B) | 149. (A) | 150. (A) |
| 151. (C) | 152. (D) | 153. (C) | 154. (A) | 155. (A) | 156. (D) | 157. (B) | 158. (B) | 159. (A) | 160. (A) |
| 161. (A) | 162. (B) | 163. (C) | 164. (B) | 165. (D) | 166. (C) | 167. (A) | 168. (C) | 169. (B) | 170. (D) |
| 171. (A) | 172. (C) | 173. (B) | 174. (C) | 175. (B) | 176. (C) | 177. (D) | 178. (B) | 179. (C) | 180. (A) |
| 181. (B) | 182. (C) | 183. (A) | 184. (C) | 185. (C) | 186. (A) | 187. (C) | 188. (A) | 189. (D) | 190. (B) |
| 191. (C) | 192. (A) | | | | | | | | |

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

Practice Explanation

1. (B)

Exp:

- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**
 - ◆ The Government of India is implementing the **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** with effect from **1st January 2017**.
 - ◆ The **PMMVY Scheme** is being implemented as per provisions under **Section 4** of the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The benefit is available to a woman for the **first two living children** provided the **second child is a girl child**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - ◆ In case of the first child the amount of **₹5000** in two instalments and for the second child, the benefit of **₹6000** will be provided subject to the **second child is a girl child in one instalment after the birth**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

2. (C)

Exp:

- **Right to Information:**
 - ◆ In the case of the **State of U.P. v. Raj Narain (1975)**, the **Supreme Court** recognized the **right to information** as part of the **fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression** under **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Constitution. Hence **Statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The **Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019** changed the **tenure of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs)** to a **3-year term** set by the central government, replacing the **previous 5-year term**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

3. (D)

Exp:

- **'Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit 2025:**
 - ◆ This Summit held in Paris is the **3rd summit**, following the **Bletchley Park Summit (UK 2023)** and the **Seoul Summit (South Korea 2024)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ **Public Interest AI Platform and Incubator** was launched to bridge public-private AI efforts, and promote a trustworthy AI ecosystem through capacity building in data, transparency, and financing. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ◆ A joint Statement on **'Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet'** was signed by 58 countries including **India, China, EU, except US and the UK**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

4. (B)

Exp:

- **The Election Commission of India (ECI)** is an **autonomous constitutional authority** responsible for **administering Union and State election** processes in India.
- Under **Article 324** of the **Indian Constitution**, the responsibility for conducting the **elections of the President and Vice President** is entrusted to the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It was established in accordance with the Constitution on **25th January 1950** (celebrated as **National Voters' Day**). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- It is not concerned with the **elections to panchayats and municipalities** in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate **State Election Commission**.
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

5. (D)

Exp:

- **Cryptocurrency:**
 - ◆ Cryptocurrency is a **decentralised digital or virtual currency** that uses **cryptography for security**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ It is a **decentralized currency**, meaning it is not controlled by any government or institution. Some examples of cryptocurrencies include **Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Litecoin**.
 - ◆ Cryptocurrency transactions are documented on a public **digital ledger** known as the **blockchain**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ This ledger is maintained by a network of computers around the world, and each new transaction is verified and added to the blockchain by these computers.

6. (A)

Exp:

- Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.
 - ◆ The Act replaced the **Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

of Business) Act, 1991 to regulate the appointment, tenure, service conditions of CEC/ECs, and Election Commission procedures.

- ◆ **Selection Committee:** The **Chief Election Commissioner** and **Election Commissioners** will be appointed by the President based on the recommendation of a **Selection Committee consisting of:**

- Prime Minister (Chairperson).
- Leader of the Opposition (LoP) (or leader of the largest opposition party) in the Lok Sabha.
- Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.

- ◆ **Lok Sabha Speaker** is not the part of this committee.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

7. (A)

Exp:

- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP29** reached a landmark agreement to finalise the mechanisms for **carbon markets**, including **country-to-country trading** (Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement) and a **centralised carbon market** under the **United Nations (UN)** (Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement). Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism** seeks to develop a centralised, United Nations-managed carbon emissions offset and trading system. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- Hence, option A is correct.

8. (A)

Exp:

- **Paris Agreement:**
 - ◆ It is a **legally binding global agreement** under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It aims to combat **climate change** and **limit global warming** to well below **2°C** above pre-industrial levels, with an ambition to **limit warming to 1.5°C**.
 - ◆ It replaced the **Kyoto Protocol** which was an earlier agreement to deal with climate change. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs)** are pledges made by countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

- ◆ Each country is required to submit and update their **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs)** every **5 years** under the **Paris Agreement**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

9. (C)

Exp:

Wetlands:

- Wetlands are defined as **areas of marsh, fen, peatland, or water** (natural or artificial) with water that is static or flowing, including marine areas with a depth not exceeding six meters.
- Wetlands are ecotone, having **land transitional** between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Wetlands act as **natural water filters** by trapping sediments, breaking down pollutants, and absorbing excess nutrients.
 - ◆ This process improves water quality, ensuring it is cleaner and safer for human consumption and supporting overall ecosystem health.
- Wetlands **store large amounts of carbon** in their soil and vegetation, helping to mitigate climate change. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Montreux Record** is a list of wetland sites recognized under the **Ramsar Convention** as being of international importance. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ **India joined** the Ramsar Convention on 1st February 1982 and has since designated 85 wetlands, covering 1,367,749 hectares, as Wetlands of International Importance.

10. (B)

Exp:

Deepfake:

- Deepfake is a **synthetic media technology** that uses artificial intelligence, particularly deep learning, to create highly realistic but **fake images, videos, or audio recordings**.
- It works by training neural networks on large datasets of real content to generate manipulated media that can mimic real people's faces, voices, or actions.
- While deepfake technology has creative and entertainment applications, **it also raises ethical concerns**, including misinformation, identity fraud, and political manipulation.
- Hence, option B is correct.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

11. (B)

Exp:

Microfinance Institutions (MFIs):

- MFIs are financial companies that **provide small loans** and other financial services to people who don't have access to banking facilities.
 - ◆ It aims to **empower low-income** and unemployed individuals by fostering self-sufficiency.
 - ◆ It plays a crucial role in financial inclusion, particularly benefiting marginalized groups, including women, by promoting social equity and economic empowerment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Reserve Bank of India** regulates MFIs under the NBFC-MFI framework (2014), which covers client protection, borrower safeguards, privacy, and credit pricing. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- As per RBI Guidelines on Microfinance Lending (2022), microfinance loans are **collateral-free for households** with annual incomes up to Rs 3 lakh. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Lenders must ensure flexible repayment policies and assess household income.
 - ◆ The cap on the number of lenders per borrower is removed, but loan repayments cannot exceed 50% of monthly income.

12. (A)

Exp:

European Union (EU):

- It was founded in 1951 after the **Second World War (1939–45)** by six countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands).
 - ◆ **Current Member States:** 27 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden).
 - ◆ The UK joined the EU in 1973 and left (Brexit) in 2020.
- In the EU, Germany has the largest population, France is largest by area, and the Smallest Country is Malta. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The **Schengen Area** allows free movement for most EU members, excluding Cyprus and Ireland. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The Schengen Area is a **region of Europe** without internal borders between member countries.

- ◆ Four non-EU countries (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein) are also part of Schengen.

- Goods, services, capital, and people circulate freely within the EU.
- It aims to become **climate-neutral by 2050** and reduce emissions by 55% by 2030. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

13. (D)

Exp:

- Under **Article 82**, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under **Article 170**, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per the Delimitation Act after every Census. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Delimitation Commission** is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
 - ◆ The Delimitation Commission in India is a high-power body whose orders have the **force of law** and cannot be called into question before any court. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

14. (A)

Exp:

- The **textiles and apparel industry** is India's second-largest employer after agriculture, providing direct employment to 45 million people. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **India is the 6th largest textile exporter** globally (after China, EU, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Turkey) and the world's **2nd largest producer** of textiles and garments. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India's textile exports increased 7% from 2023 to 2024, reaching Rs 3 lakh crore, with a target of Rs 9 lakh crore by 2030.

15. (A)

Exp:

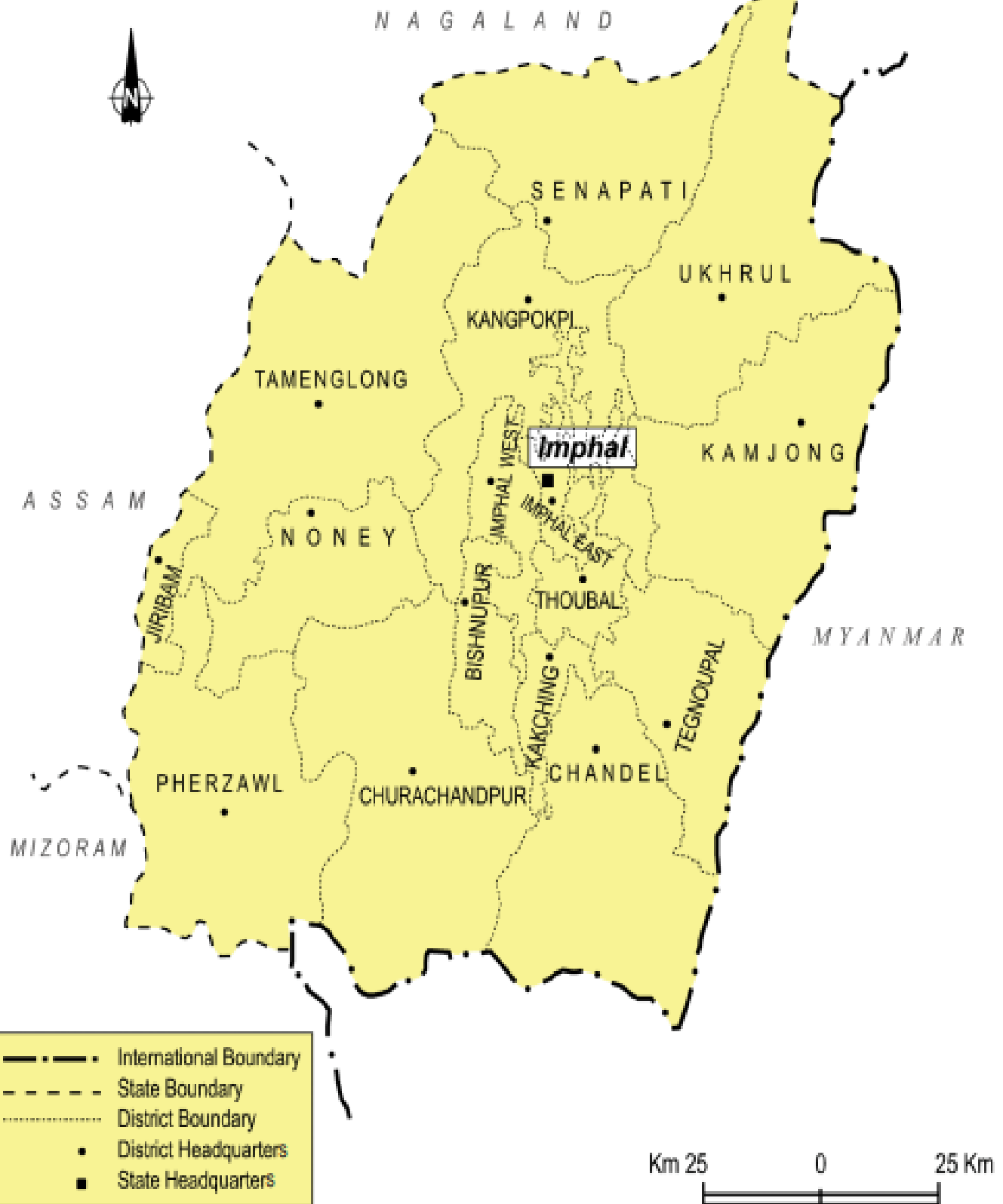
Manipur:

- It is known as '**Kangleipak**' or '**Sanaleipak**' (golden land) to its inhabitants. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is bounded by **Nagaland in the north, Assam in the west, Mizoram in the southwest, and Myanmar in the east and southeast.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The valley is a plateau; its height above the sea level is about 2,600 ft.
- The hills and mountains of Manipur are offshoots of the Himalayas, which form the northern boundary of India.

Prepare with DrishtiIASUPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

MANIPUR



Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

16. (B)

Exp:

Three-Language Formula (TLF):

- The TLF was first proposed by the **Radhakrishnan Commission (1948–49)**, later endorsed by the **Kothari Commission (1964)**, and incorporated into the education policies of the 1960s and 1980s.
- The **Three-Language Formula (TLF)** mandates that students learn three languages: a regional language, Hindi, and English.
 - ◆ In Hindi-speaking states, students study Hindi, English, and a modern Indian language (preferably a South Indian language).
 - ◆ In non-Hindi-speaking states, they learn their regional language, Hindi, and English.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

17. (A)

Exp:

- The **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World** is an **annual flagship report** that is jointly prepared by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**, the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, the **World Food Programme (WFP)**, and the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
 - ◆ It provides time-critical recommendations for more **efficient use of innovative financing tools** and for reforms to the food security and nutrition financing architecture.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

18. (C)

Exp:

Sacred Groves:

- Sacred Groves are **tracts of virgin forests** that are left untouched by the local inhabitants and are protected by the local people due to their culture and religious beliefs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Sacred groves are relic vegetation of once-dominant flora.
- Practices like tree worship and strict prohibitions on logging and hunting align with biodiversity principles.
- They serve as refuges for **diverse flora and fauna** and maintain clean water ecosystems. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ They are examples of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

- Over 1 million sacred forests and 100,000 to 150,000 sacred groves exist across India.
 - ◆ They are **prominent in Maharashtra**, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

19. (B)

Exp:

- **ERONET** is a Web-based platform **developed for election officials**, in multiple languages and scripts, to handle all processes pertaining to registration, migration, and deletion of names from the electoral rolls.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

20. (A)

Exp:

- In banking, Calcutta had led with the East India Company establishing the **first Presidency Bank** in the city in **1806**, followed by one in Bombay in 1840.
- The **Ahmedabad Stock Exchange** was established in **1894**, 33 years before the Calcutta Stock Exchange, which was founded in 1908.
- There were complaints about the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) conduct, leading the government to establish a committee under the chair, **Sir Wilfrid Atlay, in 1923.**
 - ◆ It made various recommendations, including a uniform common code of contract, extension of trading hours, fewer holidays, disciplinary rules, governance of board, etc. The report also presented the first index of securities.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

21. (B)

Exp:

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

- NATO was established on April 4, 1949, with the signing of the **North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C.**, by 12 founding member countries from Europe and North America. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Since then, 20 more countries have joined NATO through 10 rounds of enlargement (in 1952, 1955, 1982, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2017, 2020, 2023, and 2024).
- Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty sets out how countries can join the Alliance.
 - ◆ It states that membership is open to any **"European State in a position to further the principles of this Treaty** and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area". **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- Any decision to invite a country to join the Alliance is taken by the North Atlantic Council, NATO's principal political decision-making body, on the basis of consensus among all Allies. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

22. (A)

Exp:

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):

- The **European Union (EU) Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** is the EU's tool to **put a fair price on the carbon emitted during** the production of carbon-intensive goods that are entering the EU and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.
- By confirming that a price has been paid for the embedded carbon emissions generated in the production of certain goods imported into the EU, the CBAM will ensure the carbon price of imports is **equivalent to the carbon price of domestic production** and that the EU's climate objectives are not undermined. The CBAM is designed to be compatible with **World Trade Organization (WTO) rules**.
- CBAM will apply in its definitive regime from 2026, while the current transitional phase lasts between 2023 and 2025. This gradual introduction of the CBAM is aligned with the phase-out of the allocation of free allowances under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) to support the decarbonization of the EU industry.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

23. (C)

Exp:

Geoengineering:

- It refers to **large-scale interventions** aimed at altering the Earth's climate system (more specifically, solar radiation management) to counteract the effects of global warming. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- It primarily **involves two approaches**, namely Solar Radiation Management (SRM) and Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR).
 - ◆ **SRM:** SRM involves **deploying materials in space** to reflect solar rays away from the Earth. This method, while still conceptual, draws inspiration from natural phenomena such as volcanic eruptions.
 - ◆ For example, Mount Pinatubo's 1991 eruption in the Philippines reportedly reduced the Earth's temperature by 0.5°C that year.
 - ◆ **CDR:** Techniques include **Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS)**, Direct Air Capture (DAC), and

Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), with the focus on long-term reduction of atmospheric Carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels.

