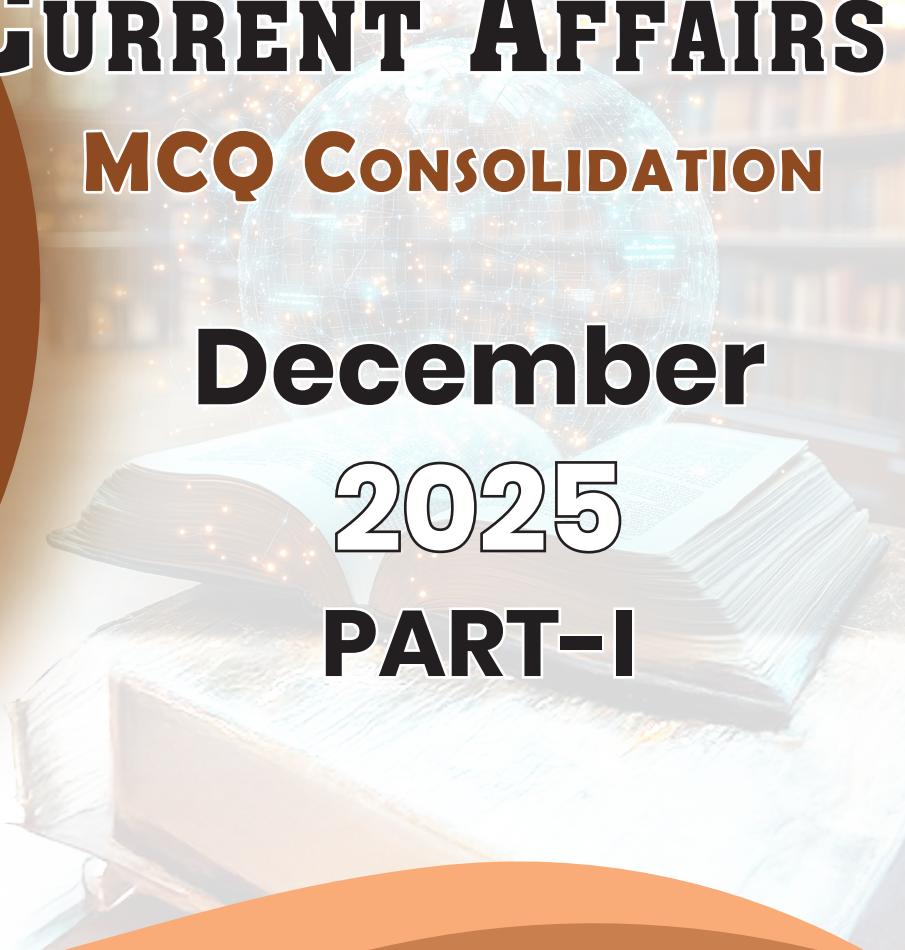
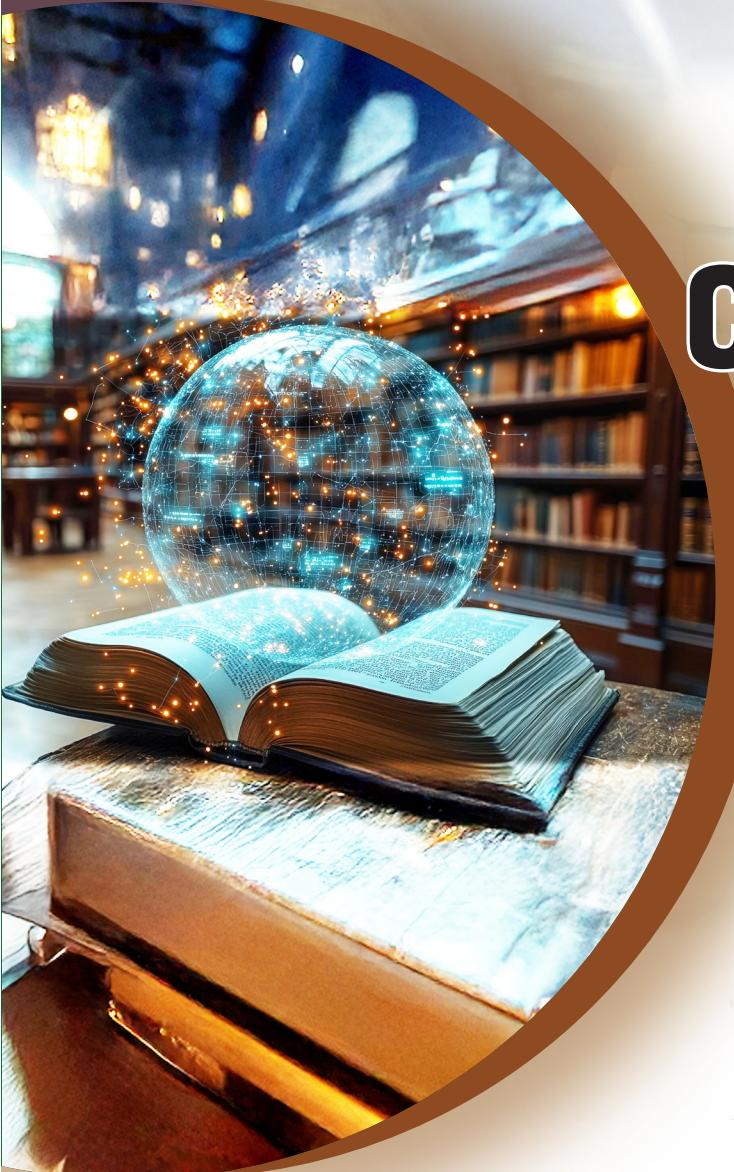




CURRENT AFFAIRS

MCQ CONSOLIDATION

December
2025
PART-I



 C-171/2, Block-A, Sector-15, Noida	 641, Mukherjee Nagar, Opp. Signature View Apartment, New Delhi	 21, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh New Delhi	 Tashkent Marg, Civil Lines, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh	 Tonk Road, Vasundhra Colony, Jaipur, Rajasthan	 Burlington Arcade Mall, Burlington Chauraha, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow	 12, Main AB Road, Bhawar Kuan, Indore, Madhya Pradesh	 Crystal Heights, Circular Road, Lalpur Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand	 Jindal House, SP Verma Rd, Patna
---	--	--	--	--	---	---	---	--

Practice Question

Polity & Governance

1. Consider the following:

1. Federalism
2. Judicial Review
3. Free and Fair Elections
4. Parliamentary Sovereignty
5. Independence of the Judiciary

Which of the above are recognised as part of the Basic structure doctrine of the Indian Constitution?

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

2. With reference to the appointment of judges in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under Article 124 of the Constitution.
2. The Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed by the President solely on the advice of the Governor of the State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following pairs related to major committees and their recommendations on the office of the Governor:

Committee	Recommendation
1. Sarkaria Commission (1988)	An intergovernmental council should resolve center-state issues , with Article 356 used sparingly and the state assembly dissolved only with Parliament's approval .
2. Venkatachaliah Commission (2002)	Governors should complete their five-year term , with early removal requiring consultation with the Chief Minister .

3. Punchhi Commission (2010)

The Governor's **Chancellor role** should be limited to **constitutional duties**.

