



CURRENT AFFAIRS

MCQ CONSOLIDATION

February

2026

PART-II



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



Shahi Lane,
SP Verma Road,
South Gandhi
Maidan,
Patna

Practice Question

Polity & Governance

1. Consider the following pairs:

Case	Key Principle
1. Shirur Mutt (1954)	Origin of Essential Religious Practices (ERP) doctrine
2. Durgah Committee (1961)	“Superstitious accretions” not protected
3. Shayara Bano (2017)	Triple Talaq held unconstitutional
4. Sabarimala (2018)	Constitutional morality limits essential practices

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006:

1. The Act recognizes the rights of Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have resided in forest land for at least three generations.
2. The Gram Sabha is the competent authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) or Community Forest Rights (CFR).

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 regarding the second phase of the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP-II):

1. It is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a 60:40 cost-sharing pattern between the Centre and the States.

2. It extends coverage to selected border villages adjoining Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar in addition to those along the China border.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding the election and powers of the Rajya Sabha:

1. Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected Members of Legislative Assemblies through proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
2. Voting against the party whip in a Rajya Sabha election leads to disqualification of the MLA under the Anti-Defection Law.
3. The Rajya Sabha can authorize Parliament to legislate on a State List subject in national interest by passing a resolution with a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

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

5. With reference to hate speech under Indian constitutional law, consider the following statements:

1. Article 19(1)(a) guarantees absolute freedom of speech and expression.
2. Reasonable restrictions on speech may be imposed in the interest of public order and sovereignty.
3. Vagueness in statutory language can render a speech-restricting law unconstitutional.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 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



6. With reference to the “freebies culture” in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court in *S. Subramaniam Balaji (2013)* held that freebies always amount to corrupt practices under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
2. The Election Commission states that election manifestos should avoid promises that vitiate the purity of elections.
3. The Reserve Bank of India distinguishes freebies from merit goods such as education and healthcare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements regarding the seat and sittings of the Supreme Court of India:

1. The Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court.
2. The power to establish the seat of the Supreme Court at any place other than Delhi rests exclusively with the Parliament of India by law.
3. The Chief Justice of India can request a retired judge of the Supreme Court to act as a judge of the Supreme Court for a temporary period, but only with the prior consent of the President.

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. 1, 2, and 3

8. With reference to the independence of the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) can be removed from office in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.
2. The expenditure of the Election Commission of India is charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding the ECI-SEC National Declaration 2026:

1. The Declaration seeks to harmonise electoral laws and procedures for local body polls with those governing parliamentary and state legislature elections.
2. The conduct of elections to Panchayats and Municipalities is the constitutional responsibility of the Election Commission of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. With reference to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body established under Article 338-A by the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.
2. The Commission consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members, all appointed by the Prime Minister.
3. The Chairperson holds the rank of a Union Cabinet Minister, and Members are not eligible for appointment for more than two terms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

11. Consider the following statements regarding the legal position of the death penalty in India:

1. Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, the scope of the death penalty has been expanded to include mob lynching if it results in death.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



2. A death sentence awarded by a Sessions Court can be executed immediately if the convict chooses not to appeal to a higher court.
3. In India, juveniles, pregnant women, and mentally ill persons are legally exempted from being executed.

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

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

12. With reference to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), consider the following statements:

1. It was established under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of environmental cases.
2. NGT is bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
3. The NGT is mandated to endeavour to dispose of applications or appeals within six months of filing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. Consider the following statements regarding Parliamentary Privileges in India:

1. The freedom of speech under Article 105(1) is co-extensive with the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed to citizens under Article 19(1)(a).
2. Parliamentary privileges under Article 105 extend to the President of India as he is an integral part of the Parliament.

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

14. With reference to the North Eastern Council (NEC), consider the following statements:

1. The North Eastern Council is a statutory body established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971, and functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.
2. The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the North Eastern Council.

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

International Relations

15. Which of the following projects are associated with India–Bangladesh connectivity and energy cooperation?

1. Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant
2. Akhaura–Agartala Rail Link
3. India–Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

16. Consider the following statements regarding India–Germany cooperation in telecommunications and digital transformation:

1. The Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) signed during the India–Germany Summit 2026 is a legally binding treaty establishing mandatory obligations for both countries.
2. India showcased Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as a model for interoperable digital payments adopted by partner countries.
3. Germany demonstrated quantum communication technology using a 35 km link for multiple consecutive days.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

17. Consider the following statements regarding India's position on the Israel–Palestine issue:

1. India simultaneously supports Palestinian statehood and maintains defence cooperation with Israel.
2. India has moved from a hyphenated policy to a de-hyphenated engagement approach in West Asia.
3. Support for a Two-State solution implies recognition of unilateral territorial changes after 1967.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

18. With reference to the India–GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA), consider the following statements:

1. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is India's largest trading partner bloc.
2. India's imports from the GCC are mainly dominated by engineering goods and textiles.
3. The GCC is headquartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. With reference to the Sweden–India Technology and Artificial Intelligence Corridor (SITAC), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched under a legally binding bilateral treaty between India and Sweden.
2. It aims to provide a structured platform for collaboration among governments, industry, startups, and academia.

3. It focuses on leveraging Artificial Intelligence for industrial and societal outcomes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. With reference to the recent India–Nepal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on transboundary conservation, consider the following statements:

1. The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation in wildlife corridor management between the two countries.
2. The MoU establishes a common currency mechanism to fund biodiversity projects.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. With reference to India–Israel relations, consider the following statements:

1. India established full diplomatic relations with Israel only in 1992, despite recognizing it earlier.
2. The “de-hyphenation policy” implies that India has withdrawn its support for a two-state solution in the Israel–Palestine issue.
3. India and Israel have co-developed the Barak-8 missile system as part of defence cooperation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

1. It is headquartered in Geneva.
2. It is supported by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
3. Its members serve staggered three-year terms based on regional representation.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. With reference to the 'Pax Silica Initiative', consider the following statements:

1. It is a strategic initiative led by the United States to build a resilient and innovation-driven silicon supply chain.
2. India is a founding member of this initiative, having joined it at its inception in December 2025.
3. It aims to reduce coercive dependencies on adversarial nations across critical minerals, semiconductors, and AI 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

24. With reference to the World Food Programme (WFP), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 1961 by the United Nations General Assembly and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
2. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 for its efforts to combat hunger and prevent the use of starvation as a weapon of war.

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

25. In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?

- A. Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait
- B. Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates
- C. Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia
- D. Kuwait, Turkey, Qatar, and Bahrain

Indian Economy

26. Consider the following statements:

1. India ranks second globally in the number of large dams, trailing only behind China.
2. The Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) receives financial assistance from both the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to support dam safety in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. The 'Service Area Approach' (SAA), introduced in 1989 to ensure planned and orderly development of rural and semi-urban areas by assigning specific village clusters to individual bank branches, was implemented under the purview of which of the following institutional mechanisms?

- A. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)
- B. Lead Bank Scheme
- C. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
- D. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

28. Consider the following statements regarding telecom spectrum and its treatment under Indian law:

1. Telecom spectrum is a public resource owned by the Union of India and cannot be treated as a corporate asset for insolvency resolution under the IBC, 2016.
2. Licensing of spectrum provides Telecom Service Providers full ownership rights, allowing them to include it as an asset in their balance sheet for loan recovery purposes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



29. With reference to the PM RAHAT Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It provides cashless medical treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh for road accident victims for a limited initial period.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. Consider the following statements regarding the Export Promotion Mission (EPM):

1. It is anchored by the Department of Commerce, with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) serving as the nodal implementing agency.
2. The mission operates through two complementary streams i.e., 'Niryat Protsahan' for financial enablers and 'Niryat Disha' for non-financial enablers.
3. The mission specifically prioritizes support to tariff-hit sectors such as textiles, leather, and marine products.