- Geoengineering **would not address the root causes** of climate change but proposes to mask its effects, presenting significant new risks. **Hence, statement II is not correct.**
- Hence, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is not correct.

24. (D)

Exp:

Green Colonialism:

- The term "green colonialism" or "ecocolonialism" describes the practices where wealthy countries (the Global North) **exploit the mineral resources of poorer nations** (the Global South) to support their own energy transitions and reduce emissions.
- Key minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earths, primarily found in Latin American and African countries, play a major role in global geopolitics today. An example of this dynamic is the **US's offer to continue supporting Ukraine**, contingent upon a favorable agreement regarding Ukraine's mineral resources.
- Historically, Western powers have dominated the control of critical minerals and petroleum, but China has also become a key player, securing access to mineral reserves like lithium and cobalt in developing nations. Meanwhile, **India has been slower** to engage in these global mineral and energy-related power struggles.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

25. (C)

Exp:

Three-Language Formula:

- The three-language formula was first proposed by the **Education Commission (1964-66)**, officially known as the **Kothari Commission**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **three-language formula** is a language learning policy introduced in the 1968 National Policy on Education. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recommends using the home language/mother tongue as the medium of instruction till Grade 5, preferably till Grade 8, to promote regional languages. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

26. (B)

Exp:

Gender Budgeting:

- Gender budgeting is a **strategic tool** used by governments to allocate resources efficiently based on the distinct needs of different genders. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ It ensures that policies and resource allocations are **gender-sensitive** and address specific needs within existing frameworks.
- The concept of gender budgeting, **introduced in 2005-06**, has maintained an average share of 5 percent of total budgetary allocations over the years. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ It comprises schemes that either allocate their entire funds to women-specific programmes or direct **at least 30 percent of their expenditure** toward women's welfare.
- India's gender equality commitment, starting with **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**, 1979 ratification in 1993, led to the first Gender Budget Statement in 2005-06, and it has been included annually since, reflecting ongoing focus on gender-sensitive policies.
- Gender budgeting falls under the Samarthya sub-scheme of Mission Shakti.
- **Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

27. (A)

Exp:

Offshore Mining:

- Offshore mining involves **extracting minerals** or precious stones from the seabed. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India launched its first-ever offshore critical mineral auction in 2024 under the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002, offering 13 blocks across the Arabian Sea and Andaman Sea. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The auction targets critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, and copper, which are **essential for infrastructure**, renewable energy, and advanced technologies.
 - ◆ With this initiative, India aims to reduce import reliance, enhance resource availability, and strengthen its position in the global mineral market.

- Offshore Areas (Existence of Mineral Resources) Rules, 2024, apply to all minerals in offshore areas, **excluding** mineral oils and hydrocarbons. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

28. (B)

Exp:

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs):

- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases are largely driven by **modifiable lifestyle factors**, including tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, and alcohol consumption. Air pollution further increases the risk. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- In India, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) cause 63% of all deaths, according to WHO's 2018 NCD India profile.
 - ◆ The leading causes are cardiovascular diseases (27%), followed by chronic respiratory diseases (11%), cancers (9%), diabetes (3%), and other conditions, including obesity (13%).
- The Department of Health and Family Welfare, under the **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) (NP-NCD)** through the National Health Mission (NHM), aims to promote health through behaviour change by engaging communities, civil society, media, and development partners. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ It focuses on screening, early diagnosis, management, referral, and follow-up at all healthcare levels to ensure continuous care. The program also strengthens the capacity of healthcare providers for prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, awareness (IEC/BCC), monitoring, and research.
- **Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

29. (C)

Exp:

Delimitation:

- Delimitation means the **process of fixing the number of seats** and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It also includes determining the seats to be reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in these houses.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

◆ This 'delimitation process' is performed by the '**Delimitation Commission**' that is set up under an act of Parliament.

- Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972, and 2002.
- The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.
- The last delimitation exercise that changed the state-wise composition of the Lok Sabha was completed in 1976 and done on the basis of the 1971 census. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **87th Amendment Act of 2003** provided for the delimitation of constituencies based on the 2001 census and not the 1991 census. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ However, this can be done without altering the number of seats allotted to each state in the Lok Sabha.

30. (B)

Exp:

- On 14th September 1949, the Constituent Assembly designated Hindi in Devanagari script as the **official language** of the Union of India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **Munshi-Ayyangar formula**, a compromise between K M Munshi and N Gopalaswamy Ayyangar, resulted in Article 343 of the Constitution adopting Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union while allowing English to continue for official purposes for fifteen years.
 - ◆ As the 15-year period ended, protests over the fear of Hindi imposition led to the Official Languages Act 1963, which upheld English as an official language alongside Hindi.
- **Article 210** states that the language to be used in the legislature can be the official language of the state, Hindi, or English. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 351** states that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language and to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India.
- **Hindi is one of the 22 languages** listed in the **eighth schedule of the Constitution** of India, and it is not a classical language. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

31. (A)

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):

- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) introduced the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' (PMUY) as a **flagship scheme** to make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households that were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes, etc.
- The usage of traditional cooking fuels had **detrimental impacts** on the health of rural women as well as on the environment.
- Objectives:
 - ◆ Empowering women and protecting their health.
 - ◆ Reducing the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel.
 - ◆ Preventing young children from a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution by burning fossil fuel.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

32. (A)

Exp:

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT):

- The CTBT is a multilateral treaty aimed at **banning all nuclear explosions**, whether for military or peaceful purposes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The roots of the CTBT can be traced back to the **Cold War era** when the United States and the Soviet Union were engaged in a nuclear arms race, conducting numerous nuclear tests.
- It has been signed by 187 nations and ratified by 178. However, the **treaty cannot formally enter into force** until it is ratified by 44 specific nations.
 - ◆ **Eight of these nations, namely, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran, Egypt, and the United States, have yet to ratify the treaty.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

33. (B)

Exp:

- **Graphic Processing Units (GPUs)** are critical for training and building large-scale Artificial Intelligence (AI) models and are essential for advanced AI applications. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The **IndiaAI Mission** aims to establish a **robust AI computing infrastructure** in India to support the development and testing of AI systems. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

- The Mission aims to **enhance data quality** and develop indigenous AI technologies. It focuses on attracting top talent, fostering industry collaboration, supporting impactful AI startups, and promoting ethical AI practices.
 - ◆ The Union Cabinet approved the Rs 10,372 crore IndiaAI Mission in March 2024 to establish a computing capacity of over 10,000 GPUs and **develop foundational models** with a capacity of more than 100 billion parameters trained on datasets covering major Indian languages for priority sectors like healthcare, agriculture, and governance.
- Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

34. (C)

Exp:

Blockchain Technology:

- Blockchain Technology is a **decentralised, digital ledger** that records transactions across a network of computers. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ Each block in the chain contains a number of transactions, and every time a new transaction occurs on the blockchain, a record of that transaction is added to every participant's ledger.
 - ◆ The decentralised nature of blockchain ensures that **no single entity can alter or delete previous transactions**, providing a high degree of security and transparency.
- Blockchain, originally the backbone of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, has evolved into a **transformative technology** powering diverse applications from supply chain management to decentralized finance (DeFi). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

35. (A)

Exp:

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL):

- The National Board for Wildlife is a **statutory Board** constituted officially in 2003 under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The NBWL is **chaired by the Prime Minister** and is responsible for the promotion of conservation and development of wildlife and forests. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ The board is advisory in nature and can only advise the Government on policy making for the conservation of wildlife.
- It serves as an apex body for the review of all wildlife-related matters and for the approval of projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.

- The standing committee of NBWL is **chaired by the Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

36. (D)

Exp:

- The Constitution and multiple laws allow a sitting legislator to contest for another office and retain one if victorious. Primarily, three scenarios arise in this context:
 - ◆ A candidate cannot become a Member of Parliament under Article 101(1) with **Section 69 of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951**, mandating the vacation of one seat, if won.
 - ◆ **Article 101(2)** and the Prohibition of Simultaneous Membership Rules, 1950, require a legislator to vacate a seat within 14 days of the election result if elected to another legislature.
 - ◆ The **Prohibition of Simultaneous Membership Rules, 1950**, mandates an MLA resign from one assembly within 10 days if elected to multiple state legislative assemblies. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ When a person is elected to two houses, it creates a vacancy that must be filled by a by-election under Section 151A of the Representation of Peoples Act 1951 **within six months** from the date of occurrence of the vacancy, necessitating frequent bye-elections. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

37. (A)

Exp:

Jurisdiction of Lokpal:

- Lokpal has **jurisdiction over the Prime Minister** (with exceptions for matters of national security, international relations, etc.), Union Ministers, MPs, and **Government Officials (Group A-D)**.
- It also covers chairpersons, members, officers, or employees of entities established by an Act of Parliament, those partially/wholly funded or controlled by the Central Government, or organizations receiving foreign donations over **Rs 10 lakh/year under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**.
- The Supreme Court recently ruled that all judges, whether in High Courts or the SCs, are appointed under the Constitution, **making them immune from Lokpal oversight**.
 - ◆ SC judges are appointed under Article 124 and HC judges under Article 217.
- Hence, option A is correct.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

38. (D)

Exp:

- The **Swadeshi Movement** had its roots in the anti-partition movement, which was started to oppose **Lord Curzon's** decision to divide the province of Bengal. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Anti-Partition Campaign** was **launched by Moderates** to exert pressure on the government to prevent the unjust partition of Bengal from being implemented.
 - ◆ The petitions were written to the government, public meetings were held, and the ideas were spread through newspapers such as Hitabadi, Sanjibani, and Bengalee.
 - ◆ The partition led to protest meetings in Bengal, under which the pledge to boycott foreign goods was first taken.
- In the **1906 Congress Session** held at Calcutta, the **Indian National Congress(INC)** under the presidency of **Dadabhai Naoroji** declared self-government or Swaraj as the goal of INC. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

39. (A)

Exp:

'One China' Policy:

- It is the diplomatic acknowledgement of China's position that there is only one Chinese government. Under the policy, the **US recognises and has formal ties with China** rather than **the island of Taiwan**, which China sees as a breakaway province to be unified with the mainland one day.
- The One China policy is a key cornerstone of Sino-U.S. relations. It is also a fundamental bedrock of Chinese policy-making and diplomacy. However, it is distinct from the **One China principle, whereby China insists Taiwan is an inalienable part of one China to be unified one day.**
- The US policy is not an endorsement of Beijing's position, and indeed, as part of the policy, Washington maintains a "robust unofficial" relationship with Taiwan, external, including continued arms sales to the island so that it can defend itself.
- Although Taiwan's government claims it is an independent country officially called the "Republic of China", any country that wants diplomatic relations with mainland China must break official ties with Taipei.
 - ◆ This has resulted in Taiwan's diplomatic isolation from the international community.
- The **People's Republic of China (PRC)** asserts sovereignty over Taiwan and insists that there is only one China and that Taiwan is part of it. This is encapsulated in the One-China Policy.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

40. (A)

Exp:

- **Urban heat island** is a local and temporary phenomenon in which certain pockets within a city experience a higher heat load than its surrounding area. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**
- In urban areas, the rise of heat happens due to buildings and houses of cities made of **concrete, where the heat is trapped** and not able to dissipate easily. **Hence, statement-II is correct.**
 - ◆ Urban heat island is induced due to trapped heat between establishments made of concrete.
 - ◆ The temperature variation can range between 3 to 5 degrees Celsius.
- It has been observed that **greener localities experienced lower temperatures** than non-green localities.
- Green vegetation like plants, trees, and forests are prominent factors to regulate the incidences of the urban heat islands.
- **Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

41. (C)

Exp:

- The **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** is the average number of children a woman would have by the **end of their reproductive years** (ages 15 to 49) if they followed the current fertility rates throughout their lives, assuming no mortality. It is expressed as children per woman. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ As per the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)** (2019-21), the TFR has declined to 2.0 children per woman from 2.2 children per woman (NFHS- 4 (2015-16).
- A **TFR of 2.1 is considered the replacement level**, where each generation replaces itself without significant population growth or decline. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ A TFR lower than 2.1, however, can lead to negative population growth, potentially causing long-term demographic challenges, including an ageing population.
- Southern states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka achieved replacement-level fertility earlier than northern states. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ **By 2036**, Kerala's aged population is expected to surpass children (23%). High labor wages, quality of life, and internal migration are expected to bring migrant labor to 60 lakh by 2030 (about one-sixth of the State's population).
 - ◆ The demographic shift was driven by **high literacy, women's empowerment**, and advances in social and health sectors.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

42. (A)

Exp:

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:

- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is one of the most comprehensive global blueprints for **advancing women's rights**.
- The Beijing meeting, in 1995, brought together world leaders and 17,000 delegates from 189 countries to **agree on a road map** to accelerate women's equality through 12 critical "areas of concern".
- More than 200 Indian women were in attendance, along with the Government of India.
- The areas of concern included **poverty reduction, education and training, health, violence against women, women's economic empowerment, and influence in decision-making**. The past three decades have witnessed remarkable strides in many of these dimensions.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

43. (A)

Exp:

Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI):

- Gen AI is a rapidly growing branch of AI that focuses on **generating new content** (such as images, audio, text, etc.) based on patterns and rules learned from data.
- The rise of Gen AI can be attributed to the development of **advanced generative models**, such as Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) and Variational Autoencoders (VAEs).
- These models are trained on large amounts of data and are able to generate new outputs that are similar to the training data. For example, a GAN trained on **images of faces can generate new, synthetic images** of faces that look realistic.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

44. (C)

Exp:

- **Classical computers** work on the **principles of classical physics**. Their fundamental computing unit is the bit: each bit represents one piece of information with two possible values, 0 or 1. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is possible to represent all types of information as a combination of 0s and 1s using the binary system.
- The working of a quantum computer is based on the **principles of quantum mechanics**, an area of physics that

deals with the smallest particles in the universe. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Quantum computers** rely on quantum bits or qubits to perform computations. Unlike classical bits, qubits can exist in the states 0, 1 or in a state that's partly 0 and partly 1. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ The ability of qubits to be in two states is known as **superposition**. Superposition is one of two fundamental principles that animate quantum computers.

45. (D)

Exp:

Uniform Civil Code (UCC):

- The Uniform Civil Code refers to a **single set of laws** governing personal matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, and succession for all citizens of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The concept of UCC is mentioned in **Article 44** of the Indian Constitution as a Directive Principle of State Policy, which states that the state shall endeavor to secure a uniform civil code for citizens throughout the territory of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- However, it's important to note that this is not a legally enforceable right but a guiding principle for the state.

46. (A)

Exp:

- State-owned firms can be classified into **three categories**, namely Maharatna (highest), Navratna (mid-level), and Miniratna.
- A **Navratna company** is permitted to invest up to Rs. 1,000 crore or 15% of its net worth in a single project without the government's approval. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It can **also form joint ventures** or go in for mergers and acquisitions without getting entangled in bureaucratic red tape. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It gains greater flexibility to respond to dynamic market conditions, aiding its ability to stay competitive and pursue growth.