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

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

4. Match the committees with their key recommendations:

Column A	Column B
a. Gore Committee (1971)	1. Proposed witness protection program and a central law enforcement agency
b. Malimath Committee (2003)	2. Emphasized human rights, ethics, and service-oriented policing
c. Ribeiro Committee (1998)	3. Recommended independent oversight, modern training, and community policing

Select the correct answer:

- A. a-2, b-1, c-3
- B. a-3, b-1, c-2
- C. a-1, b-2, c-3
- D. a-2, b-3, c-1

5. Consider the following statements regarding 'Digital Arrest' scams:

1. Digital arrest is a cyber fraud where scammers impersonate law enforcement to extort money.
2. Digital arrest scams primarily involve phishing emails targeting corporate accounts.
3. Victims are often threatened with arrest or freezing of bank accounts using fake documents.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



SCAN ME

UPSC
Classroom
Courses



SCAN ME

IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



SCAN ME

Drishti
Learning
App



SCAN ME

- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

6. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The authority to terminate Indian citizenship under Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, is vested solely in the Central Government.
- 2. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is empowered under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, to verify the citizenship status of applicants for the purpose of preparing or revising electoral rolls.

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

7. Consider the following schemes:

- 1. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
- 2. Mid-Day Meal Scheme
- 3. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
- 4. Teacher Education (TE)

Which of the schemes were merged under Samagra Shiksha?

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

8. Consider the following statements regarding Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Communities:

- 1. Denotified Tribes were branded as "criminal tribes" under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871 during the colonial period.
- 2. The Idate Commission recommended the setting up of the Development Welfare Board for Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Communities.
- 3. SEED Scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only

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

9. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Thalassemia is an inherited disorder characterised by abnormal hemoglobin structure.
- 2. Constant Spring, Cooley's Anemia, and Hemoglobin Bart Hydrops Fetalis are types of Thalassemia.

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

10. Consider the following statements regarding the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

- 1. The NEP 2020 introduces a new school curriculum structure of 5+3+3+4, where the foundational stage (ages 3-8) is entirely play-based.
- 2. A key target of the policy is to achieve a 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in school education from pre-primary to secondary level by 2035.

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

11. Consider the following statements regarding the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:

- 1. The Act provides for the establishment of Exclusive Special Courts and Exclusive Special Public Prosecutors for speedy trial of offences.
- 2. Anticipatory bail is completely prohibited under the Act in all circumstances.
- 3. Only an officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) can investigate offences under the Act.

Which of the following statement is/are correct:

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



12. Consider the following statement about PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana :

1. It was launched in February 2024 to install rooftop solar systems in one crore households by 2027.
2. The scheme aims to provide up to 200 units of free electricity per household per month through rooftop solar systems.
3. Model Solar Villages under the scheme are allowed only in districts where the population is above 5000 except in special category states where norms are relaxed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. Consider the following statements related to the Human Rights Day:

1. Human Rights Day is celebrated on 10th December every year to mark the adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
2. The 2025 theme is "Everyday Essentials", focusing on access to basic services as a human right.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

14. Consider the following statements related to National Commission for Minorities (NCM):

1. The Chairperson of the NCM is appointed by the President of India based on recommendations of a selection committee.
2. The Commission consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and 10 Members from eminent backgrounds.
3. The NCM Act 1992 mandates that 5 members of the Commission must belong to notified minority communities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only

- C. 2 and 3 only

- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

15. With reference to the Sujalam Bharat App, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to create a unique digital identity for every rural water supply scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission.
2. It has been developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
3. It is integrated with the PM Gati Shakti GIS platform for geospatial mapping of water infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

16. With reference to reforms under the amended Waqf rules and the UMEED Portal, consider the following statements.

1. Properties registered in a woman's name cannot be designated as Waqf property.
2. Unregistered properties after the deadline of registration will be transferred to the State Revenue Department.
3. Women, children, and EWS groups remain eligible as beneficiaries under Waqf.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

International Relations

17. With reference to the Durand Line, consider the following statements:

1. The establishment of this line created the Wakhan Corridor, serving as a buffer zone between the British and Russian Empires during the "Great Game."

2. The Third Anglo-Afghan War (1919) ended with the Treaty of Rawalpindi, which restored Afghanistan's foreign affairs but reaffirmed the Durand Line.
3. Since their return to power, the Taliban administration has formally recognized the Durand Line as the permanent international border to resolve the Pashtunistan issue.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

18. Operation Cactus, often cited in India–Maldives defence relations, refers to:

- A. India's training support for Maldivian naval personnel under the Ekatha programme
- B. India's intervention to foil a coup attempt in the Maldives
- C. India's deployment of naval assets after the 2004 tsunami
- D. A joint anti-piracy mission in the Arabian Sea

19. With reference to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), consider the following statements:

1. It prohibits the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, and use of biological and toxin weapons.
2. It is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
3. The BWC supplements the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which had banned both the use and production of biological weapons.

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

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

20. Consider the following statements regarding Exercise Harimau Shakti:

1. It is a bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army and the Malaysian Army.

2. The 2025 edition is being held in Rajasthan between the Dogra Regiment and Malaysia's 25th Battalion Royal Malaysian Army.

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

21. With reference to India–Russia defence cooperation, consider the following statements:

1. The 2021–2031 Military-Technical Cooperation Agreement guides joint research and development, and co-production of defence systems.
2. The S-400 air defence system is jointly developed by India and Russia.
3. India–Russia defence cooperation includes licensed production of platforms such as Su-30MKI and T-90 tanks in India.
4. Exercise INDRA is a trilateral military exercise involving India, Russia, and China.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. All Four

22. With reference to India–Russia defence cooperation, consider the following statements:

1. The 2021–2031 Military-Technical Cooperation Agreement guides joint research and development, and co-production of defence systems.
2. The S-400 air defence system is jointly developed by India and Russia.
3. India–Russia defence cooperation includes licensed production of platforms such as Su-30MKI and T-90 tanks in India.
4. Exercise INDRA is a trilateral military exercise involving India, Russia, and China.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two



C. Only Three
D. All Four

23. Consider the following pairs:

INTERPOL Notice	Purpose
1. Blue Corner Notice	To seek arrest of fugitives for prosecution
2. Yellow Notice	To locate missing persons
3. Black Notice	To seek information on unidentified bodies.

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

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

24. Which of the following countries share a land border with Italy?

1. France
2. Switzerland
3. Germany
4. Slovenia

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

Economy

25. Consider the following statements regarding the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 2025 assessment of India's data quality:

1. The IMF's Data Adequacy Assessment rates data quality on a scale from A to D, where 'D' signifies adequate data with minor shortcomings.
2. India was assigned a 'C' grade, indicating that data shortcomings somewhat hamper accurate economic surveillance.
3. The assessment specifically flagged the methodology used for India's national accounts and government finance data.

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

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

26. Which of the following factors typically encourage Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) inflows into India?

1. Higher interest rate differential in favour of India.
2. Strong rupee appreciation.
3. Tightening of US monetary policy.
4. India's inclusion in global bond indices.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

27. Consider the following statements regarding the Economic Census (EC):

1. The Economic Census is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI) in collaboration with the Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DES) of all States and Union Territories.
2. Data from the 8th Economic Census will be used to develop the Statistical Business Register (SBR), a unified database of all enterprises in 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

28. Which of the following factors directly contribute to rupee depreciation?

1. Sustained Foreign Portfolio Investment outflows.
2. Higher dollar demand from importers.
3. Widening trade deficit.
4. Rising crude oil prices.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



SCAN ME

UPSC
Classroom
Courses



SCAN ME

IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



SCAN ME

Drishti
Learning
App



SCAN ME

29. Consider the following statements regarding Masala Bonds:

1. They are rupee-denominated bonds issued to overseas buyers by Indian corporates.
2. Under RBI guidelines, Masala Bonds have a minimum maturity of 3 years for issues up to USD 50 million in a financial year, and 5 years for amounts above that.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. Consider the following statements, regarding Earth Summit:

1. The Summit was inaugurated in Gandhinagar.
2. It focuses on building a national policy framework for rural development.
3. It is jointly organised by NABARD and the Ministry of Cooperation.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

- One only
- Two only
- All three
- None

31. With reference to revenue from Cess, consider the following statements:

1. It is a tax on tax imposed by the government for a specific, earmarked purpose.
2. It is credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

32. Which of the following best describes “Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs)” according to the Income Tax Act?