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

31. With reference to the Namu Bharat Rapid Rail, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).
2. Its maximum design speed is higher than its operational speed.
3. It is primarily designed for intra-city mobility with frequent halts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

32. The key advantage of using Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for food subsidy delivery lies in:

- A. Paying interest on subsidy amounts held in digital wallets
- B. Eliminating the need for Fair Price Shops
- C. Ensuring purpose-bound, traceable and non-divertible subsidy usage
- D. Replacing physical foodgrain distribution with cash transfers

33. With reference to the Reserve Bank of India's Switch Auction, consider the following statements:

1. It is a monetary policy tool used to control inflation.
2. It involves replacing short-term government securities with long-term securities.
3. It helps in reducing redemption pressure in a particular financial year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

34. Consider the following statements regarding the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP):

1. It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
2. The spatial planning and development of these corridors are guided by the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan.
3. The programme focuses exclusively on upgrading existing "brownfield" industrial estates rather than developing new cities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. Consider the following statements:

1. The Agreements on Reciprocal Trade (ARTs) are comprehensive free trade agreements strictly notified under Article XXIV of the GATT framework.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



2. The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) signed between India and EFTA mandates binding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) targets.
3. India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 aims to achieve USD 2 trillion in total exports by 2030.

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. 1, 2, and 3

Biodiversity & Environment

36. With reference to the Eurasian Otter, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed as "Near Threatened" on the IUCN Red List.
2. The Eurasian Otter is a freshwater predator whose presence indicates healthy rivers and lakes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. With reference to the Loggerhead sea turtle, consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the seven extant species of sea turtles.
2. It derives its name from its disproportionately large, block-like head adapted for crushing hard-shelled prey.
3. It is an omnivorous marine reptile.

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. 1, 2 and 3

38. With reference to Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), consider the following statements:

1. CCU technologies invariably lead to permanent removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

2. CCS involves the long-term storage of captured carbon dioxide in geological formations.
3. The climate mitigation potential of CCU depends upon the nature of its end-use application.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

39. With reference to the 'Bee Corridor' initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It aims to promote pollinator-friendly ecological infrastructure along highways.
3. It involves planting native flowering species with staggered seasonal cycles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

40. Consider the following two statements regarding the Planetary Boundaries framework:

1. The Planetary Boundaries framework, first proposed in 2009, identifies 9 critical Earth system processes that regulate the planet's stability.
2. These boundaries are designed to act as independent thresholds, allowing scientists and policymakers to address each environmental issue in complete isolation from the others.

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

41. With reference to carbon capture and utilisation, captured CO₂ can be utilised for which of the following purposes?

1. Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) in depleting oil fields
2. Carbonation of beverages

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



3. Fertiliser enrichment in greenhouses and algae cultivation
4. Production of dry ice and use as industrial refrigerant

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

History- Art and Culture

42. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Ol Chiki' script:

1. It was invented by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925 to provide a distinct identity to the Santhali language.
2. Unlike the Devanagari script, Ol Chiki is syllabic in nature rather than alphabetic.
3. The first literary work written in this script was the book titled "High Serena".

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

43. Which of the following destinations have been identified for development as experiential cultural destinations in Budget 2026–27?

1. Lothal
2. Dholavira
3. Ajanta
4. Rakhigarhi

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

44. The immediate trigger for the Royal Indian Navy Revolt included which of the following factors?

1. Poor quality of food and racial discrimination faced by naval ratings

2. Arrest of a rating for writing "Quit India"
3. Protest against the Cabinet Mission Plan
4. Opposition to the trials of Indian National Army personnel

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

45. With reference to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, consider the following statements:

1. He was crowned as "Chhatrapati" in 1674 and established a council of ministers known as the Ashtapradhan for administrative governance.
2. He adopted Persian as the principal language of administration in his kingdom to ensure continuity with earlier Deccan Sultanates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

46. With reference to C. Rajagopalachari, consider the following statements:

1. He was the first and only Indian to serve as Governor-General of independent India.
2. He succeeded Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as the Union Home Minister of India.
3. He led the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha in complete opposition to Mahatma Gandhi's Civil Disobedience Movement.
4. He was among the first recipients of the Bharat Ratna award.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

47. With reference to Chandra Shekhar Azad, consider the following statements:

1. He was a founding member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



2. He was captured alive by British police at Alfred Park in 1931.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

48. With reference to the Indian National Army (INA), consider the following statements:

1. The INA was initially formed by Rashbehari Bose in 1942 with Japanese support, recruiting Indian prisoners of war from the British Indian Army.
2. The Provisional Government of Free India was established by Subhas Chandra Bose in Singapore and was recognized by nine countries including Japan and Germany.
3. The defence of INA officials was organized by leaders including Bhulabhai Desai, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Asaf Ali.

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. 1, 2 and 3

49. Consider the following statements regarding the revolutionary and organizational activities of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar:

1. He founded the Mitra Mela which later evolved into the Abhinav Bharat Society.
2. He established the Free India Society in London to organize Indian students for the independence struggle.
3. He was the sole founder of India House in London, which emerged as a major centre for revolutionary activities.

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

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

50. In 2023, the "Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas" was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. Which one of the following temples is NOT a part of this designated UNESCO site?

- A. Chennakeshava Temple, Belur
B. Hoysaleswara Temple, Halebidu
C. Keshava Temple, Somnathpur
D. Virupaksha Temple, Hampi

51. With reference to Hoysala temple architecture, consider the following statements:

1. Hoysala temples were primarily constructed using chloritic schist, commonly known as soapstone.
2. The softness of soapstone after quarrying enabled extremely fine and intricate sculptural detailing.
3. Hoysala temples completely rejected both Nagara and Dravida architectural traditions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Geography

Geography

52. The 'Blood Moon' phenomenon, observed during a total lunar eclipse, occurs due to which one of the following reasons?

- A. The Earth's shadow completely blocks all sunlight from reaching the Moon, making it invisible and then reflecting red light from Mars.
- B. A sudden increase in solar activity causes the Moon's surface to emit a reddish glow.
- C. The refraction and scattering of sunlight by Earth's atmosphere, which allows longer red wavelengths to reach the Moon.
- D. The Moon enters the umbra of the Earth's shadow, causing its geological composition to temporarily alter and appear red.

53. With reference to Great Nicobar Island, consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest island in the Nicobar group and is separated from the Andaman group by the Ten Degree Channel.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



2. It hosts Indira Point, the southernmost point of India.
3. The island is inhabited by indigenous tribal communities including the Shompen and Nicobarese.

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

Science & Technology

54. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Vikram' Large Language Models (LLMs):

1. The 'Vikram' LLMs were developed by a Bengaluru-based AI startup under the IndiaAI Mission framework.
2. The largest 'Vikram' model has 600 billion parameters, making it larger than DeepSeek's R1 model.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

55. Consider the following statements regarding Nitric Oxide (NO):

1. The discovery of NO as an endothelium-derived relaxing factor (EDRF) was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology.
2. In the immune system, NO facilitates the disruption of pathogen metabolism to exert antimicrobial activity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

56. With reference to chirality-based electronics, consider the following statements:

1. Chirality in electrons refers to a quantum property analogous to left- and right-handedness.

2. Earlier methods to separate chiral electrons required strong magnetic fields or chemical doping.
3. Chirality-based separation of electrons is impossible without using magnetic fields.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

57. With reference to the AI-based 'Bharat VISTAAR' initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It enables farmers to access real-time mandi prices and crop advisory through an AI-driven helpline.
2. The platform is implemented by NITI Aayog in collaboration with private agri-tech startups.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

58. With reference to the Secure AI for Health Initiative (SAHI), consider the following statements:

1. It provides a national governance framework for responsible adoption of AI in healthcare.
2. It directly funds AI-based healthcare start-ups.
3. It emphasises privacy protection and citizen-centric safeguards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

59. With reference to India's Gaganyaan mission, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) carried out a qualification load test for the Gaganyaan programme at the Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility located at the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



- Gaganyaan aims to send a crew of three astronauts to a Low Earth Orbit of about 400 km for a mission duration of nearly three days and ensure their safe return to Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

60. With reference to the SANKALP Scheme, consider the following statements:

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- It aims to strengthen skill development institutions at the national, state, and district levels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

61. With reference to the North Eastern Science & Technology Cluster (NEST) Project, consider the following statements:

- It has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region through the North Eastern Council.
- The Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati serves as the nodal implementation agency.
- The project operates under a Cluster-in-Cluster model to promote decentralized innovation.
- One of its thematic verticals focuses on Semiconductor and Artificial Intelligence technologies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

62. Which of the following is/are pillars of the IndiaAI Mission?

- IndiaAI Compute
- AIKosh

- National Quantum Grid
- Safe and Trusted AI

Select the correct answer:

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

63. Consider the following statements about Tetanus:

- It is caused by anaerobic spores of Clostridium tetani found in soil and animal feces.
- Recovery from a natural infection of Tetanus provides lifelong natural immunity to the patient.
- India achieved the milestone of reducing neonatal tetanus to less than 1 case per 1,000 live births in every district by 2015.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Defence & Security