47. (B)

Exp:

India Meteorological Department (IMD):

- IMD is the **principal agency responsible** for meteorological observations, weather forecasting, and seismology in India, established in 1875. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

- It operates under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It **provides weather forecasts** and warnings for sectors like agriculture, aviation, and shipping and offers critical data for national development.
- It also conducts research to advance meteorological science.
- **Major Initiatives Related to Meteorology in India:**
 - ◆ National Monsoon Mission (NMM)
 - ◆ Mausam App
 - ◆ Doppler Weather Radars

48. (B)

Exp:

Delimitation:

- The periodic delimitation exercise **redraws the boundaries** of the Lok Sabha and State assembly constituencies so that the voters are evenly distributed across them. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Immediately after Independence, delimitation was done every ten years. The first Delimitation Commission **was constituted in 1952**, the second in 1962, and the third in the year 1973. The third exercise based on the 1971 census was completed in 1975. There was a long gap thereafter, and after 30 years, the fourth commission was set up in 2002, which used data from the 2001 Census. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Another such exercise was to have been executed following the Census of 2021, but the pandemic having delayed it, delimitation efforts are to be taken up after the Census of 2026.
- The population in the **South has grown slower than in the North**, they have implemented population control programmes better than their northern counterparts over the decades.

49. (A)

Exp:

Circular Economy:

- A **circular economy** focuses on durable, reusable, and **recyclable products**, ensuring materials are continuously repurposed, remanufactured, or used for various purposes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India (Jaipur, Rajasthan) hosted the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific, emphasising on sustainable waste management and circular economy.

- The Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific was launched in 2009 to **promote 3R principles** and resource efficiency. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is a regional platform that promotes 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) principles and circular economy practices across the Asia-Pacific region.
- It brings together policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and partners to advance resource efficiency strategies.
- The **Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013-2023)** set **33 voluntary goals** for a resource-efficient and circular economy. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

50. (C)

Exp:

Tuberculosis (TB):

- TB is an infectious disease caused by **Mycobacterium tuberculosis** that mainly affects the lungs. It spreads through the air when infected people cough, sneeze, or spit. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ TB is preventable and curable with antibiotics, typically including isoniazid, rifampin, pyrazinamide, ethambutol, and streptomycin.
- TB disproportionately affects **adults in low and middle-income countries**, with over 80% of cases and deaths occurring in these regions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The highest burden is in the World Health Organization's (WHO) South-East Asian and African Regions.

51. (A)

Exp:

Diego Garcia:

- **Diego Garcia** is located in the Indian Ocean, and it is the largest island of the Chagos Archipelago. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Chagos Archipelago was **once part of Mauritius** but was separated in 1965 to create the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).
- It is **administered by Britain** but leased to the US in 1966 for military purposes. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It became a fully operational military base in 1986.
 - ◆ In October 2024, Britain agreed to cede sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius but will **retain sovereign rights over Diego Garcia.**
- It was a key location in the US overseas war on terror operations following al-Qaeda's September 11 attacks on the US in 2001.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:



52. (D)

Exp:

Article 19:

- **Article 19** of the Constitution of India guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression and is typically invoked against the state. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 19(2)** of the Constitution lists only eight grounds namely, issues affecting the sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, relating to decency or morality, contempt of court, and defamation or incitement to an offence for curtailing freedom of speech and expression. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Similarly, **Section 69A of the Information Technology Act of 2000** lists identical reasons for which the Centre could issue directions to block public access to any information through any computer resource.
- The **Programme Code under the Cable Television Network Rules, 1995**, prohibits programmes that offend decency, among other things.
- The **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**, provide for age-based classification and a three-tier system of grievance redress, under which users could approach the platform, a self-regulatory body, and a government inter-departmental committee.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

53. (B)

Exp:

- The Constitution of India does not **define the term 'tribe'**; however, the term Scheduled Tribe was inserted in the Constitution **through Article 342 (1)**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The **Fifth Schedule** of the Constitution provides for the setting up of a Tribes' Advisory Council in each of the States having Scheduled Areas. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Article 275** provides for the grant of special funds by the Union Government to the State Government for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

54. (B)

Exp:

Cryptocurrency:

- A cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security.
- It is a **decentralized currency**, meaning it is not controlled by any government or institution. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Transactions with cryptocurrency are recorded on a public digital ledger called blockchain. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ This ledger is maintained by a network of computers around the world, and each new transaction is verified and added to the blockchain by these computers.
- Users can acquire cryptocurrency through a **process called "mining"**, which involves using computer power to solve complex mathematical equations that validate and record transactions on the blockchain in return for a certain amount of cryptocurrency. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

55. (B)

Exp:

National Population Register (NPR):

- The National Population Register (NPR) is a **database** containing a list of all usual residents of the country. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ A usual resident for NPR is a person who has resided in a place for six months or more and intends to reside there for another six months or more.
- Its objective is to have a **comprehensive identity database** of people residing in the country. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- NPR was first collected in 2010 and updated in 2015. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

56. (C)

Exp:

World Trade Organization (WTO):

- WTO is an international institution formed to regulate the rules for global trade among nations.
- It was formed under the **Marrakesh Agreement** signed on 15th April 1994 by 123 countries after the Uruguay Round negotiations (1986-94) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), leading to the birth of WTO in 1995. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- WTO succeeded the GATT, which had regulated world trade since 1948. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- GATT focused on trade in goods, while WTO covers trade in goods, services, and intellectual property, including creations, designs, and inventions. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

57. (A)

Exp:

Purchasing Managers Index (PMI):

- It is a **survey-based measure** that asks the respondents about changes in their perception about key business variables as compared with the previous month.
- The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about **current and future business conditions** to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.
- It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors, and then a **composite index is also constructed**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The PMI is a number from 0 to 100.
 - ◆ A print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.
 - ◆ A reading at 50 indicates no change.
- If the PMI of the previous month is higher than the PMI of the current month, it represents that the economy is contracting.
- It is **usually released at the start of every month**. It is, therefore, considered a good leading indicator of economic activity. PMI is **compiled by IHS Markit** for more than 40 economies worldwide. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - ◆ IHS Markit is a global leader in information, analytics, and solutions for the major industries and markets that drive economies worldwide.
 - ◆ IHS Markit is part of S&P Global.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

58. (B)

Exp:

Avalanche:

- An avalanche is the **rapid flow of snow, ice, and debris** down a mountain slope. It often carries earth, rocks, and rubble, causing destruction. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Avalanche risk peaks from December to April due to **heavy winter snowfall** (snow accumulation) and spring thaw (weakening snow layers). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Avalanches **result from both natural and human-induced factors**, including deforestation reducing slope stability, adventure tourism disturbing the snowpack, and global warming increasing freeze-thaw cycles. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

59. (A)

Exp:

Karakoram Anomaly:

- The Karakoram Anomaly refers to the **unusual behavior of glaciers** in the Karakoram Range, where they have **either remained stable or experienced slight mass gains**, contrary to the widespread trend of glacier retreat observed globally due to climate change.
 - ◆ The Karakoram Range is a mountainous region spanning Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and China.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

60. (C)

Exp:

- At the **Nagpur session** of the Indian National Congress in December 1920, it was decided to reorganize the Provincial Congress Committees on a linguistic basis. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This move was aimed at promoting the interests of various linguistic groups. This leads to demand for linguistic state.
- The **Dar Commission (1948)**, led by S.K. Dar, evaluated the feasibility of reorganizing states based on language but opposed the idea, emphasizing administrative efficiency over linguistic uniformity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Fazal Ali Commission (1953-1955)**, led by Fazal Ali with members K.M. Panikkar and H.N. Kunzru, **reviewed state reorganization** on linguistic and other factors, ultimately **recommending the formation of linguistic states** with reservations to maintain national integration and administrative efficiency, leading to the creation of several such states. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

61. (D)

Exp:

- Recently, India secured the **39th position among 133 global economies** in the Global Innovation Index 2024. In 2023, India ranked 40th out of 132 economies. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **Global Innovation Index** serves as a key reference for evaluating the performance of an economy's innovation ecosystem.
 - ◆ It is published annually by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** and acts as a valuable benchmarking tool for policymakers, business leaders, and other stakeholders.
- In 2024, India's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) as a percentage of GDP was around **0.64%**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ In 2022, India spent 0.65% of its GDP on research and development (R&D), much lower than that of other Brics (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations (Brazil 1.15%, Russia 0.94%, China 2.43%), let alone advanced S&T powers like the US, Japan, Israel and South Korea.

62. (B)

Exp:

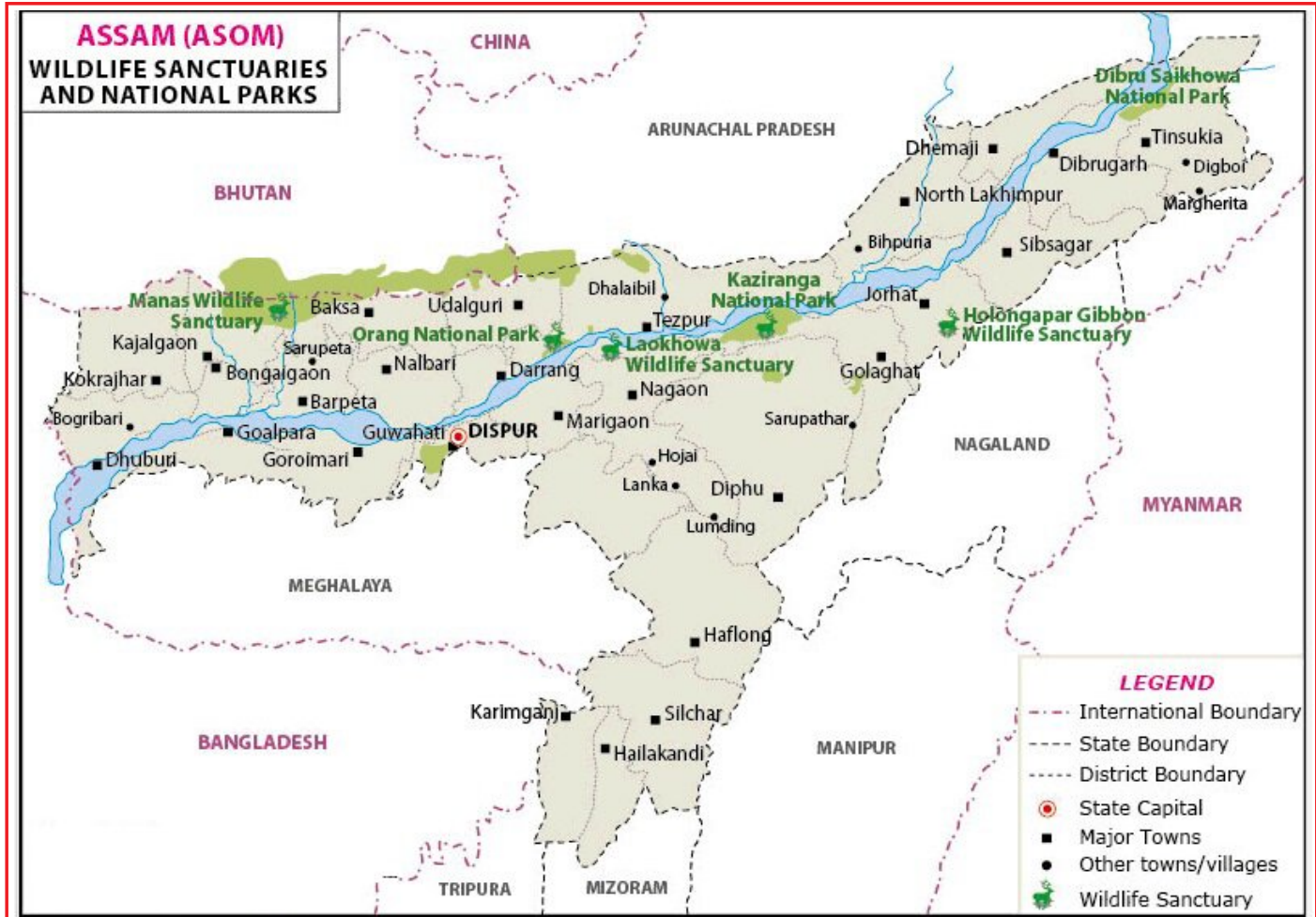
Kaziranga National Park:

- It is located in the **State of Assam** and is the single largest undisturbed and representative area in the Brahmaputra Valley floodplain.
- It was declared a National Park in 1974.
- It has been declared a tiger reserve since 2007. It has a total tiger reserve area of 1,030 sq km with a core area of 430 sq. km.
- It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1985.
- It is recognized as an **Important Bird Area by BirdLife International**.
- It is the home of the **world's most one-horned rhinos**. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary has the highest density of one-horned rhinos in the world and the second-highest number of Rhinos in Assam after Kaziranga National Park.
- Much of the focus of conservation efforts in Kaziranga are focused on the **'big four' species**, namely, the Rhino, the Elephant, the Royal Bengal tiger, and the Asiatic water buffalo.
- Kaziranga is also home to 9 of the 14 species of primates found in the Indian subcontinent.
- The park also has more than 250 seasonal water bodies, besides the **Diphlu River running through it**.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:



➤ Hence, option B is correct.

63. (C)

Exp:

Bitcoins:

- These digital tokens have value only because **people ascribe value to them**, not because they have any intrinsic worth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The number of Bitcoins that can be mined, for example, has an upper bound set by the algorithm used to generate it. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- They rely on **scarcity to maintain value**, making them volatile investments. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

64. (C)

Exp:

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF):

- To address gaps in post-harvest management, the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) was launched in 2020-21** to develop farm gate storage and logistics, helping farmers store their produce properly and sell at better prices with fewer intermediaries.
 - ◆ Improved infrastructure, such as warehouses, cold storage, sorting and grading units, and ripening chambers, enables direct sales to consumers, increasing farmers' earnings.
 - ◆ The AIF scheme aims to **benefit all agricultural stakeholders** by supporting the overall development of the sector. **Hence, statement I is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