- Only cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and Ethereum
- Digitised versions of sovereign currencies like digital Rupee

- Cryptocurrencies, NFTs and other digital assets notified by the government
- Assets that exist physically but are traded digitally

33. Consider the following statements related to PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY):

1. PM-DDKY aims to converge 36 existing schemes from 11 different departments.
2. This will be implemented for the period FY 2023–24 to FY 2028–29.
3. It allocates 50% of its budget for farm mechanisation to enhance farm productivity.
4. Districts with cropping intensity above 2.5 crop cycles per year are given preference under PM-DDKY.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2 3 and 4

34. Consider the following initiatives:

1. PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan
2. Bharatmala Pariyojana
3. UDAN Scheme
4. National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP)

Which of the above initiatives are specifically aimed at improving connectivity and infrastructure?

- 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only

35. Consider the following statements regarding the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS):

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. The scheme guarantees 100 days of wage employment to every adult individual in a rural household.
3. If employment is not provided within 15 days of application, the applicant is entitled to an unemployment allowance.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



SCAN ME

UPSC
Classroom
Courses



SCAN ME

IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



SCAN ME

Drishti
Learning
App



SCAN ME

4. Under the scheme, the Central Government bears the full cost of unskilled labour wages and 75% of material costs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

36. Consider the following statements about Poverty reduction in India between 2011–12 and 2023–24.

- 1. Poverty in India fell from 21.9% to 2.3% between 2011–12 and 2023–24
- 2. Urban poverty declined faster than rural poverty due to higher job creation and better social sector delivery in cities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

37. Which of the following organisations releases the World Inequality Report?

- A. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- B. World Bank
- C. Oxfam International
- D. World Inequality Lab

38. With reference to Ponduru Khadi, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a traditional handspun and handwoven cotton fabric produced in Andhra Pradesh.
- 2. Punasa cotton and red cotton used in Ponduru Khadi.
- 3. Cleaning of cotton using the jawbone of the Valuga fish is a unique practice associated with this fabric.

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

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

39. With reference to the One Nation–One Port Process (ONOP), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a reform initiative of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- 2. It aims to standardise port documentation and procedures across all Indian ports.
- 3. It seeks to reduce documentation requirements at ports by about one-third.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

40. The term “flight-to-stability buffer”, as used in the context of Indian capital markets, refers to:

- A. Sudden inflow of foreign capital during global crises
- B. Domestic institutional investors cushioning market volatility
- C. RBI intervention in equity markets
- D. Shift of investors from equities to gold

Environment & Ecology

41. Bioremediation, often in the news, refers to:

- A. Use of microbes or plants to extract valuable metals from contaminated sites
- B. Use of living organisms to degrade or neutralise environmental pollutants
- C. Use of controlled microbial reactors for large-scale waste processing
- D. Physical filtration of polluted soil and water followed by biological enrichment

42. Consider the following:

- 1. Extremely low stratospheric temperatures
- 2. Presence of Polar Stratospheric Clouds
- 3. High concentrations of anthropogenic chlorine and bromine
- 4. Absence of sunlight

Which of the above favour the formation of the ozone hole?

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



C. 2, 3 and 4 only
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

43. Consider the following statements regarding Project Cheetah:

1. Project Cheetah is implemented under Project Tiger and aims to reintroduce cheetahs.
2. The project is implemented by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India.
3. All the cheetahs relocated under Project Cheetah have been brought from South Africa only.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

44. Consider the following statements regarding Invasive Alien Plant Species in India:

1. They are non-native plant species that outcompete native vegetation and threaten ecosystems.
2. Their spread has remained stable and is not influenced by climate change or land-use change.
3. Key invasive species in India include Lantana camara and Prosopis juliflora.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. With reference to the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) report, consider the following statements:

1. It assesses global environmental trends and recommends transformation pathways for sustainable development.
2. It is released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
3. It focuses only on climate change and does not cover biodiversity or pollution.

How many statements given above are correct?

A. One only
B. Two only

C. All three
D. None

History, Art & Culture

46. Consider the following pairs:

Cultural Element	State
1. Sankirtana	Manipur
2. Kalbelia dance	Rajasthan
3. Mudiyettu	Tamil Nadu

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

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

47. Consider the following statements regarding the role of Bengal in India's freedom struggle:

1. The Swadeshi Movement was launched in response to the Partition of Bengal in 1905.
2. Revolutionary groups like the Anushilan Samiti and Jugantar emerged in Bengal during the early 20th century.
3. Bengal did not participate significantly in Gandhian movements such as Non-Cooperation and Quit India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. All three

Geography

48. Consider the following statements regarding coal in India:

1. India possesses the largest coal reserves in the world.
2. Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh collectively constitute nearly 69% of India's total coal reserves.
3. Lignite is characterised by high moisture content, high volatile matter and low ash content.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



SCAN ME

UPSC
Classroom
Courses



SCAN ME

IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



SCAN ME

Drishti
Learning
App



SCAN ME

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

49. With reference to galaxy evolution, consider the following statements:

- Galaxy collisions can trigger new star formation due to compression of gas clouds.
- Galactic cannibalism usually involves a large galaxy absorbing a much smaller one.
- Bars in spiral galaxies influence the movement of gas and help in star formation.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

50. The Shyok Tunnel, recently inaugurated by the Defence Minister, is located on which strategic route?

- Manali-Leh Highway
- Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DS-DBO) Road
- Srinagar-Kargil-Leh Highway
- Zojila Pass Route

51. Consider the following statements about the Aravalli range:

- It is one of the oldest mountain systems in the world.
- It extends from Gujarat to Delhi through Rajasthan and Haryana.
- Its highest peak is Guru Shikhar.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

- One only
- Two only
- All three
- None

52. Consider the following statements about Nathu La Pass:

- It is one of the highest motorable passes in India.
- The pass connects the Indian state of Sikkim with Bhutan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- None of the above

Science & Tech

53. Consider the following pairs:

Indian Research Station	Region
1. Maitri	Antarctica
2. Himadri	Norway
3. Himansh	Andaman & Nicobar Islands

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

54. Consider the following statements regarding Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV):

- HIV can be transmitted through direct contact with infected blood, semen, or breast milk, but not through casual contact like shaking hands or sharing food.
- Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) can cure HIV by completely eliminating the virus from the body, helping achieve the global target to end the epidemic by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

55. Consider the following statements related to Lunar Fission Surface Power Project:

- It aims to deploy a small nuclear reactor on the Moon by the early 2030s.
- It is part of NASA's Artemis program strategy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

56. Consider the following statements regarding the Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test (IMAT):

- 1. IMAT involves dropping a full-scale parachute system from a high altitude to simulate re-entry descent conditions.
- 2. IMAT verifies structural strength, stability, and performance during landing.
- 3. IMAT is a part of the human-rating process for the Gaganyaan mission.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

57. With reference to India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025, consider the following statements:

- 1. IISF 2025 is being jointly organised by the Ministry of Science & Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- 2. It aims to integrate traditional knowledge systems with cutting-edge modern science and promote India's bio-economy.
- 3. IISF's primary target group is school children and not policymakers and researchers to promote innovation culture in the children in the country.
- 4. It aligns with the national goal of Atma-Nirbhar Bharat by promoting indigenous scientific capacities in the country.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

58. With reference to DIGIPIN, consider the following statements:

- 1. DIGIPIN is a ten-character alphanumeric code that can be generated for properties of approximately 4x4 square metres on Indian land.