64. With reference to 'Anjadip Vessel', consider the following statements:

- Anjadip is an indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- It is equipped with the indigenously developed Hull Mounted Sonar 'Abhay' along with Lightweight Torpedoes and ASW Rockets.
- The vessel is named after an island located in the Bay of Bengal, historically claimed by the British during the 17th century.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



65. Match the following aircraft with their primary operational role:

List I	List II
1. Su-30MKI	A. Airborne surveillance and battle management
2. IL-78	B. Mid-air refuelling tanker
3. AWACS	C. Multirole fighter aircraft

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1–C, 2–B, 3–A
- B. 1–A, 2–C, 3–B
- C. 1–B, 2–A, 3–C
- D. 1–C, 2–A, 3–B

66. The indigenous sonar 'Abhay', recently in news, is best associated with which of the following platforms?

- A. Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines
- B. Aircraft carriers of the Indian Navy
- C. Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts
- D. Long-range maritime patrol aircraft

67. Which of the following institutions/agencies play a role in intelligence coordination under PRAHAAR?

- 1. Multi Agency Centre (MAC)
- 2. Joint Task Force on Intelligence (JTFI)
- 3. National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- 4. National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)

Select the correct answer:

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

68. With reference to cybersecurity risks in space systems, consider the following threats:

- 1. Signal jamming
- 2. Spoofing of satellite signals
- 3. Unauthorized command uplink to satellites
- 4. Solar radiation–induced hardware malfunction

Which of the above are identified as cyber threats to space assets?

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

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

69. With reference to bilateral military exercises between India and the United States, consider the following pairs:

Exercise	Domain
1. Cope India	Air Force
2. Yudh Abhyas	Army
3. Vajra Prahar	Special Force

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

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

70. With reference to Exercise MILAN, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an annual multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy.
- 2. It was initially conducted under the Andaman and Nicobar Command in 1995.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Miscellaneous

71. Consider the following statements regarding the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025:

- 1. The CPI 2025 was published by the United Nations to assess perceived public sector corruption globally.
- 2. India was ranked 91st out of 182 countries in the CPI 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



72. With reference to the World Day of Social Justice, consider the following statements:

1. It is observed every year on 20th February and was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007.
2. The day originates from the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.
3. It directly supports Sustainable Development Goals related to poverty eradication, decent work and reduced inequalities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

73. With reference to the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact (2026), consider the following statements:

1. It is a legally binding multilateral treaty on AI governance.
2. It is structured around seven thematic "Chakras."
3. It explicitly prohibits high-risk AI practices such as biometric mass surveillance.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

74. With reference to V.O. Chidambaranar Port, consider the following statements:

1. It is the first Indian port to produce and use green hydrogen on-site.
2. The port is naturally sheltered from cyclones due to the presence of Sri Lanka.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

75. With reference to the E175 Jets project in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Final Assembly Line (FAL) for E175 regional jets in India is proposed through a partnership

between Adani Defence & Aerospace and Brazil's Embraer.

2. The E175 jet is designed primarily for long-haul international routes with a seating capacity exceeding 150 passengers.
3. The project aligns with the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN) and aims to strengthen India's indigenous aviation ecosystem.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

76. With reference to the joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian', consider the following statements:

1. It is a bilateral exercise conducted between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.
2. The 7th edition of the exercise is being held in Uttarakhand.
3. The exercise focuses exclusively on high-altitude warfare in mountainous terrain.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

77. With reference to the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination drive in India, consider the following statements:

1. The HPV vaccination programme will be implemented under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) as part of routine immunisation.
2. The vaccination will be voluntary and free of cost for girls aged 14 years.
3. The vaccination drive will be tracked through the U-WIN digital platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

78. With reference to the RailTech Policy, consider the following statements:

1. It replaces the multi-stage vendor selection mechanism with a simplified single-stage digital submission process.
2. The Railways may support up to 50% of development funding for viable technological solutions.
3. The policy restricts participation only to government institutions and public sector undertakings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

79. With reference to India's AI Revolution in Rural Development, consider the following statements:

1. BharatGen is India's first government-funded sovereign multilingual Large Language Model developed under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems.
2. BHASHINI provides translation and speech-to-text services but supports only the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
3. BhuPRAHARI uses AI and geospatial technology to monitor assets created under rural employment schemes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 3 only

B. 1 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answers

1.	(D)	15.	(D)	29.	(A)	43.	(B)	57.	(A)	71.	(B)
2.	(C)	16.	(B)	30.	(D)	44.	(B)	58.	(A)	72.	(A)
3.	(B)	17.	(A)	31.	(A)	45.	(A)	59.	(B)	73.	(A)
4.	(B)	18.	(A)	32.	(C)	46.	(A)	60.	(C)	74.	(C)
5.	(B)	19.	(A)	33.	(B)	47.	(A)	61.	(A)	75.	(A)
6.	(A)	20.	(A)	34.	(B)	48.	(B)	62.	(B)	76.	(A)
7.	(C)	21.	(A)	35.	(B)	49.	(B)	63.	(C)	77.	(A)
8.	(A)	22.	(C)	36.	(C)	50.	(D)	64.	(A)	78.	(A)
9.	(A)	23.	(B)	37.	(D)	51.	(A)	65.	(A)	79.	(A)
10.	(A)	24.	(C)	38.	(A)	52.	(C)	66.	(C)		
11.	(A)	25.	(B)	39.	(A)	53.	(D)	67.	(C)		
12.	(A)	26.	(A)	40.	(A)	54.	(A)	68.	(B)		
13.	(D)	27.	(B)	41.	(D)	55.	(B)	69.	(C)		
14.	(A)	28.	(A)	42.	(B)	56.	(A)	70.	(B)		

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Explanation

Polity & Governance

1.

Ans: D

Exp:

🔦 In *Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments, Madras v. Sri Lakshmindra Thirtha Swamiar of Shirur Mutt (1954)*, the Supreme Court established the Doctrine of Essential Religious Practices (ERP), stating that the court would determine what is “essential” to a religion based on its own doctrines. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

🔦 In the *Durgah Committee, Ajmer v. Syed Hussain Ali (1961)*, the Court held that practices that are “superstitious” or “extraneous and unessential accretions” to religion are not protected by the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of religion. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

🔦 In *Shayara Bano v. Union of India (2017)*, a 3:2 majority of the Supreme Court declared the practice of talaq-e-biddat (instant triple talaq) unconstitutional. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

🔦 In *Indian Young Lawyers Association v. State of Kerala (2018)* (Sabarimala case), the Court ruled that even if a practice is considered “essential” to a religion, it must comply with “constitutional morality” (equality, dignity, and freedom). **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.**

🔦 Hence, option D is correct.

2.

Ans: C

Exp:

🔦 The **Forest Rights Act, 2006**, extends recognition to **Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST)** and **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD)** who have primarily resided in **forest land** for **bona fide livelihood needs** for at least **three generations (75 years)** prior to the **cut-off date of 13th December 2005**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 The Act designates the **Gram Sabha** as the **competent authority** to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of **forest rights**. It is responsible for receiving, verifying, and consolidating claims for **Individual Forest Rights (IFR)** and **Community Forest**

Rights (CFR), and for passing resolutions on such claims. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 Hence, option C is correct.