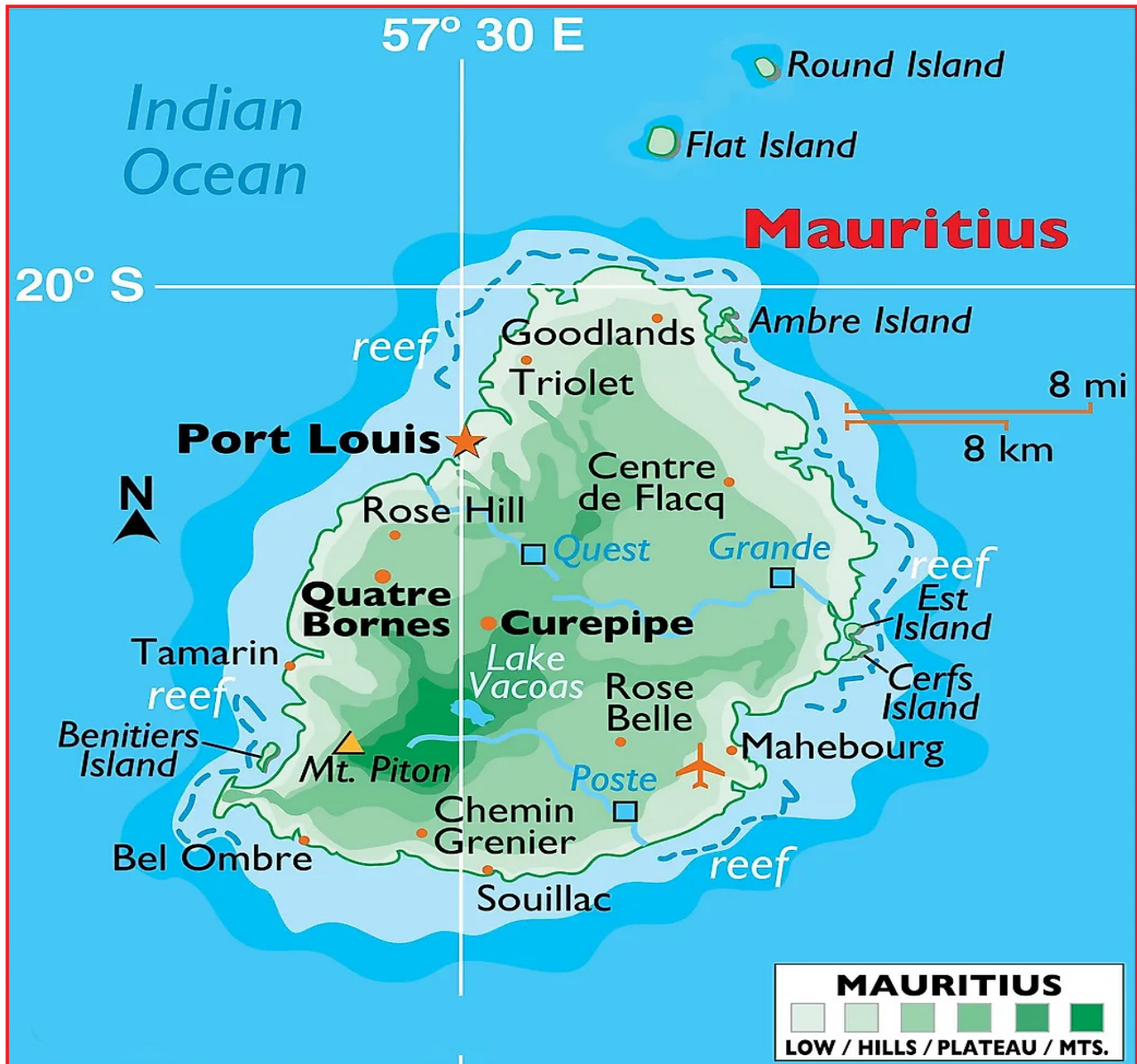
- Under AIF, a loan provision of Rs. 1 lakh crore has been made through lending institutions, with a 9% interest rate cap. The scheme, operational from 2020-21 to 2032-33, **offers an interest subvention of 3% per annum** on loans up to Rs. 2 crores, available for a maximum of seven years. For loans exceeding Rs. 2 crores, the interest subvention applies only to the first Rs. 2 crores. **Hence, statement II is not correct.**
 - ◆ Additionally, credit guarantee coverage is available for eligible borrowers under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme, with the government covering the fee for loans up to ₹2 crores.
- **Hence, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is not correct.**

65. (B)

Exp:

Mauritius:

- As a **"central geographic point,"** Mauritius holds importance for commerce and connectivity in the Indian Ocean.
- As a member of the **African Union**, Indian Ocean Rim Association, and the Indian Ocean Commission, Mauritius is a stepping stone to multiple geographies.
- As a founding member of the **'Small Island Developing States' (SIDS)**, it has been seen as a significant neighbour to India.



- **Hence, option B is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App

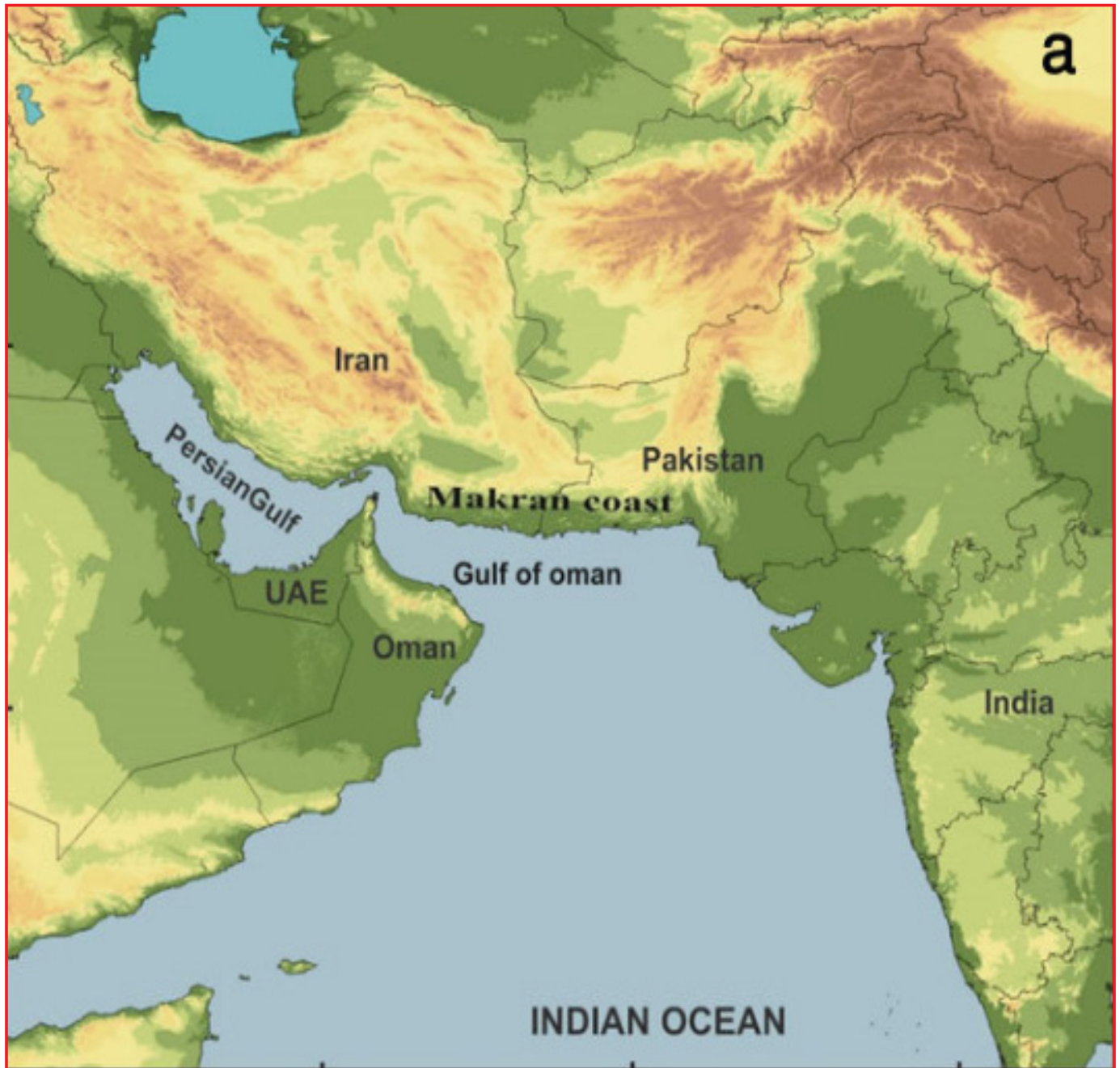


Note:

66. (C)

Exp:

- Iran is located at a strategic and crucial geographical location between the **Persian Gulf** and the Caspian Sea. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Makran** is part of the plateau of Balochistan, which is shared between Pakistan and Iran. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is a semi-desert coastal strip of land, bounded by the **Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman.**
 - ◆ The Makran coast hosts the Pakistani port of Gwadar and the Iranian port of **Chabahar**, serving as gateways to the **Strait of Hormuz** and the Persian Gulf.
- The **Strait of Hormuz** is a 'choke point' through which much of the world's oil supply passes and is thus strategically important. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**



Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

67. (A)

Exp:

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

- IAEA is an intergovernmental organisation that seeks to **promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy** and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was established in 1957 as the world's **"Atoms for Peace" organisation** within the United Nations and governed by its own founding treaty, the Statute of the IAEA. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It reports to both the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and is headquartered at the UN Office in Vienna, Austria.
- In 2005, it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work for a safe and peaceful world.
- The IAEA has 178 member states, India being one of the founding members.

68. (A)

Exp:

Strategic Reserve:

- A strategic reserve is a **stockpile of vital resources** kept by governments or large organisations to provide a safety net during hard times. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Examples include the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which helps ensure a **regular supply of oil during crises**, food reserves, including stockpiles of grain, to protect against hunger, and the stockpiling of vaccines by the US and European Union during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- India maintains a strategic reserve of petroleum and **not Bitcoins**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **El Salvador is the only country** with a strategic cryptocurrency reserve, while most governments hold seized assets or use them to bypass sanctions.
 - Recently, the US President signed an order to establish a **U.S. bitcoin reserve**, aiming for digital currency leadership.
 - ◆ **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. (ISPRL)** was created by the Government of India as a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in 2004.

69. (C)

Exp:

Delimitation Commission:

- Delimitation literally means the **act or process of fixing limits or boundaries** of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body.

- The job of delimitation is assigned to a high power body. Such a body is known as the Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission.
- In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been **constituted 4 times**, in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high-power body whose **orders have the force of law** and cannot be called into question before any court. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India on this behalf.
- The copies of its orders are laid before the **House of the People** and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

70. (B)

Exp:

Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States Index," 2024:

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has released a report titled **"Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States – An Indicative Evidence-Based Ranking,"** highlighting the progress in empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across India.
 - ◆ It is also referred to as the **Panchayat Devolution Index 2024**, which evaluates the autonomy and empowerment of **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** by assessing the devolution of powers and resources across Indian states and Union Territories.
- It assesses Panchayats' autonomy in decision-making and implementation, **reflecting Article 243G of the Constitution.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

71. (A)

Exp:

Mars:

- Mars is the **fourth planet out from the Sun**. It is also the second smallest planet in the Solar System after Mercury.
- It is called the **"Red Planet"** because iron minerals oxidise in the Martian atmosphere, causing the surface to look red.
- Mars has **two small moons**, Phobos and Deimos.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

72. (D)

Exp:

Tribunals:

- A tribunal is a **quasi-judicial body** that deals with the resolution of disputes pertaining to administration, taxation, environment, securities, etc. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It performs **various functions, including adjudicating disputes**, determining rights between parties, making administrative decisions, and reviewing existing administrative rulings.
- Tribunals were introduced in the Indian Constitution through the **42nd Amendment Act, 1976**, as they were not part of the original Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 323-A** deals with Administrative Tribunals for public service matters. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Article 323-B** provides for tribunals on various matters, including **Taxation, Foreign exchange**, import and export, Industrial and labor disputes, Elections to Parliament and state legislatures, and Food security.

73. (B)

Exp:

President's Rule:

- President's Rule refers to the **suspension of a state government** and its legislative assembly, placing the state under the direct control of the central government.
 - ◆ It is imposed under **Article 356** of the Indian Constitution.
- A proclamation of President's Rule must be **approved by both Houses** of Parliament within two months. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- President's Rule **lasts six months** initially and can be extended up to 3 years with Parliament's approval every six months. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Laws made during the President's Rule **remain in force unless repealed** by the state legislature. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

74. (C)

Exp:

- The **World Trade Organization (WTO) system** operates on the most favoured nation (MFN) principle, which prohibits discrimination between trading partners. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Principle is a core WTO rule that ensures any trade advantage given to one country must be extended to all WTO members.
- **Special and differential treatment (S&DT)** allows developing countries to offer less than full reciprocity in their tariff

commitments towards developed countries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) is a WTO policy designed to support developing nations by **granting them trade flexibility.**
- ◆ Developing countries are **not required to match the tariff reductions** or commitments made by developed nations.
- ◆ This policy **allows poorer nations to maintain higher tariffs** or longer adjustment periods compared to wealthier nations.

75. (A)

Exp:

Dandi March:

- The Dandi March, also known as the Salt Satyagraha or Salt March, marked a **pivotal moment** in the country's fight for independence from British colonial rule.
- The Dandi March was an act of **nonviolent civil disobedience** led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ The Dandi March **commenced from the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad** on March 12, 1930, with Mahatma Gandhi leading.
 - ◆ The 24-day march spanned four districts and passed through 48 villages.
 - ◆ On 6 April 1930, **Gandhi symbolically broke the salt law** by picking up a handful of salt from the shores of Dandi, starting the civil disobedience movement against the British salt monopoly.
- The tradition of making salt in India dates back to ancient times, primarily carried out by farmers, who were often referred to as **salt farmers**.
 - ◆ Over time, salt became a commercial commodity, and the British imposed a salt tax, making it a symbol of colonial exploitation.
- Mahatma Gandhi recognized the salt tax as a particularly oppressive measure and saw it as an **opportunity to mobilise the masses** in a non-violent protest against British rule. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ On 2 March 1930, Mahatma Gandhi wrote a letter to Lord Irwin, the Viceroy of India, informing him of his intention to break the salt law as an **act of civil disobedience.**
- **Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

76. (D)

Exp:

Deflation:

- Deflation is a **general decline in prices for goods and services**, typically associated with a contraction in the supply of money and credit in the economy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- During deflation, the purchasing power of currency rises over time. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Deflation causes the **nominal costs of capital**, labor, goods, and services **to fall**, though their relative prices may be unchanged.
- It can only be caused by a **decrease in the supply of money** or financial instruments redeemable in money.

77. (A)

Exp:

Indian Ocean Commission (IOC):

- The IOC is an **intergovernmental organisation** founded in 1982 that comprises five small-island states in the Western Indian Ocean, namely **the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion (a French department), and Seychelles.**
- The IOC has its **own regional agenda** and has made impressive headway in the design and implementation of a regional maritime security architecture in the Western Indian Ocean.
- Over the years, the IOC has emerged as an **active and trusted regional actor**, working in and for the Western Indian Ocean and implementing a range of projects.
- For example, in 2012, the IOC was one of the four regional organisations to launch the MASE Programme.
 - ◆ **MASE programme is the European Union-funded programme** to promote Maritime Security in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean.
 - ◆ Under MASE, the IOC has established a mechanism for surveillance and control of the Western Indian Ocean with two regional centres.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

78. (C)

Exp:

IndiaAI Mission:

- The Government of India launched the **IndiaAI Mission** in March 2024 to bolster India's global leadership in Artificial Intelligence(AI). To realise this vision, the IndiaAI Mission has launched 7 key pillars to strengthen the domestic AI ecosystem.

- The '**Safe & Trusted AI**' pillar within this initiative emphasizes the need for a balanced, technology-enabled, and India-specific approach to AI governance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ This involves the **development of indigenous technical tools**, guidelines, frameworks, and standards that are contextualized to India's unique challenges and opportunities, as well as our social, cultural, linguistic, and economic diversity.

- **IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IBD)** under the Digital India Corporation (DIC) of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), is the implementation agency of the IndiaAI Mission, which aims to **democratize AI's benefits across all strata** of society, bolster India's global leadership in AI, foster technological self-reliance, and ensure ethical and responsible use of AI. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

79. (A)

Exp:

Due Process of Law:

- **Due process of law** is the application by the state of all legal rules and principles pertaining to a case so all legal rights that are owed to a person are respected. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Due process balances the power of the law of the land and **protects the individual** person from it. When a government harms a person without following the exact course of the law, this constitutes a due process violation, which offends the rule of law.
- In the 1978 **Maneka Gandhi vs Union of India**, landmark judgement case, the Indian **Supreme Court recognized "due process"** as an integral part of the right to life and personal liberty (Article 21 of the Constitution), requiring any procedure established by law for deprivation of these rights to be fair, just, and reasonable. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **IR Coelho case** was a landmark Supreme Court of India judgment in 2007 that established the **importance of judicial review**. The case was about the constitutional validity of amendments to the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

80. (D)

Exp:

- India is the **world's 3rd-largest oil importer** and consumer and relies on imports for over 85% of its crude needs. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ In terms of both oil imports and consumption, **China is the world's largest**, followed by the United States and India.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- **Russia now supplies 40% of India's crude imports** (less than 1% before 2022). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ India's diversified import strategy from sources like the US, Russia, Brazil, Canada, and Africa helps **ensure supply security amid geopolitical disturbances**, though it may not fully shield against long-term price volatility.
- **India is not a founding member** of the International Energy Agency (IEA), but it is an associate member and has expressed interest in full membership. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

81. (A)

Exp:

Venture Capital (VC):

- A venture capital (VC) fund is a **sum of money** that investors commit for investment in **early-stage companies**.
- **Startup India** is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to **catalyse startup culture** and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

82. (C)

Exp:

- A tariff is a **tax imposed by the government** of a country on imports or exports of goods. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ High tariffs will **raise the cost for foreign producers** to sell their goods in a domestic system, providing strategic advantages for local producers.
 - ◆ **India** has one of the highest tariff rates in the world.
- **Anti-dumping duties** are tariffs imposed on imported goods that are believed to be priced below fair market value, aiming to protect domestic industries from unfair competition. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ India is the highest initiator of anti-dumping measures aimed at shielding domestic industries from import competition.
- **Import Quotas** are the act of limiting the number of a certain good that can be purchased from a given country, ensuring that **domestic producers** maintain a portion of the market share. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

83. (B)

Exp:

Patent:

- A Patent is a **statutory right** for an invention granted for a limited period to the patentee by the Government in exchange for **full disclosure of his invention** for excluding

others from making, using, selling, importing the patented product or process for producing that product for those purposes without his consent.