- 2. DIGIPIN will replace the existing six-digit PIN system used by India Post.
- 3. DIGIPIN encodes the geographic coordinates of the property but does not store personal information.

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

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

59. With reference to India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell vessel, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is developed jointly by Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) and the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
- 2. It operates using a Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (LT-PEM) fuel cell system that emits only water vapor.
- 3. The vessel is part of initiatives under Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

How many statements given above are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All three
- D. None

60. Q-Day, a concept recently in news, refers to:

- A. The day quantum computers surpass human intelligence in decision-making
- B. The point at which quantum computing becomes commercially available worldwide
- C. The moment quantum computers become powerful enough to break existing public-key encryption
- D. A global initiative to regulate quantum technologies through the UN

61. With reference to India's 3-Stage Nuclear Power Programme, consider the following statements:

- 1. In the first stage, natural uranium fuelled Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) produce plutonium as a by-product.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



SCAN ME

UPSC
Classroom
Courses



SCAN ME

IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



SCAN ME

Drishti
Learning
App



SCAN ME

2. The second stage involves Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) that utilise plutonium from Stage I to breed uranium-233 from thorium.
3. The third stage envisages reactors that would use uranium-233 and thorium, making India's vast thorium reserves its primary nuclear fuel source.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

62. Consider the following statement on the National Super Computing Mission (NSM).

1. PARAM Shivay was India's first exascale supercomputer developed under the National Supercomputing Mission.
2. AIRAWAT developed under NSM, is designed primarily for AI workloads rather than traditional numerical simulations.
3. Exascale computing increases demand for energy-efficient and advanced semiconductor nodes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All three

Defence & Security

63. Consider the following statements regarding Project 17A frigates:

1. Project 17A is an upgraded successor to the Shivalik-class frigates.
2. Project 17A frigates use a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion system.

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

Miscellaneous

64. Consider the following statements related to legal recognition of femicide:

1. Italy, Cyprus and Chile have enacted dedicated femicide laws.
2. India does not recognize femicide as a distinct legal category.

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

65. Consider the following statements:

1. Mahaparinirvan diwas is observed to commemorate the passing of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
2. Dr. Ambedkar embraced Navayana Buddhism, which emphasized social equality.

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

66. It is a Hindu shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, located in Cambodia, along the Thailand–Cambodia border. The temple was built in the 11th century by the Khmer kings and it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Which of the following best fits the description?

- A. Angkor Wat
- B. Ta Prohm
- C. Preah Vihear
- D. Borobudur

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Answers

1.	(B)	12.	(C)	23.	(B)	34.	(A)	45.	(B)	56.	(D)
2.	(A)	13.	(B)	24.	(A)	35.	(B)	46.	(B)	57.	(C)
3.	(C)	14.	(B)	25.	(B)	36.	(A)	47.	(A)	58.	(A)
4.	(A)	15.	(B)	26.	(A)	37.	(D)	48.	(B)	59.	(C)
5.	(B)	16.	(B)	27.	(C)	38.	(D)	49.	(C)	60.	(C)
6.	(C)	17.	(B)	28.	(D)	39.	(D)	50.	(C)	61.	(D)
7.	(A)	18.	(B)	29.	(C)	40.	(B)	51.	(C)	62.	(B)
8.	(A)	19.	(A)	30.	(B)	41.	(B)	52.	(A)	63.	(C)
9.	(B)	20.	(C)	31.	(C)	42.	(A)	53.	(B)	64.	(C)
10.	(A)	21.	(B)	32.	(C)	43.	(A)	54.	(A)	65.	(C)
11.	(C)	22.	(B)	33.	(A)	44.	(B)	55.	(C)	66.	(C)



Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Explanation:

Polity & Governance

1.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **About:** Basic structure doctrine of the Indian Constitution, is a **judicial review principle** established by the **Supreme Court of India** in the landmark case of *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala in 1973*.

- ❖ Its origins trace back to the post-war **German Constitution, 1949**, which protected essential principles after the Nazi era.

💡 **Elements of Basic structure doctrine:** The Supreme Court has made it clear that the **list of basic features is not exhaustive**, the Court identifies them **case by case**.

- ❖ It includes several core elements such as the **supremacy of the Constitution, a sovereign, democratic, and republican form of government, secularism, federalism, the rule of law, and the separation of powers**.
- ❖ It also comprises **judicial review, independence of the judiciary, free and fair elections, the parliamentary system of government, and the unity and integrity of the nation**.
- ❖ Other essential features include the **primacy of Fundamental Rights, harmony between Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs)**, and the powers of the Supreme Court under Articles 32, 136, 141, and 142, as well as those of the High Courts under Articles 226 and 227.

💡 **Parliamentary sovereignty** is *not* part of the basic structure; instead, India follows **constitutional supremacy**.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

2.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The Chief Justice of India and the judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under Article 124 of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ❖ Outgoing CJI recommends a successor, usually by seniority. Supreme Court (SC) judges are

appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and other judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts as the President deems necessary.

💡 The **Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed by the President in consultation with the CJI and the Governor of the State**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- ❖ The procedure for appointing puisne Judges is the same except that the **Chief Justice of the High Court concerned** is also consulted.

3.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The **Sarkaria Commission (1988)** emphasized that **Article 356 should be used sparingly as a measure of last resort** and recommended that the State Legislative Assembly should not be dissolved until the Parliament has approved the Presidential proclamation. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

💡 The **Venkatachaliah Commission (2002)** recommended that Governors should generally be allowed to complete their full five-year terms and suggested that the Chief Minister be consulted before any premature removal of the Governor. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

💡 The **Punchhi Commission (2010)** recommended **Governor's Chancellor role should be limited to constitutional duties** and stronger safeguards are needed to prevent Article 356 misuse. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

4.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The **Gore Committee on Police Training** emphasized **human rights, ethics, and a shift to service-oriented policing** through professional training reforms. Hence, **Gore Committee (1971) A → 2**

💡 The **Malimath Committee** proposed a **witness protection program** and establishment of a central law enforcement agency to strengthen criminal justice delivery. Hence, **Malimath Committee (2003) B → 1**

💡 The **Ribeiro Committee** recommended independent oversight mechanisms, modern training programs,

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



and community policing to improve police effectiveness and public trust. **C. Ribeiro Committee (1998) C → 3**

💡 Hence, option A is the correct answer.

5.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 Digital arrest scams involve fraudsters impersonating law enforcement agencies like CBI, RBI, or police to falsely accuse victims of crimes and extort money through threats. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 These scams primarily use **phone calls, WhatsApp video calls, or messaging platforms for direct intimidation**, rather than phishing emails targeting corporate accounts. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 Scammers threaten victims with immediate arrest, bank account freezing, or legal action, often presenting fake FIRs, warrants, or documents over video calls to coerce payments. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

6.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955** specifically empowers **only the Central Government** to terminate citizenship on the ground of voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The **ECI** is empowered to verify **citizenship** for the purpose of **preparing or revising electoral rolls** and the power is derived from the **Representation of the People Act, 1950 (Sections 16 and 19)**, and is constitutionally supported by **Articles 324 (ECI's supervisory powers) and 326 (citizenship as a requirement to vote)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

7.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE) schemes** have been merged under the **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan** to provide a holistic education framework from pre-school to senior secondary levels.

💡 The **Mid-Day Meal Scheme** is a separate government program aimed at improving nutrition and attendance of school children.