3.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 The **second phase** of the **Vibrant Village Programme** has been approved as a **Central Sector Scheme**, which implies **complete financial support** from the **Union Government**. Therefore, it does not follow a 60:40 Centre–State funding arrangement. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

🔦 Unlike the initial phase that focused **primarily on villages** along the **China frontier**, the expanded phase now includes identified **settlements situated** near **India’s borders** with **Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar**, thereby widening its **strategic and developmental footprint**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

4.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected indirectly by the elected MLAs of States and Union Territories using the system of proportional representation through the single transferable vote. In this method, MLAs rank candidates in order of preference rather than voting for only one candidate. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 The Supreme Court has clarified that voting against the party whip in a Rajya Sabha election does not attract disqualification under the Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law). The political party may take disciplinary action, but the MLA does not lose the Assembly membership. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

🔦 Under Article 249, the Rajya Sabha can pass a resolution with a two-thirds majority of members present and voting to allow Parliament to legislate on a State List subject in national interest. **Hence, statement 3 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



5.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Under Article 19(1)(a), freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed, but it is not absolute. It is subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 Article 19(2) permits reasonable restrictions in the interests of:
 - ✦ Public order
 - ✦ Sovereignty and integrity of India
 - ✦ Security of the State
 - ✦ Decency or morality
 - ✦ Incitement to an offence, etc. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 In *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India* (2015), the Supreme Court struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, on the ground that vague terms like “annoying” or “grossly offensive” violated Article 19(1)(a). The Court held that vagueness leads to arbitrary enforcement, making such laws unconstitutional. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

6.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 In *S. Subramaniam Balaji vs State of Tamil Nadu* (2013), the Supreme Court did **not** declare freebies as corrupt practices under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- 💡 The Court held that distribution of freebies falls within the domain of **policy decisions of the legislature/executive** and cannot automatically be treated as bribery. However, it asked the Election Commission to frame guidelines for manifestos. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 The Election Commission’s manifesto guidelines (under the Model Code of Conduct framework) advise political parties to avoid promises that unduly influence voters, disturb level playing field and compromise purity of elections.
 - ✦ Though not legally enforceable like the RPA, they are ethical electoral standards. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The Reserve Bank of India differentiates:
 - ✦ **Freebies:** Populist transfers like free electricity, loan waivers, unconditional cash transfers

- ✦ **Merit goods:** Public spending on education, healthcare, nutrition etc., which create long-term productive capacity
- ✦ RBI warns competitive freebie politics strains state finances and crowds out capital expenditure. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

7.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 Article 130 declares that the seat of the Supreme Court shall be in Delhi. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 It is not the Parliament, but the Chief Justice of India (CJI) who has the authority to decide other places as the seat of the Supreme Court, with the prior approval of the President. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 Under Article 128, the CJI can request a retired SC judge to sit and act as an SC judge for a specified period, subject to the President’s prior consent. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

8.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The Constitution provides the **Chief Election Commissioner** with strong **security of tenure**. Removal requires a **special majority in both Houses of Parliament** on grounds of **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**, following the same procedure applicable to **judges of the Supreme Court**. This safeguard aims to **ensure institutional independence**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The **expenditure** of the **Election Commission of India** is not charged on the **Consolidated Fund of India**. Instead, they are subject to **parliamentary approval**, which has raised concerns regarding **financial autonomy**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

9.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 One of the key aims of the **ECI-SEC National Declaration 2026** is to bring greater coherence between the **electoral frameworks** followed by **State Election Commissions** for **local bodies** and those applied by the **Election Commission of India** for **parliamentary and Assembly elections**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Under **Articles 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution**, elections to **Panchayats and Municipalities** are administered by the respective **State Election Commissions**, not by the Election Commission of India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

10.

Ans: A

Exp:

The **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** is a **constitutional body** established under **Article 338-A** of the Constitution. It was created through the **89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003**, which bifurcated the earlier National Commission for SCs and STs into two separate bodies to address the distinct concerns of **Scheduled Tribes (STs)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

It consists of **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and 3 other members** (including at least **one woman Member**) appointed by the **President** by warrant under his hand and seal. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and other Members serve a 3-year term, with the **Chairperson** holding the rank of **Union Cabinet Minister**, the **Vice-Chairperson** the rank of a **Minister of State**, and **other Members** the rank of **Secretary** to the Government of India. Members are **not eligible** for appointment for **more than two terms**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

11.

Ans: A

Exp:

The **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023** retains capital punishment and expands it to around 14 categories, specifically including mob lynching (resulting in death) and the rape of a minor. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

A death sentence awarded by a Sessions Court is never final on its own. It must be confirmed by the High Court before execution, regardless of whether the convict appeals or not. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

The BNS and Supreme Court guidelines explicitly exempt juveniles, pregnant women, and mentally ill

persons from the death penalty. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

12.

Ans: A

Exp:

The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** was established on 18.10.2010 under the **National Green Tribunal Act, 2010**. Its mandate is the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to **environmental protection, conservation of forests** and other natural resources. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The **NGT** is not bound by the procedure laid down under the **Code of Civil Procedure, 1908**. It is also not bound by the **Indian Evidence Act, 1872**. It is guided by the principles of **natural justice**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

The **NGT** is mandated to make an endeavor for disposal of applications or appeals finally within **6 months** from the date of filing, as per the provisions of the **NGT Act, 2010**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

13.

Ans: D

Exp:

Article 105(1) is not co-extensive with Article 19. While Article 19 is subject to "reasonable restrictions" (public order, etc.), Article 105 is independent of those restrictions and is only subject to the rules of the House. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

While the **President is part of the Parliament, parliamentary privileges under Article 105 do not extend to the President**. (The President has separate immunities under Article 361). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option D is correct.

14.

Ans: A

Exp:

North Eastern Council (NEC) is a **statutory advisory body** established under the **North Eastern Council Act, 1971** (came into being in November, 1972), serving as the **nodal agency** for the economic and social development of India's 8 North Eastern Region (NER), with its headquarters in **Shillong, Meghalaya**.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



✦ It functions under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Development of the North-Eastern Region (DoNER)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The **Union Home Minister** serves as the **ex-officio chairman** of the North Eastern Council (NEC), not the Minister of Development of the North-Eastern Region (DoNER). Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

💡 Hence, **option A is correct**.

International Relations

15.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 The **Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (1,320 MW) in Bangladesh** has been developed with Indian assistance and is a flagship project of India–Bangladesh energy cooperation.

✦ It **enables cross-border power generation and strengthens regional energy security**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The **Akhaura–Agartala rail link** enhances cross-border connectivity **by linking Tripura with Bangladesh’s rail network**.

✦ It **reduces travel distance, boosts trade and people-to-people ties, and is a key connectivity project under India’s Act East and Neighbourhood First policies**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 The **India–Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline** transports high-speed diesel from **Numaligarh Refinery (Assam) to Parbatipur (Bangladesh)**.

✦ It is a **major energy infrastructure project** ensuring reliable fuel supply and deepening bilateral energy cooperation. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

💡 Hence, **option D is correct**.

16.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) establishes a forward-looking framework for cooperation in telecommunications and digital governance. It is specifically described as a **non-binding framework**, meaning it does not impose mandatory legal obligations on either country. Such declarations

generally express shared intent and policy direction rather than enforceable commitments. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

💡 India highlighted its digital public infrastructure achievements, including the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). UPI processes around **250 billion transactions annually** and is being adopted or studied by multiple partner countries as a model for interoperable real-time digital payments. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 Germany shared advancements in secure communications, including a successful demonstration of **quantum communication over a 35 km link for 11 consecutive days**, showcasing reliability in quantum encryption and secure information transport technologies. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

💡 Hence, **option B is correct**.

17.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 India follows a **dual-engagement policy**: it consistently supports an independent Palestinian state in international forums while simultaneously maintaining **strong defence, technology, and security cooperation with Israel**. This reflects pragmatic foreign policy rather than ideological alignment. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 India earlier treated Israel ties as dependent on the Palestinian issue (**hyphenated policy**), but now engages both separately. This **“de-hyphenation”** allows India to build strategic ties with Israel while preserving political support and goodwill in the Arab world. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 The **Two-State solution is based on pre-1967 borders** and rejects unilateral territorial expansion such as settlements or annexation. It allows only mutually negotiated adjustments, therefore it does not recognise post-1967 unilateral territorial changes. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

💡 Hence, **option A is correct**.

18.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The GCC accounts for **15.42% of India’s global trade**, making it India’s largest trading partner bloc. Bilateral trade reached **USD 178.56 billion in FY 2024–25**, reflecting strong economic interdependence. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



India's imports from the GCC are primarily **crude oil, LNG, petrochemicals, and precious metals like gold**, not engineering goods or textiles. The latter are major Indian exports to the GCC. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

The Gulf Cooperation Council, established in 1981, is headquartered in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**, and its highest authority is the Supreme Council comprising member state heads. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

19.

Ans: A

Exp:

SITAC was launched through a **Statement of Intent (SoI)** signed between the IndiaAI Mission and Business Sweden. A Statement of Intent **reflects political commitment and cooperative intent** but is **not a legally binding treaty** ratified under international law. Therefore, SITAC represents a **structured collaboration mechanism** rather than a **formal treaty obligation** between governments. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

SITAC is conceived as a **flagship platform for structured engagement**. It is designed to bring together **multiple stakeholders, government agencies, industry leaders, startups, and academic institutions**, from both India and Sweden. The corridor model ensures institutionalised collaboration rather than ad-hoc project-based cooperation, thereby strengthening long-term innovation partnerships in AI and digital technologies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

The partnership explicitly emphasizes the **development and deployment of AI solutions for real-world industrial and societal impact**. The focus is not limited to theoretical research but **includes practical applications** in innovation, economic growth, sustainability, and responsible AI governance. This aligns India's AI ecosystem-building efforts with Sweden's strengths in industrial R&D and responsible AI implementation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

20.