- The patent system in India is governed by the **Patents Act, 1970**, which was amended in 2003 and 2005. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Patent Rules are regularly amended in consonance with the changing environment, the most recent being **Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2024.**
- **Section 3(d)** of the Patents Act, 1970, prevents patents from being **granted for minor improvements** to already patented medicines, thereby avoiding the extension of patent monopolies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The term of every patent granted is **20 years** from the date of filing of the application. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

84. (C)

Exp:

Samagra Shiksha Scheme:

- It is an **integrated scheme** for school education covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It aims to deliver inclusive, equitable, and affordable school education.
- It **subsumes the three Schemes** of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE).
- The scheme covers 1.16 million schools, over 156 million students, and 5.7 million Teachers of Govt. and Aided schools (from pre-primary to senior secondary level).
- It is being implemented as a **centrally sponsored scheme**. It involves a 60:40 split in funding between the Centre and most States. It was launched by the Ministry of Education in 2018. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

85. (A)

Exp:

Madhav National Park:

- Madhav National Park, located in the **Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh**, has been declared **India's 58th Tiger Reserve** (9th Tiger Reserve of MP). The reserve currently houses 5 tigers.
- Located in Shivpuri District, it is part of the **upper Vindhyan Hills** and was historically a hunting ground for Mughal emperors and the Maharaja of Gwalior.
- It was designated a National Park in 1959.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- The park has a rich ecosystem, including lakes, **dry deciduous, and dry thorn forests**, and is home to species like tigers, leopards, Nilgai, Chinkara, Chousingha, and various deer species.
- It is part of **one of India's 32 major tiger corridors**, operationalized through the Tiger Conservation Plan under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

86. (B)

Exp:

Great Nicobar Island:

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands consist of 836 islands, divided into two groups known as the Andaman Islands located in the north and the Nicobar Islands situated in the south, **separated by the 10° Channel** which is 150 kilometres wide. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Great Nicobar** is the **southernmost and largest** of the Nicobar Islands, a sparsely inhabited 910 sq km patch of mainly tropical rainforest in the southeastern Bay of Bengal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Great Nicobar has two national parks, a biosphere reserve, small populations of the Shompen, Onge, Andamanese, and Nicobarese tribal peoples, and a few thousand non-tribal settlers.
- **Indira Point on the island**, India's southernmost point, is located 90 nautical miles (<170 km) from Sabang at the northern tip of Sumatra, the largest island of the Indonesian archipelago. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

87. (A)

Exp:

Turtles:

- Sea turtles are marine reptiles with streamlined bodies and large flippers that are well-adapted to life in the ocean.
- The **sea turtle family includes** the Hawksbill, Loggerhead, Leatherback, Green and Olive ridley turtles.
 - ◆ These **five species are found worldwide**, mainly in tropical and subtropical waters.
 - ◆ The **Giant Leatherback** is the largest of all marine turtles and has been around since the time of the dinosaurs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Other than the five species, two more types of sea turtles have restricted ranges.
 - ◆ Kemp's Ridley is found mainly in the Gulf of Mexico, and the Flatback Turtle around northern Australia and southern Papua New Guinea.

- All seven species of sea turtles are currently listed as **Appendix I** under CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Galathea Bay** on Great Nicobar Island is a key nesting site for four marine turtle species in the northern Indian Ocean. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

88. (D)

Exp:

- **Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites**, orbiting closer to Earth, deliver stronger signals and faster speeds compared to traditional fixed-satellite systems. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ LEO satellites are positioned around 500km-2000km from earth, compared to stationary orbit satellites which are approximately 36,000km away.
- **Signals travel faster through space** than fiber-optic cables, and satellite internet has the potential to rival or even surpass existing ground-based networks. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- LEO satellites travel at a speed of 27,000 kph and complete a full circuit of the planet in 90-120 minutes.
- As a result, individual satellites can only make direct contact with a land transmitter for a short period, thus requiring massive LEO satellite fleets and, consequently, **a significant capital investment.**
 - ◆ Due to these costs, of the three mediums of Internet – fibre, spectrum and satellite – the latter is the most expensive.

89. (C)

Exp:

Election Commission of India:

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an autonomous **constitutional authority** responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950 (celebrated as National Voters' Day). The secretariat of the commission is in New Delhi.
- The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.
- It is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a **separate State Election Commission.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- Originally, the commission had only one election commissioner, but after the **Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989**, it was made a multi-member body. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the President may, from time to time, fix.
 - ◆ Presently, it consists of the CEC and two Election Commissioners (ECs).

90. (A)

Exp:

Human Development Report:

- Human Development Reports (HDRs) have been released since 1990 and have explored different themes through the human development approach.
 - ◆ The reports are produced by the Human Development Report Office for the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.
- **Human Development Index:** HDI is a composite index that measures average achievement in human development, taking into account three indicators:
 - ◆ Life expectancy at birth (Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3),
 - ◆ Expected years of schooling (SDG 4.3),
 - ◆ Mean years of schooling (SDG 4.4)
 - ◆ Gross national income (GNI) (SDG 8.5).
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

91. (D)

Exp:

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

- GDP is the **total monetary value** of all finished goods and services produced within a country's borders over a specific period, typically a year or a quarter. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It includes production by **both domestic and foreign companies** operating within the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- GDP measures the value of production within a country's borders.
- GDP is a key indicator of a country's economic performance and growth.

92. (B)

Exp:

UN Peacekeeping:

- UN Peacekeeping is a vital tool employed by the United Nations to help countries navigate the path from conflict to peace. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Peacekeeping operations **require the consent** of the main parties involved in the conflict. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The first UN peacekeeping mission was established in May 1948, when the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the **Middle East** to form the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

93. (C)

Exp:

- **UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA, 1995):** States should either become members, or they should agree to apply the conservation and management measures established by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to access fishery resources.
 - ◆ RFMOs are **international bodies** responsible for managing and conserving fish stocks in specific ocean regions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 87** of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) limits fishing freedom on the high seas, making it illegal for vessels from States that fail to meet its conditions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)** (as per UNCLOS) is an official boundary separating territorial waters, defining maritime jurisdiction, and regulating fishing, resource use, and naval activities. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

94. (A)

Exp:

Syria:

- It is situated on the **eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea** in southwestern Asia. It shares borders with Turkey to the north, Iraq to the east and southeast, Jordan to the south, and Israel and Lebanon to the southwest.
- In the **1967 Six-Day War**, Israel took control of Golan Heights from Syria, and key cities in the country include Damascus along the Barada River, Homs, and Palmyra.

Prepare with DrishtiIASUPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:



➤ Hence, option A is correct.

95. (B)

Exp:

Starlink:

- Starlink is a **network of satellites** that provides internet. It is operated by SpaceX, which is Elon Musk's aerospace company.
- Launched in 2019, Starlink aims to shoot 42,000 small satellites into space, forming a globe-encircling ring just 547 km overhead.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

- Currently, the telecommunication project has around 7,000 mass-produced small satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO) — an orbit that is under altitudes of 2,000 km.
- Hence, option B is correct.

96. (A)

Exp:

Carbon Credits:

- The concept of carbon credit, introduced in the **Kyoto Protocol, 1997** and reinforced by the Paris Agreement, 2015 aims to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions through carbon trading. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ Each carbon credit permits the emission of one tonne of CO₂ or its equivalent.
- The carbon markets established under the Paris Agreement aim to **create more robust, reliable systems** for trading carbon credits and ensuring transparency in emissions reductions.
- Under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, countries can work together, **transferring carbon credits** from emission-reducing projects to help other countries meet their climate goals. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

97. (C)

Exp:

APAAR id(Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry):

- It is a **specialised identification system** designed for all students in India, beginning from an early age.
- It aims to streamline and enhance the academic experience for students throughout India by assigning a **unique and permanent 12-digit ID** to each student, consolidating their academic records into a single accessible platform. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is introduced in accordance with the **National Education Policy (NEP)** of 2020 and the National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCrF). Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Registration for an APAAR ID is **voluntary, not mandatory**.
- It is emphasised as not only a vital tool for tracking the educational progress of 260 million students in India but also as an aspirational and globally recognized document for students.

98. (A)

Exp:

5th Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

- 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 whole of the normal administrative machinery operating in a state does not extend to the scheduled areas.
- ◆ At present, 10 States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana, have Fifth Schedule Areas.

- Hence, option A is correct.

99. (A)

Exp:

Hampi:

- Hampi was the capital of the **Vijayanagara Empire in the 14th century**. The old city of Hampi was a prosperous, wealthy, and grand city near the Tungabhadra River, with numerous temples, farms, and trading markets.
- One of the unique features of temples at Hampi is the wide chariot streets flanked by the row of pillared mandapas.
- Its Famous places include the Krishna temple complex, Narasimha, Ganesa, the Hemakuta group of temples, the Achyutaraya temple complex, Vitthala temple complex, Pattabhirama temple complex, Lotus Mahal complex, etc.
- Hampi was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986.

- Hence, option A is correct.

100. (B)

Exp:

Yamuna River:

- The Yamuna River is one of the major tributaries of the Ganges in Northern India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It forms an integral part of the Yamuna-Ganga Plain, one of the world's most extensive alluvial plains.
- It has its source in the **Yamunotri Glacier** at an elevation of 6,387 meters on the southwestern sides of Banderpooch crests in the lower Himalayan ranges. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It meets the Ganges at the Sangam in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, after flowing through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Delhi.
- **Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, and Ken** are its important tributaries. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
 - ◆ Harangi is an important tributary of the Kavery River.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



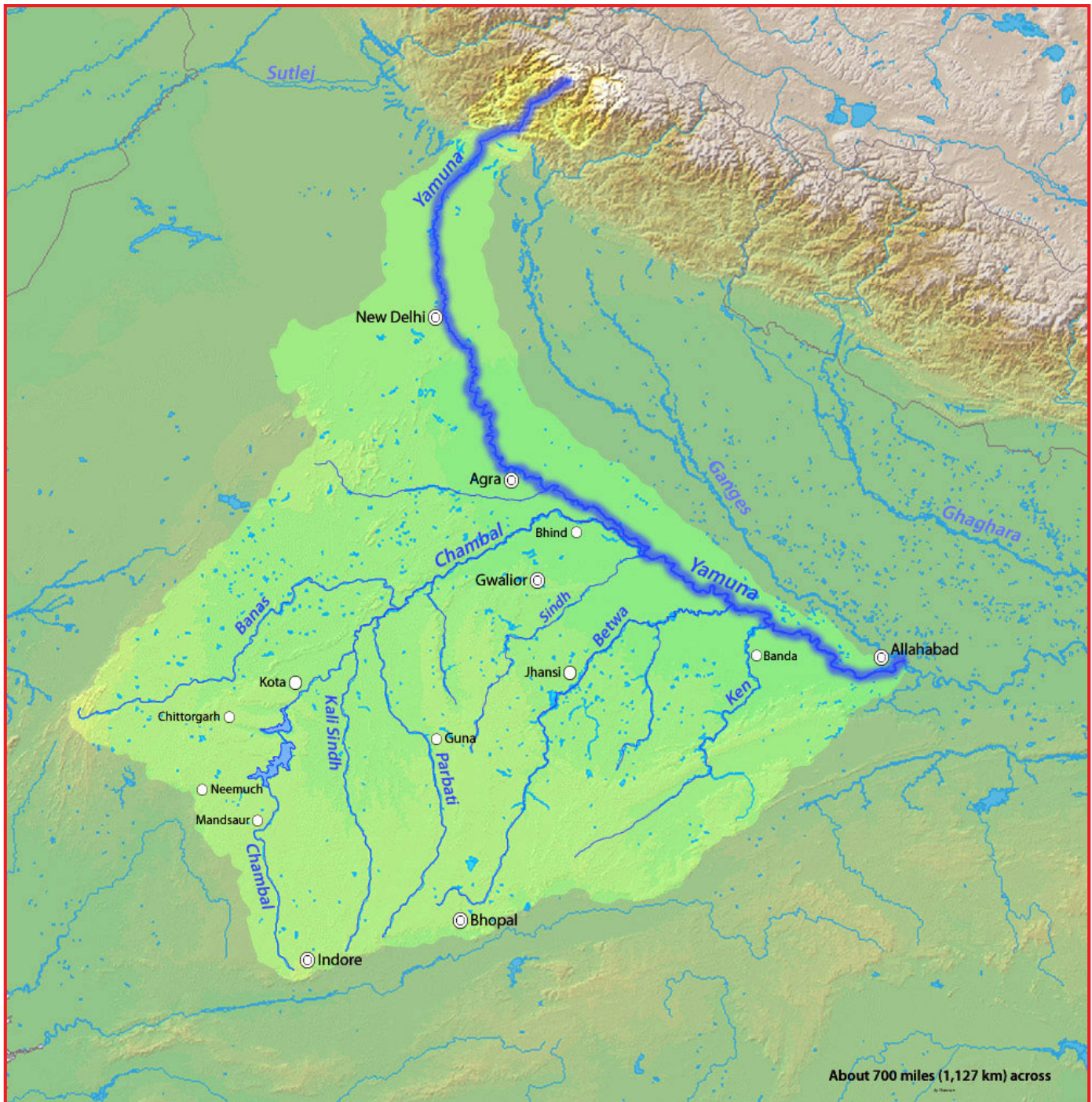
IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:



101. (C)

Exp:

Khilafat Movement:

- The campaign in defense of the Caliph of Turkey was led by **Shaukat Ali**, Muhammad Ali, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In 1920, the **Indian National Congress**, under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi, supported the Muslims' cause and launched a non-violent non-cooperation campaign. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Gandhi's suspension of the **non-cooperation movement** due to the Chauri Chaura incident and his arrest in March 1922 led to a weakening of the Khilafat movement. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

102. (A)

Exp:

Nalanda University:

- **Gupta Emperor Kumaragupta** (Shakraditya) of the Gupta dynasty founded **Nalanda University** in **427 CE** in modern Bihar in the early 5th century, and it flourished for 600 years until the 12th century.
- During the era of Harshavardhana and the Palas monarchs, it rose to popularity.
- During **King Harshavardhana's reign** (606-647 AD), Chinese scholar **Xuan Zang** (also known as Huiyen Tsang and Moksadeva, a 7th-century Chinese Buddhist monk, scholar, traveller, and translator) came here and studied for about 5 years.
- He also carried back many scriptures from Nalanda, which were later translated into Chinese.
- In 670 AD, another **Chinese pilgrim I-Tsing** visited Nalanda. He stated that Nalanda housed 2,000 students and was supported by money from 200 villages.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

103. (A)

Exp:

Fentanyl:

- Recently, the United States has witnessed a **new zombie drug, fentanyl**, gripping its population.
- This drug can **cause raw wounds on the user's skin** that can spread rapidly with repeated exposure.
- It starts with ulcers, hardens to dead skin called eschar, and if left untreated, can result in amputation.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

104. (B)

Exp:

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

- The **Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969** (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002, on the recommendations of the **Raghavan committee**. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a **statutory body** of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002. It was duly constituted in March 2009. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- The Commission consists of one Chairperson and six Members who shall be appointed by the Central Government.