✖ It is not merged into Samagra Shiksha, though it complements the overall school education objectives.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

8.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Denotified Tribes were labeled "Criminal Tribes" under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, which presumed entire communities as inherently criminal, requiring registration and surveillance; the Act was repealed in 1952. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The Idate Commission (National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, 2015) recommended establishing a National Development and Welfare Board for these communities' socio-economic upliftment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 The SEED Scheme (Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNT/NT/SNT) is administered by the Development Welfare Board for DNT/NT/SNT under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, not directly by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

9.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 Thalassemia is an **inherited genetic disorder** where the body produces insufficient **hemoglobin**, the protein in **red blood cells** that carries oxygen, resulting in **anemia** and poorly functioning red blood cells. Conditions like **Sickle Cell Anemia** involve **abnormal hemoglobin structure**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 **Constant Spring** (type of alpha thalassemia), **Cooley's Anemia** (beta thalassemia major) and **Hemoglobin Bart Hydrops Fetalis** (most severe alpha thalassemia) are special named types of thalassemia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

10.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** seeks to tackle challenges related to **quality, equity, access, and affordability** across all educational levels.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



💡 NEP 2020 introduces a **5+3+3+4 structure**, with foundational years (ages 3–8) being 100% play-based. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Key Targets:**

Key Area	Target / Objective
Universal School Enrollment	Achieve 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in school education (pre-school to secondary) by 2030 . Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
Out-of-School Children	Bring 2 crore out-of-school children back into the mainstream education system.
Higher Education Access	Raise GER in higher education to 50% (from ~27%) by adding 3.5 crore new seats by 2035 .
Teacher Qualification	Make a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree the minimum qualification for all school teachers by 2030.
Institutional Autonomy	Phase out the college affiliation system and grant graded autonomy to all colleges within 15 years.

11.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Section 14 of the PoA Act (after the 2015 Amendment)** mandates:

- ❖ **Exclusive Special Courts** for trying offences under the Act, in districts with high case-load.
- ❖ **Exclusive Special Public Prosecutors (ESPPs)** to handle these cases exclusively. **Objective: speedy trial**, ideally within **two months** of filing charge-sheet. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Originally, Section 18 of the Act prohibited anticipatory bail for offences under the Act. The Supreme Court in **Prathvi Raj Chauhan v. Union of India (2020)** held : that Courts may grant anticipatory bail if the FIR does **not make out a *prima facie* offence under the Act**.

- ❖ Therefore, **anticipatory bail is restricted, but NOT completely prohibited in all circumstances**. If allegations are motivated, vague, or do not constitute an offence, anticipatory bail is possible. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 **Section 9 of the Act + Rule 7 of the SC/ST (PoA) Rules, 1995** state: Investigation must be conducted by a **police officer of the rank of DSP/ACP or above**.

- ❖ **Purpose:**

- ❖ Prevent misuse,

- ❖ Ensure sensitivity and competence,
- ❖ Reduce bias in investigation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

12.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The scheme was launched in **February 2024** by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**. It is the **world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative**, aiming to provide **free electricity to households** by installing rooftop solar panels.

- ❖ **Implementation is done** by the **National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA)** at the **national level** and by **State Implementation Agencies (SIA)** at the **state level**.

💡 The aim is to install rooftop solar systems in **1 crore households by March 2027**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ❖ Installation milestones include **10 lakh** by March 2025, **20 lakh** by October 2025, and **40 lakh** by March 2026.

💡 The scheme offers up to **300 units of free electricity per month**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 **Model Solar Village:** Establish **one Model Solar Village per district** to promote energy self-reliance. Villages with population **>5,000 (or >2,000 in special category states)** are eligible for participation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

13.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Human Rights Day** is observed every year on **10th December** to commemorate the **adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** in **1948**, reaffirming the global commitment to **dignity, equality and freedom**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 The day was formally established in 1950 through UNGA Resolution, inviting all countries to celebrate it annually

- ❖ The 2025 theme is **"Everyday Essentials"**, focusing on access to basic services as a human right. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



14.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The NCM is a **statutory body** set up under the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992** to safeguard the **rights and interests of minorities** and ensure their protection and development.

📌 The first Commission was constituted on **17th May 1993**.

💡 **Composition:** The NCM consists of a **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and 5 Members**, all **nominated by the Central Government** from persons of **eminence, ability, and integrity**. Hence, statements 1 and 2 are **not correct**.

📌 At least **five members**, including the Chairperson, must belong to **notified minority communities** (Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi, and Jain). Hence, statement 3 is correct.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

15.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The **Sujalam Bharat App** creates a **unique digital identity (Sujal Gaon ID)** for every rural water supply scheme under **Jal Jeevan Mission**, enabling geo-referenced tracking of sources, assets, and service areas. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 The **app was launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti** with technical support from BISAG-N, not developed by MeitY. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 It **integrates with the PM Gati Shakti GIS platform** to provide geospatial mapping of water infrastructure like pipelines, tanks, and sources for better planning and monitoring. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

16.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 India's recently enacted **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025**, significantly overhauls the 1995 Act by boosting transparency (public portals for proceedings) and enhancing State Waqf Board representation.

💡 **UMEED Portal:** It is a centralized digital platform designed for the registration and regulation of Waqf properties across India.

❖ Features of UMEED Portal:

⌚ Properties registered in women's names cannot be designated as Waqf, but women, children, and EWS will still remain eligible beneficiaries. Hence, statements 1 and 3 are correct.

⌚ Properties will include precise measurements and geolocation data during registration.

⌚ **Unregistered properties after the deadline** will be flagged as disputed and sent to the Waqf Tribunal. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

⌚ Legal awareness tools to clarify beneficiaries' rights under the amended law.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

International Relations

17.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The 1893 agreement helped finalize the boundaries of the **Wakhan Corridor**, a narrow strip of territory designed to separate the British Empire (India) from the Russian Empire. This ensured the two empires did not share a direct border, acting as a strategic buffer during the geopolitical rivalry known as the Great Game. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 Following the **Third Anglo-Afghan War (1919)**, the **Treaty of Rawalpindi** was signed. While it granted Afghanistan independence in foreign policy (ending the control established by the Treaty of Gandamak), it specifically **reaffirmed the validity of the Durand Line** as the border. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 The Taliban, like previous Afghan governments, **reject the legitimacy** of the Durand Line. They view it as a colonial division that splits the Pashtun tribal belt and have engaged in border skirmishes, refusing to accept it as an international boundary. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

18

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Operation Cactus** was a tri-service Indian operation launched to **foil a coup attempt against Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom** in 1988.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



💡 The coup was orchestrated by Maldivian businessman Abdullah Luthufi and carried out with People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam mercenaries to establish a puppet regime for illicit activities. India's swift intervention successfully restored the legitimate government.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

19.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) formally titled "*The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction*," effectively prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 It is the **first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 The BWC supplements the **1925 Geneva Protocol**, which had prohibited only the use of biological weapons. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

20.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 Exercise Harimau Shakti is a bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Malaysian Army, focusing on sub-conventional operations like counter-terrorism under UN Chapter VII mandates. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 The 2025 edition (5th) is held at Mahajan Field Firing Range, Bikaner, Rajasthan (December 5-18), involving India's Dogra Regiment and Malaysia's 25th Battalion Royal Malaysian Army. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

21.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The 2021–2031 Military-Technical Cooperation Agreement does guide joint R&D and co-production efforts. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 The S-400 system is procured by India from Russia, not jointly developed or co-produced. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 India produces Su-30MKI aircraft and T-90 tanks under licensed production from Russia. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

💡 Exercise INDRA is bilateral, not trilateral. The Indra series of exercises began in 2003 and alternates between India and Russia. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

22.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The 2021–2031 Military-Technical Cooperation Agreement does guide joint R&D and co-production efforts. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 The S-400 system is procured by India from Russia, not jointly developed or co-produced. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 India produces Su-30MKI aircraft and T-90 tanks under licensed production from Russia. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

💡 Exercise INDRA is bilateral, not trilateral. The Indra series of exercises began in 2003 and alternates between India and Russia. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

23.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 INTERPOL notices are issued by the **General Secretariat upon request from a country's National Central Bureau (NCB)**.