Ans: A

Exp:

The **MoU between India and Nepal** provides for **coordinated action** in managing **shared ecosystems**, including **restoration and protection** of cross-border

wildlife corridors to ensure **safe animal movement and habitat connectivity**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The arrangement **does not introduce any shared monetary or currency framework**. It focuses on **institutional cooperation, capacity building, and conservation planning** rather than creating a joint financial mechanism. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

21.

Ans: A

Exp:

India **recognized Israel in 1950** but established **full diplomatic relations only in 1992**. This delay was largely **due to Cold War considerations** and India's traditional support for the Palestinian cause. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The de-hyphenation policy **does not mean abandoning support for Palestine**. Instead, it allows India to **pursue independent bilateral relations with Israel** without linking them to its stance on the Palestinian issue. India continues to support a **two-state solution**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

India and Israel have **co-developed the Barak-8 surface-to-air missile system**, marking a shift from a buyer-seller dynamic to joint research and production in advanced defence technologies. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

22.

Ans: C

Exp:

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

It is supported by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for secretariat and technical functions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

The Council has 47 members, elected for staggered three-year terms based on equitable geographical distribution. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option C is correct.

23.

Ans: B

Exp:

Pax Silica is a US-led strategic initiative launched to build a secure and resilient silicon supply chain. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



India is not a founding member. The initiative was launched in December 2025 (with members like Australia, Japan, UK, UAE, etc.), and India formally joined it later at the India-AI Impact Summit 2026.

Hence, statement 2 is not correct:

A core objective of the initiative is to reduce China's dominance and counter coercive dependencies in critical high-tech sectors, including advanced manufacturing and AI infrastructure. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Hence, option B is correct.

24.

Ans: C

Exp:

The **World Food Programme (WFP)** was established in **1961** by the **UN General Assembly** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.

It operates under UN authority with a dual mandate to provide **emergency food relief** and support long-term **food security and stability**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

WFP was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** in **2020** for its efforts to combat **hunger**, prevent the use of **starvation as a weapon of war**, and promote peace through food assistance. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Hence, option C is correct.

25.

Ans: B

Exp:

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional political and economic alliance established in **1981**, comprising **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates**.

Formed in response to regional tensions such as the **Iranian Revolution (1979)** and the **Iran–Iraq War (1980–1988)**, the GCC aims to promote economic, security, cultural, and social cooperation among its members.

GCC headquartered in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**, its organisational structure includes the **Supreme Council**, the highest authority composed of member state heads with a rotating presidency.

Hence, option B is correct.

Indian Economy

26.

Ans: A

Exp:

India ranks **third globally** (after China and the USA) in the number of large dams, with a portfolio of **6628 dams** (National Register of Specified Dams, 2025). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)** is a flagship initiative by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, designed to enhance the structural safety and operational efficiency of dams in India.

Under DRIP, financial assistance provided by the **World Bank** and **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**. Each phase of DRIP receives **USD 500 million** in external assistance. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

27.

Ans: B

Exp:

Lead Bank Scheme (LBS), introduced by **RBI** in **December 1969**, is a key institutional mechanism designed to promote **coordinated banking development, priority sector lending, and financial inclusion** at the district level through an "Area Approach."

Introduced in **April 1989**, the **Service Area Approach** was an evolution of the **Area Approach**. It assigned specific clusters of villages (**15-25 per branch**) to individual **bank branches** to ensure **planned development, prevent overlap, and avoid under-coverage** in lending.

Hence, option B is correct.

28.

Ans: A

Exp:

The **Supreme Court** has clarified that **spectrum** is a public resource and the legal title remains with the **Union of India**. **Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)** only have a limited, revocable right to use it.

Consequently, it **cannot** be treated as a **corporate asset** under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** for resolution or liquidation purposes. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



⚡ Spectrum licensing does not confer ownership to TSPs. While licenses allow TSPs to use the spectrum and record associated economic benefits in financial statements, these rights are conditional and do not constitute proprietary interest.

✘ Therefore, spectrum cannot be treated as an asset for loan recovery or balance sheet purposes. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

29.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ The PM RAHAT Scheme ensures financial protection to road accident victims by covering hospital expenses up to ₹1.5 lakh during the initial days of treatment, thereby promoting timely medical intervention. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, not by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It is specifically designed under the road safety and transport governance framework. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

30.

Ans: D

Exp:

⚡ Export Promotion Mission (EPM) is an export-promoting initiative designed to consolidate fragmented export support mechanisms into a single, digitally monitored framework to enhance the global competitiveness of Indian MSMEs and labour-intensive sectors.

⚡ The mission is anchored by the Department of Commerce, with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) serving as the nodal implementing agency. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ EPM functions through two complementary streams:

✘ **Niryat Protsahan:** Focuses on financial enablers, including affordable trade finance, interest subvention, export factoring, and credit enhancement for MSMEs.

✘ **Niryat Disha:** Focuses on non-financial enablers, such as support for quality compliance, branding, participation in trade fairs, logistics, and district-level capacity building. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ It prioritizes tariff-hit sectors like textiles, leather, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, and marine products. Under Niryat Disha, it provides targeted support to interior and low-export districts to broaden India's export base and promote inclusive participation. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

⚡ Hence, option D is correct.

31.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ Namoo Bharat, operated by NCRTC on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor, is India's pioneering Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), launched in 2023 to provide semi-high-speed connectivity across the National Capital Region. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ The train features a maximum design speed of 180 km/h, while its operational speed caps at 160 km/h, confirming the design exceeds operational limits for safety and infrastructure constraints. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ Namoo Bharat prioritizes inter-city regional travel (e.g., Delhi-Meerut in under an hour) with fewer intermediate stops, distinguishing it from intra-city metros that emphasize high-frequency, short-haul trips with many halts. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

32.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ The CBDC-based PMGKAY pilot credits food subsidies as programmable Digital Rupee (₹) tokens directly into beneficiary wallets. These tokens can be used only at authorised Fair Price Shops for purchasing entitled foodgrains.

✘ This ensures end-use restriction, full traceability, and zero diversion of subsidy funds.

✘ Hence, the key advantage is purpose-bound, transparent, and non-divertible subsidy delivery.

⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

33.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ A switch auction is not a monetary policy instrument. Monetary policy tools of the Reserve Bank of India,

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



such as **repo rate, CRR, and Open Market Operations**, are used to regulate inflation and liquidity in the economy. A switch auction, however, is a **public debt management tool** aimed at managing the government's borrowing and repayment schedule, **not at controlling inflation** or money supply. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Under a switch auction, the government exchanges **short-term or near-maturity Government Securities (G-Secs)** for newly issued long-term securities. This effectively replaces debt that is about to mature with debt that will mature later, thereby extending the maturity profile of outstanding liabilities. It **does not immediately increase borrowing** but restructures existing obligations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Redemption pressure arises when a **large volume of government bonds mature** in the same financial year, requiring substantial repayment or refinancing. By conducting switch auctions, maturities are shifted to later years, reducing bunching of repayments. This **smoothens the debt profile, lowers refinancing risks**, and supports fiscal stability without causing sudden liquidity stress. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

34.

Ans: B

Exp:

The National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) is implemented by NICDC, which is an autonomous body under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

The NICDP is indeed guided by the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan to ensure coordinated, multimodal connectivity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

The NICDP specifically focuses on developing a network of integrated industrial corridors and greenfield smart industrial cities built ahead of demand, not just brownfield projects. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

35.

Ans: B

Exp:

Agreements on Reciprocal Trade (ARTs) are bilateral trade deals signed by the US. Unlike traditional **free**

trade agreements (FTAs), the ARTs signed by the US are not established under **GATT Article XXIV**.

These agreements operate outside the WTO's institutional framework, bypassing standard legal oversight and preventing scrutiny by the WTO or other member countries. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

India and EFTA (intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) in 2024. The TEPA commits USD 100 billion in investments and 1 million direct jobs over 15 years, the first binding pledge of its kind in any Indian FTA. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

The Foreign Trade Policy of 2023 sets a definitive goal to elevate India's total exports to two trillion dollars by the year 2030. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

Biodiversity & Environment

36.