- The commission is a **quasi-judicial body** that gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases. The Chairperson and other Members shall be whole-time Members.
- **Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

105. (C)

Exp:

International Criminal Court (ICC):

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigates and, where warranted, **tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes** of concern to the international community like genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As a **court of last resort**, it seeks to complement, not replace, national Courts.
- It is governed by an international treaty called the **Rome Statute**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- When a situation is not within the Court's jurisdiction, the **United Nations Security Council** can refer the situation to the ICC granting it jurisdiction. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ This has been done in the situations in Darfur (Sudan) and Libya.

106. (A)

Exp:

Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI):

- The Global Gender Gap Index is released by the **World Economic Forum**.
- It benchmarks countries on their **progress towards gender parity** in four Key dimensions with Submatrices:
 - ◆ Economic Participation and Opportunity
 - ◆ Educational Attainment
 - ◆ Health and Survival
 - ◆ Political Empowerment
- It is the **longest-standing index**, which has tracked progress towards closing these gaps over time since its inception in 2006.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

107. (C)

Exp:

- The Constitution of India, through **Article 47**, underlines the state's responsibility to improve public health care. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- The **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)**, launched in 2005, aimed to strengthen public health systems and did open roles to non-medical public health specialists, focusing on accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare for rural populations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

108. (B)

Exp:

Satellite Communication:

- Satcom services **rely on a network of satellites** in orbit to deliver connectivity on the ground. Unlike ground-based communication methods like cable, fiber, or digital subscriber line (DSL), they transmit data wirelessly.
- It is widely recognized that satcom services will provide continuous connectivity to low-lying, rural, and disaster-prone areas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Satcom services **may have higher latency** than terrestrial broadband, but they can cover large areas with minimal physical infrastructure. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Satellite-based Internet is considered more resilient than terrestrial services due to its **fewer ground components**, making it less susceptible to damage from extreme weather. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

109. (B)

Exp:

Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana:

- PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance scheme **fully financed** by the government. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Launched in 2018, it offers a sum insured of **Rs.5 lakh per family** for secondary and tertiary care. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is an **entitlement-based scheme** that targets the beneficiaries as identified by the latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) has provided flexibility to States/UTs to use non-Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) beneficiary family databases with similar socio-economic profiles for tagging against the leftover (unauthenticated) SECC families.
- The **National Health Authority (NHA)** has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860, for the effective implementation of PM-JAY in alliance with state governments. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

110. (A)

Exp:

- Despite demands from different quarters, the government of India **has not yet designated cancer** as a notifiable disease in India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- A notified disease refers to a situation where all suspected, probable cases and deaths **must be legally reported** to the government by both private and public hospitals. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

111. (D)

Exp:

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana:

- The Union Government, inspired by the success of the **Aspirational Districts Programme**, launched the 'Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' in collaboration with states. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The programme will focus on **100 districts** characterized by low productivity, moderate crop intensity, and below-average credit parameters, utilizing the convergence of existing schemes and specialized measures. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- With a target to benefit 1.7 crore farmers, the programme **aims to boost agricultural productivity**, promote crop diversification, enhance post-harvest storage, improve irrigation facilities, and increase access to both long-term and short-term credit. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

112. (A)

Exp:

Global horizontal irradiance (GHI):

- Solargis, a Slovakia-based service provider, releases an annual report on **solar irradiance**, measuring the amount of sunlight that reaches a square meter of the Earth's surface.
 - ◆ It also tracks the difference between global horizontal irradiance (GHI) and long-term average (LTA) irradiance.
 - ◆ The report reveals a concerning trend for India, with the gap between GHI and LTA narrowing in recent years.
- **Global horizontal irradiance (GHI)** is a measure of the **total sunlight received by a unit area**, including direct and diffused light, which is used to determine the solar energy potential of a given spot.
- The report notes that "increased cloud cover, prolonged rainy periods, and extreme weather events **reduced the availability of sunlight**, particularly in regions like central India and the Western Ghats.
 - ◆ Regions such as Gujarat and Maharashtra, the key hubs for solar power experienced extended periods of below-average irradiation due to persistent cloud cover".
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



113. (B)

Exp:

Yemen:

- Yemen is located on the **southwestern tip of the Arabian Peninsula**, an area of land in Southwest Asia. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It shares the peninsula with the countries of Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Oman.
- Yemen is bordered by the **Red Sea to the west** and the Gulf of Aden to the south. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Eastern Yemen is home to part of the **fifth-largest desert in the world**, the Rub' al-Khali. Nicknamed "the Empty Quarter," the desert has the longest stretch of continuous sand in the world, covering much of the Arabian Peninsula. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



114. (C)

Exp:

Starlink:

- It is a **SpaceX project**, launched in 2019, to build a broadband network with a cluster of thousands of orbiting satellites.
- The project aims to **create a low-cost**, satellite-based broadband network that can provide global internet access.
- Unlike traditional satellite providers, Starlink uses a network of low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellites **that communicate with each other** to provide high-speed, low-latency internet. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Starlink differs from traditional satellite connections as its LEO constellation consists of satellites **only a few hundred kilometers** from Earth's surface. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

115. (B)

Exp:

European Union (EU):

- The EU was founded in 1951 after the **Second World War** by six countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **France** is the largest while Malta is the smallest EU country in terms of surface area. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Bulgaria and Romania** have most recently joined the EU. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

116. (D)

Exp:

PM Vishwakarma Scheme:

- PM Vishwakarma is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched in 2023 to provide comprehensive support to traditional artisans and craftspeople engaged in manual and tool-based work. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Collateral-free loans** are provided Rs 1 lakh (1st tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (2nd tranche) in the form of 'Enterprise Development Loans' with interest subvention to promote business growth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **National Steering Committee (NSC)**, formed by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), will make key policy decisions and approve modifications to the Scheme. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The committee meeting will be convened at least twice a year for a Scheme-level review, course corrections or to discuss any other agenda as deemed important in the opinion of the committee, as per the requirement.

117. (C)

Exp:

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):

- The OECD is an **intergovernmental economic organization**, founded to stimulate economic progress and world trade. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high **Human Development Index (HDI)** and are regarded as developed countries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India has been an **OECD Key Partner since 2007**, alongside Brazil, China, Indonesia, and South Africa. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

118. (A)

Exp:

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:

- Launched in 2024 by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** it aims to provide free electricity to **one crore** households by installing rooftop solar panels. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana will be implemented by the **National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA)** at the national level and State Implementation Agencies (SIA) at the state level. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **One Model Solar Village per district** will be created to promote solar energy, with eligible villages evaluated on renewable energy capacity six months after selection by the District Level Committee. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

119. (B)

Exp:

Project mBridge:

- **Project mBridge** aims to explore a **multi-central bank digital currency (CBDC)** platform shared among participating central banks and commercial banks, built on distributed ledger technology (DLT) to **enable instant cross-border payments and settlement.**
- Project mBridge was the result of **extensive collaboration starting in 2021** between the BIS Innovation Hub, the Bank of Thailand, the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates, the Digital Currency Institute of the People's Bank of China, and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. The Saudi Central Bank joined in 2024.
- The project **aimed to tackle some of the key inefficiencies** in cross-border payments, including high costs, low speed, and operational complexities.
- It also **addressed financial inclusion concerns**, particularly in jurisdictions where correspondent banking (which connects countries to the global financial system) has been in retreat, causing additional costs and delays.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

120. (A)

Exp:

Wular Lake:

- The lake is the **largest freshwater lake** in India and the second largest in Asia.
- It is located in the Bandipore district of Jammu and Kashmir and is **fed by the Jhelum River.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- The lake lies at an altitude of 1,580 m on the foothills of **Haramuk Mountain**, covering 200 sq. km, with a length of 24 km and a width of 10 km.
- The lake basin was formed by **tectonic activity** and is believed to be a remnant of the **ancient Satisar Lake**.
- In 1990, it was designated as a **Wetland of International Importance** under the Ramsar Convention.
- The lake is significant for wintering, staging, and breeding birds, with species such as the black-eared kite, Eurasian sparrow hawk, short-toed eagle, Himalayan golden eagle, and Himalayan monal observed around it.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

121. (B)

Exp:

Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA):

- It empowers the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** to investigate and prosecute cases under UAPA across the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- For example, the government ratified the **United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism in 2019** and amended the UAPA to incorporate its provisions. The amendment enabled the government to **criminalize the financing of terrorism** and impose obligations on financial institutions to report suspicious transactions.
- The Act assigns **absolute power to the central government**, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It has the death penalty and life imprisonment as the highest punishments.
- Under UAPA, **both Indian and foreign nationals** can be charged. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It applies to the offenders in the same manner, even if a crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.

122. (A)

Exp:

Drug trafficking:

- The terms Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle are often seen in news in the context of Drug trafficking.
- **The Golden Crescent:** It comprises Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, a major global hub for opium production and distribution.
 - ◆ It affects Indian states like Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

- **The Golden Triangle:** It is located at the intersection of Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand notorious for heroin production (Myanmar produces 80% of global heroin).

- **Hence, option A is correct.**

123. (A)

Exp:

Wheat:

- This is the **second most important cereal crop** in India after rice and the main food crop, in the north and north-western part of the country.
- Wheat is a **rabi crop** that requires a cool growing season and bright sunshine at the time of ripening. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Temperature:** Between 10-15°C (Sowing time) and 21-26°C (Ripening & Harvesting) with bright sunlight.
- **Rainfall:** Around 75-100 cm.
- **Soil Type:** Well-drained fertile loamy and clayey loamy (Ganga-Satluj plains and black soil region of the Deccan).
- India is the **world's second-biggest** wheat producer after China. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ But it accounts for less than 1% of the global wheat trade. It keeps a lot of it to provide subsidised food for the poor.

124. (D)

Exp:

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) envisages a National Ganga Council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India. **Hence, statement I is not correct.**
- The **Namami Gange Programme** is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of the National River Ganga. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct because Statement-I is not correct but statement-II is correct.**

125. (A)

Exp:

Heatwaves:

- Heatwaves are **prolonged periods of excessively hot weather** that can cause adverse impacts on human health, the environment, and the economy.
- Heatwave is considered when the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C for Plains and at least 30°C for Hilly regions.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- The criteria for the coastal station maximum temperature should be greater than or equal to 37°C.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

126. (A)

Exp:

- **India Stack** has transformed daily life through **Digital Public Infrastructure**, and now it's time to apply this success to tourism with an India Tourism Stack using existing systems like DigiLocker, DigiYatra, UPI, and ONDC.
- **DigiLocker** securely stores digital government documents, facilitating instant verification through QR codes, and can streamline processes like hotel check-ins, airport procedures, and foreign visitor data updates. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
- **DigiYatra**, a biometric-based system, enables paperless, contactless travel at airports and can be extended to tourist attractions and train stations for seamless access. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.
- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, India's instant payment system, can be extended to international credit cards and small transactions, promoting local spending and enhancing retail through seamless GST refunds for foreign tourists. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.
- **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, an open e-commerce protocol, can decentralize tourism services, reduce platform reliance, and incentivize sustainable tourism by supporting local businesses and integrating AI-driven recommendations. Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.

127. (C)

Exp:

Notifiable Disease in India:

- A notifiable disease is one that **must be legally reported to government** authorities by healthcare providers for real-time epidemiological tracking, resource allocation, and early intervention. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897** governs the notification and regulation of epidemic disease (rapid spread of disease to a large number) reporting. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** mandates notification for certain diseases to aid in global disease surveillance and control. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Examples: Infectious diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, and Covid-19 are typically notifiable due to their potential to spread.
 - ◆ However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) classified snakebite as a notifiable disease, despite it being non-communicable.

128. (B)

Exp:

Munshi-Ayyangar Formula:

- On 14th September 1949, the Constituent Assembly designated Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union of India.
- The **Munshi-Ayyangar formula**, a compromise between K M Munshi and N Gopalaswamy Ayyangar, resulted in **Article 343 of the Constitution** adopting Hindi in the Devanagari script as the **official language of the Union** while allowing English to continue for official purposes for fifteen years.
- As the 15-year period ended, protests over the fear of Hindi imposition led to the Official Languages Act 1963, which upheld English as an official language alongside Hindi.
- Hence, option B is correct.

129. (A)

Exp:

- The **'Maratha Military Landscapes'** is a network of 12 forts and fortifications that represent the extraordinary military system and strategy of the Maratha rulers in the 17th-19th centuries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ The **twelve parts of this nomination** are Salher Fort, Shivneri Fort, Lohgad, Khanderi Fort, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijay durg, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.
- The Maratha Military Landscapes of India are included in the Tentative List of World Heritage sites in 2021.
 - ◆ Maratha Military Landscapes is the **sixth cultural property nominated** for inclusion in the World Heritage List from Maharashtra. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

130. (D)

Exp:

Natural Farming (NF):

- It is a chemical-free traditional farming method, considered an agroecology-based diversified farming system that integrates crops, trees, and livestock with functional biodiversity. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Unlike organic farming, which allows external organic inputs, only on-farm inputs are used in natural farming. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) targets to cover 1 crore farmers and 7.5 lakh hectares area in two years. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

- ◆ To achieve this, **10,000 bio-resource centres** will be established and 30,000 krishi sakhis will be deployed to provide farmer-extension service at the grassroots level. Additionally, 2,000 natural farming demonstration farms will be developed across farmers' fields, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and Agricultural Universities.

131. (A)

Exp:

"Baby feet" Phenomenon:

- Astronauts returning from space often suffer from "baby feet" - **soft, hypersensitive soles, making walking on Earth painful** after months of floating in zero gravity.
- Back on Earth, **astronauts may feel sharp pain**, tingling, and discomfort when walking - like barefoot walking on gravel after months in soft slippers.
- Despite strict exercise in orbit, **astronauts lose leg and foot muscle mass**, making simple actions like standing and walking surprisingly difficult after return.
- **Microgravity confuses** the inner ear's balance system - back on Earth, astronauts often stumble, sway, and feel dizzy as their body relearns gravity.
- In space, fluids shift upward causing **"chicken legs" and puffy faces**; on Earth, legs swell painfully as circulation readjusts to gravity.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

132. (C)

Exp:

Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act), 2023:

- It empowers individuals to **control their personal data**, including rights to access, correction, and erasure. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Sensitive data must be stored and processed within India for security and enforcement. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It establishes the **Data Protection Board of India (DPBI)** for compliance and grievance handling. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

133. (B)

Exp:

Zonal Councils:

- The idea of the creation of Zonal Councils was mooted by the **first Prime Minister of India**, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in **1956** when during a debate on the report of the **States Re-organisation Commission**, he suggested that the States proposed to be reorganized may be grouped into four or five zones having an Advisory Council "to develop the habit of cooperative working" among these States. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The **North Eastern States** i.e. (i) Assam (ii) Arunachal Pradesh (iii) Manipur (iv) Tripura (v) Mizoram (vi) Meghalaya and (vii) Nagaland are not included in the Zonal Councils and their special problems are looked after by the **North Eastern Council**, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Each Zonal Council has set up a Standing Committee** consisting of Chief Secretaries of the member States of their respective Zonal Councils. These Standing Committees meet from time to time to resolve the issues or to do the necessary groundwork for further meetings of the Zonal Councils. Senior Officers of the Planning Commission and other Central Ministries are also associated with the meetings depending upon necessity. :

- ◆ The **Union Home Minister** is the Chairman of each of these Councils. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ One person 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.

134. (C)

Exp:

- **Articles 51(c), and 253** of the Constitution mandate respect for international treaties to which India is a party. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India has signed the **United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT)** but has yet to ratify it. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In an expansive interpretation of **Article 21 of the Constitution**, the Supreme Court has declared that torture in any form is an unacceptable infringement of the sacrosanct right to dignity and privacy (**D.K. Basu** (1997), **Puttaswamy** (2017), **Nambi Narayanan** (2018), **Romila Thapar** (2018)).