📌 Interpol publishes a Notice only if it meets legal standards under its Constitution and data protection rules, ensuring information quality and privacy.

💡 **Blue Corner Notice** is issued to collect information about a person's identity, location, or activities linked to a criminal investigation. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.

💡 **Yellow Notice** helps locate missing persons or identify people unable to identify themselves. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.

💡 **Black Notice** is issued to identify unidentified bodies. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



24.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Italy is a Southern European country known for its **boot-shaped peninsula**, rich history (Roman Empire, Renaissance).
- 💡 Italy shares land borders with **France, Switzerland, and Slovenia**. Hence, 1, 2 and 4 are correct.
 - ❖ Germany does not share a direct land border with Italy. Hence, 3 is not correct.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

Economy

25.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **IMF's Data Adequacy Assessment** rates data quality from A to D, where 'A' represents adequate data quality and 'D' signifies serious shortcomings. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 India's 'C' grade explicitly indicates data with shortcomings that "somewhat hamper surveillance." Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 The IMF assessment specifically highlighted persistent methodological shortcomings in **India's national accounts and government finance data**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

26.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 A higher **interest rate differential** makes Indian bonds more attractive compared to global markets, drawing more Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) inflows. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 A **strong or stable rupee** reduces currency risk for foreign investors and supports inflows; sharp depreciation usually triggers outflows. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 **Tightening of US monetary policy** (like rate hikes by the Federal Reserve) typically leads to capital moving out of emerging markets and back to the US, reducing FPI inflows into India. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- 💡 India's **inclusion in global bond indices** such as JP Morgan EMBI increases passive and active foreign

investment, encouraging inflows. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

27.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Economic Census (EC)** is the complete count of all **establishments** (i.e. units engaged in production and/or distribution of goods and services not for the purpose of sole consumption) located within the geographical boundaries of the country.
- 💡 EC is conducted nationwide by the **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI)**, **National Statistics Office** in collaboration with the **Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DES)** of all States and Union Territories. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 Data from 8th EC will be used to create the **Statistical Business Register (SBR)**, a unified database mapping all enterprises across states. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

28.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 Sustained Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) outflows reduce foreign investment inflows, creating higher demand for dollars and weakening the rupee. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 Higher dollar demand from importers—especially for gold, electronics, machinery—raises the market demand for USD, putting downward pressure on the rupee. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 A widening trade deficit, caused by falling exports and rising imports, increases India's net dollar requirement, contributing to rupee depreciation. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- 💡 Rising crude oil prices inflate India's import bill, increase dollar outflows, and worsen the current account deficit, further weakening the rupee. Hence, statement 4 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option D is correct.

29.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Masala Bonds** are the **rupee-denominated bonds** issued to overseas buyers for raising money by the

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Indian corporates. The price of the bond is denominated in Indian currency. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 The **currency exchange risk** is borne by the **foreign investor**, not the **Indian issuer**. This protects Indian borrowers from **rupee depreciation volatility**.
- 💡 Under **RBI guidelines**, the **minimum maturity** is **3 years** for bonds raising up to **USD 50 million** equivalent in a financial year and **5 years** for amounts above that threshold. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

30.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Summit was indeed inaugurated in Gandhinagar by the Union Home & Cooperation Minister. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 A core aim of the EARTH Summit is to build a national policy framework for rural development by integrating learnings from its earlier editions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The summit is jointly organised by **NABARD** and **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)**, not the Ministry of Cooperation. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

31.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Cess** is a **tax on tax** imposed by the government for a **specific, earmarked purpose (public good)**. Cess is levied **in addition to existing taxes** such as excise duty or income tax.
- 📌 It is collected **until enough funds are raised** for the designated objective. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The proceeds of all taxes and cesses are credited in the **Consolidated Fund of India (CFI)**, an account of the Government of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

32.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Section 2(47A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961**, defines “**Virtual Digital Asset**” (VDA) broadly as any information, code, number, or token (not Indian or foreign currency) generated cryptographically or

otherwise, providing a digital representation of value exchanged peer-to-peer; this explicitly includes non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and any other digital assets notified by the Central Government.

- 💡 **Hence, option c is correct.**

33.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana** is a comprehensive farm programme designed to **enhance productivity**, promote sustainable practices, and improve livelihoods. It converges **36 existing schemes** from **11 departments**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 📌 The scheme will be implemented for the period **FY 2025–26 to FY2030–31**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 There is no fixed allocation under the scheme for farm mechanisation. However it promotes farm mechanisation to enhance productivity. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 📌 The fund is allocated with **40%** for subsidies, **30%** for infrastructure, **20%** for loans, and **10%** for training and market support.

District Selection Criteria: Districts are selected based on **low crop productivity** (below national averages), **moderate cropping intensity** (under **1.55 crop cycles per year**), and **low credit access** (typically below 30% farmer coverage). **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

34.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan** integrates multi-modal infrastructure across ministries for seamless connectivity of roads, rails, ports, and airports. **Hence, 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **Bharatmala Pariyojana** develops national highways and expressways to enhance road connectivity and logistics efficiency. **Hence, 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The **UDAN Scheme** promotes regional air connectivity by making flights affordable to underserved airports. **Hence, 3 is correct.**
- 💡 The **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan** focuses on promoting electric vehicles and charging infrastructure. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



35.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**. It was launched in **2005** and is implemented under the **Ministry of Rural Development**, which serves as the nodal ministry. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The scheme guarantees **100 days** of wage employment **per rural household** (not per adult individual in a rural household). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 If work is not provided within **15 days** of application, households receive **unemployment allowance—25% of the minimum wage** for the first 30 days and **50%** thereafter. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 The Centre funds **100% of unskilled wages** and **75% of material costs**, while States cover the remaining **25%**. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

36.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 A new research paper by **Arvind Panagariya, Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission**, finds that India has “**virtually eliminated**” extreme poverty **between 2011–12 and 2023–24**.
 - ❖ **Extreme Poverty Nearly Eliminated: Poverty fell from 21.9% to 2.3% between 2011–12 and 2023–24**, indicating near-elimination of extreme poverty driven by rising consumption and better access to welfare, nutrition, and basic services. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ❖ **Faster Reduction in Rural Areas: Rural poverty declined by 22.5 percentage points, outpacing urban reduction of 12.6 points** due to stronger welfare and consumption growth. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

37.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 The **World Inequality Report** is a major **global publication** that provides comprehensive **data and analysis** on the distribution of **income and wealth** across countries and over time.
 - ❖ It is produced by the **World Inequality Lab**, a research center based at the **Paris School of Economics**.

💡 It provides a deeper assessment of **global income and wealth distribution**, moving beyond conventional metrics like GDP.

- ❖ It uses a **multidimensional lens**, covering gender inequality, climate impact, and access to public services.

💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

38.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 **Ponduru Khadi** is a traditional **handspun and handwoven cotton fabric**, produced in **Ponduru village of Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh** and is locally known as **Patnulu**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- 💡 The fabric is made using **hill cotton, punasa cotton, or red cotton**, all of which are **indigenous to the Srikakulam region**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ❖ From cleaning the cotton to spinning and weaving, the **entire production process is done manually**, preserving traditional skills.