Ans: C

Exp:

The **Eurasian Otter** is classified as **Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List** at the global level. Although it has a wide distribution across **Europe and Asia**, its population has declined in several regions due to **habitat loss, river pollution, decline in fish stocks, and illegal hunting**. However, conservation efforts in some countries have led to partial recovery. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The **Eurasian Otter**, a top **freshwater predator** feeding mainly on fish and other aquatic animals, serves as a **bio-indicator of healthy rivers and lakes**, with recent sightings in Kashmir signaling habitat recovery. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Hence, option C is correct.

37.

Ans: D

Exp:

There are seven extant species of sea turtles, i.e., the Green, Hawksbill, Kemp's Ridley, Olive Ridley, Leatherback, Flatback, and Loggerhead. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The English common name "Loggerhead" is derived from the turtle's massive, block-like head. This feature

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



supports powerful jaws specifically adapted for crushing hard-shelled prey such as crabs, whelks, and conchs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 Loggerheads are omnivorous marine reptiles. While they primarily hunt invertebrates (carnivorous), they also consume algae and vascular plants, fitting the definition of an omnivore. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

38.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 CCU does **not invariably** lead to permanent CO₂ removal. In applications like synthetic fuels, the captured CO₂ is re-released upon combustion. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 CCS involves **long-term geological storage** of captured CO₂, such as in depleted oil and gas reservoirs or deep saline aquifers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 The mitigation impact of CCU depends on the **end-use pathway**. For example, mineralisation can permanently lock carbon, whereas fuel production results in temporary utilisation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

39.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The 'Bee Corridor' initiative promotes pollinator-friendly ecological infrastructure along national highways through native flowering species planted with staggered seasonal cycles for year-round nectar/pollen availability.

💡 Initiative of National Highways Authority of India (NHA) under Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, not MoEFCC. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 Creates continuous bee-friendly vegetation along highways (clusters every 500m-1km matching bee foraging range). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 Features native species (Neem, Karanj, Mahua, Palash, Jamun) with staggered flowering across seasons. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

40.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The **Planetary Boundaries framework** was first proposed in **2009** and it identifies **9 critical Earth**

system processes that regulate **planetary stability**. Crossing these limits increases the risk of abrupt, irreversible environmental changes that threaten ecosystems, economies, and human survival. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 These boundaries are **interconnected**, meaning disruption in **one system** can trigger **cascading impacts** across others. Because they are **interconnected**, they cannot be addressed in **complete isolation**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

41.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 All the listed options represent **direct (non-conversion) uses** of captured carbon dioxide (CO₂), where its **physical properties are utilised without altering its chemical structure**.

💡 Key applications include:

✦ **Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR):** Injecting captured CO₂ into **depleting oil fields** to extract more oil. It is the most mature application but is controversial as it enables further **fossil fuel extraction**.

✦ **Food and Beverage Industry:** Used for **carbonating drinks** and in modified atmosphere packaging to extend **shelf life**.

✦ **Greenhouses and Algae Cultivation:** CO₂ acts as a **fertiliser** to boost plant growth and cultivate algae.

✦ **Refrigerants and Dry Ice:** Used in **industrial cooling systems** and for transport cooling.

💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

History- Art and Culture

42.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The **OI Chiki script** was invented by **Pandit Raghunath Murmu** in **1925** to provide a distinct script for the **Santhali language**, which was previously written in Roman, Devanagari, Oriya, or Bengali scripts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 OI Chiki is alphabetic, it consists of **30 letters** and is designed to be **entirely phonetic**, meaning each

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



symbol corresponds directly to a specific sound. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 The first book written in the Ol Chiki script was indeed titled “High Serena” (often cited as *Hor Sereng* in literary history), authored by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1936. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

43.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The Union Budget 2026–27 proposed the development of **experiential cultural destinations** by transforming select archaeological and heritage sites into immersive spaces that combine conservation with interpretation, visitor engagement, and local economic participation.

✦ The objective is to **move beyond static monument viewing toward storytelling, living history, and cultural experiences.**

✦ Under this initiative, **Lothal, Dholavira, and Rakhigarhi**, all major Harappan civilisation sites, have been **explicitly identified for development**, while **Ajanta is not part of the announced list.**

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

44.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 One of the immediate causes of the Royal Indian Navy Revolt was the **poor quality of food, low pay, racial discrimination, and abuse by British officers**, which created deep resentment among Indian naval ratings. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.

💡 The arrest of a naval rating at **HMIS Talwar for writing “Quit India”** acted as a direct provocation, triggering collective defiance and crystallising existing grievances into open revolt. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 The **Cabinet Mission Plan was announced in March 1946**, after the revolt had already begun in February 1946. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

💡 The revolt was also politically charged by **opposition to the INA trials**, which were widely seen as unjust and had already sparked mass nationalist mobilisation across India. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

45.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Shivaji Maharaj** was crowned at **Raigad Fort in 1674**, assuming the title “**Chhatrapati.**” To strengthen

governance, he institutionalised the **Ashtapradhan Mandal**, a council of **eight ministers** handling key portfolios such as **finance (Amatya), foreign affairs (Sumant), military (Senapati), and justice (Nyayadhish)**, thereby laying the foundation of a **structured administrative system.** Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 Unlike several contemporary **Deccan Sultanates** that used Persian for official purposes, **Shivaji encouraged** the use of **Marathi and Sanskrit** in state administration. This reflected his broader vision of **promoting indigenous identity and cultural** assertion under the concept of **Hindavi Swarajya.** Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

46.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 C. Rajagopalachari became the **Governor-General of India in 1948**, succeeding Lord Mountbatten. He was the **first Indian** to hold this office. He was also the **last Governor-General of India**, as the post was abolished after India became a Republic on 26th January 1950. Thereafter, the office of President replaced the Governor-General under the Constitution of India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 After the death of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in December 1950, C. Rajagopalachari was appointed as the Union Home Minister of India, succeeding Patel who had been India’s first Home Minister. He assumed office during the crucial early consolidation phase of the Indian Union, when internal security and administrative integration were still evolving. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 The Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha (1930) led by Rajaji was **not opposed to Gandhi’s movement** but was aligned with it. It was a regional extension of Mahatma Gandhi’s Dandi March under the Civil Disobedience Movement. Rajaji marched from Tiruchirappalli to Vedaranyam to break the salt laws, mirroring Gandhi’s symbolic protest against British salt taxation. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

💡 Rajaji was among the **first three recipients of the Bharat Ratna** in 1954, India’s highest civilian award. The other two awardees were Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and C. V. Raman. 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



47.

Ans: A

Exp:

Chandra Shekhar Azad was instrumental in restructuring the **revolutionary movement** in **North India** and became a key figure in the formation of the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** in **1928**, providing it with strong military leadership. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

In **February 1931**, at **Alfred Park in Allahabad**, he was surrounded by **British forces** but chose to **end his life** with his last bullet **instead of surrendering**, upholding his resolve **never to be taken into custody**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

Hence, **option A is correct**.

48.

Ans: B

Exp:

The Indian National Army (INA) was initially formed by Captain **Mohan Singh** with Japanese support. **Rashbehari Bose** formed the **Indian Independence League** in **Tokyo (1942)** and played a role in mobilizing support, but the first **INA** was led by **Mohan Singh**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

Subhas Chandra Bose took command of **INA** on **25th August 1943** and established the **Provisional Government of Free India** in **Singapore** on **21st October 1943**, which was recognized by **nine countries** including **Japan, and Germany**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

The first **INA trials** at the **Red Fort (November 1945)** tried **Prem Kumar Sehgal (Hindu), Shah Nawaz Khan (Muslim), and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon (Sikh)**. Their defence was organized by **Bhulabhai Desai, Tej Bahadur Sapru, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Asaf Ali** among others. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Hence, **option B is correct**.

49.

Ans: B

Exp:

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was a revolutionary nationalist, political ideologue, and social reformer, and influenced by leaders like **Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, and Bipin Chandra Pal**. He was also known as **Swatantryaveer Savarkar**.

He founded the **Mitra Mela** in **1899**, which later evolved into the **Abhinav Bharat Society** in **1904**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

He also established the **Free India Society** in **London (1906)** to organize Indian students for the independence struggle. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

He was closely associated with **India House** (founded by **Shyamji Krishna Varma** in London), a hub for revolutionary activities. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

Hence, **option B is correct**.