135. (A)

Exp:

Open Market Operations (OMOs):

- Open Market Operations (OMOs) are **market operations conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** by way of the **sale/purchase of government securities** to/from the market to adjust the rupee liquidity conditions in the market on a durable basis.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

- If there is excess liquidity, RBI resorts to the sale of securities and sucks out the rupee liquidity.
- Similarly, when the liquidity conditions are tight, RBI buys securities from the market, thereby releasing liquidity into the market.
- It is one of the **quantitative (to regulate or control the total volume of money) monetary policy tools** that are employed by the central bank of a country to control the money supply in the economy.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

136. (C)

Exp:

Remittances:

- Remittances are the **funds or goods** that migrants send back to their families in their home country to provide financial support. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They are an **important source of income** and foreign exchange for many developing countries, especially those in South Asia.
- Remittances can **help reduce poverty, improve living standards**, support education and health care, and stimulate economic activity.
- India sent out 18.7 million emigrants in 2023.
- In 2023, **India topped in remittances inflow list**, followed by Mexico (USD 66 billion), China (USD 50 billion), the Philippines (USD 39 billion), and Pakistan (USD 27 billion). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

137. (B)

Exp:

- The President appoints **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** and Election Commissioners (EC) as per the CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**
 - ◆ They have a **fixed tenure of six years**, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
 - ◆ The salary and conditions of service of the CEC and ECs will be equivalent to that of the Cabinet Secretary.
- The CEC can be removed from office only through a **process similar to that of a Supreme Court judge** by Parliament, while ECs can only be removed on the recommendation of the CEC. **Hence, statement-II is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

138. (A)

Exp:

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

- The CCI is a **multi-member body** consisting of a Chairperson and six members appointed by the Central Government.
- The members are **drawn from various fields**, including law, economics, business administration, and public affairs.
- The Chairperson and other Members shall be whole-time Members.
- The Commission operates through various divisions and employs a team of professionals to carry out its functions effectively.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a **statutory body** established under the Competition Act, 2002, with the objective of promoting fair competition in the market and preventing anti-competitive practices.
- The Competition Act, 2002, was enacted to replace the **Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969**, which had become outdated and ineffective in the rapidly changing economic landscape.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

139. (C)

Exp:

World Trade Organisation (WTO):

- The WTO's global system **lowers trade barriers** through negotiation and operates under the principle of non-discrimination. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Although the WTO is not a **UN-specialized agency**, it has maintained strong relations with the UN and its agencies since its establishment.
 - ◆ The WTO-UN relations are governed by the "**Arrangements for Effective Cooperation with other Intergovernmental Organizations-Relations Between the WTO and the United Nations**" signed on 15, November 1995. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The WTO's highest decision-making body is the **Ministerial Conference**, held biennially, bringing together all member countries and customs unions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

140. (B)

Exp:

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):

- The ICCPR is an important international human rights treaty that, along with other key documents, forms the International Bill of Human Rights. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- It obligates countries to **protect and preserve basic human rights** such as the right to life, freedom of speech, and gender equality. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Adopted by the **UN General Assembly in 1966**, ICCPR came into force in 1976 and has been ratified by 173 countries including **India in 1979**, undergone three previous reviews, with the latest in 2024. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

141. (A)

Exp:

Gulf of Mexico:

- It is the **world's largest gulf**.
- It is bordered by **Cuba, Mexico**, and the **United States**.
- It connects to the Atlantic Ocean via the Straits of Florida and to the Caribbean Sea via the Yucatán Channel.
- The Gulf of Mexico supplies 14% of US crude oil, and 5% of natural gas, and hosts 48% of the US petroleum refining capacity and 51% of the natural gas processing capacity.



- Hence, option A is correct.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

142. (C)

Exp:

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):

- The JJM was **launched in 2019** to provide drinking tap water supply to every rural household by 2024, targeting 55 liters per person per day. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.
 - ◆ It comes under the Jal Shakti Ministry.
- The fund-sharing pattern **between the Centre and states** is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

143. (A)

Exp:

Government Securities (G-Sec):

- G-Secs carry practically **no risk of default** and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ **Gilt-edged securities** are high-grade investment bonds offered by governments and large corporations as a means of borrowing funds.
- A G-Sec is a tradable instrument **issued by the Central Government** or the State Governments.
- A G-Sec is a type of debt instrument **issued by the government** to borrow money from the public to finance its Fiscal Deficit. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ A debt instrument is a financial instrument that represents a contractual obligation by the issuer to pay the holder a fixed amount of money, known as principal or face value, on a specified date.
 - ◆ It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation.
- Such securities are **short-term** (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year- presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91-day, 182 days and 364 days) or **long-term** (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).
- In India, the **Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds** or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs).
- **Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

144. (B)

Exp:

National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP):

- The NMP envisages an **aggregate monetisation potential of Rs 6 lakh crore** through the leasing of core assets of the Central government in sectors such as roads, railways, power, oil and gas pipelines, telecom, civil aviation, etc, over a four-year period (FY 2021-22 to 2024-25).
- The Monetization through NMP **only includes core assets, excluding monetization through disinvestment** of non-core assets. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Currently, **only assets of central government** line ministries and CPSEs in infrastructure sectors have been included.
- To streamline the process, the monetization of non-core assets, including land, real estate, and infrastructure, is being transferred from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) to the **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)** within the Ministry of Finance.
- This pipeline is intended to support investments under the **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)** worth Rs 111 lakh crore in six years through FY25.
 - ◆ The timeline for the NMP has been strategically set to be **co-terminus with the remaining period** under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

145. (A)

Exp:

Five Eyes Alliance:

- The Five Eyes is an **intelligence-sharing alliance** comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Originating during World War II, the alliance emerged from **UK-US cooperation** in deciphering German and Japanese codes.
- This alliance is based on a **series of secret agreements**, primarily the UKUSA Agreement (1946), which facilitates extensive surveillance, intelligence collection, and data sharing among member countries.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

146. (C)

Exp:

Heatwaves:

- Heat wave is considered if the maximum temperature of a station **reaches at least 40°C or more for Plains** and at least 30°C or more for Hilly regions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- High temperature in itself is not fatal but the **combination of high temperature and high humidity**, referred to as the wet bulb temperature, is what makes heatwaves deadly. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **High moisture content** in the atmosphere makes it difficult for the sweat to evaporate and bodies to cool down, as a result of which the internal body temperature increases sharply and is often fatal.

147. (C)

Exp:

Budget:

- The Constitution refers to the budget as the 'annual financial statement'. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In other words, the term 'budget' has **no where been used** in the Constitution. It is the popular name for the 'annual financial statement' that has been dealt with in **Article 112 of the Constitution.**
- The Railway Budget was separated from the General Budget in 1924 on the recommendations of the **Acworth Committee Report (1921)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ In 2017, the Central Government merged the railway budget into the general budget. Hence, there is now only one budget for the Government of India i.e., Union Budget.
- No money shall be withdrawn from the **Consolidated Fund of India** except under appropriation made by law. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

148. (B)

Exp:

Indian Ocean Rim Association:

- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an intergovernmental organisation established to **promote economic cooperation and regional integration** among countries bordering the Indian Ocean. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- IORA member states work on various initiatives related to **trade, investment, and sustainable development** in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
- Membership is **open to all sovereign states** of the Indian Ocean Rim willing to subscribe to the principles and objectives of the Charter. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- IORA's apex body is the Council of (Foreign) Ministers (COM) which meets annually. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

149. (A)

Exp:

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj:

- He was born to **Shahaji Bhonsle, a Maratha general** who held the jagirs of Pune and Supe under the Bijapur Sultanate

and Jijabai, a pious woman whose religious qualities had a profound influence on him.

- He displayed his military zeal for the **first time in 1645** when as a teenager, he successfully got control of the Torna Fort which was under Bijapur.
- He raided Mughal territory near Ahmednagar and in Junnar, 1657.
- He took on the titles of Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

150. (A)

Exp:

Critical Minerals:

- Critical minerals are those minerals that are **essential for the economic development** and national security of a country.
- **India's National Critical Mineral Mission** encompasses all stages of the value chain, including mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The mission aims to **intensify the exploration of critical minerals** within the country and in its offshore areas.
 - ◆ It aims to create a fast-track regulatory approval process for critical mineral mining projects. Additionally, the mission offers financial incentives for critical mineral exploration and promotes the recovery of these minerals from overburden and tailings.
- The lack of availability of these minerals or even the concentration of existence, extraction, or processing of these minerals in a few geographical locations may lead to **supply chain vulnerability and disruption.**
- Today, about **70-80% of rare earth elements (REE)** extraction and processing are controlled by China. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

151. (C)

Exp:

- The appointment of judges to the High Courts **follows a procedure based on the collegium system**, which was established through various landmark cases, such as the **Second Judges Case (1993)** and further clarified in the **Third Judges Case (1998)**.
- The collegium system empowers the judiciary to **recommend appointments and transfers of judges** to the Supreme Court and High Courts, with the government having a limited role. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- After the **Third Judges Case (1998)**, the central government and the SC formalised High Court judge appointments through a Memorandum of Procedure (MoP). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

152. (D)

Exp:

Iran:

- Iran, once known as Persia, is located at the **intersection of Central Asia**, South Asia, and the Middle Eastern Arab states, a position that has made it historically significant, especially due to its **access to the Persian Gulf** in the south. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Much of Iran is isolated from the rest of the world by its stunning but often harsh landscape, with high mountains to the west **serving as a natural barrier** and vast, dry deserts stretching across the east. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In the north, **Iran has a narrow, fertile region** along the Caspian Sea, while in the south, lowlands border the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, with most of the population living along the edges of the central plateau. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



153. (C)

Exp:

Census:

- India's **first synchronised census** occurred in **1881** under W.C. Plowden, the then Census Commissioner of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While the **Census of India Act, 1948** provides the legal framework, it doesn't specify a mandatory frequency. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The decennial pattern is a convention rather than a constitutional requirement.
- The **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India**, operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs, oversees the responsibility of conducting this decadal enumeration exercise. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

154. (A)

Exp:

Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB):

- SGBs are government securities **denominated in grams of gold**. They are substitutes for holding physical gold.
- Investors have to pay the **issue price in cash** and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** issues the Bond on behalf of the Government of India.
- The quantity of gold for which the investor pays is protected since he receives the ongoing market price at the time of redemption/ premature redemption.
- The SGB offers a **superior alternative** to holding gold in physical form. The risks and costs of storage are eliminated.
- Investors are assured of the market value of gold at the time of maturity and periodical interest.
- SGB is free from issues like making charges and purity in the case of gold in jewellery form. The bonds are held in the books of the RBI or in demat form eliminating the risk of loss of scrip etc.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

155. (A)

Exp:

- The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** allows developing countries like India to protect their agricultural sector through higher tariffs and subsidies. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The **principle of "non-reciprocity"** states that developed countries should not expect equal market access in return for concessions granted to developing economies. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- India resists farm market liberalization, citing **weaker financial resilience** among its farmers. It is likely to push back against US demands, emphasizing WTO rules and farmer security concerns.
- **Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

156. (D)

Exp:

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

- NATO was established on April 4, 1949, with the signing of the **North Atlantic Treaty** in Washington, D.C. by 12 founding member countries from Europe and North America.

- ◆ During the Cold War, NATO served as a deterrent against Soviet expansionism, with the US providing significant military support to its European allies.
- The original **12 founding members** of NATO were **Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France**, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. **Finland** is the **31st member of NATO**.
- NATO has expanded since its founding, with new member countries joining in multiple rounds. The alliance currently consists of 32 member countries.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

157. (B)

Exp:

Positive Liberty:

- Positive liberty focuses on **'freedom to' act** in ways that **promote self-development** and fulfillment.
- This freedom is about creating the necessary conditions for an individual to **fully realize their potential**.
- Positive liberty argues that individuals can only be truly free when they have the **ability to govern themselves and participate in society**.
- It addresses the question, "Who governs me?" with the ideal answer being, "I govern myself."
- Positive liberty discussions have deep roots in the works of thinkers such as Rousseau, Hegel, Marx, Gandhi, and Aurobindo.
 - ◆ It draws from their ideas and the importance of improving the relationship between the individual and society.
- To fully develop, individuals need enabling conditions in several areas:
 - ◆ **Material conditions:** No poverty or unemployment, and access to resources to meet needs.
 - ◆ **Political conditions:** Access to decision-making processes and the ability to influence laws.
 - ◆ **Social conditions:** Opportunities for education and personal growth to lead a good life.
 - ◆ **Nature of Society:** Positive liberty emphasizes that true freedom can only exist within society, and society should be structured to enable individual development.
- Unlike negative liberty, which focuses on non-interference, positive liberty aims to improve societal conditions to support individuals' growth.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

158. (B)

Exp:

Delimitation:

- Delimitation means the **process of fixing the number of seats** and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The last delimitation exercise that changed the **state-wise composition of the Lok Sabha** was completed in 1976 and done based on the 1971 census. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- This 'delimitation process' is performed by the '**Delimitation Commission**' that is set up under an act of Parliament.
- Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.
- The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.
- Delimitation also **includes determining the seats** to be reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

159. (A)

Exp:

Mauritius:

- Mauritius is an island in the Indian Ocean, situated to the **east of Madagascar**, approximately 2,400 kilometers (just under 1,500 miles) off the east coast of Africa.
- The island lies in the **Southern Hemisphere**, just above the Tropic of Capricorn.
- Despite its location in the Indian Ocean, Mauritius is considered an African island nation and is officially known as the Republic of Mauritius.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

160. (A)

Exp:

Potassium or potash (K):

- Potassium or potash (K) is the **third primary nutrient** other than nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P).
- It plays an important role in yield and quality of crops.
- It helps in the **development of roots** and stems and increase in use efficiency of water and nutrients.

- It provides **plants resistance from disease** and stress including drought, high temperature, and salinity.
- On the quality front, **potash increases the sugar**, starch, and protein content of the crops.
- Potash is applied through products like **Muriate of Potash (MOP)**, Sulphate of Potash (SOP), or complexes.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

161. (A)

Exp:

Impeachment Process:

- The impeachment process for a Supreme Court judge is outlined in **Article 124(4)** of the Constitution of India, with **Article 218** extending the same provisions to High Court judges. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- For an impeachment motion against an SC or HC judge to be accepted, a special majority of at least **two-thirds of those "present and voting"** in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha must vote in favour of removing the judge and the number of votes in favour must be **more than 50% of the "total membership"** of each House. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- If Parliament passes such a vote, the President will pass an order for the removal of the judge. In cases where Parliament is dissolved or its term ends, a motion for the impeachment of a judge would fail.

162. (B)

Exp:

Food Waste Index Report 2024:

- Recently, the Food Waste Index Report 2024, was released jointly by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme), a UK-based non-profit organisation, stressed the **importance of expanding and strengthening data infrastructure** to enable the tracking and monitoring of food waste.
- The report defines "food waste" as "food and the associated inedible parts removed from the human food supply chain".
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

163. (C)

Exp:

Remittances:

- Remittances are **funds sent by overseas workers** to support families back home, playing a key role in household income and the economy.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- In 2024, India received a record USD 129.1 billion in remittances, the **highest ever for any country in a single year**, accounting for 14.3% of global remittances. Mexico and China followed as the next largest recipients. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)**, 1999 regulates all foreign exchange transactions in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Under the **Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS)**, a part of FEMA, Indian residents can remit up to USD 250,000 per year for personal and investment purposes, with higher amounts requiring RBI approval.
 - ◆ However, LRS prohibits remittances for gambling, speculative trading, and terrorist financing.
- Remittances are recorded under the **current account** of the Balance of Payments (BoP) as unilateral transfers. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ They represent foreign income inflows that do not create liabilities.