💡 Cleaning of cotton using the **jawbone of the Valuga fish** is a globally unique practice, found only in **Ponduru Khadi**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

39.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 The One Nation–One Port Process (ONOP) is a reform by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, launched in February 2025 by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 It standardizes documentation and procedures across major Indian ports for containers, bulk cargo, EXIM, and coastal operations to eliminate inconsistencies and delays. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The framework is expected to cut port documentation by about 33%, thereby reducing time and logistics costs. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

40.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The “**flight-to-stability buffer**” describes how rising domestic institutional investments—through SIPs, mutual funds, and household savings—provide a stabilizing counterforce against foreign portfolio

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



investor (FPI) outflows during global shocks, as seen in India's 2025 market rally.

💡 This domestic capital acts as a long-term anchor, reducing equity market volatility and enhancing resilience compared to FPI-driven liquidity.

💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

Environment & Ecology

41.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Bioremediation** is the use of living organisms (bacteria, fungi, algae, or plants) to break down or neutralise toxic pollutants.

- ❖ These organisms convert contaminants like **oil, pesticides, plastics, and heavy metals** into harmless end-products such as water, carbon dioxide, or organic acids.
- ❖ It is a **cost-effective, eco-friendly** method compared to chemical or mechanical clean-up technologies.

💡 **In situ bioremediation:** Treatment takes place at the contaminated site itself.

- ❖ Example: oil-eating bacteria sprayed on an ocean spill.

💡 **Ex situ bioremediation:** Contaminated soil or water is **excavated or pumped out**, treated in a controlled facility, and returned after cleaning.

💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

42.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Extremely low stratospheric temperatures over Antarctica allow the formation of a strong polar vortex, creating the cold conditions necessary for ozone-depleting reactions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 These extreme temperatures lead to the formation of **Polar Stratospheric Clouds (PSCs)**, which provide surfaces for chemical reactions that convert inactive chlorine and bromine into their reactive, ozone-destroying forms. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 High levels of **anthropogenic chlorine and bromine**, mainly from CFCs and related chemicals, supply the active halogens responsible for rapid catalytic destruction of ozone once sunlight returns. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 However, ozone destruction requires **sunlight**, which triggers the photochemical activation of halogens. The absence of sunlight does not favour ozone depletion. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

43.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Project Cheetah, launched in 2022, is implemented under Project Tiger to reintroduce cheetahs (extinct in India since 1947) into Kuno National Park and other sites, restoring grassland ecosystems. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) leads implementation in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India for translocation and monitoring. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 Initial cheetahs (8 adults) came from Namibia in September 2022, with 12 more from South Africa in February 2023; not exclusively from South Africa. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

44.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Invasive alien plant species** are non-native plants introduced to India that outcompete native vegetation, alter ecosystems, reduce biodiversity, and threaten agriculture/wildlife habitats. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Their spread is accelerating (15,500 km²/year of new invasions), driven by climate change, land-use shifts, altered fire regimes, and biodiversity loss—not remaining stable. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 Key invasive species in India include *Lantana camara* (most dominant), *Prosopis juliflora* (dry regions), and *Chromolaena odorata* (fastest-spreading), affecting 66% of natural ecosystems. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

45.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)** is described as the **UN's flagship integrated environmental assessment** that reviews global environmental trends

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



and proposes transformation pathways and scenarios for sustainable development and resilience. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 The **Global Environment Outlook** is prepared and released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 **GEO-7** is explicitly framed as an integrated assessment across multiple domains such as **climate, biodiversity, land, oceans, water, and pollution**, not climate change alone. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

History, Art & Culture

46.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Sankirtana**, inscribed in 2013 on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List, involves performances marking religious events and life stages of the Vaishnava people in **Manipur**, focusing on Krishna's life through song and dance at temples. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- 💡 **Kalbelia** is a celebrated folk dance of **Rajasthan**, performed by the Kalbelia community, who were traditionally snake charmers. Recognising its unique cultural value, UNESCO inscribed Kalbelia folk songs and dances on the Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2010. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- 💡 **Mudiyettu** is a ritual dance drama of **Kerala** that reenacts the battle between goddess Kali and the demon Darika. Recognised by UNESCO in 2010, it reflects Kerala's living ritual arts and strong oral traditions. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

47.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **Swadeshi Movement** was launched in 1905 directly protesting the **Partition of Bengal** announced by **Lord Curzon**, advocating boycott of British goods and promotion of indigenous products. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Revolutionary organizations **Anushilan Samiti** (founded 1902) and **Jugantar** emerged in Bengal during the early 20th century, conducting assassinations, bombings, and arms manufacture against British rule. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Bengal actively participated in **Gandhian movements**: Non-Cooperation saw widespread hartals, Quit India

(1942) witnessed intense protests, strikes, and underground activities. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

Geography

48.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Coal** is a combustible sedimentary rock mainly made up of carbon, formed over millions of years from the remains of ancient vegetation under heat and pressure.
- 💡 **India ranks fifth in the world in terms of total coal reserves** and is the second-largest consumer of coal globally. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 Additionally, the states of **Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh** together account for approximately **69% of India's total coal reserves**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 Coal is classified into different grades based on carbon content, calorific value, and energy output:
 - ❖ **Anthracite**: Highest carbon content (86–97%) and heating value, mostly found in Jammu & Kashmir.
 - ❖ **Bituminous**: Contains 45–86% carbon, predominant in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh.
 - ❖ **Sub-bituminous**: Contains 35–45% carbon, lower heating value than bituminous coal.
 - ❖ **Lignite (Brown Coal)**: Contains 25–35% carbon, high moisture (30–55%), high volatile matter, and low ash content. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ❖ Lignite is light, porous, friable, and unsuitable for long-distance transport due to the risk of spontaneous combustion.
 - ❖ Major lignite reserves are found in **Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Jammu & Kashmir**.

49.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Galaxies** are immense systems made up of **stars, planets, and huge clouds of gas and dust**, all held together by gravity. Most large galaxies host **supermassive black holes** at their centers.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



- ❖ Galaxies are generally classified as **spiral**, **elliptical**, or **irregular**, based on their structure and appearance.
- 💡 When galaxies collide, gas clouds compress, triggering **new star formation**, and each galaxy deforms under gravitational forces. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **Galactic cannibalism** usually involves a **large galaxy absorbing a much smaller one**, stripping their gas, dust, and stars and adding them to their own structure. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Many mature spiral galaxies develop **stellar bars**, temporary dense bands of stars that connect to spiral arms and influence **star formation**. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

50.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The **Shyok Tunnel**, a 920-meter cut-and-cover structure at over 12,000 feet, was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, as part of 125 Border Roads Organisation projects.
- 💡 It lies on the **Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DS-DBO) Road in eastern Ladakh**, providing all-weather connectivity near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) for swift troop mobilization to areas like Galwan and Depsang, reducing reliance on air logistics during harsh winters.
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

51.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The **Aravalli Range** is described in Indian geology as **one of the oldest mountain systems**, dating back to the Precambrian/Paleoproterozoic era. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The range runs from near Delhi, passes through southern Haryana and Rajasthan, and terminates in Gujarat (near Ahmedabad). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Guru Shikhar**, near Mount Abu in Rajasthan, is the highest peak of the Aravalli Range at about 1,722 m. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

52.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Nathu La**: It is a **high-altitude Himalayan pass in East Sikkim on the India–China border**, standing at 4,302 metres.
- ❖ It is **one of the highest motorable roads** and an important strategic and border trade point between the two countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 It is one of the two ancient passes connecting **Sikkim and Tibet**, the other being **Jelep La**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct**

Science & Tech

53.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Maitri** is India's second permanent research station in **Antarctica**, established in 1989. It is located in the rocky mountainous Schirmacher Oasis, and India also created a freshwater lake nearby, called **Lake Priyadarshini**. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- 💡 **Himadri** 'the abode of snow' is India's first research station located at the **International Arctic Research base, NyÅlesund, Svalbard, Norway**. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- 💡 **Himansh** is India's high-altitude research station established by the NCPOR under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Located at **Sutri Dhaka in the Chandra Basin, Lahaul–Spiti, Himachal Pradesh**, the station supports year-round scientific research on Himalayan glaciers, climate change, snow dynamics, hydrology, and atmospheric processes. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

54.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **HIV transmission** requires direct contact with specific infected bodily fluids—such as **blood, semen, vaginal fluids, and breast milk**—typically through unprotected sex, sharing needles, or mother-to-child transmission. It is **not spread** through casual everyday contact like **shaking hands, hugging, sharing utensils, or via air or water**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



SCAN ME

UPSC
Classroom
Courses



SCAN ME

IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



SCAN ME

Drishti
Learning
App



SCAN ME

💡 While **Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)** is highly effective at **suppressing** the viral load, maintaining immune function, and preventing progression to AIDS, it is **not** a cure. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

55.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The **Lunar Fission Surface Power Project** plans to **deploy a small nuclear fission reactor (40-100 kW) on the Moon by the early 2030s** to provide continuous power for Artemis missions, addressing lunar night challenges. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 It is a part of **NASA's Artemis program strategy** for sustainable lunar presence, including base camps at the lunar south pole, enabling long-term human operations and Mars preparation. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

56.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 IMAT drops a full-scale parachute system from high altitude (2.5 km using IL-76 aircraft) to simulate Crew Module re-entry descent conditions, testing deployment under extreme scenarios. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 The test verifies structural strength, stability, load distribution, and landing performance, including asymmetric disreefing and parachute redundancy for safe touchdown. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 IMAT forms part of the human-rating qualification process for Gaganyaan's parachute system, ensuring safe astronaut recovery through rigorous failure-mode simulations. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

💡 Hence, option D is correct.

57.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025, the 11th edition of India's premier science outreach event, will be held from **6–9 December 2025** at **Panjab University, Chandigarh**. It is jointly organised by the Ministry of Science & Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences to showcase India's scientific achievements, promote innovation, and strengthen public engagement with science under the theme "Vigyan se Samriddhi: For Atmanirbhar

Bharat." Thus it aligns with the goals of Atam Nirbhar Bharat. Hence, statements 1 and 4 are correct.

💡 The festival strives to **promote the country's bio-economy by integrating traditional knowledge systems with cutting-edge modern science**. It accelerates collaboration between industry, researchers and the general public. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 The primary target of IISF 2025 is to **promote scientific temper among students, youth, and the general public while also engaging researchers, innovators, industry, and policymakers in India's science-technology ecosystem**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

58.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 DIGIPIN is an open-source, **in-house location pin system** developed by India Post.

💡 DIGIPIN is a unique ten-character alphanumeric code that can be generated for any property that is approximately 4 by 4 square meters on Indian land. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

❖ It divides India into a grid using 16 unique characters (2 to 9, C, J, K, L, M, P, F, T), enabling a hierarchical and precise location encoding system.

💡 The DIGIPIN will not replace the traditional six-digit PIN system. Instead, it is intended to act as an extra layer of precision built on top of existing postal addresses. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 Each DIGIPIN is encoded with the geographic coordinates of that property so it does not store any personal information. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

59.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell vessel was developed by **Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL)** in collaboration with the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)**, launched for commercial operations on National Waterways 1 (Ganga) in Varanasi. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 It employs a **Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (LT-PEM) fuel cell system**, converting

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



SCAN ME

UPSC
Classroom
Courses



SCAN ME

IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



SCAN ME

Drishti
Learning
App



SCAN ME

hydrogen into electricity with water vapor as the sole emission, enabling zero-carbon passenger ferry service for 50 people. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 The initiative supports Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, promoting green hydrogen in inland waterways toward net-zero emissions by 2070. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

60.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Q-Day Concept:** Refers to when quantum computers become powerful enough to break **public-key encryption**.

💡 It would not instantly expose all secrets, but any encrypted data stored today could be decoded later if intercepted now, a risk known as "*harvest now, decrypt later*".

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

61.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 India's **nuclear energy ecosystem** is a state-led framework under the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, aimed at **energy security** through indigenous technology and a **3-Stage Nuclear Power Programme**.

💡 The strategy uses **different reactors** to transition to thorium-based power.

❖ **Stage I:** Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) use natural uranium (U-238) with heavy water; spent fuel is reprocessed to obtain plutonium. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

❖ **Stage II:** Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) use plutonium from Stage I and breed U-233 from thorium. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

❖ **Stage III:** Thorium-based reactors use U-233 and thorium, aiming to make U-233 India's primary nuclear fuel. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

62.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **NSM** was launched in **2015** as a flagship initiative by the **Government of India** to empower the country with **high-performance computing** capabilities.

❖ Jointly steered by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**,

implemented by **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**, Pune and **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, Bengaluru.

💡 **PARAM Shivay** is a **petascale supercomputer**, not an exascale one. India has **not yet achieved exascale computing** under NSM. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

❖ **Exascale** computers perform **one quintillion (10^{18})** calculations per second, which requires millions of processing units working simultaneously.

💡 **AIRAWAT** is an **AI-focused computing platform**, mainly meant for AI and machine learning workloads, not conventional simulations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 To make exascale systems practical and sustainable, they must rely on advanced semiconductor chips that are smaller, faster, and far more energy-efficient.

❖ So moving toward exascale computing naturally increases demand for cutting-edge semiconductor nodes, efficient processors, and low-power architectures. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

Defence & Security

63.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Project 17A:** It is India's programme to build seven **Nilgiri-class stealth frigates** as an upgraded successor to the **Shivalik class (Project 17)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

❖ Of the seven frigates, four (Nilgiri, Udaygiri, Taragiri, Mahendragiri) are being built by MDL, and three (Himgiri, Dunagiri, Vindhyaagiri) by GRSE.

❖ The ships are built using the **integrated construction method, which reduces build time through pre-outfitting at block stages**.

❖ P17A ships use **Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion plants**, combining diesel engines and gas turbines, each driving a **Controllable Pitch Propeller (CPP)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

❖ They also feature a modern **Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS)** for efficient control and monitoring of onboard systems.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



SCAN ME

UPSC
Classroom
Courses



SCAN ME

IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



SCAN ME

Drishti
Learning
App



SCAN ME

Miscellaneous

64.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Italy** has recently passed a landmark law that specifically criminalizes femicide, placing it alongside a select group of countries, such as **Cyprus and Chile**, that legally recognize gender-motivated killing of women as a distinct offence. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **India**, however, **does not categorise femicide as a separate legal crime**, even though various provisions exist to address gender-based violence and killings under its broader criminal framework. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

65.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Mahaparinirvan Diwas**, marks the death anniversary (6th December 1956) of **Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

❖ The term “**Mahaparinirvan**” stems from Buddhist philosophy, symbolizing liberation from the cycle of birth and death, marking the most sacred day in the Buddhist calendar.

💡 Ambedkar reconstructed **Buddhism as Navayana Buddhism**, focusing on social equality and ethical living over rituals which is reflected in his work “**The Buddha and His Dhamma**.” **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

66.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Preah Vihear** is a **Hindu temple** dedicated to Lord Shiva, located in Cambodia along the **Thailand-Cambodia border in the Dangrek Mountains**.

❖ It was built in the 11th century by Khmer kings Suryavarman I and II during the height of the Khmer Empire.

💡 The temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and holds major religious and cultural significance for both Thailand and Cambodia, making it central to their long-standing border dispute.

Hence, option C is correct

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App