50.

Ans: D

Exp:

The "**Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas**" refers to **three key temples** in **Karnataka** that showcase the finest examples of **Hoysala architecture**. It includes:

- ✦ **Chennakeshava Temple** in **Belur**,
- ✦ **Hoysaleswara Temple** in **Halebidu**,
- ✦ **Keshava Temple** in **Somnathpur**.

These temples are renowned for their elaborate **star-shaped platforms** and exquisite **soapstone carvings**.

The **Virupaksha Temple** is not part of the **Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas**. It is a prominent temple located in **Hampi**, which forms part of a separate **UNESCO World Heritage Site** known as the **Group of Monuments at Hampi**, declared in **1986**.

Hence, **option D is correct**.

51.

Ans: A

Exp:

Hoysala temples were predominantly built using **chloritic schist**, popularly known as **soapstone**. This stone was widely used across **Hoysala sites** such as **Belur, Halebid and Somanathapura**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

Soapstone is **relatively soft** when freshly quarried, allowing artisans to carve extremely **fine details** like **jewellery, facial expressions, hair curls and even fingernails**. Over time, the stone hardens, preserving these intricate carvings. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Hoysala architecture did **not reject Nagara and Dravida traditions**. Instead, it **represents a Vesara style**, a hybrid that blends elements of both **northern (Nagara) and southern (Dravida) temple architecture**. Hence, **statement 3 is not 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



Geography

52.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ⚡ During a **total lunar eclipse**, the **Earth** comes directly between the **Sun and the Moon**, casting its **shadow** on the Moon. Instead of the Sun's light being completely blocked, some of it is **refracted (bent)** as it passes through **Earth's atmosphere**.
- ⚡ As this light travels through the **atmospheric particles**, **Rayleigh Scattering** occurs. This is the same phenomenon that makes our **sky blue** and **sunsets red**.
 - ✖ **Shorter wavelengths of light (blue and violet)** are scattered more easily and bounce back into **space**.
 - ✖ **Longer wavelengths of light (red and orange)** are scattered less and pass more directly through the **atmosphere**. These rays are bent (**refracted**) toward the **Moon**.
- ⚡ The **Moon** is illuminated by the combined glow of all of **Earth's sunrises and sunsets** falling upon it. This **filtered light** casts a **coppery-red hue** on the Moon, creating the "**Blood Moon**".
- ⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

53.

Ans: D

Exp:

- ⚡ **Great Nicobar** is the largest island in the **Nicobar group**, and the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** are divided by the **Ten Degree Channel** (approximately 150 km wide). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ⚡ **Indira Point**, located on **Great Nicobar Island**, is **India's southernmost point** and lies just 90 nautical miles from **Sumatra, Indonesia**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ⚡ The **Great Nicobar** island has small populations of indigenous tribal communities, including the **Shompen** and **Nicobarese**, along with a **few thousand non-tribal settlers**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- ⚡ Hence, option D is correct.

Science & Technology

54.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ The '**Vikram**' series has been developed by **Sarvam AI**, a **Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence startup**.

The initiative is aligned with the objectives of the **IndiaAI Mission**, which supports the creation of **indigenous large language models and national AI infrastructure**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- ⚡ The most advanced version in the **Vikram series** has **105 billion parameters**, not 600 billion. The 600B parameter scale corresponds to **DeepSeek's R1 model**, which is significantly larger in size. Therefore, the statement exaggerates Vikram's parameter count and is incorrect. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- ⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

55.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ **Nitric oxide (NO)** is a colorless gas, classified as an oxide of nitrogen. It is a stable free radical with an unpaired electron, making it highly reactive with a short half-life (seconds to minutes). It diffuses readily across cell membranes.
 - ✖ In mammals, NO is synthesized from the amino acid L-arginine by a family of enzymes called nitric oxide synthases (NOS).
- ⚡ The discovery of NO as the endothelium-derived relaxing factor (EDRF) led to the 1998 Nobel Prize in Physiology. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ⚡ Nitric oxide produced by immune cells like macrophages, **neutrophils**, and **natural killer (NK)** exerts antimicrobial activity through **disruption of pathogen metabolism**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

56.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ In quantum materials such as **topological semimetals**, **electrons can exist in left-handed or right-handed quantum states**, a property known as **chirality**, analogous to the **mirror-image relationship between left and right hands**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ⚡ Traditionally, separating chiral electrons required **strong magnetic fields or chemical doping** to break symmetry and distinguish chiral states, which limited scalability and practical applications. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ⚡ The recent study demonstrates that **chirality-based separation is possible without magnetic fields**, using the intrinsic **quantum geometry (band structure)** of

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



materials like palladium gallium (PdGa), overturning earlier limitations. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

57.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 Bharat VISTAAR functions as a **multilingual AI-based advisory interface** that farmers can access via a **dedicated helpline (155261)**. It provides instant responses related to **crop management, soil health, seeds, fertilisers, irrigation, insurance and government schemes**.

✦ It also integrates **real-time agricultural market data**, enabling farmers to **check mandi prices across different states**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

🔦 The initiative has been launched by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** as part of the **government's digital agriculture push**.

✦ It is built upon national platforms such as **AgriStack** and incorporates inputs from institutions like **ICAR and IMD**.

✦ NITI Aayog is not the implementing authority of this scheme, nor is it primarily structured as a private sector-led programme. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

58.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 The **Secure AI for Health Initiative (SAHI)** is designed as a **national governance roadmap** for responsible adoption of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare.

🔦 SAHI provides a structured **policy and governance framework** guiding ethical and accountable AI adoption in healthcare. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

🔦 SAHI is not a funding mechanism for AI start-ups. It focuses on governance, safeguards, and standards rather than financial support. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

🔦 A core emphasis of SAHI is **privacy protection, accountability, and citizen-centric safeguards** to build public trust in AI-driven health systems. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

59.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 The **qualification load test** at the **Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS)** facility of the **Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh**, was conducted by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**. While ISRO is the nodal agency for the **Gaganyaan mission**, specific **high-speed dynamic and load validation tests** for certain crew recovery systems are undertaken at **DRDO's specialised facilities**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

🔦 **Gaganyaan** is India's **first indigenous human spaceflight programme**, which aims to place a crew of **three astronauts in Low Earth Orbit** at an altitude of about **400 km** for approximately **three days** and ensure their **safe re-entry and recovery**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

60.

Ans: C

Exp:

🔦 The **SANKALP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion)** programme operates as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, with financial participation from both the **Centre and States**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

🔦 One of the core purposes of the scheme is to improve **institutional capacity** related to **skill training** by strengthening structures at the **national, state, and district levels**, including support to **District Skill Committees** and related **governance mechanisms**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

🔦 Hence, option C is correct.

61.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 The **NEST project** has been sanctioned by the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)**. The sanctioning authority at the regional level is the **North Eastern Council**, which functions as the nodal agency for socio-economic development of the eight northeastern states. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

🔦 **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati** has been designated as the nodal implementation agency for

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



the project. The duration of implementation is **five years**, during which IIT-G acts as the central coordinating institution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 The project does not follow a “Cluster-in-Cluster” model. Instead, it is structured on a Hub and Spoke model, with IIT Guwahati as the central hub. The spokes include NITs, IIM Shillong, Tezpur University and other regional institutions for last-mile outreach. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 One of the four thematic verticals under NEST is the Technology Hub for Semiconductor and Artificial Intelligence. The other verticals include Grassroot Technologies, Bamboo-based innovation, and Biodegradable plastics. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

62.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The **IndiaAI Mission** has seven pillars, among which include:

- ✦ **IndiaAI Compute:** Provides affordable access to high-end GPUs and computing infrastructure.
- ✦ **AIKosh:** National dataset platform hosting datasets and AI models.
- ✦ **Safe and Trusted AI:** Focuses on responsible AI, bias mitigation, privacy, explainability, and governance testing.

💡 **The National Quantum Grid** is not a pillar of the IndiaAI Mission (it relates to quantum technology initiatives, not AI Mission architecture).

💡 Pillars of IndiaAI Mission:

- ✦ IndiaAI Compute
- ✦ IndiaAI Application Development
- ✦ AIKosh
- ✦ IndiaAI Foundation Models
- ✦ IndiaAI FutureSkills
- ✦ IndiaAI Startup Financing
- ✦ Safe and Trusted AI

💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

63.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Tetanus** is caused by **anaerobic spores of Clostridium tetani** found in soil and animal feces. It is **non-communicable** (cannot spread person-to-person)

and enters the body through contaminated wounds, cuts, or the umbilical stump. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Tetanus** is entirely preventable through **Tetanus-Toxoid-Containing Vaccines (TTCV)**. However, recovery from the disease does **not provide natural immunity**, necessitating vaccination even for survivors. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 India in **2015**, reduced the annual rate of neonatal tetanus to less than 1 case per 1,000 live births in every district. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

Defence & Security

64.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Anjadip is the **3rd vessel in the eight-ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) project** of the Indian Navy. It has been indigenously designed and constructed by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The vessel is equipped with an **advanced indigenous weapons and sensor suite**. It includes the **Hull Mounted Sonar 'Abhay'** for submarine detection, along with **Lightweight Torpedoes and Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Rockets** to neutralize underwater threats. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 The vessel is named after **Anjadip Island, which is located in the Arabian Sea near Goa**. Historically, the island was claimed by **Vasco da Gama for the Portuguese crown** on 24th September 1498 during his first voyage to India. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

65.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Su-30MKI:** The **Sukhoi Su-30MKI** is a twin-engine multirole fighter capable of air superiority, ground attack, and maritime strike missions. **Hence, 1 is correctly matched with C.**

💡 **IL-78:** The **Ilyushin Il-78** is used for aerial refuelling, extending the operational range and endurance of combat aircraft. **Hence, 2 is correctly matched with B.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



💡 **AWACS:** AWACS platforms provide long-range radar surveillance, command-and-control, and battle management capabilities. Hence, 3 is correctly matched with A.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

66.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Abhay** is an indigenously developed **Hull Mounted Sonar (HMS)** designed specifically for **anti-submarine warfare in shallow and coastal waters**, where detecting submarines is difficult due to high ambient noise and complex seabed conditions. It enables **detection, classification, and tracking of underwater threats**, forming a critical sensor in India's littoral ASW capability.

✦ This sonar has been integrated on the **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** class of ships, such as **INS Anjadip**, which are purpose-built to hunt enemy submarines close to the coastline.

✦ Therefore, the indigenous sonar **Abhay** is best associated with **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts**.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

67.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The **PRAHAAR (Prevention, Response, Assistance, and Higher-order Analysis for Alleviating Risk)** doctrinal architecture is an intelligence-led, proactive counter-terrorism framework in India.

💡 **Multi Agency Centre (MAC):** Functions under the Intelligence Bureau and is the central platform for intelligence sharing among various agencies. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 **Joint Task Force on Intelligence (JTFI):** Works as a coordination mechanism between central and state intelligence units. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 **National Investigation Agency (NIA):** National Investigation Agency is primarily an **investigative agency**, not a coordination platform under PRAHAAR. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

💡 **National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO):** National Technical Research Organisation provides technical and signal intelligence support, contributing

to intelligence coordination. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

68.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Signal Jamming:** A deliberate electronic attack that disrupts satellite communication signals. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 **Spoofing of Satellite Signals:** A cyber technique where false signals are transmitted to deceive navigation or communication systems. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 **Unauthorized Command Uplink:** A serious cyber intrusion where attackers gain control by sending illegitimate commands to satellites. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

💡 **Solar Radiation-induced Hardware Malfunction:** This is a natural space environment hazard, not a cyber threat. Hence, **statement 4 is not correct**.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

69.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Cope India** is a bilateral India-US Air Force exercise. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.

💡 **Yudh Abhyas** is a flagship India-US Army exercise. Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched**.

💡 **Vajra Prahar** is an **India-US Special Forces joint exercise**. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched**.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

70.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Exercise MILAN** is not an annual event. It is conducted on a **biennial basis (once every two years)**. The exercise brings together navies of **friendly foreign countries** to enhance **interoperability, maritime cooperation, and mutual understanding** in the **Indo-Pacific region**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

💡 The first edition of **Exercise MILAN** was organised in **1995** under the **Andaman and Nicobar Command**. Initially, it began as a modest gathering of a few navies but has since expanded significantly in scale and participation, becoming **one of India's largest multilateral naval exercises**. 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



Miscellaneous

71.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025 is released by **Transparency International**, a global civil society organization, and not by the United Nations.
 - ✦ It evaluates perceived levels of **corruption in public institutions** across countries using expert assessments and surveys. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 **India** was ranked **91st out of 182 countries** in the **CPI 2025**, showing a slight improvement from its **2024 rank of 96**, with a **score of 39/100**, reflecting moderate progress in tackling public sector corruption. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

72.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on 20 February. It was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2007 and first observed in 2009. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The observance is rooted in the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration, not the 2008 ILO Declaration (which is a related but separate development). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The day promotes SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 8 (Decent Work), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

73.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The Declaration is **non-binding and voluntary**, not a legally enforceable treaty. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 It is structured around **seven thematic "Chakras."** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 It does **not explicitly prohibit** high-risk AI practices, such prohibitions (like biometric mass surveillance bans) are features of stricter regulatory regimes such as the European Union Artificial Intelligence Act, not this declaration. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

74.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **V.O. Chidambaranar Port** has become a pioneer among Indian ports by implementing **on-site green hydrogen production**. This initiative is part of its efforts to adopt **sustainable and eco-friendly** energy practices, reducing reliance on **conventional fossil fuels**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The port's geographical location near the **southeast of Sri Lanka** provides a natural barrier against **storms and cyclones**, offering protection to its **infrastructure and operations**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

75.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Adani Defence & Aerospace** has signed an enhanced **MoU with Brazil's Embraer** to establish a **Final Assembly Line (FAL)** for the **E175 regional jet in India**. This initiative is part of a broader **"Make in India"** push in the aviation sector and aims to develop domestic aircraft manufacturing capabilities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The E175 jet has a seating capacity of up to **88 passengers** and is specifically designed for high-frequency regional operations, particularly **connecting Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**. It is **not a long-haul aircraft**, nor does it carry more than 150 passengers. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The project aligns with the **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN)**, which aims to enhance air connectivity to underserved and remote regions of India. Establishing a domestic assembly ecosystem supports the scheme's objective of boosting regional connectivity and **strengthening India's aviation manufacturing base**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

76.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Exercise Dharma Guardian is a **bilateral military exercise** conducted between the **Indian Army** and the **Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF)**, aimed at strengthening defence cooperation and interoperability. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2026



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



⚡ The 7th edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian is being held at **Chaubattia in Uttarakhand**, as part of the practice of alternating the venue between India and Japan. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ The exercise does **not focus exclusively on high-altitude or mountainous warfare**. Instead, it emphasises **joint operations in semi-urban environments**, including ISR development, cordon-and-search operations, heliborne missions, and house intervention drills. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

77.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ The HPV vaccination is being conducted as a **special nationwide campaign** on designated immunisation days and not as part of routine immunisation under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). It is a mission-mode drive to ensure rapid coverage among adolescent girls. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

⚡ The programme specifically targets **14-year-old girls**, and vaccination is **voluntary and provided free of cost** at designated government facilities such as Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and District Hospitals. This aligns with the government's preventive strategy against cervical cancer. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ The vaccination drive will be digitally tracked through the **U-WIN platform**, which is designed to monitor immunisation coverage and ensure proper beneficiary tracking and data management. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

78.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ The **RailTech Policy** introduces a dedicated digital single-window platform that **replaces the earlier multi-stage vendor selection process** with a simplified

single-stage online submission system. This ensures **end-to-end digital processing of proposals** and faster evaluation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ The policy provides **financial support for innovation**, with the Railways supporting up to **50% of development funding** for viable solutions. It also increases **scale-up grants and enhances funding limits** for prototype development and trials. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ The policy is **not restricted to government institutions or PSUs**. Instead, it is designed to **engage innovators, startups, industry players, and academic institutions** to promote wider technological participation in the railway ecosystem. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

79.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ BharatGen is **India's first government-funded, sovereign, multilingual, and multimodal Large Language Model** developed under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems** and advanced through the IndiaAI Mission. It supports 22 Indian languages and integrates text, speech, and document-vision capabilities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ BHASHINI supports **more than 36 Indian languages** and is **not restricted only to the 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule**. It provides translation, speech-to-text, and voice interfaces and integrates with multiple government services to reduce digital language barriers. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

⚡ BhuPRAHARI integrates **AI and geospatial technologies** to monitor assets created under MGNREGA and is being extended to monitor assets under the **Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)**. **Hence, statement 3 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