164. (B)

Exp:

- **Census data are essential for delimitation**, guiding the re-drawing of electoral boundaries based on geographical contiguity, population density, and socio-economic factors. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The President appoints a Delimitation Commission headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court and comprising the Chief Election Commissioner or his representative, and the State Election Commissioners. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- In addition, associate (or co-opted) members are appointed for each state or Union Territory undergoing delimitation. These members are sitting MPs appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha and MLAs appointed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly concerned.
- **Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

165. (D)

Exp:

Coal Resources:

- The Coal resources of India are available in **older Gondwana Formations of peninsular India** and younger tertiary

formations of the north-eastern region. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Peat is the **first stage of transformation** from wood to coal with low calorific value and less than 40% carbon content. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Lignite carries 40 to 55% carbon content and is often brown in colour with high moisture content thus, gives smoke when burnt. Rajasthan, Lakhimpur (Assam), and Tamil Nadu have deposits of Lignite.
- **Bituminous has a low level of moisture** content with 60 to 80% of carbon content and has a high calorific value. Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh have deposits of Bituminous.
- **Anthracite** is the best quality of coal with the highest calorific value and carries 80 to 95% carbon content. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

166. (C)

Exp:

SARFAESI Act, 2002:

- The SARFAESI Act, 2002, or the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, allows banks and financial institutions to recover their dues efficiently without needing court intervention. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It helps to purchase and manage **NPAs (Non-Performing Assets)** by establishing ARCs (Asset Reconstruction Company) to retrieve such assets from the banks. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

167. (A)

Exp:

Lal Bahadur Shastri:

- Shastri was born on 2nd October 1904, in Mughalsarai, near Varanasi.
- A key figure in India's freedom struggle, Shastri was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi.
- He was known for his integrity, humility, and dedication to public service, rising through the ranks of the Indian National Congress.
- He gave the slogan "**Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**," emphasising the importance of both soldiers and farmers in nation-building.
- He was the first person to be **posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna (1966)**.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- He died suddenly in Tashkent on 11th January 1966, shortly after signing the Tashkent Declaration.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

168. (C)

Exp:

Dumping:

- Dumping occurs **when a country sells goods** in another country's market at a price lower than what is charged in its own domestic market. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under WTO rules, a country can **impose anti-dumping duties** to offset the effects of dumping, up to the margin of dumping, which is the difference between the normal value and the export price. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The anti-dumping duty is levied **over and above the normal customs duty** chargeable on importing the goods. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- In India, while the Department of Commerce recommends the anti-dumping duty, the **Ministry of Finance levies them.** The CBIC has to accept or refuse DGTR's anti-dumping duty recommendation within three months from the date of the final hearing in such cases.

169. (B)

Exp:

Defamation:

- **Article 19** of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, with reasonable restrictions under **Article 19(2)** for issues like contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to offenses. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In India, **defamation can be a civil wrong** or a criminal offense, depending on the objective it seeks to achieve. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ A Civil Wrong sees a wrong being redressed with **monetary compensation**, while **criminal law seeks to punish a wrongdoer** and send a message to others not to commit such acts, with a jail term.
 - ◆ In a **Criminal Offense**, **defamation has to be established** beyond a reasonable doubt, but in a civil defamation suit, damages can be awarded based on probabilities.
- It is argued that the defamation laws are a violation of Fundamental Rights guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution.
 - ◆ The Supreme Court has ruled that the criminal provisions of defamation are **constitutionally valid** and are **not in conflict** with the right to free speech. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

170. (D)

Exp:

Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO):

- The CDSCO under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the **National Regulatory Authority (NRA)** of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- CDSCO is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government of India under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- **CDSCO along with state regulators**, is jointly responsible for the grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs such as blood and blood products, I.V. Fluids, vaccines, and Sera. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

171. (A)

Exp:

Round Tripping:

- Round tripping refers to **money that leaves the country** through various channels and makes its way back into the country, often as foreign investment.
- **Money laundering** is concealing or disguising the identity of **illegally obtained proceeds** so that they appear to have **originated from legitimate sources**. It is frequently a component of other, much more serious, crimes such as drug trafficking, robbery, or extortion.
- **Shell companies** are typically **corporate entities** with no active business operations or significant assets in their possession. The government views them with suspicion as some could be used for money laundering, tax evasion, and other illegal activities.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

172. (C)

Exp:

Lead Poisoning:

- It is caused by the **absorption of Lead** in the system and is characterised especially by fatigue, abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhoea, etc. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Children are particularly **vulnerable to lead poisoning** because their bodies are still developing. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In India, there is currently **no dedicated legislative framework** that specifically targets its prevention and mitigation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

173. (B)

Exp:

Centralized Processing for Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE):

- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** set up a Centralized Processing for Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE), the exclusive authority responsible for handling the entire strike-off process.
- This is a **transparent system** with no physical interface with applicants.
- The C-PACE will also benefit the stakeholders by **providing hassle-free filing**, timely and process-bound striking off their company's names from the Register.
- The setting up of the C-PACE is part of the several measures taken by MCA in the recent past towards **Ease of Doing Business** and ease of exit for the Companies.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

174. (C)

Exp:

Cooperative Banks:

- Cooperative banks in India function under a **dual regulatory framework**, dividing banking and managerial oversight between the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- RBI can **revoke the license** of a Co-operative Bank if it ceases banking operations or fails to meet the conditions set by RBI. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Cooperative banks are **more resilient to economic downturns**, as they avoid high-risk assets, demonstrated by UCBs during the 2008 global financial crisis. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

175. (B)

Exp:

Equalization Levy:

- Equalisation Levy, introduced in 2016, is a **direct tax imposed on foreign digital service** providers to tax income generated from digital transactions in India.
- It aims to **ensure fair taxation of digital businesses** that do not have a physical presence in India, aligning with the BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) Action Plan to curb tax avoidance.
- The Equalisation Levy initially applied to online ads (6%) and was expanded in 2020 to cover digital services and e-commerce (2%), with the latter abolished in August 2024.

- It **does not apply** if the non-resident has a **permanent office in India**, payments are below Rs 1 lakh, or the income is covered under Section 10(50) to prevent double taxation.

- **Hence, option B is correct.**

176. (C)

Exp:

Mission LiFE:

- **Mission LiFE's green credit programme** incentivises environmental initiatives by allowing individuals, farmer organisations, cooperatives, and enterprises to earn and trade green credits. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Water green credits** under Mission LiFE aim to **promote water conservation**, rainwater harvesting, efficient usage, and wastewater treatment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The water green credit system **allows savings from baseline water consumption** to be converted into tradable units that can be purchased by entities exceeding their water usage obligations. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- This market-driven mechanism **mirrors carbon credit systems** and encourages efficiency, restoration, and economic alignment with ecological responsibility.

177. (D)

Exp:

National Education Policy 2020:

- It transitions from the **10+2 to a 5+3+3+4 system**, including children **aged 3-6 in the school curriculum** with an emphasis on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It emphasises support for Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs), children with disabilities, and the establishment of "**Bal Bhavans**." **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It establishes the **National Research Foundation** to enhance research culture and capacity. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

178. (B)

Exp:

Finance Bill:

- It is introduced in the **Lok Sabha** after the presentation of the annual budget is passed by the House. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It contains provisions involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India but does not include any of the matters mentioned in Article 110.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- It is governed by the same legislative procedure which is applicable to an ordinary bill that is
- It can be **either rejected or amended** by the Rajya Sabha. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- In case of a disagreement between the two Houses over such a bill, the President can **summon a joint sitting** of the two Houses to resolve the deadlock.
- When the bill is presented to the President, he can **either give his assent to the bill or withhold his assent** to the bill or return the bill for reconsideration of the Houses.
- All financial bills are **not money bills**, but all money bills are financial bills. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Only those financial bills are money bills that contain exclusively those matters which are mentioned in Article 110.

179. (C)

Exp:

- **National Science Day (NSD)** is celebrated annually on 28th February to honor **Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata (CV) Raman's** discovery of the Raman Effect in 1928. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Raman Effect** refers to the phenomenon where **incoming excitation light interacts with a sample**, undergoes a change in wavelength, and generates scattered light due to interactions with molecular vibrations. This phenomenon is known as Raman scattering.
- Raman Effect forms the **basis of Raman Spectroscopy** (analyzing molecular vibrations), widely used to study material properties. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

180. (A)

Exp:

Sahyog Portal:

- The Sahyog Portal is an **initiative to enhance cooperation between government agencies and social media intermediaries** to create a safer cyberspace.
- It was designed to facilitate the **reporting and removal of unlawful content online**, as well as streamline data requests from law enforcement agencies.
- The portal allows collaboration between authorized agencies from the Central and state governments to work together with social media platforms to address cybercrime effectively.

- Among the major challenges to the adoption of the Sahyog Portal is the **resistance from X, the popular social media platform** in the country.
- Notably, 38 other intermediaries, including Meta, WhatsApp, Apple, Amazon, Telegram, and Instagram, have been "onboarded", while 15 intermediaries are in the process. Approval process is underway to onboard cryptocurrency exchanges, it is learnt.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

181. (B)

Exp:

World Water Day:

- It aims to raise awareness about water conservation and its sustainable management. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was conceptualized at the 1992 Rio Summit and officially designated to be observed annually by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1993. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It aligns with **UN Sustainable Development Goal 6, which talks about ensuring water and sanitation** for all by 2030. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

182. (C)

Exp:

- The **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)** regulates foreign investments in India, with the **Directorate of Enforcement (ED)** authorized to conduct search and seizure operations under Section 37(3) of FEMA. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Supreme Court of India in **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)** has recognized the **right to privacy** as a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

183. (A)

Exp:

Black Sea:

- It is also known as the Euxine Sea.
- **Bordering Countries:** Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania.
- **Surrounding Mountains:** Pontic (south), Caucasus (east), and Crimean Mountains (north).
- **Connections:** The Turkish Straits System (TSS) connects the Marmara, Black, and Mediterranean seas through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits.
- **Extension:** Sea of Azov, linked by the Strait of Kerch.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:



➤ Hence, option A is correct.

184. (C)

Exp:

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:

- It aims to **ensure food and nutritional security** through a human life cycle approach, providing access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices, enabling individuals to live with dignity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It covers **75% of the rural population** and up to 50% of the urban population under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), benefiting 67% of India's total population. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Meal and maternity benefits of at least Rs. 6,000 for pregnant women and lactating mothers is provided under the scheme. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

185. (C)

Exp:

Sections of Information Technology Act, 2000:

- **Section 69A:** It empowers the centre to block public access to online content under specific circumstances to **protect national security, sovereignty, and public order. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Section 79:** It grants **"safe harbor" protection** to online intermediaries, protecting them from liability for third-party content if they act neutrally. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Under Section 79(3)(b),** intermediaries lose this immunity if they fail to act expeditiously on notices regarding illegal content.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

186. (A)

Exp:

India and Myanmar:

- Much of India's northeast region was under Burmese occupation until the **Treaty of Yandaboo** in 1826 established the current India-Myanmar boundary.
 - ◆ It ended the First Anglo-Burmese War (1824-1826).
- However, the border separated communities with shared ethnicity and culture, including the **Nagas in Nagaland and Manipur**, as well as the Kuki-Chin-Mizo communities in Manipur and Mizoram, without their agreement.
- Currently, **India and Myanmar** share a **1,643 km border across Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh**, of which only 10 km is fenced, in Manipur.



- Hence, option A is correct.

187. (C)

Exp:

Hybrid Seeds:

- A hybrid seed is produced by **controlled Cross-Pollination** between different varieties of the same plant. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The transfer of pollen grains from the anther of one plant to the stigma of another different plant is called **cross-pollination**.
- These are chosen to enhance the characteristics of the resulting plants including better yield, greater uniformity, and disease resistance.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

Note:

- Since all hybrid seeds in a packet have the same parent plants, which means they will all **grow into uniform plants**.
- These are often **easier and faster** to grow than Heirloom Seeds. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Heirloom Seeds** come from open-pollinated plants, meaning the plants were pollinated by natural mechanisms like wind, insects, or birds, rather than through controlled cross-breeding or hybridization.
- Hybrid seeds are **sensitive to temperature** and rain, posing a threat to India's crop diversity.
 - ◆ **Unlike traditional varieties** that adapt to local climates, hybrids require specific conditions for optimal growth. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

188. (A)

Exp:

- **Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPP)** are parties which have been unable to secure a sufficient percentage of votes in the Assembly or Lok Sabha polls to become either State or national parties. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A party is recognised as a **national party** if any of the following conditions is fulfilled:
 - ◆ A party is recognised **as a national party if it wins 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha** at a general election, and these candidates are elected from three states. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ If it secures 6% of valid votes polled in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the legislative assembly, and in addition, it wins four seats in the Lok Sabha from any state or states, or
 - ◆ If it is recognised as a state party in four states.
- A party is recognised as a **state party** in a state **if it wins 1 seat in the Lok Sabha** for every 25 seats or any fraction thereof allotted to the state at a general election to the Lok Sabha from the state concerned. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

189. (D)

Exp:

Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR):

- The LCR is a ratio that **measures the proportion of high-quality liquid assets (HQLA)** that financial institutions hold. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The LCR was introduced as part of the **Basel III reforms** following the 2008 global financial crisis. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ Banks covered under the LCR framework **must maintain a stock of HQLA to cover 30 days'** net outflow under stressed conditions, with a minimum LCR of 100% since 1st January 2019.
- HQLA are liquid assets that can be **sold immediately or converted to cash** at little or no loss of value. HQLA can also be used as collateral for borrowing purposes.
 - ◆ HQLAs include cash, short-term bonds, and other cash equivalents, as well as excess Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) assets, and the Facility to Avail Liquidity for Liquidity Coverage Ratio (FALLCR) (set at 15% of the bank's deposits since 1st April 2020).
- The LCR is a **preventive measure** that can be beneficial for a bank during a financial crisis.
- The LCR **may lead to banks holding more cash** and issuing fewer loans, potentially slowing economic growth. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

190. (B)

Exp:

Collegium System:

- The term collegium system is **not mentioned** in the Constitution of India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The collegium system of appointing judges evolved through **three significant verdicts of the Supreme Court (SC)**, namely the First, Second, and Third Judges Cases.
- Although the Constitution does not mention the collegium system, these three cases debated the language of **Articles 124(2) and 217(1)**, which deal with the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts, respectively. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The cases established that the collegium, headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), will be given primacy when it comes to appointing judges to the higher judiciary.
 - ◆ The court reasoned that because it **preserves judicial independence**, the judiciary's primacy in appointing judges is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.
- The SC collegium is headed by the CJI and comprises the **four other senior-most judges**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Since 1993**, this collegium has made recommendations to the government for the appointment of judges to the SC, the appointment of Chief Justices of the High Courts, and the transfer of judges of High Courts.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note:

- A three-member collegium, headed by the CJI and comprising the **two senior-most judges of that court**, makes recommendations for the appointment of judges to the High Courts.

191. (C)

Exp:

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):

- It is a **policy tool aimed at reducing Carbon Emissions** by ensuring that imported goods are subject to the same carbon costs as products produced within the European Union. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- CBAM is part of the **"Fit for 55 in 2030 package"**, which is the EU's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels in line with the European Climate Law. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The CBAM will be implemented by requiring importers to declare the quantity of goods imported into the EU and their embedded **Greenhouse Gas (GHG)** emissions on an annual basis.

- To offset these emissions, importers will need to **surrender a corresponding number of CBAM certificates**, the price of which will be based on the weekly average auction price of EU Emission Trading System (ETS) allowances in €/tonne of CO₂ emitted.

192. (A)

Exp:

Free Movement Regime:

- The FMR was established in **2018**.
- It is a mechanism created under **India's Act East policy for Myanmar**, allowing cross-border movement up to 16 km without a visa.
- Individuals residing at the border need a one-year border pass for stays lasting up to two weeks in the neighbouring country.
- It aimed to **facilitate local border trade**, improve access to education and healthcare for border residents, and strengthen diplomatic ties.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Note: