

# KingMakers IAS Academy

## GOOD MORNING TEST (GMT)

JUNE 2025

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## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

### 1. India's Human Development Index (HDI)

1. The Human Development Index (HDI) developed by the United Nations (UN) covers which of the following indicators?

1. Life expectancy at birth
2. Mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling
3. Gross National Income (GNI) per capita

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

#### Explanation:

**In NEWS:** India has made strides in health under the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3).

#### Human Development Index Growth

- India's Human Development Index (HDI) has risen by over 53 per cent since 1990.
- This increase surpasses both global and South Asian averages. Economic growth and welfare initiatives like the National Rural Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat have driven this progress.
- As of 2023, life expectancy in India reached 72 years, the highest recorded since the HDI's inception.

#### About Human Development Index (HDI):

- Human Development Index (HDI), measure used by the United Nations (UN) to evaluate countries in terms of the well-being of their citizens.
- The HDI measures development in three areas: health, education, and standard of living.
  - Health: Measured by life expectancy at birth.
  - Education: Assessed through mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling.
  - Standard of Living: Evaluated using Gross National Income (GNI) per capita. Those three measures are combined to produce a single HDI score.

**Hence, all the statements are correct.**

#### NITI Aayog's SDG 3 Score

- According to the NITI Aayog SDG Index, India's score rose from 52 in 2018 to 77 in 2023. Several states have emerged as "front-runners" in health outcomes. Maternal mortality has decreased to 97 per 100,000 live births. States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have already met the 2030 target of 70.

#### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. The Multi-dimensional Poverty Index developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative with UNDP support covers which of the following? (2012)**

1. Deprivation of education, health, assets and services at household level
2. Purchasing power parity at national level
3. Extent of budget deficit and GDP growth rate at national level

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Source:** <https://www.gktoday.in/indias-progress-towards-sustainable-development-goal-3/>

### 2. Full Functional Literacy in India

2. Which among the following states in India have 'Full Functional Literacy'?

1. Kerala
2. Tripura
3. Mizoram
4. Goa
5. Tamil Nadu

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (b) 2, 3 and 4 only**

#### Explanation:

**In NEWS:** Tripura becomes third state in the country, after Mizoram and Goa, to achieve Full Functional Literacy. **Hence option (b) is correct.**

#### About:

- Full functional literacy in India refers to the ability of individuals to read, write, and understand information effectively in their daily lives.

#### Current Literacy Rates

- As of 2021, India's literacy rate is approximately 77.7%, according to the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- The rates vary significantly between urban and rural areas, with urban literacy around 87% and rural literacy at about 73%.

#### Definition of Functional Literacy

- Functional literacy goes beyond basic reading and writing; it includes the ability to use literacy skills in practical contexts, such as understanding instructions, filling out forms, and engaging with digital content.

#### Government Initiatives

- The Indian government implements various programs to improve literacy, including:
  - **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA):** Aimed at universalizing elementary education.
  - **National Literacy Mission (NLM):** Focuses on adult literacy and skill development.

#### Challenges

- Despite progress, challenges remain:
  - High dropout rates in schools.
  - Gender disparities, with female literacy lagging behind male literacy.
  - Regional disparities, with some states showing significantly lower literacy rates.

#### Future Goals

● The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to achieve 100% literacy by 2030, emphasizing quality education and skill development.

Source:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2139103>

### 3. Global Gender Gap Index 2025

3. Which of the following gives 'Global Gender Gap Index' ranking to the countries of the world?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) UN Human Rights Council
- (c) UN Women
- (d) World Health Organisation

**Answer: (a) World Economic Forum**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** India ranks 131st out of 148 countries in the recently released Global Gender Gap Report 2025.

#### **The Global Gender Gap Index 2025:**

● The Global Gender Gap Index, developed by the World Economic Forum and published annually since 2006, measures gender parity across four dimensions – economics, politics, education and health. **Hence option (a) is correct.**

● In 2025, Iceland leads for the 16th consecutive year with 92.6% parity.

● Other top 10 economies (all ≥80% closed): Finland (87.9%), Norway (86.3%), UK (83.8%), New Zealand (82.7%), Sweden (81.7%), Moldova (81.3%), Namibia (81.1%), Germany (80.3%), Ireland (80.1%)

#### **India's performance:**

● India ranked 131st (out of 148), score: ~64.4%

● Slight improvement (+0.3 pts) overall; slipped in ranking due to others' gains.

● Subindex insights:

○ Economic Participation: Up by +0.9 pts (to 40.7%)—incremental gain in earned income (28.6%→29.9%)

○ Educational Attainment: 97.1%—strong performance in literacy and tertiary education

○ Health & Survival: improvement due to better sex ratio and healthy life expectancy—but overall life expectancy declined

○ Political Empowerment: Declined—female MPs fell from 14.7% to 13.8%, ministers from 6.5% to 5.6%

● However, there are concerns over the declining fertility rate. India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) – the average number of children per woman – has dropped to 2.0, according to the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) State of World Population Report 2025.

● The same was also reported in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) of 2019-21.

#### **PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Which of the following gives 'Global Gender Gap Index' ranking to the countries of the world?**

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) UN Human Rights Council
- (c) UN Women
- (d) World Health Organisation

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/what-gender-gap-lens-reveals-about-declining-fertility-rate-10088218/>  
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/244387/the-global-gender-gap-index/>

### 4. Proclamation of National Emergency

4. With reference to the Proclamation of National Emergency, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India explicitly mentions situations when the national emergency can be proclaimed.
2. The President declares a National Emergency based on a written request from the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.
3. The proclamation must be approved by both Houses of Parliament by a special majority and half of the state ratification.
4. Once approved, it remains in force for 1 year and can be renewed indefinitely every 6 months with parliamentary approval.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: (b) Only two**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Cabinet passes resolution on the observance of 50 years since the Proclamation of Emergency

#### **Proclamation of National Emergency:**

● Article 352 of the Indian Constitution deals with the National Emergency.

● Declared when there is: War, External aggression, Armed rebellion. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

● Types of Emergency in India

○ National Emergency – Article 352

○ State Emergency (President's Rule) – Article 356

○ Financial Emergency – Article 360

#### **Procedure for Proclamation**

● The President declares a National Emergency based on a written request from the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

● The proclamation must be approved by both Houses of Parliament:

○ Within 1 month (if originally declared when Parliament is in session).

○ Within 30 days (after the 44th Amendment, 1978).

● Must be approved by a special majority: Majority of total membership + majority of members present and voting. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

● Once approved, it remains in force for 6 months. Can be renewed indefinitely every 6 months with parliamentary approval. **Hence statement 4 is incorrect.**

#### **Effects of National Emergency**

● Federal structure transforms into a unitary system: Centre can direct states on any matter.



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- Fundamental Rights (FRs): Article 19 automatically suspended (only during war/external aggression). Other rights can be suspended under Article 359, but not Articles 20 & 21.
- Parliament's power expands: Can legislate on matters in the State List.
- Duration of Lok Sabha can be extended by 1 year at a time (max until 6 months after Emergency ends).

## Historical Instances

- 1962 – During India-China War (external aggression)
- 1971 – During India-Pakistan War
- 1975-1977 – Declared by Indira Gandhi (officially due to internal disturbance, later termed armed rebellion after 44th Amendment):

## Important Amendments

- 38th Amendment (1975): Made the President's proclamation final and beyond judicial review.
- 44th Amendment (1978):
  - Reversed some 38th Amendment changes.
  - Made Emergency subject to judicial review.
  - Changed "internal disturbance" to armed rebellion.
  - Made it mandatory for Emergency to be declared only on Cabinet advice in writing.

### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements:**

1. Prorogation of a House by the President of India does not require the advice of the Council of Ministers.
2. Prorogation of a House is generally done after the House is adjourned sine die but there is no bar to the President of India prorogating the House which is in session.
3. Dissolution of the Lok Sabha is done by the President of India who, save in exceptional circumstances, does so on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/union-cabinet-passes-resolution-marking-50-years-of-emergency/article69735866.ece>  
<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/cabinet-passes-resolution-to-mark-50-years-of-emergency-imposition-10088312/>

## 5. Parliamentary Estimates Committee

**5. Consider the following statements:**

### The Parliamentary Estimates Committee

1. consists of 30 members who are all elected from Lok Sabha only.
2. has no minister eligible to become a member of the committee.
3. is the largest Committee of the Parliament.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

### Explanation:

**In NEWS:** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday (23rd June) inaugurated the national conference marking the platinum jubilee of the Parliamentary Estimates Committee in Mumbai's Vidhan Bhavan complex.

### Estimates Committee

- The Estimates Committee (India) is a committee of selected members of parliament, constituted by the Parliament of India.
- The committee consists of thirty members, all elected from Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament of India. There are no members from Rajya Sabha. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Estimates Committee is the largest Committee of the Parliament. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The members are elected every year from amongst its members of the Lok Sabha, according to the principle of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.
- The chairperson is appointed by the Lok Sabha speaker. The term of office of the members is one year.
- A minister is not eligible to become a member of the committee or continue to serve after appointment as a minister. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

### Function of the Estimate Committee

- (a) Report what economies, improvements in organization, efficiency or administrative reform, consistent with the policy underlying the estimates, may be affected;
- (b) suggest alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration;
- (c) examine whether the money is well laid out within the limits of the policy implied in the estimates; and
- (d) Suggest the form in which the estimates shall be presented to Parliament.

The Committee does not exercise its functions in relation to such Public Undertakings as are allotted to the Committee on Public Undertakings by the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha or by the Speaker.

### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. Which one of the following is the largest Committee of the Parliament?**

- (a) The Committee on Public Accounts
- (b) The Committee on Estimates
- (c) The Committee on Public Undertakings
- (d) The Committee on Petitions

**Q. Consider the following statements:**

### The Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts

1. consists of not more than 25 Members of the Lok Sabha
2. scrutinizes appropriation and finance accounts of the Government
3. examines the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

### Source:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/l-speaker-om-birla-inaugurates-estimates-committee->

[platinum-jubilee-meet-calls-for-stronger-fiscal-oversight-10084065/  
https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/knowledge-nugget-parliamentary-estimates-committee-standing-upsc-10088073/](https://www.indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/knowledge-nugget-parliamentary-estimates-committee-standing-upsc-10088073/)

## 6. Constitutional supremacy vs Parliamentary supremacy

6. With reference to context of Indian polity, consider the following statements:

1. India follows constitutional supremacy which can limit the functions of the government.
2. In India, the parliament can amend, alter or repeal any part of the Constitution of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

In NEWS: Constitution is supreme, all three wings of democracy work under it: CJI Gavai

### Constitutional Supremacy

- The Constitution is the supreme law of the land.
- Powers of all institutions, including Parliament, are limited and derived from the Constitution.

### Parliamentary Supremacy

- The Parliament is supreme and can make or unmake any law.
- Parliament has unlimited legislative authority (as in the UK).

### Position in India

- India follows Constitutional Supremacy.
- In India, the constitutional form of government is a limited form of government. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Parliament is powerful, but its powers are not absolute – they are subject to the Constitution and judicial review.
- A Parliamentary System of Government is one in which the Government is responsible to the Parliament and can be removed by it. i.e: the executive remains responsible to the legislature (Council of Ministers is responsible to the Lok Sabha).

### Key Features in India's Context

Feature	India (Constitutional Supremacy)
Written Constitution	Yes, comprehensive and codified.
Judicial Review	Allowed under Articles 13, 32, 226, etc.
Basic Structure Doctrine	Parliament cannot alter the Constitution's basic structure.
Limit on Law-making	Parliament cannot make laws violating Fundamental Rights or federal structure. <b>Hence statement 2 is incorrect.</b>
Examples of limitation	Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) – Limited amending power of Parliament.

### PYQ REFERENCE:

Q. We adopted parliamentary democracy based on the British model, but how does our model differ from that model?

1. As regards legislation, the British Parliament is supreme or sovereign but in India, the power of the Parliament to legislate is limited.
  2. In India, matters related to the constitutionality of the Amendment of an Act of the Parliament are referred to the Constitution Bench by the Supreme Court.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/constitution-is-supreme-all-three-wings-of-democracy-work-under-it-cji-gavai/article69738702.ece>

## 7. National Turmeric Board

7. With reference to the 'National Turmeric Board', consider the following statements:

1. The National Turmeric Board (NTB) is a statutory body aimed at promoting the cultivation, production, processing, and marketing of turmeric in India.
2. The NTB operates under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
3. Since Telangana is a key turmeric-producing region, the headquarters of NTB is situated in Nizamabad.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 3 only

Explanation:

In NEWS: Turmeric Board, that shaped Nizamabad politics, be inaugurated by Amit Shah today

### The National Turmeric Board (NTB):

- The National Turmeric Board (NTB) was officially established by the Government of India on October 4, 2023.
- Headquartered in Nizamabad, Telangana, a key turmeric-producing region, the NTB operates under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect and statement 3 is correct**
- It is **not a statutory body** but an executive one, aimed at promoting the cultivation, production, processing, and marketing of turmeric in India, with a focus on enhancing farmer incomes and boosting global exports. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**

### Turmeric in India:

- **Production:** India is the world's largest producer, consumer, and exporter of turmeric, accounting for over 70% of global production. In 2023-24, turmeric was cultivated on 3.05 lakh hectares, yielding 10.74 lakh tonnes.

○ Major states include Maharashtra (325,643 tonnes), Telangana (117,049 tonnes), Karnataka (129,399 tonnes), and Tamil Nadu (114,141 tonnes). Over 30 varieties are grown across 20+ states.

● **GI Tags:** Notable varieties with Geographical Indication tags include Lakadong (Meghalaya), Kandhamal (Odisha), Erode (Tamil Nadu), and Armoor (Telangana).

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. Consider the following statements about turmeric during the year 2022-23:**

I. India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric in the world.

II. More than 30 varieties of turmeric are grown in India.

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

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Q. With reference to the "Tea Board" in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Tea Board is a statutory body.

2. It is a regulatory body attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

3. The Tea Board's Head Office is situated in Bengaluru.

4. The Board has overseas offices at Dubai and Moscow.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Source:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/turmeric-board-that-shaped-nizamabad-politics-be-inaugurated-by-amit-shah-today/article69747967.ece>

## 8. Delisting political parties

**8. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:**

As per the Representation of the People Act, 1951, political parties must register with the Election Commission of India (ECI) within 30 days of formation.

**Statement II:**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is empowered to delist the political parties in case of ceasing to uphold the Constitution of India.

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

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

**Answer: (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has initiated steps to de-list 345 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) that have not contested elections in the last six years and whose offices could not be physically located.

**Registered Political Parties in India**

● **Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)** are associations of citizens formed under **Article 19(1)(c)** of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the right to form associations.

● Under **Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act)**, political parties must register with the Election Commission of India (ECI) within 30 days of formation.

**Hence statement 1 is correct.**

**Benefits of Registration:**

● **Tax Exemption:** Donations are exempt under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

● **Common Symbol:** Parties can contest general elections to the Lok Sabha/State Assemblies with a common election symbol.

● **Star Campaigners:** Up to 20 star campaigners can be appointed during election campaigns.

**Delisting Process:**

● **Definition:** Delisting refers to the ECI removing RUPPs from its register when they fail to meet certain criteria, rendering them ineligible for benefits like tax exemptions and common election symbols.

● The RP Act does not explicitly empower the ECI to de-register parties for failing to contest elections, conduct internal elections, or submit required financial returns.

● The Supreme Court in *Indian National Congress vs. Institute of Social Welfare & Ors* (2002) clarified that the ECI can de-register only in exceptional cases:

- Registration obtained through fraud.
- Party ceasing to uphold the Constitution of India.
- Party declared unlawful by the Government. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.

2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.

3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/why-is-the-eci-de-listing-political-parties-explained/article69752812.ece>



## SCHEMES

### 1. 'NAVYA'

9. With reference to the 'NAVYA' initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It aimed at equipping adolescent girls aged 16–18 years.
2. It requires a minimum qualification of Class 10, with vocational training mainly in non-traditional job roles.
3. It is a pilot initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Government to Launch 'NAVYA' – A Joint Pilot Initiative for Skilling Adolescent Girls Under Viksit Bharat@2047 Vision tomorrow

**NAVYA – Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls:**

● The **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**, in convergence with **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, will launch the joint pilot initiative of both the Ministries for Skilling of Adolescent Girls NAVYA – Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

● NAVYA is a pilot initiative aimed at equipping adolescent girls aged 16–18 years with a minimum qualification of Class 10, with vocational training mainly in non-traditional job roles. **Hence statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

● This pilot initiative will be implemented in 27 Districts of the country which include Aspirational districts and districts of North eastern States spanning across 19 States, reflecting the Government's inclusive and targeted approach to reaching underserved regions and vulnerable populations.

● As part of the launch, both Ministries will formalize their collaboration to institutionalize convergence on skilling efforts for adolescent girls.

● The programme will draw upon the strengths of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and other flagship skill development schemes.

● The launch event will feature interactions with adolescent girl trainees, distribution of PMKVY and PM Vishwakarma certificates.

● Through NAVYA, Government of India will reaffirm its commitment to empowering girls with skills, confidence, and opportunities—ensuring that every young woman becomes a catalyst in India's journey towards a developed, self-reliant, and inclusive future.

#### **PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Labor and Employment.

2. It, among other things, will also impart training in soft skills, entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy.
3. It aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the National Skill Qualification Framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2139006>

### 2. Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

10. With reference to the 'Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)', consider the following statements.

1. PMGSY is a flagship program initiated by the Government of India aimed at providing all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages.
2. The Ministry of Rural Development is the implementing agency of the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana.
3. It can be funded through a mix of central and state government.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Earlier this month, the Union Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) asked states to attach QR codes on all maintenance information display boards for roads built under the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

**The Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):**

● The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), was launched by the Govt. of India to provide connectivity to unconnected Habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy.

**Hence statement 1 is correct.**

**Key Objectives:**

● Enhance rural connectivity to promote economic development.

● Improve access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and markets.

**Implementation:**

● Launched in 2000, the program focuses on constructing rural roads.

● The Ministry of Rural Development oversees its implementation. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Funding:**

● The program is funded through a mix of central and state government contributions. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

● The central government typically covers a significant portion of the costs.

**Significance:**



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- PMGSY plays a crucial role in reducing rural isolation.
- It supports the overall development of rural infrastructure.

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. With reference to the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme, consider the following statements:**

1. To implement the scheme, the Central Government provides 100% funding.
2. Under the Scheme, Cadastral Maps are digitised.
3. An initiative has been undertaken to transliterate the Records of Rights from local language to any of the languages recognized by the Constitution of India.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/pm-gram-sadak-yojana-pmgsy-qr-codes-monitoring-10077938/>  
<https://www.gktoday.in/qr-codes-enhance-road-maintenance-under-pmgsy/>

## 3. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

**11. With reference to the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)', consider the following statements:**

1. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) is a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
2. It is an area development programme under which community infrastructure and basic amenities are being created in the identified areas.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (b) II only**

## Explanation:

**In NEWS:** Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs reviews PMJVK proposals

## Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram(PMJVK):

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (CSS) under the Ministry of Minority Affairs. **Hence statement I is incorrect.**
- It is an area development programme under which community infrastructure and basic amenities are being created in the identified areas. **Hence statement II is correct.**
- The projects are implemented on a fund sharing arrangement between the Centre and the State Government/UT Administration in the ratio of 90:10 for North East States, Hilly States (J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand)/ UTs with Legislation, 100% for UTs without Legislature and 60:40 for all other States/ UTs.
- Proposals received from Central Government Organisations are supported 100%.

## Objectives:

- Address development deficits in identified minority concentration areas.
- Create infrastructure (health, education, skill development, sanitation).
- Promote inclusive growth by integrating minority communities into mainstream development.
- Reduce disparities between communities.

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. With reference to the 'Pradhan Mantri 'Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan', consider the following statements:**

1. This scheme guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their second and third trimesters of pregnancy and six months postdelivery health care service in any government health facility
2. Under this scheme, private sector health care providers of certain specialities can volunteer to provide services at nearby government health facilities.

**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

## Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2139126>

## 4. ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Programme)

**12. With reference to 'ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) scheme', consider the following statements:**

1. ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) is a government initiative launched by the Ministry of Education.
2. It aimed at promoting lifelong learning and universal adult education across the country.

**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

**Answer: c) Both 1 and 2**

## Explanation:

### In NEWS:

## ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society)

- ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) is a government initiative launched by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It aimed at promoting lifelong learning and universal adult education across the country. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- ULLAS was launched in July 2023, replacing the earlier **Saakshar Bharat and Adult Education programs**, and aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

## Key Features

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- Digital Learning Platform: The ULLAS mobile app serves as a hub for learning materials, volunteer registration, and learner tracking.
- Volunteer-Based Model: Encourages educated youth and citizens to become volunteer teachers.
- Multiple Learning Paths: Foundational literacy and numeracy, Financial literacy, Digital literacy, Legal literacy, Environmental awareness
- Flexible Learning: Can be accessed at any time, with materials available in multiple Indian languages.
- Public Participation: Heavy emphasis on community involvement and ownership.

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. With reference to 'National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)', which of the statements given below is/are correct?**

1. Under NSQF, a learner can acquire the certification for competency only through formal learning.
2. An outcome expected from the implementation of NSQF is the mobility between vocational and general education.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

## Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2139103>

<https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/ullas-understanding-lifelong-learning-all-society>

## 5. DAIGUA

**13. What is the aim of the programme 'Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan'?**

- (a) Achieving overall development of tribal areas by improving health, education, and jobs and promoting sustainable development.
- (b) Connecting institutions of higher education with local communities to address development challenges through appropriate technologies.
- (c) Strengthening India's scientific research institutions in order to make India a scientific and technological power.
- (d) Developing human capital by allocating special funds for health care and education of rural and urban poor, and organizing skill development programmes and vocational training for them.

**Answer: (a) Achieving overall development of tribal areas by improving health, education, and jobs and promoting sustainable development.**

## Explanation:

**In NEWS:** More than 22,000 camps held in nine days to take DAIGUA to tribal villages

## The Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan:

- DAIGUA is a major effort by the Indian government to uplift tribal communities and promote sustainable development.
- It builds on past programmes like PM-JANMAN, focusing on giving extra help to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups,

ensuring long-term support and progress for tribal regions across India. **Hence option (a) is correct.**

- The initiative focuses on the overall development of tribal areas by:

- Critical Infrastructure: Improving health, education, and jobs with 25 key measures.

- Multiple Ministries Involved: 17 different government ministries will work together to ensure success and outreach.

- The programme will help about 5 crore tribal people in 63,843 villages, 549 districts, and 2,911 blocks spread across 30 states and Union Territories in India.

## Areas of Improvement

- Housing: The programme will provide permanent houses with water and electricity to eligible families.

- Village Infrastructure: Building roads that can be used in all weather, improving mobile connectivity, and creating better health and education facilities.

- Skill Development: Offering training to tribal youth to help them become self-employed and learn new skills after finishing school.

- Education: Increasing the number of tribal children enrolled in schools and setting up tribal hostels to ensure quality education.

- Healthcare: Expanding access to healthcare services and working to lower infant and maternal death rates with mobile medical units.

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. What is the aim of the programme 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'?**

- (a) Achieving 100% literacy by promoting collaboration between voluntary organizations and government's education system and local communities.
- (b) Connecting institutions of higher education with local communities to address development challenges through appropriate technologies.
- (c) Strengthening India's scientific research institutions in order to make India a scientific and technological power.
- (d) Developing human capital by allocating special funds for health care and education of rural and urban poor, and organizing skill development programmes and vocational training for them.

## Source:

[https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/more-than-22000-camps-held-in-nine-days-to-take-daigua-to-tribal-villages/article69732726.ece#:~:text=In%20the%20last%20nine%20days,Gram%20Utkarsh%20Abhiyan%20\(DAIGUA\).](https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/more-than-22000-camps-held-in-nine-days-to-take-daigua-to-tribal-villages/article69732726.ece#:~:text=In%20the%20last%20nine%20days,Gram%20Utkarsh%20Abhiyan%20(DAIGUA).)

## 6. BharatNet program

**14. Consider the following statements:**

1. BharatNet is an ambitious project aimed at providing affordable high-speed internet access to every Gram Panchayat in the country.
2. The initiative functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

**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

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**Answer: a) 1 only**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Gujarat becomes first state to operationalise amended BharatNet program under state-led model

**BharatNet**

● BharatNet is an ambitious project aimed at providing affordable high-speed internet access to every Gram Panchayat in the country. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

● This initiative, under the Ministry of Communications, seeks to empower rural India, fostering inclusive growth and bridging the gap between urban and rural communities. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

● The program provides for internet access by Optical Fibre (OF) connectivity to 2.64 lakh GPs in ring topology and also to provide OF connectivity to the remaining non-GP villages (approx. 3.8 lakhs) on demand basis.

● BharatNet is not merely an infrastructure project; it is the backbone of India's journey towards a truly digital nation.

● BharatNet operates as the world's largest rural broadband connectivity program. The project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) namely Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).

**Digital Bharat Nidhi: Funding BharatNet**

● Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) is a fund that aims to improve the quality and accessibility of telecommunications services in India.

● It was established by the government of India as a replacement for the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

**Source:**

<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/digital-india/gujarat-leads-the-way-first-state-to-launch-amended-bharatnet-program-for-rural-connectivity/122062083>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2086701>

## 7. Sugamya Bharat App

**15. 'Sugamya Bharat App', an initiative of the Government of India, aims at**

- (a) promoting the Self Help Groups in rural areas
- (b) providing accessible service for persons with disabilities and elderly citizens
- (c) providing financial and technical assistance to young start-up entrepreneurs
- (d) promoting the education and health of adolescent girls

**Answer: (b) providing accessible service for persons with disabilities and elderly citizens**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** As of June 2025, the Sugamya Bharat App (SBA) has achieved remarkable milestones, including over 14,358 registered users and 83,791 downloads, predominantly from Android devices.

**The Sugamya Bharat App (SBA):**

● The Sugamya Bharat App (SBA) is a vital initiative by the Government of India aimed at improving accessibility for persons with disabilities and elderly citizens. **Hence option (d) is correct.**

● Launched in 2021 by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, this app has undergone revamp to enhance user experience and effectiveness.

**Key Features of the Sugamya Bharat App**

● The revamped SBA introduces several features designed to improve accessibility. An AI-powered chatbot has been integrated to provide real-time assistance to users.

● It also offers a compilation of government schemes and resources beneficial for persons with disabilities.

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. 'SWAYAM', an initiative of the Government of India, aims at**

- (a) promoting the Self Help Groups in rural areas
- (b) providing financial and technical assistance to young start-up entrepreneurs
- (c) promoting the education and health of adolescent girls
- (d) providing affordable and quality education to the citizens for free

**Source:** <https://www.gktoday.in/sugamya-bharat-app-2/>

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### 1. Rice Yellow Mottle Virus (RYMV)

**16. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Rice Yellow Mottle Virus (RYMV) belongs to the genus Sobemovirus which is endemic to Asia.
2. The symptoms of RYMV include yellow-green spots on leaves, stunted growth and reduced yields.
3. It can also be transmitted through irrigation water and contact with infected plant material.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer: (c) All three**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Deadly rice virus spreads across Africa, threatening food security: Study.

Rice farming in Africa faces challenges due to the Rice Yellow Mottle Virus (RYMV).

**Rice Yellow Mottle Virus (RYMV):**

● RYMV is a viral disease affecting rice crops. It belongs to the genus Sobemovirus. The virus is endemic to Africa and has been detected in most rice-growing countries. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

● It has high genetic variability, allowing it to evolve quickly and overcome plant resistance.

**Symptoms and Impact**

● Infected rice plants show yellow-green spots on leaves, which later expand into streaks. Other symptoms include stunted growth and reduced yields. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

● Losses can range from 10% to 100%, depending on the timing of infection and rice variety. Early infections typically lead to greater losses.

**Transmission Mechanisms**



- RYMV is transmitted by beetles, grasshoppers, and even livestock. Insects feeding on infected plants can spread the virus to healthy crops.
- Mechanical transmission can occur through irrigation water and contact with infected plant material. The virus survives in alternate hosts and can infect plants via damaged roots. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. With reference to agriculture in India, how can the technique of 'genome sequencing', often seen in the news, be used in the immediate future?**

1. Genome sequencing can be used to identify genetic markers for disease resistance and drought tolerance in various crop plants.
2. This technique helps in reducing the time required to develop new varieties of crop plants.
3. It can be used to decipher the host-pathogen relationships in crops

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Source:** <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/food/deadly-rice-virus-spreads-across-africa-threatening-food-security-study>  
<https://www.gktoday.in/rice-yellow-mottle-virus/>

## 2. Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)

**17. Consider the following pairs:**

1.	Quantum key distribution	a secure communication method for exchanging encryption keys only known between shared parties
2.	Quantum Superposition	a phenomenon where the wave-like properties of quantum particles, like electrons or photons, cause their probability amplitudes to combine, either reinforcing or canceling each other out
3.	Quantum tunneling	the ability of a quantum system to exist in multiple states at the same time.
4.	Quantum interference	a quantum mechanical phenomenon where a particle can pass through a potential energy barrier that would be impenetrable in classical mechanics.

**How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?**

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) All three pair
- (d) None of the pairs

**Answer: (a) Only one pair**

## Explanation:

**In NEWS:** On June 16, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement that IIT-Delhi scientists together with the Defence Research and

Development Organisation (DRDO) demonstrated quantum communication over a distance of more than one km in free space.

## Quantum key distribution (QKD)

- It is a secure communication method for exchanging encryption keys only known between shared parties. It uses properties found in quantum physics to exchange cryptographic keys in such a way that is provable and guarantees security.

**Hence pair 1 is correct.**

- QKD enables two parties to produce and share a key that is used to encrypt and decrypt messages. Specifically, QKD is the method of distributing the key between parties.

## Quantum related terms:

**Qubit:** The basic unit of information in quantum computing, analogous to a bit in classical computing. Unlike a bit, a qubit can exist in a superposition of both 0 and 1 simultaneously.

**Quantum Entanglement:** A phenomenon where two or more particles become linked, sharing the same fate regardless of the distance separating them. Measuring the state of one entangled particle instantly determines the state of the others.

**Quantum Superposition:** The ability of a quantum system to exist in multiple states at the same time. For example, a qubit can be in a superposition of 0 and 1 until measured. **Hence, pair 2 is not correct.**

**Quantum tunneling** is a quantum mechanical phenomenon where a particle can pass through a potential energy barrier that would be impenetrable in classical mechanics. **Hence, pair 3 is not correct.**

**Quantum interference** is a phenomenon where the wave-like properties of quantum particles, like electrons or photons, cause their probability amplitudes to combine, either reinforcing or canceling each other out. **Hence, pair 4 is not correct.**

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. Which one of the following is the context in which the term "qubit" is mentioned?**

- (a) Cloud Services
- (b) Quantum Computing
- (c) Visible Light Communication Technologies
- (d) Wireless Communication Technologies

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/quantum-communication-iit-delhi-drdo-entanglement-qkd-explained/article69705017.ece>

## 3. Green Ammonia

**18. With reference to green ammonia, consider the following statements:**

1. It can be produced through the Haber-Bosch Process at high temperature and high pressure.
2. The entire process of green ammonia production is powered by renewable energy and there is no carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions at any stage.
3. India's National Green Hydrogen Mission targets to produce 5 MMT (million metric tonnes) of green hydrogen per year by 2030.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer: (c) All three**

### Explanation:

**In NEWS:** The Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited's (SECI) Landmark Green Ammonia tender set to decarbonize India's fertilizer sector

### Green Ammonia:

- Green Ammonia is ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) produced using 100% renewable and carbon-free processes.
- It is considered a sustainable alternative to conventional (grey or brown) ammonia made using fossil fuels.
- The entire process is powered by renewable energy (solar, wind, hydropower). There is no carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions at any stage. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

### Process of Production:

- Hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) is obtained via electrolysis of water, using renewable electricity (e.g., solar, wind).
- Nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) is separated from atmospheric air (78% nitrogen).
- Both are combined in the Haber-Bosch Process:
  - High temperature (~400-500°C)
  - High pressure (~150-200 atm)
  - Catalyst (typically iron-based). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

**Reaction:** N<sub>2</sub>+3H<sub>2</sub>→2NH<sub>3</sub>

### Applications:

#### Clean Fuel:

- For shipping and railways – replaces diesel and bunker fuel.
- Power generation – ammonia-fueled turbines or co-firing in coal plants.

**Fertiliser Production:** Used to manufacture urea, ammonium nitrate, etc.

**Industrial Feedstock:** Water treatment, Refrigeration, Pharmaceuticals, Textiles and explosives

### Importance in Energy Transition

- Supports decarbonization of hard-to-abate sectors.
- Helps in achieving Net Zero Emissions goals.
- Can be a hydrogen carrier – easier to store and transport than hydrogen gas.
- Critical for energy security and reducing import dependence on fossil fuels.

### Global & Indian Context

- Countries like Japan, Australia, Germany are investing in green ammonia.
- India's National Green Hydrogen Mission (2023) includes green ammonia as a key focus.
- Targets: 5 MMT (million metric tonnes) green hydrogen production per year by 2030. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Plans for export hubs, especially in coastal regions.

### Challenges

- High cost of electrolysis and renewable energy.
- Need for technological advancements and scaling.

- Infrastructure gaps for storage, transport, and handling.
- Competition with hydrogen and other clean fuels.

### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. With reference to green hydrogen, consider the following statements:**

1. It can be used directly as a fuel for internal combustion.
2. It can be blended with natural gas and used as fuel for heat or power generation.
3. It can be used in the hydrogen fuel cell to run vehicles.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

### Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2138823>

### 4. Chandipura Virus

**19. With reference to Chandipura Virus, which among the following statements is/are correct?**

- I. The Chandipura virus belongs to the Rhabdoviridae family and is transmitted by sandflies.
- II. The Symptoms include fever, vomiting, altered consciousness, and convulsions.
- III. Currently, there is no specific antiviral treatment for Chandipura Virus disease.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

**Answer: (d) I, II and III**

### Explanation:

**In NEWS:** Recent studies have brought into light the potential of Favipiravir as a treatment for the Chandipura virus (CHPV).

### Chandipura Virus

- The Chandipura virus belongs to the Rhabdoviridae family and is transmitted by sandflies. **Hence statement I is correct.**
- It was first identified in 1965 in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The virus causes encephalitis, leading to inflammation of the brain.
- Symptoms include fever, vomiting, altered consciousness, and convulsions. **Hence statement II is correct.**

### Transmission and Vector

- CHPV is primarily transmitted by female Phlebotomine sandflies, which are most active during the early monsoon season.
- Studies have indicated that certain mosquito species, particularly Aedes aegypti, could also transmit the virus under laboratory conditions.
- However, no direct isolation from mosquitoes has been confirmed.

### Treatment Options

- Currently, there is no specific antiviral treatment for CHPV. **Hence statement III is correct.**



- Symptomatic management is the primary approach, focusing on maintaining airway, breathing, and circulation. Fluid balance, temperature control, and seizure management are critical.
- Favipiravir is being evaluated as a potential therapeutic option, but clinical trials in humans are still pending.

## Preventive Measures

- Preventing CHPV infection involves vector control strategies. This includes identifying and eliminating sandfly breeding sites, using insecticides, and promoting sanitation.
- Personal protective measures such as wearing long clothing and using insect repellents are also recommended to reduce the risk of bites.

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. Which one of the following statements is correct as per the Constitution of India?**

- Inter-State trade and commerce is a State subject under the State list.
- Inter-State migration is a State subject under the State List.
- Inter-State quarantine is a Union subject under the Union List
- Corporation tax is a State subject under the State List.

Source: <https://www.gktoday.in/favipiravir-shows-promise-against-chandipura-virus/>

## 5. Axiom-4 mission

### 20. Consider the following statements:

- Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) is a private spaceflight to the International Space Station (ISS) operated by Axiom Space in partnership with SpaceX and NASA.
- The mission represents the first government-sponsored human spaceflight in over 40 years.
- Shubhanshu Shukla who was the pilot of the Axiom mission is the first member of India's astronaut corps to fly to space.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

## Explanation:

**In NEWS:** India's human space programme took off on Wednesday as Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla's Axiom-4 mission (Ax-4) to the International Space Station (ISS) was launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, U.S.

## Axiom-4 mission:

- Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) is a private spaceflight to the International Space Station (ISS) operated by Axiom Space in partnership with SpaceX and NASA. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It used the SpaceX Falcon 9 Block 5 rocket to place Crew Dragon Grace into low Earth orbit.
- This is the maiden flight of the C213 spacecraft Grace, the fifth and final Crew Dragon to be built.
- The crew of four consists of

- commander Peggy Whitson, an Axiom employee and former NASA astronaut;
- pilot Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Space Research Organisation;
- mission specialists Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski, a European Space Agency project astronaut from Poland, and
- Tibor Kapu represents the Hungarian Space Office.
- Shubhanshu Shukla is the first member of India's astronaut corps to fly to space. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The mission represents the first government-sponsored human spaceflight in over 40 years, and the second overall, for India, Poland, and Hungary, with each country having previously participated in one Soviet-era Interkosmos mission. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- While the Interkosmos missions docked at Salyut 6 or Salyut 7, this is the first mission for those countries to the ISS.

## Above and beyond

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla becomes the first Indian to reach space in 41 years after the Axiom-4 mission lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on Wednesday



**From left:** Tibor Kapu (Hungary), Mission Specialist; Shubhanshu Shukla (India), Pilot; Peggy Whitson (U.S.), Commander; and Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski (Poland), Mission Specialist

## International Space Station:

The SpaceX Dragon crew capsule housing the 4 astronauts is targeting to dock at the International Space Station at approximately 4.30 p.m. IST on Thursday after a 28-hour journey

**1** Wednesday's mission launch comes after multiple delays from the initial launch planned on May 29

**2** The crew members will spend 14 days aboard the ISS conducting science, outreach, and commercial activities

**3** The Ax-4 research complement includes nearly 60 studies and activities representing 31 countries

**After 40 years we have once again reached space and it was an amazing ride...This is not the start of my journey to the ISS but the start of India's human space programme**

**GROUP CAPTAIN SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA, Mission Pilot**



## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. Consider the following statements: The Mangalyaan launched by ISRO**

- is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission
- made India the second country to have a spacecraft orbit the Mars after USA
- made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbit the Mars in its very first attempt

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/axiom-4-what-a-ride-says-shubhanshu-shukla-as-india-returns-to-human-spaceflight/article69736100.ece>

## ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

### 1. High Seas Treaty - Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement

**21. With reference to the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, also called the 'High Seas Treaty', consider the following statements.**



1. The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement is ratified in the United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC).
2. It aimed to prevent over-fishing and regulate deep-sea mining in areas owned by nations in the territorial region.
3. It commits nations to protect 30% of marine and coastal areas by 2030.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** The United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC) concluded last week in France, with 56 of the necessary 60 countries ratifying the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, also called the 'High Seas Treaty.'

**The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement:**

- The United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC) recently concluded in France. This event marked a milestone in global marine conservation. The conference focused on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, commonly referred to as the High Seas Treaty. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- This treaty aims to protect oceans and establish marine-protected areas in international waters.
- It aimed to prevent over-fishing and regulate deep-sea mining in areas **not owned** by any nation. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The conference's goals align with the broader Convention on Biological Diversity, which commits nations to protect 30% of marine and coastal areas by 2030. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Significance of the BBNJ Agreement**

- The BBNJ agreement is crucial for conserving marine biodiversity. It requires 60 ratifications to become legally binding. As of the conference's conclusion, 56 countries had ratified the treaty.
- This agreement focuses on creating marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction, conducting environmental impact assessments, and regulating marine genetic resources.
- It also emphasises capacity-building for developing nations to enhance their ocean governance.

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. With reference to the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea, consider the following statements:**

1. A coastal state has the right to establish the breadth of its territorial sea up to a limit not exceeding 12 nautical miles, measured from baseline determined in accordance with the convention.
2. Ships of all states, whether coastal or land-locked, enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea.

3. The Exclusive Economic Zone shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/what-was-decided-at-the-un-oceans-conference-explained/article69710425.ece>

## 2. The 'State of the Climate in Asia 2024' report

**22. The 'State of the Climate in Asia 2024' report is released by**

- (a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- (b) The UNEP Secretariat
- (c) The UNFCCC Secretariat
- (d) The World Meteorological Organization

**Answer: (d) The World Meteorological Organization**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:**

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has analysed in its latest report - The 'State of the Climate in Asia 2024'. **Hence option (d) is correct.**

**Warming Trends**

- Asia is warming nearly twice as fast as the global land and ocean average.
- 2024 had a mean temperature anomaly of +1.04°C above the 1991–2020 average — one of the warmest years on record for Asia.
- The 1991–2024 warming trend is nearly double that of the 1961–1990 period.
- Japan had its hottest year ever, breaking the previous record set in 2023.
- Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in Asia increased at 0.24°C per decade — double the global average.
- Sea levels in the Indian and Pacific Oceans rose faster than the global average (1993–2024).
- In August–September 2024, 15 million km<sup>2</sup> of Asian ocean areas experienced marine heatwaves — largest extent ever recorded.

**Extreme Weather Events**

- Tropical Cyclone Yagi: Strongest storm of 2024, affecting 6 countries (Vietnam to China).
- India:
  - Landslides in Kerala (Wayanad) after 500+ mm rain: 350+ deaths.
  - Lightning: ~1,300 deaths, with 72 killed in one event on July 10.
- Nepal: September floods killed 246 people, causing US\$ 94 million in damages.
- UAE: Record rainfall (259.5 mm in 24 hrs) — highest since 1949.
- Central Asia: Worst floods in 70 years, 118,000 evacuated.
- China: Drought impacted 4.8 million people, with losses over US\$ 400 million.

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. "Momentum for Change : Climate Neutral Now" is an initiative launched by**

- (a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- (b) The UNEP Secretariat
- (c) The UNFCCC Secretariat
- (d) The World Meteorological Organization

**Source:** <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/climate-change/asia-heating-up-twice-as-fast-as-rest-of-globe-wmo-warns>

## 3. Sariska Tiger Reserve

**23. It is the first reserve in the world with successfully relocated tigers. It is an important biodiversity area in the Northern Aravalli leopard and wildlife corridor and situated in Rajasthan. The above tiger reserve is**

- (a) Kanha Tiger Reserve
- (b) Sariska Tiger Reserve
- (c) Melghat Tiger Reserve
- (d) Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

**Answer: (b) Sariska Tiger Reserve**

## Explanation:

**In NEWS:** The Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan is undergoing changes in its Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH) boundaries.

## Sariska Tiger Reserve:

- Sariska Tiger Reserve is situated in Alwar district, Rajasthan, India.
- It comprises scrub-thorn arid forests, dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and rocky hills.
- It was given the status of a tiger reserve making it a part of India's Project Tiger in 1978.
- It is the first reserve in the world with successfully relocated tigers.
- It is an important biodiversity area in the Northern Aravalli leopard and wildlife corridor.
- It is a part of the Aravalli Range and the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion.
- It is rich in mineral resources, such as copper. In spite of the Supreme Court's 1991 ban on mining in the area, marble mining continues to threaten the environment.

**Hence option (b) is correct.**

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. Among the following Tiger Reserves, which one has the largest area under "Critical Tiger Habitat"?**

- (a) Corbett
- (b) Ranthambore
- (c) Nagarjunsagar-Srisaillam
- (d) Sunderbans

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/over-50-mines-may-benefit-as-sariskas-critical-tiger-habitat-to-be-redrawn-10082270/>

## 4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index

**24. With reference to 'the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index' consider the following statements:**

- I. India for the first time in 2025 has secured a position among the top 100 countries in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index.
- II. The Sustainable Development Report (SDR) is released by the United Nations Development Programme.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (a) I only**

## Explanation:

**In NEWS:** For first time, India breaks into top 100 in global SDG rankings

● India has, for the first time, secured a position among the top 100 countries in the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index. Hence statement I is correct.**

● **Ranking 99th out of 167 nations** in the 2025 edition of the Sustainable Development Report (SDR), released on Tuesday by the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Hence statement II is incorrect.**

● The index measures overall progress toward achieving the 17 SDGs adopted by United Nations member states in 2015, with a score of 100 indicating full achievement of all goals.

● The latest report places India with a **score of 67** on the SDG Index, a significant improvement from its **109th rank in 2024.**

○ **Finland, Sweden and Denmark** hold the top three positions, with 19 of the top 20 countries located in Europe.

○ China is ranked 49th with a score of 74.4.

○ The United States stands at 44th with 75.2 points.

○ Bhutan ranks 74th (70.5),

○ Nepal 85th (68.6),

○ Bangladesh 114th (63.9),

○ Pakistan 140th (57).

○ Maritime neighbours Maldives and Sri Lanka stand at 53rd and 93rd places respectively.

● The report noted that since the adoption of the SDGs, India has steadily improved its standing: it ranked 112th in 2023, 121st in 2022, and 120th in 2021.

● Despite India's gains, the report flagged that global progress on the SDGs has largely stalled. "Only 17 per cent of the SDG targets are on track to be achieved by 2030," it stated, attributing this to "conflicts, structural vulnerabilities, and limited fiscal space" in many regions.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## PYQ REFERENCE:

### Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Sustainable Development Goals were first proposed in 1972 by a global think tank called the 'Club of Rome'.
2. The Sustainable Development Goals have to be achieved by 2030.

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

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-enters-top-100-in-global-sustainable-development-goals-rankings-for-first-time/article69730436.ece>

## 5. IBAT Alliance

25. The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) Alliance which provides essential biodiversity data for informed decision-making is a collaboration between which among the following?

- I. BirdLife International,  
II. Conservation International,  
III. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and  
IV. The United Nations Environment Programme

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d) I, II, III and IV

### Explanation:

In NEWS: IBAT Alliance, formed by four largest global conservation organisations, doubled its investment in biodiversity data from 2023 to 2024

### Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) Alliance:

● The IBAT Alliance, a collaboration between four of the world's largest and most influential conservation organisations announced on June 23, 2025, that its 2024 investment in biodiversity data reached a record level of \$2.5 million — an increase from \$1.2 million in 2023.

● The four organisations that form part of the Alliance are,  
○ BirdLife International,  
○ Conservation International,  
○ The International Union for Conservation of Nature and  
○ The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre. **Hence, all are correct.**

● The increase in investment means that vital funds will be reinvested back into three of the world's most authoritative biodiversity datasets, supporting critical updates and maintenance:

- The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)  
○ The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species  
○ The World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA)

● This will ensure access to credible, science-based global biodiversity data for accurate screening and reporting, enabling meaningful action for nature.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/wildlife-biodiversity/ibat-alliance-formed-by-four-largest-global-conservation-organisations-doubled-its-investment-in-biodiversity-data-from-2023-to-2024>

## 6. Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW)

26. Which among the following are possible using the Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW) technique?

- I. Removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere  
II. Improving the soil fertility and health.  
III. Increasing alkalinity in oceans

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

### Explanation:

In NEWS: Crushed stone is being spread across farms to capture carbon

● From sugar plantations in Brazil to tea estates in India, crushed rock is being sprinkled across large stretches of farmland globally in a novel bid to combat climate change. The technique is called enhanced rock weathering (ERW) and aims to speed up the natural capture and storage of carbon dioxide.

### Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW)

● Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW) is a carbon dioxide removal strategy that accelerates the natural weathering process of silicate minerals to capture atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Process Overview

- ERW involves grinding silicate rocks, such as basalt, into fine particles.  
● These particles are then spread on land or in oceans, where they react with CO<sub>2</sub>.  
● The chemical reaction forms stable carbonates, effectively sequestering carbon.

### Benefits

- Potentially large-scale CO<sub>2</sub> removal: Estimates suggest ERW could remove billions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.  
● Soil enhancement: The minerals can improve soil fertility and health.  
● Ocean alkalinity: Spreading in oceans can increase alkalinity, aiding marine ecosystems. **Hence, all the statements are correct.**

## PYQ REFERENCE:

Q. "Biorock technology" is talked about in which one of the following situations ?

- (a) Restoration of damaged coral reefs  
(b) Development of building materials using plant residues  
(c) Identification of areas for exploration/extraction of shale gas  
(d) Providing salt licks for wild animals in forests/protected areas

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/how-crushed-stone-could-help-fight-climate-change/article69731144.ece>



## 7. Sea turtles in India

27. Consider the following species:

1. Olive Ridley
2. Green Turtle
3. Hawksbill Turtle
4. Loggerhead Turtle
5. Leatherback Turtle

India is home to how many of the globally known sea turtle species?

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

**Answer: d) All five**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Over 50% of sea turtle habitats are expected to disappear by 2050 due to climate change

● Merely 23 percent of the world's sea turtle hotspots lie within these Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). According to the Marine Protection Atlas, over eight per cent of the ocean is designated as MPAs, but only about three per cent are effectively managed.

**Species of Sea Turtles in India**

India is home to 5 out of 7 globally known sea turtle species:

- Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) – Most common; mass nesting (Arribada) at Odisha's Gahirmatha and Rushikulya beaches. It is the smallest and most abundant sea turtle species.
- Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
- Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
- Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) – Rare in Indian waters.
- Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) – Found in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. **Hence all are correct.**

**Threats**

- Poaching for meat, shells, and eggs.
- Bycatch in trawl fishing – accidental capture in fishing nets.
- Coastal development and light pollution affect nesting sites.
- Climate change – Affects sand temperature (which determines the sex of hatchlings).
- Plastic pollution – Ingestion of plastic bags and marine debris.

**Conservation Efforts in India**

All sea turtles are protected under:

- Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (highest protection).
- CITES Appendix I – International trade prohibited.

**Programs & Initiatives**

- Operation Kachhapa (Odisha): Initiated in 1998 for Olive Ridley conservation.
- Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs): Device in fishing nets to allow turtles to escape.
- Marine Turtle Conservation Programme (MOEFCC & UNDP):
  - Mapping nesting sites.
  - Community-based conservation.
- National Marine Turtle Action Plan (2021–2026):
  - Standard operating procedures for states.
  - Conservation of nesting habitats and migratory corridors.

**International Conventions**

- CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)
- CMS (Convention on Migratory Species)

- IOSEA MoU (Indian Ocean – South-East Asia): India is a signatory.

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Consider the following:**

1. Cashew
2. Papaya
3. Red sanders

**How many of the above trees are actually native to India?**

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

**Source:** <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/wildlife-biodiversity/over-50-of-sea-turtle-habitats-are-expected-to-disappear-by-2050-due-to-climate-change>

## 8. Forest fires

28. Forest fires are a recurring phenomenon in many parts of India and the world. If the frequency and intensity of forest fires increase significantly, what could be the possible impacts on the environment?

1. Increased release of carbon dioxide can accelerate global warming.
2. Soil fertility is permanently lost due to complete destruction of all organic matter.
3. Natural regeneration of forest species may be adversely affected.
4. Microbial biodiversity in the soil can decline.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Brazil faced its worst forest fires in 2024, more than 62% area burnt.

● An unprecedented drought fuelled by climate change contributed to the record forest fires in Brazil in 2024, a new analysis has revealed.

**Forest fires:**

● A forest fire is an uncontrolled fire occurring in forest areas, burning vegetation, wildlife habitats, and soil cover. Also known as wildfires or bushfires in some regions.

**Types of Forest Fires:**

- **Surface Fire:** Burns leaf litter, dry grass, and small plants on the forest floor.
- **Crown Fire:** Spreads through the canopy; very intense and dangerous.
- **Ground Fire:** Burns the organic matter below the surface (e.g., peat fires).
- **Spot Fire:** Caused by flying embers that ignite vegetation ahead of the main fire front.

## Causes of Forest Fires

### Natural Causes

- Lightning strikes
- High temperatures and prolonged dry spells
- Spontaneous combustion in dry forests (rare)

### Anthropogenic Causes

- Shifting cultivation (slash and burn)
- Accidental fires (campfires, cigarettes)
- Deliberate fires (for land clearance, poaching)
- Negligence in forest resource extraction (resin tapping, honey collection)

## India State of Forest Report (ISFR)

As per ISFR 2021:

- 36% of forest cover is prone to frequent fires.
- 6% is highly fire-prone.
- Top 5 fire-prone districts: Eastern and central India dominate.

### Impact:

- Forest fires emit large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>, contributing to the greenhouse effect and climate change. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - Frequent/intense fires can destroy seeds, seedlings, and disturb natural regeneration cycles. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - High temperatures can kill beneficial soil microbes, affecting soil health and ecosystem functions. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- Soil fertility loss is usually temporary; in some cases, ash may enrich the soil in the short term. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. The scientific view is that the increase in global temperature should not exceed 2°C above pre-industrial level. If the global temperature increases beyond 3°C above the pre-industrial level, what can be its possible impact/impacts on the world?**

1. Terrestrial biosphere tends toward a net carbon source.
2. Widespread coral mortality will occur.
3. All the global wetlands will permanently disappear.
4. Cultivation of cereals will not be possible anywhere in the world.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

**Source:** <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/climate-change/brazil-faced-its-worst-forest-fires-in-2024-more-than-62-area-burnt>

## 9. Project Elephant

**29. With reference to Project Elephant, consider the following statements:**

1. Project Elephant is a wildlife conservation movement initiated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

2. Under this project the Government of India provides financial and technical support to the states for wildlife management of free-ranging elephant populations.
3. The Asian elephant is smaller than the African elephant.
4. Among the States in India, the highest elephant population is in Kerala.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer: (c) Only three**

### Explanation:

**In NEWS:** Phase-I of the synchronized elephant population estimation was completed for the Northeastern states, as per the ministry.

### Project Elephant:

- Project Elephant is a wildlife conservation movement initiated in India to protect the **endangered Indian elephant**.
- The project was initiated in 1992 by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** of the Government of India to provide **financial and technical support** to the states for wildlife management of free-ranging elephant populations. **Hence statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- The project has been implemented in **22 States and union territories of India**.

### The Indian elephant:

- The Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*) is one of three extant recognized subspecies of the Asian elephant, native to mainland Asia.
- The species is smaller than the African elephant species with a convex back and the highest body point on its head. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The Asian elephant has been listed as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List as the wild population has declined by at least 50% over the last three elephant generations.
- According to the report, released by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on August 12, **Karnataka** has the highest number of elephants (6,049), followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054). **Hence statement 4 is incorrect.**

### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. With reference to Indian elephants, consider the following statements:**

1. The leader of an elephant group is a female.
2. The maximum gestation period can be 22 months.
3. An elephant can normally go on calving till the age of 40 years only.
4. Among the States in India, the highest elephant population is in Kerala.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/project-elephant-review-census-ph-i-completed-in-n-e-over-3000-km-rly-lines-mapped-to-prevent-collisions-10091133/>  
**10. Community forest**

**30. With reference to Community Forest Rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, consider the following statements:**

1. These rights can be claimed only by Scheduled Tribes.
2. Gram Sabha is the authority to initiate the process of determining these rights.
3. Community Forest Rights include the right to protect and manage forest resources.

**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

**Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Chhattisgarh seeks Centre's help after Forest Department stalls community forest resource management plans

**Community Forests:**

- Community Forests are forest areas that are managed, conserved, and used by local communities, especially forest-dwelling or tribal groups, often under formal recognition by the government.

**Legal and Policy Framework in India**

**1. Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**

- Recognizes rights of forest-dwelling communities to protect, manage, and conserve forest resources. Non-Scheduled Tribes who are traditional forest dwellers can also claim these rights.

**Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**

- Section 3(1)(i): Recognizes Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights.

- Gram Sabha is the authority to:

- Protect wildlife, forest, and biodiversity.
- Manage and regenerate forests under community control.

**Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**CFR Rights Include**

- Right to manage and conserve forest resources. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Access and use of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) like bamboo, tendu leaves, honey, etc.
- Right to protect customary seasonal access to water bodies and grazing lands.
- Right to prevent external threats like industrial projects or commercial plantations.

**2. Joint Forest Management (JFM)**

- Launched in 1990 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Partnership between forest departments and local communities.
- Communities get a share in forest produce and revenue in return for protecting forests.

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Consider the following statements:**

1. As per recent amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, forest dwellers have the right to fell the bamboos grown on forest areas.
2. As per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, bamboo is a minor forest produce.
3. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006 allows ownership of minor forest produce to forest dwellers.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Source:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/chhattisgarh/chhattisgarh-seeks-centres-help-after-forest-department-stalls-community-forest-resource-management-plans/article69735765.ece>

**11. The dhole, or Asiatic wild dog**

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

1. The dhole is a highly social animal, living in large clans without rigid dominance hierarchies and containing multiple breeding females.
2. In tropical forests, the dhole competes with the tiger and the leopard.
3. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer: (b) Only two**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** The dhole, or Asiatic wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*), believed to have been locally extinct, has made a confirmed return to the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape (KKAL) of Assam, a new study by scientists from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) says.

**The dhole, or Asiatic wild dog:**

- The dhole is a highly social animal, living in large clans without rigid dominance hierarchies and containing multiple breeding females. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Such clans usually consist of about 12 individuals, but groups of over 40 are known.
- It is a diurnal pack hunter which preferentially targets large and medium-sized ungulates.
- In tropical forests, the dhole competes with the tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and the leopard (*Panthera pardus*), targeting somewhat different prey species, but still with substantial dietary overlap. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It is listed as **Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List**, as populations are decreasing and estimated to comprise fewer than 2,500 mature individuals. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**



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● Factors contributing to this decline include habitat loss, loss of prey, competition with other species, persecution due to livestock predation, and disease transfer from domestic dogs.

## PYQ REFERENCE:

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

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

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/asiatic-wild-dog-returns-to-assams-kaziranga-landscape/article69744097.ece#:~:text=The%20findings%2C%20published%20in%20the%20latest%20issue%20of,for%20an%20extended%20period%2C%20despite%20its%20ecological%20significance.>

## 12. Kharai camels

**32. Consider the following statements:**

1. Some camels have the ability to swim long distances.
2. Some camels survive by grazing on mangroves.
3. Some camels can thrive in saline, marshy coastal areas

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer: (c) All three**

## Explanation:

**In NEWS:** Despite NGT orders, illegal salt pans and encroachment of creeks continue to threaten Kachchh's Kharai camels

● Kachchh in Gujarat is known for its rare indigenous breed of Kharai camel. But the existence of this species is under threat, despite multiple interventions by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

## Kharai camels:

- The Kharai, is a rare and unique breed of dromedary camel, commonly known as the 'swimming camel' due to its ability to thrive in the salt marshes of Kutch district, located in the western Indian state of Gujarat. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The Kharai is known for its rare ability to swim long distances and graze on mangroves. **Hence statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- Their name is derived from the Gujarati language word 'khara', meaning salty.
- The Kharai camel has been officially recognized as a distinct breed by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources

(NBAGR) located at Karnal, Haryana, due to its unique habitat and dietary preferences.

● Unlike other camel breeds, Kharai camels have a unique dependence on mangroves for sustenance.

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. What is/are unique about 'Kharai camel', a breed found in India?**

1. It is capable of swimming up to three kilometres in seawater.
2. It survives by grazing on mangroves.
3. It lives in the wild and cannot be domesticated.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below**

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

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/wildlife-biodiversity/despite-ngt-orders-illegal-salt-pans-and-encroachment-of-creeks-continue-to-threaten-kachchh-kharai-camels>

## 13. PM 2.5 pollution

**33. With reference to the Particulate matter 2.5 pollution, consider the following statements:**

1. Ammonium sulphate is the secondary pollutant of PM 2.5 that results from the reaction between sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrous oxide (NO) in the atmosphere.
2. As per the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), is responsible for nearly one-third of India's fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) pollution ammonium sulphate.

**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

**Answer: (b) 2 only**

## Explanation:

**In NEWS:** Secondary pollutants, especially ammonium sulphate, constitute a third of PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution

● Secondary pollutants, particularly **ammonium sulphate**, that results from the reaction between **sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)** in the atmosphere. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**

● It is responsible for nearly one-third of India's fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) pollution, said a study from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

● Primary pollutants are those that result from the **burning of fossil fuels** from automobiles, **coal plants and organic matter**. These pollutants, once they climb into the atmosphere, react with each other or other gases or water vapour in the atmosphere to form more complex particles — some of which are harmful. These are called secondary pollutants.

● Ammonium sulphate concentrations constitute a greater proportion of particulate matter nearer to coal plants and fall with distance. It is 2.5 times higher within 10 km of coal-fired power plants (15 microgram per cubic metre) compared to areas beyond 10 km (6 microgram per cubic metre).

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. In the context of WHO Air Quality Guidelines, consider the following statements:**

1. The 24-hour mean of PM<sub>2.5</sub> should not exceed 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and annual mean of PM<sub>2.5</sub> should not exceed 5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
2. In a year, the highest levels of ozone pollution occur during the periods of inclement weather.
3. PM<sub>10</sub> can penetrate the lung barrier and enter the bloodstream.
4. Excessive ozone in the air can trigger asthma.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/secondary-pollutants-constitute-up-to-third-of-pm25-pollution/article69748715.ece>

## ECONOMY

### 1. India's Energy Transition Index 2025

**34. India's Energy Transition Index 2025 is published by the**

- (a) International Monetary Fund
- (b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- (c) World Economic Forum
- (d) World Bank

**Answer: (c) World Economic Forum**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** India Slips to Rank 71 on World Economic Forum's Energy Transition Index

### India's Energy Transition Index 2025:

- India's position in the global Energy Transition Index has shifted to 71st in 2025. This ranking was released by the World Economic Forum, which assesses the energy transition performance of 118 countries. **Hence option (c) is correct.**
- Despite a drop from 63rd last year, alongside China, has shown improvements in energy access and transition readiness.
- Sweden leads the Energy Transition Index, followed by Finland, Denmark, Norway, and Switzerland. Other notable rankings include China at 12th and the United States at 17th.
- Pakistan ranks 101st, while Congo holds the last position.
- The top five economies play an important role in shaping global energy transitions due to their substantial share of global GDP, population, and emissions.

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. The Global Competitiveness Report is published by the**

- (a) International Monetary Fund
- (b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- (c) World Economic Forum
- (d) World Bank

Source: <https://thewire.in/energy/india-slips-to-71st-rank-energy-transition-index>

## 2. Expansionary policies

**35. If the RBI adopts an expansionist monetary policy, which of the following will be the most common effect on the economy?**

1. Stimulation of economic growth
2. Decreased inflation
3. Currency devaluation
4. Decreased unemployment

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: (d) 1, 3 and 4**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Expansionary policies in a slowing economy

### Expansionary Monetary Policy:

- An expansionary monetary policy is a type of macroeconomic monetary policy that aims to increase the rate of monetary expansion to stimulate the growth of a domestic economy.
- The economic growth must be supported by additional money supply. The money injection boosts consumer spending, as well as increases capital investments by businesses.

### Expansionary Monetary Policy Tools



### Tools for an Expansionary Monetary Policy:

#### 1. Lower the short-term interest rates

Commercial banks can usually take out short-term loans from the central bank to meet their liquidity shortages. In return for the loans, the central bank charges a short-term interest rate. By decreasing the short-term interest rates, the central bank reduces the cost of borrowing to commercial banks.

#### 2. Reduce the reserve requirements

Commercial banks are obliged to hold a minimum amount of reserves with a central bank. In order to increase the money supply, the central bank may reduce reserve requirements.

#### 3. Expand open market operations (buy securities)

The central bank may also use open market operations with government-issued securities to affect the money supply in the economy. It may decide to buy large amounts of government-issued securities (e.g., government bonds) from institutional investors to inject additional cash into the domestic economy.

### Effects of an Expansionary Monetary Policy

#### 1. Stimulation of economic growth

An expansionary monetary policy reduces the cost of borrowing. Therefore, consumers tend to spend more while businesses are encouraged to make larger capital investments. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

#### 2. Increased inflation

The injection of additional money into the economy increases inflation levels. It can be both advantageous and disadvantageous to the economy. The excessive increase in the money supply may result in unsustainable inflation levels. On the other hand, the inflation increase may prevent possible deflation, which can be more damaging than reasonable inflation. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

### 3. Currency devaluation

The higher money supply reduces the value of the local currency. The devaluation is beneficial to the economy's export ability because exports become cheaper and more attractive to foreign countries. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

### 4. Decreased unemployment

The stimulation of capital investments creates additional jobs in the economy. Therefore, an expansionary monetary policy generally reduces unemployment. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

#### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. If the RBI decides to adopt an expansionist monetary policy, which of the following would it not do?**

1. Cut and optimize the Statutory Liquidity Ratio
2. Increase the Marginal Standing Facility Rate
3. Cut the Bank Rate and Repo Rate

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

#### Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/expansionary-policies-in-a-slowing-economy/article69725395.ece#:~:text=An%20increase%20in%20government%20spending,to%20an%20increase%20in%20inflation.>

### 3. Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2025

#### 36. 'Fossil Fuel Finance Report' is prepared by

- (a) Banking on Climate Chaos Coalition
- (b) The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative
- (c) The United Nations World Commission for Environment and Development
- (d) The World Wide Fund for Nature

**Answer: (a) Banking on Climate Chaos Coalition**

#### Explanation:

##### In NEWS:

- The 2025 Fossil Fuel Finance Report by the Banking on Climate Chaos Coalition reveals that the world's 65 largest banks collectively committed \$869 billion to fossil fuel companies in 2024, up from \$707 billion in 2023. **Hence option (a) is correct.**
- Notably, the State Bank of India (SBI) was among nearly 50 banks that increased their fossil fuel financing.

#### Current Financing Landscape

- The Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2025 report marks that achieving net zero emissions by 2050 requires reduction in investment in fossil fuels.

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) states that annual investments must decline by over half by 2030.

#### State Bank of India's Role

- SBI accounted for a small increase in fossil fuel financing. In 2024, SBI's financing rose by \$65 million, reaching \$2.62 billion.
- This positioned SBI as the 47th largest lender in fossil fuel financing, up from 49th in 2023.
- Despite this, SBI aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2055. The bank plans for at least 7.5% of its domestic gross advances to be green by 2030.

#### Future Projections

- The report indicates that since the Paris Agreement, banks have committed \$7.9 trillion to fossil fuel financing. This ongoing support for fossil fuels poses challenges to global climate goals. As the world grapples with climate change, the need for a shift towards sustainable financing becomes increasingly urgent.

#### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. 'Global Financial Stability Report' is prepared by the**

- (a) European Central Bank
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- (d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

**Source:** <https://www.gktoday.in/fossil-fuel-finance-report-2025/>

### 4. Digital Payment Intelligence Platform (DPIP)

#### 37. The Digital Payment Intelligence Platform (DPIP) is launched by

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) Banks Board Bureau
- (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- (d) National Payment Corporation of India

**Answer: (a) Reserve Bank of India**

#### Explanation:

**In NEWS:** The RBI has launched a new initiative, the Digital Payment Intelligence Platform (DPIP), in collaboration with major banks to combat the rise of digital payment frauds in India. **Hence option (a) is correct.**

#### Digital Payment Intelligence Platform (DPIP):

- DPIP is an AI, ML, and big data-driven platform to enhance security, efficiency, and trust in digital payment systems by detecting and preventing fraud in real-time.
- Objective: Combat rising digital payment frauds, boost consumer confidence, and strengthen the digital payment ecosystem.

#### Key Features

- Fraud Detection: Uses AI/ML for real-time analysis of transaction patterns to identify anomalies and fraud.
- Real-Time Data Sharing: Enables network-level intelligence across banks, NPCI, and payment apps.
- Automated Payments: Supports recurring payments (e.g., Fastag, NCMC) for user convenience.
- Consumer Trust: Enhances security to encourage digital payment adoption.

#### RBI Initiative (India)



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- Announcement: Proposed by RBI in June 2024 to curb fraud and strengthen Digital Public Infrastructure.
- Committee: Led by A.P. Hota (former NPCI MD & CEO) to recommend framework (report due August 2024).
- Status (June 2025): Prototype in development with major banks; aligns with UPI's global expansion (e.g., UAE, Singapore).

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. With reference to digital payments, consider the following statements:**

1. BHIM app allows the user to transfer money to anyone with a UPI-enabled bank account.
2. While a chip-pin debit card has four factors authentication, BHIM app has only two factors of authentication.

**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

## Source:

<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/digital-payments/rbi-collaborates-with-banks-to-combat-digital-payment-frauds-via-new-platform/122013368>

## 5. India Post Payments Bank

**38. With reference to the India Post Payments Bank, consider the following statements.**

- I. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is a 100% Government of India-owned entity under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Finance.
- II. IPPB offers savings and current accounts up to a balance of Rs. 200,000.
- III. IPPB provides Unified Payments Interface and Aadhaar Enabled Payment Service.
- IV. IPPB can issue both the Debit Card and Credit Cards

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (b) II and III**

## Explanation:

**In NEWS:** India Post Payments Bank honoured with Digital Payments Award by Ministry of Finance

● India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) achieved 1st Position among Payments Banks in India in the Performance Index for Financial Year 2024-25 & received 'Special Mention' award for the Financial Year 2023-24.

● India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was setup under the Department of Post, **Ministry of Communication** with 100% equity owned by the Government of India. **Hence statement I is incorrect.**

- It is governed by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- IPPB offers savings accounts, money transfer and insurance through third parties, bill and utility payments.
- The bank also provides features like:

- Account: The bank offers savings and current accounts up to a balance of Rs. 200,000. **Hence statement II is correct.**
- QR Code: Customers can use QR code payments eliminating the need to remember account numbers, PINs and passwords.
- Unified Payments Interface
- AEPS (Aadhaar Enabled Payment Service). **Hence statement III is correct.**
- Immediate Payment Service
- National Electronic Funds Transfer
- Real-time gross settlement
- Bharat BillPay
- Direct Benefit Transfer
- RuPay Debit Card (not credit card) **Hence statement IV is incorrect.**

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. The establishment of 'Payment Banks' is being allowed in India to promote financial inclusion. Which of the following statements is/are correct in this context?**

1. Mobile telephone companies and supermarket chains that are owned and controlled by residents are eligible to be promoters of Payment Banks.
2. Payment Banks can issue both credit cards and debit cards.
3. Payment Banks cannot undertake lending activities.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

## Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2138023>

<https://www.ipbonline.com/web/ippb/about-us1>

## 6. GST Council

**39. As per Article 279A(2) of the Constitution, the GST Council shall consist of who among the following?**

- I. The Union Finance Minister
- II. The Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance
- III. The Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State Government
- IV. Any person nominated by the Governor of the State where there is a proclamation of emergency under Article 356 of the Constitution of India.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

**Answer: (c) I, II, III and IV**

## Explanation:

**In NEWS:** GST Council will discuss reducing items in 12% slab **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council:**

● The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is a constitutional body in India. Formed under the 101st Constitutional Amendment through Article 279A.

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- It has been established to make decisions and recommendations to the Union and State Governments on all issues related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- It is an apex decision-making body responsible for formulating policies, rules, and regulations governing the GST system in the country.
- The Secretariat of the Goods and Services Tax Council is located in New Delhi.

## Composition

- As per Article 279A(2) of the Constitution, the GST Council shall consist of the following members: -
  - The Union Finance Minister
  - The Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance
  - The Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State Government
  - Any person nominated by the Governor of the State where there is a proclamation of emergency under Article 356 of the Constitution of India.

**Hence all are correct.**

## Functions

- Making recommendations on GST rates, exemptions, and thresholds.
- Addressing issues related to the implementation of GST.
- Ensuring uniformity in the application of GST across states.

### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing 'Goods and Services Tax (GST)'?**

1. It will replace multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and will thus create a single market in India.
2. It will drastically reduce the 'Current Account Deficit' of India and will enable it to increase its foreign exchange reserves.
3. It will enormously increase the growth and size of economy of India and will enable it to overtake China in the near future.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

### Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/gst-council-set-to-discuss-reducing-items-in-12-slab/article69735489.ece>  
<https://gstcouncil.gov.in/about-us>

### 7. Reciprocal tariffs

**40. Which one of the following best describes the term "Reciprocal tariffs" sometimes seen in news?**

- (a) An Indian company investing in a foreign enterprise and paying taxes to the foreign country on the profits arising out of its investment
- (b) A foreign company investing in India and paying taxes to the country of its base on the profits arising out of its investment
- (c) An Indian company purchases tangible assets in a foreign country and sells such assets after their value increases and transfers the proceeds to India
- (d) A tax or trade restriction that one country places on another in response to similar actions taken by that country to create balance in trade between nations.

**Answer: (d) A tax or trade restriction that one country places on another in response to similar actions taken by that country to create balance in trade between nations.**

### Explanation:

**In NEWS:** U.S. 'reciprocal tariffs', including 26% on all imports from India, will take effect on July 9 if there is no agreement; biggest obstacles to the deal are U.S. tariffs, export of GM crops, cow milk to India

### Reciprocal tariffs:

- A reciprocal tariff is a tax or trade restriction that one country places on another in response to similar actions taken by that country.
- The idea behind reciprocal tariffs is to create balance in trade between nations. **Hence option (d) is correct.**

### Key Features:

- **Purpose:** They aim to protect domestic industries by making imported goods more expensive, thereby encouraging consumers to buy local products.
- **Implementation:** When one country raises tariffs on imports, the affected country often retaliates with its own tariffs on goods from the first country.
- **Trade Relations:** This practice can lead to trade disputes and tensions, as countries may engage in a cycle of tariff increases.

### Examples:

- If Country A imposes a 10% tariff on steel imports from Country B, Country B may respond with a similar tariff on agricultural products from Country A.

### Impact:

- Reciprocal tariffs can lead to increased prices for consumers and may disrupt international trade relationships. They are often a tool in trade negotiations or disputes.

### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. Which one of the following situations best reflects "Indirect Transfers" often talked about in media recently with reference to India ?**

- (a) An Indian company investing in a foreign enterprise and paying taxes to the foreign country on the profits arising out of its investment
- (b) A foreign company investing in India and paying taxes to the country of its base on the profits arising out of its investment
- (c) An Indian company purchases tangible assets in a foreign country and sells such assets after their value increases and transfers the proceeds to India
- (d) A foreign company transfers shares and such shares derive their substantial value from assets located in India

### Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/indian-team-in-the-us-for-last-attempt-at-trade-deal-before-july-9-deadline/article69744419.ece>  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/reciprocal-tariff>

### 8. Border infrastructure project

**41. Consider the following:**

1. Pir Ki Gali Tunnel
2. Sadhna Tunnel
3. Zaznar-Shopian Road
4. Trehgam-Chamkote Road

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The above mentioned initiative is part of a broader effort to enhance connectivity and security in which among the region?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir.
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Manipur and Nagaland
- (d) Punjab and Haryana

**Answer: (a) Jammu and Kashmir.**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** The Government of India has recently approved 19 infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir. **Hence option (a) is correct.**

- This initiative is part of a broader effort to enhance connectivity and security in the region.
- The total investment for these projects amounts to Rs 10,637 crore. Among these, four projects stand out due to their strategic importance.
  - Pir Ki Gali Tunnel
  - Sadhna Tunnel
  - Zaznar-Shopian Road
  - Trehgam-Chamkote Road

**Pir Ki Gali Tunnel**

- This tunnel will ensure all-weather connectivity along the historic Mughal road.
- It connects Kashmir to the Pir Panjal region of Jammu. The project aims to keep this vital route operational throughout the year, especially during harsh winter conditions.

**Sadhna Tunnel**

- The Sadhna tunnel, measuring 7 km, will connect Kupwara with Karnah.
- Currently, the route faces severe disruptions during winter due to snowfall and avalanches. The Sadhna tunnel will ensure year-round access to this strategically important border area.

**Zaznar-Shopian Road**

- The 28-km road stretch from Zaznar to Shopian is part of the larger effort to improve road connectivity from the Mughal road to Baramulla. Enhanced access to Shopian is expected to facilitate trade and movement in the region.

**Trehgam-Chamkote Road**

- The existing Trehgam-Chamkote road connects Kupwara to Teetwal, which is near the Line of Control. Enhancing this road will boost logistical support for security forces and improve civilian access to border areas.

**Source:** <https://www.gktoday.in/major-infrastructure-projects-in-jammu-and-kashmir/>

**9. International Potato Center (CIP) & CIP-South Asia Regional Center (CSARC)**

**42. Consider the following statements:**

1. The potato is the third most available food crop in the world, after rice and wheat.
2. India is the top potato producer and consumer in the world, followed by China.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (a) 1 only**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** The Union Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a proposal from the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to establish the CSARC..

**International Potato Center (CIP):**

- Headquartered in Lima, Peru, the CIP was founded in 1971 with a focus on the potato, sweet potato and Andean roots and tubers.
- Notably, the potato crop is native to the Peruvian-Bolivian Andes in Latin America, and was spread across the globe by the Spaniards and the Portuguese who colonised the continent. Potatoes reached India in the 17th century.

**CIP-South Asia Regional Center (CSARC):**

- The major objective is to increase food and nutrition security, farmers income, and job creation by improving potato and sweet potato productivity, post-harvest management and value-addition
- The CSARC will focus on the development of new varieties which will be climate resilient, disease-free, and suitable for processing.
- It will bring global science expertise, an extensive global innovation network and global genetic resources

**India's position in global potato production:**

- The potato is the third most available food crop in the world, after rice and wheat, while sweet potato is in the 6th position after maize and cassava. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- India is the second largest potato producer in the world, followed by China, its average yield is 25 tonnes per hectare — about half of its potential of over 50 tonnes per hectare.
- China is the top potato producer and consumer in the world, followed by India. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- In 2020, China's production was recorded at 78.24 million tonnes, while India produced 51.30 million tonnes. Both countries together accounted for over one-third of the global potato production (359.07 million tonnes).

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Consider the following statements about turmeric during the year 2022-23:**

- I. India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric in the world.
- II. More than 30 varieties of turmeric are grown in India.
- III. Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are major turmeric producing States in India.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Source:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/potato-research-center-agra-peru-india-importance-10090098/>



## 10. Gross value added (GVA)

43. Consider the following statements:

**Statement I:**

Gross value added (GVA) is an economic productivity metric that is a key indicator of the state of a nation's total economy.

**Statement II:**

GVA adjusts gross domestic product (GDP) by the impact of subsidies and taxes (tariffs) on products.

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

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

**Answer: (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Gross Value Added in agriculture surged 225% in 12 years: Centre

**Gross value added (GVA):**

- Gross value added (GVA) is an economic productivity metric that measures the contribution of a corporate subsidiary, company, or municipality to an economy, producer, sector, or region.
- GVA is the output of the country less the intermediate consumption, which is the difference between gross output and net output.
- GVA is important because it is used to adjust GDP, which is a key indicator of the state of a nation's total economy. **Hence Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I**

**Formula for GVA:**  $GVA = GDP + SP - TP$

where:

SP= Subsidies on products

TP= Taxes on products

**Difference Between GVA and GDP:**

- Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of all the goods and services produced in a country.
- Gross value added (GVA) is the value added to other (purchased) goods and services, which are used to produce within an economy.
- GVA takes the GDP and adds the value of subsidies paid on those products, subtracting taxes paid on them.

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Which one of the following is not a feature of "Value Added Tax"?**

- (a) It is a multi point destination based system of taxation.
- (b) It is a tax levied on value addition at each stage of transaction in the production-distribution chain.
- (c) It is a tax on final consumption of goods or services and

must ultimately be borne by consumer.

- (d) It is basically subject of the central government and state government are merely facilitator for its successful implementation.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/225-increase-in-gross-value-added-gva-in-agriculture-in-12-years-centre/article69745359.ece>

## 11. SAGAR SETU

44. 'SAGAR SETU' a digital platform for maritime trade and operations in India is launched by

- (a) Ministry of Communications
- (b) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- (c) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (d) Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways

**Answer: (d) Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:**

SAGAR SETU: Revolutionising Maritime and Logistics Operations

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways proudly launched the SAGAR SETU platform, marking a new era in India's logistics and maritime ecosystem. **Hence option (d) is correct.**
- Sagar Setu is a single window web application, which allows the port community and stakeholders to access the centralized repository to view transactions.
- Aligned with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, SAGAR SETU integrates multiple service providers to offer seamless EXIM-related services.
- The platform is designed to significantly reduce processing times for vessel and cargo documentation, promoting faster, paperless logistics.
- Notably, this platform connects over 80 ports and 40 key stakeholders, reflecting broad industry adoption.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2139903>

## 12. Operation Deep Manifest

45. Operations undertaken by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) targeting the illegal import of Pakistani-origin goods routed through third countries is called:

- (a) Operation Sankalp
- (b) Operation Maitri
- (c) Operation Deep Manifest
- (d) Operation Madad

**Answer: (c) Operation Deep Manifest**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized Pakistani-origin goods worth Rs 9 crore under 'Operation Deep Manifest,' uncovering illegal imports routed through Dubai.

## Operation Deep Manifest:

- Operation Deep Manifest is an operation targeting the illegal import of Pakistani-origin goods routed through third countries, primarily via Dubai, UAE. **Hence option (c) is correct.**
- It is launched by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance
- The Government of India banned import of Pakistani-origin goods routed through third countries, primarily via Dubai, UAE, post Pahalgam terror attacks.
- The operation exemplifies DRI's steadfast commitment to upholding Government's policy, customs and other relevant laws; safeguarding national and economic security of country; and preventing the misuse of trade channels for import of Pakistani-origin goods.

### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. Operations undertaken by the Army towards upliftment of the local population in remote areas to include addressing of their basic needs is called:**

- (a) Operation Sankalp
- (b) Operation Maitri
- (c) Operation Sadbhavana
- (d) Operation Madad

### Source:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/dri-seizes-pakistan-origin-goods-worth-rs-9-crore-under-operation-deep-manifest/articleshow/122095435.cms>

### 13. Child Mortality Rate (CMR)

**46. The Child Mortality Rate (CMR) in an economy is defined as:**

- (a) the number of deaths of children under five years of age per 1,000 live births in a given year or period.
- (b) the number of deaths of children under five years of age per 1,00,000 live births in a given year or period.
- (c) the average number of children who die before reaching adulthood.
- (d) The proportion of newborns who die within the first 28 days of life.

**Answer: (a) the number of deaths of children under five years of age per 1,000 live births in a given year or period.**

### Explanation:

**In NEWS:** India achieves 78% decline in the under-five mortality rate surpassing the global reduction of 61%

### Child Mortality Rate (CMR):

- The child mortality rate, often referred to as the under-five mortality rate (U5MR), is defined as the number of deaths of children under five years of age per 1,000 live births in a given year or period. **Hence option (a) is correct.**

$$CMR = \left( \frac{\text{Number of deaths of children under 5 years}}{\text{Number of live births}} \right) \times 1,000$$

- It is a key indicator of child health and overall socio-economic development, reflecting factors like healthcare access, nutrition, sanitation, and socio-economic conditions.

- As per the United Nations Inter-agency group for child mortality estimation 2024 report, the Neonatal Mortality Rate has also declined by 70 per cent as compared to 54 per cent globally.
- As a result of the continued and intensified implementation of vaccination drives, India's percentage of zero-dose children to the total population has also declined from 0.11 per cent in 2023 to 0.06 per cent in 2024.

### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as:**

- (a) the number of children born per 1000 People in the Population in a year.
- (b) the number of children born to couple in their lifetime in a given population.
- (c) the birth rate minus death rate.
- (d) the average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.

**Source:** <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/india-records-78-drop-in-under-five-mortality-surpasses-global-average/>

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### 1. Strait of Hormuz

**47. The Strait of Hormuz which is often seen in news is located between:**

- (a) The Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman
- (b) The Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean
- (c) The Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden
- (d) The Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara

**Answer: (a) The Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman**

### Explanation:

**In NEWS:** Blockade of the Strait of Hormuz could have a "huge impact on global trade", warns CEO Wael Sawan

- As conflict escalates between Israel and Iran, energy giant Shell has issued a stark warning that a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz — a critical maritime chokepoint — could trigger a severe shock to global trade and energy markets.

- The strait is a narrow waterway that connects the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman and is the only passage from the oil-rich gulf to the Indian Ocean. **Hence option (a) is correct.**



**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Match the following:**

- (A) Strait of Gibraltar - (i) Between Indonesia & Malaysia  
 (B) Strait of Malacca - (ii) Between Gulf of Persia and Gulf of Oman  
 (C) Strait of Bering - (iii) Between Africa and Europe  
 (D) Strait of Hormuz - (iv) Between Asia and North America

- (a). (iii), (iv), (i), (ii)  
 (b). (iii), (i), (iv), (ii)  
 (c). (iv), (iii), (ii), (i)  
 (d). (iv), (ii), (iii), (i)

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/energy/shell-warns-of-global-trade-shock-as-israel-iran-tensions-escalate>

## 2. Operation Sindhu

**48. The civilian evacuation mission launched by India to evacuate Indian nationals stranded in Iran amid escalating conflict with Israel is called:**

- (a) Operation Sankalp  
 (b) Operation Maitri  
 (c) Operation Sindhu  
 (d) Operation Madad

**Answer: (c) Operation Sindhu**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Operation Sindhu continues amid Iran-Israel conflict; 827 Indians evacuated so far: MEA

**Operation Sindhu:**

- "Operation Sindhu" refers to the **civilian evacuation mission** launched by India in June 2025, during the outbreak of the **Israel–Iran war**. **Hence option (c) is correct.**
- Land Transit: Indians, especially students from Urmia Medical University, trekked into Armenia over land with embassy assistance.
- Air Evacuation: A special flight from Yerevan to New Delhi took off on June 18–19, carrying 110 evacuees in the initial wave
- Scale-up: By June 21, a total of 517 Indian nationals had been repatriated

**Other Options:**

- (a) Operation Sankalp** – Naval mission launched in 2019 to ensure safe passage of Indian ships in the Persian Gulf amid tensions.  
**(b) Operation Maitri** – Humanitarian rescue and relief operation by India after the 2015 Nepal earthquake.  
**(d) Operation Madad** – Conducted by the Indian Navy to aid flood victims in Kerala (2018).

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Operations undertaken by the Army towards the upliftment of the local population in remote areas to include addressing of their basic needs is called:**

- (a) Operation Sankalp  
 (b) Operation Maitri  
 (c) Operation Sadbhavana  
 (d) Operation Madad

**Source:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/operation-sindhu-517-indian-nationals-brought-back-from-iran-so-far-says-mea/article69720348.ece>

## 3. INS Tamal, INS TEG and INS Nilgiri

**49. Consider the following pairs:**

Frigates	Manufactured by
1. INS Tamal	Russia
2. INS TEG	India
3. INS Nilgiri	Russia

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: (a) Only one**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** INS Tamal, India's last imported warship, to be commissioned on July 1

INS Teg, a frontline stealth frigate of the Western Naval Command, concluded her port call at Port Louis, Mauritius on 22 June 2025.

INS Nilgiri, First Project 17A Stealth Frigate, Reaches Visakhapatnam

**INS Tamal:**

- INS Tamal is a Talwar-class frigate of the Indian Navy. It is the eighth ship of the Talwar-class frigates and the second of the third batch of the class frigates ordered by the Indian Navy.
- She was built by the Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia. The ship is the last warship to be imported by the Indian Navy. **Hence pair 1 is correct.**

**INS Teg:**

- INS Teg (F45) is the fourth Talwar-class frigate constructed for the Indian Navy. She was built by the Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia, and was commissioned to Navy service on 27 April 2012. **Hence pair 2 is incorrect.**
- She is the first of the second batch of Talwar-class frigates to be completed.

**INS Nilgiri:**

- INS Nilgiri is the lead ship of the Nilgiri-class stealth guided missile frigates being built by Mazagon Shipyard Dock Limited, Mumbai. **Hence pair 3 is incorrect.**

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Astradharini', that was in the news recently?**

- (a) Amphibious warfare ship  
 (b) Nuclear-powered submarine  
 (c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel  
 (d) Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ins-tamal-indias-last-imported-warship-to-be-commissioned-on-july-1/article69724635.ece>  
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2138898>



<https://www.newsonair.gov.in/ins-nilgiri-first-project-17a-stealth-frigate-reaches-visakhapatnam/>

## 4. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

50. With reference to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), consider the following statements:

1. It is the world's largest regional organization in terms of geographic scope and population, covering approximately 24% of the area of the world.
2. India and China are the founding members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
3. The SCO is governed by the Heads of State Council (HSC), its supreme decision-making body, which meets once a year.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

In NEWS: India refuses to sign joint statement in SCO summit

**The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):**

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, international security and defence organization of ten member states.
- It was established in 2001 by the **People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.**
  - In June 2017, it expanded to eight states, with **India and Pakistan. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
  - **Iran** joined the group in July 2023, and **Belarus** in July 2024. Several countries are engaged as observers or dialogue partners.
- It is the world's largest regional organization in terms of geographic scope and population, covering approximately 24% of the area of the world (65% of Eurasia) and 42% of the world population. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- As of 2024, its combined nominal GDP accounts for around 23%, while its GDP based on PPP comprises approximately 36% of the world's total.
- The SCO is the successor to the Shanghai Five, formed in 1996 between China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.
- The SCO is governed by the Heads of State Council (HSC), its supreme decision-making body, which meets once a year. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The organization also contains the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS).

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Consider the following:**

1. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
2. Missile Technology Control Regime
3. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

**Indians a member of which of the above?**

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

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-refuses-to-sign-joint-statement-in-sco-summit/article69739189.ece>

## 5. NATO Summit 2025

51. Consider the following countries:

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

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

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

Answer: (b) Only four

Explanation:

In NEWS: NATO allies reached a consensus to increase defence spending to 5% of GDP. This ambitious target includes 3.5% for core defence spending and 1.5% for defence-related expenditures.

**The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):**

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental transnational military alliance of 32 member states—30 European and 2 North American.
- Established in the aftermath of World War II, the organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty, signed in Washington, D.C., on 4 April 1949.
- At present, NATO has 32 member countries. These countries, called NATO Allies, are sovereign states that come together through NATO to discuss political and security issues and make collective decisions by consensus.



Austria and Serbia are not NATO members. **Hence, I and IV are not correct.**

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Consider the following countries:**

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

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

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

**Source:** <https://www.gktoday.in/nato-summit-2025/>  
[https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_52044.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_52044.htm)

## 6. Bordering countries of Iran

**52. Consider the following countries:**

- 1. Iraq
- 2. Turkey
- 3. Azerbaijan
- 4. Armenia
- 5. Turkmenistan

**How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with Iran?**

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

**Answer: (d) All five**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Iran-Israel conflict highlights: Damaged unit of Iran's South Pars refinery back operating, says Iran's Nour News

- Iran has international borders with 13 sovereign countries, both on land and sea.
- **Land borders:** It has a total of 5,894 kilometres (3,662 mi) land borders with **Iraq, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Hence option (d) is correct.**
- **Coastline borders:** With a total of 2,440 kilometres (1,520 mi) coastline, it has maritime borders with 6 other countries: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman.



**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Consider the following countries:**

- 1. Bulgaria
- 2. Czech Republic
- 3. Hungary
- 4. Latvia
- 5. Lithuania
- 6. Romania

**How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with Ukraine?**

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

**Source:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/israel-iran-conflict-live-updates-ceasefire-khamenei-trump-june-26-2025/article69738803.ece>

## GEOGRAPHY & MAPS

### 1. Subarnarekha River

**53. With reference to river Subarnarekha, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It originates from the Chota Nagpur Plateau.
- 2. It flows through the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and drains into the Bay of Bengal.
- 3. The Kanchi and Karkari rivers are its chief tributaries.

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

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

**Answer: (b) 2 only**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Odisha floods: 50,000 people affected by flash flood in Subarnarekha River



## Subarnarekha River:

- The Subarnarekha River originates from the Chota Nagpur Plateau in the Ranchi district of Jharkhand, India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Subarnarekha (meaning "Streak of Gold") flows east through a copper-mining region and leaves the Chota Nagpur plateau by the Hundrugbagh waterfall.
- It flows through the states of Jharkhand, West Bengal, and briefly touches Odisha before emptying into the Bay of Bengal. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The Kanchi and Karkari rivers are its chief tributaries. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

## PYQ REFERENCE:

### Q. Consider the following rivers:

1. Brahmani
2. Nagawali
3. Subarnarekha
4. Vamsadhara

### Which of the above rise from the Eastern Ghats?

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

### With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements:

1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.
2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta.
3. River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/odisha/odisha-floods-50000-people-affected-by-flash-flood-in-subarnarekha-river/article69720790.ece#:~:text=Over%2050%2C000%20people%20were%20affected,neighbouring%20Jharkhand%2C%20an%20official%20said.>

## 2. Kuttanad

54. A region in India, known for its unique below-sea-level rice cultivation and its intricate network of rivers and backwaters. It's a delta region formed by the confluence of five rivers and is characterized by its paddy fields, coconut groves, and vibrant backwater ecosystem. The above passage describes:

- (a) Tanjore
- (b) Kuttanad
- (c) Bhavnagar
- (d) Chandipur

**Answer: (b) Kuttanad**

## Explanation:

## In NEWS:

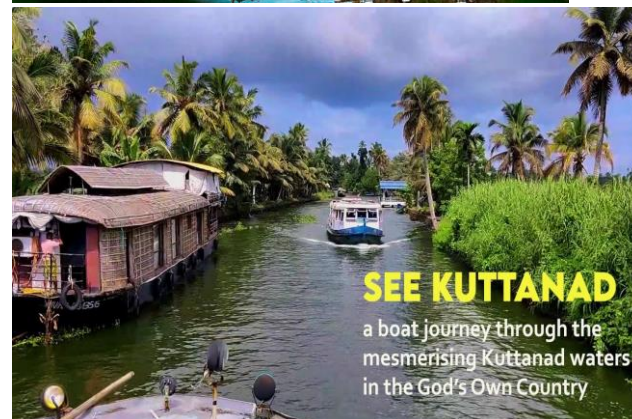
### Kuttanad:

- Kuttanad is a region in the state of Kerala, India, known as the "Rice Bowl of Kerala" and the "Lowest Point in India". It's famous for its unique landscape of below-sea-level paddy cultivation and extensive backwaters.

### Key Features of Kuttanad:

- **Below-Sea-Level Farming:** Kuttanad is one of the few places in the world where farming is done below sea level, with some areas as deep as 2.2 meters below the sea level.
- **Rice Bowl of Kerala:** Kuttanad is a major rice-producing region, with vast stretches of paddy fields.
- **Backwaters and Waterways:** The region is characterized by a network of rivers, canals, and lakes, making it a popular destination for houseboat cruises and backwater tourism.
- **Biodiversity:** Kuttanad is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including various bird species.
- **Ramsar Site:** Kuttanad has been designated as a Ramsar site, an area recognized for its international importance in wetland conservation.
- **Cultural Significance:** Kuttanad has also produced several prominent figures in Malayalam literature, cinema, and performing arts.
- **Historical Significance:** The region has a rich history of agriculture and reclamation of land from water bodies

**Hence option (b) is correct.**



## PYQ REFERENCE:

Q. At one of the places in India, if you stand on the seashore and watch the sea, you will find that the sea water recedes from the shore line a few kilometres and comes back to the shore, twice a day, and you can actually walk on the sea floor when the water recedes. This unique phenomenon is seen at

- (a) Bhavnagar
- (b) Bheemunipatnam
- (c) Chandipur
- (d) Nagapattinam

**Source: The Hindu**



## 3. Cloudbursts

55. Consider the following statements:

**Statement I:**

A cloudburst is a localized weather phenomenon characterized by extreme amounts of precipitation over a short period of time within a small geographical area.

**Statement II:**

A cloudburst is accompanied by hail and thunderstorms which are capable of creating disastrous flood conditions.

**Statement III:**

Cloudbursts are caused by a phenomenal condition known as orographic lift.

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

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

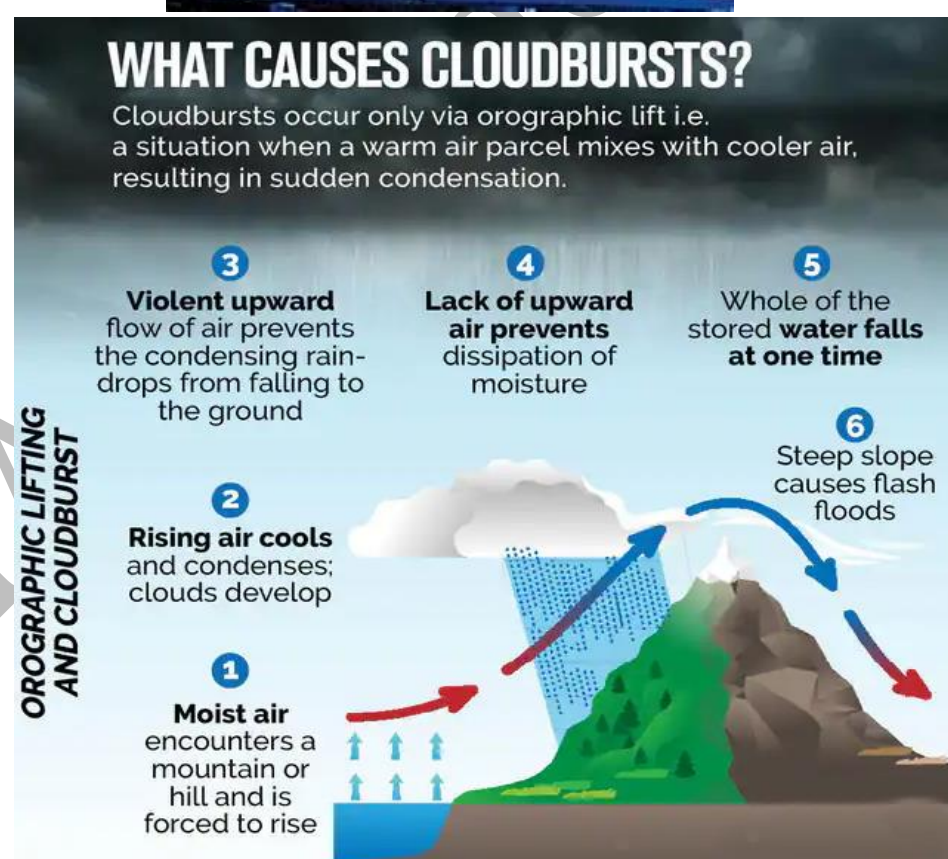
**Answer: (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** A flood damaged area in the Sainj Valley following flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh.

**Cloudburst:**

- A cloudburst is a localized weather phenomenon characterized by extreme amounts of precipitation over a short period of time within a small geographical area. **Hence statement I is correct.**
- A cloudburst is sometimes accompanied by hail and thunderstorms which are capable of creating disastrous flood conditions. **Hence statement II is correct.**
- Meteorologists state that rainfall from cloudbursts is usually showered with a fall rate greater than or equal to **4.9 inches per hour**.
- Cloudbursts are caused by a phenomenal condition known as **orographic lift**. **Hence statement III is correct and Statement II and Statement III explains Statement I**
- Cloudbursts generally occur in mountainous regions, deserts, and interior regions of continental landmasses.
- They are highly unpredictable by nature and happen very abruptly.
- Nearly all recorded cloudburst are experienced in the Indian subcontinent where monsoon clouds drift from the Arabian Sea onto the Himalayas.



**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I :**

Scientific studies suggest that a shift is taking place in the Earth's rotation and axis.

**Statement II :**

Solar flares and associated coronal mass ejections bombarded the Earth's outermost atmosphere with tremendous amount of energy.

**Statement III :**

As the Earth's polar ice melts, the water tends to move towards the equator.

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

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

Source: THE HINDU - PICTURE COLUMN

## 4. Rainforests

56. "If wetlands function as the kidneys of the Earth, absorbing and filtering waste, then rainforests are truly its lungs." Which one of the following functions of rainforests best reflects the above statement?

- (a) Rainforests help in maintaining the biodiversity of tropical regions.
- (b) Rainforests act as carbon sinks and produce a significant share of the world's oxygen through photosynthesis.
- (c) Rainforests influence global wind and ocean current patterns.
- (d) Rainforests provide numerous forest products and medicinal plants to indigenous communities.

**Answer: (b) Rainforests act as carbon sinks and produce a significant share of the world's oxygen through photosynthesis.**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:**

**Functions of Rainforests**

1. Oxygen Production and Carbon Sequestration

● Called the "lungs of the Earth" because they absorb large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> and release oxygen through photosynthesis.

**Hence option (b) is correct.**

● Help mitigate climate change by storing carbon in biomass.

2. Regulation of Global and Local Climate

● Maintain the water cycle through transpiration, releasing moisture that forms clouds and influences rainfall patterns.

● Help stabilize temperature and humidity, reducing extremes.

3. Biodiversity Hotspots

● Home to more than half of the world's terrestrial species.

● Provide habitat for countless plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms.

4. Soil Protection

● Roots prevent soil erosion by binding soil.

● Leaf litter enriches soil with organic matter.

5. Water Cycle and Hydrological Balance

● Influence rainfall patterns far beyond their location.

● Help maintain river flows by regulating water runoff.

6. Economic and Livelihood Resources

● Source of medicinal plants, timber, food, and raw materials.

● Sustain the livelihoods of many indigenous and local communities.

**Important Rainforest Examples**

1. Amazon Rainforest (South America)

2. Congo Basin Rainforest (Africa)

3. Sundarbans Mangrove Forest (India-Bangladesh)

4. Western Ghats Rainforest (India)

5. North-East India Rainforests

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

Q. "If rainforests and tropical forests are the lungs of the Earth, then surely wetlands function as its kidneys." Which one of the following functions of wetlands best reflects the above statement?

- (a) The water cycle in wetlands involves surface runoff subsoil percolation and evaporation.
- (b) Algae form the nutrient base upon which fish, crustaceans, molluscs, birds, reptiles and mammals thrive.

- (c) Wetlands play vital role in maintaining sedimentation balance and soil stabilization.
- (d) Aquatic plants absorb heavy metals and excess nutrients.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/children/rainforests-the-lungs-that-keep-earth-breathing/article69726928.ece>

## 5. Important passes

57. Consider the following pairs:

Mountain pass	Region
1. Shipki La	: Pakistan and Afghanistan
2. Khyber Pass	: India and Tibet
3. Zojila Pass	: Srinagar and Leh.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

**Answer: (a) Only one**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** 2,000 Indians visit Shipki-La near China in just two weeks as Himachal opens doors to border tourism

India has several important mountain passes that are significant for geography, trade, and military strategy. Here are some key passes:

● **Shipki La:** Connects India with Tibet. **Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**

● **Khyber Pass:** Connects Pakistan and Afghanistan. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

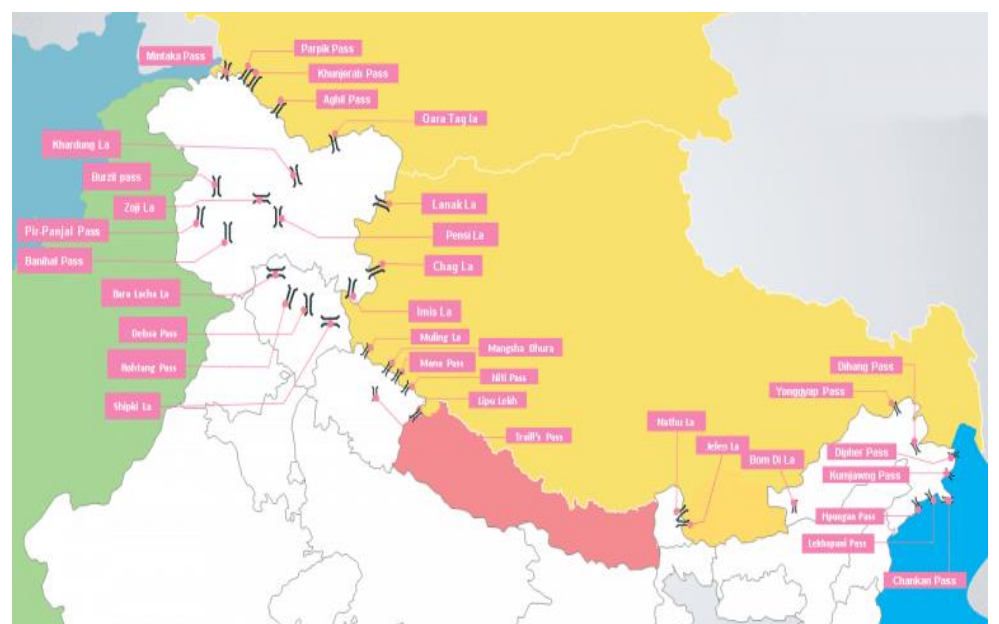
● **Zojila Pass:** Connects Srinagar to Leh in Jammu and Kashmir. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**

● **Nathu La Pass:** Connects Sikkim with Tibet (China).

● **Rohtang Pass:** Connects Kullu Valley to Lahaul and Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh.

● **Manali-Leh Highway:** Passes through several high-altitude passes including Rohtang and Baralacha La.

● **Baralacha La:** Connects Lahaul Valley to Zaskar Valley.





## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. Consider the following pairs:**

- | Peak              | Mountains        |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Namcha Barwa — | Garhwal Himalaya |
| 2. Nanda Devi —   | Kumaon Himalaya  |
| 3. Nokrek —       | Sikkim Himalaya  |

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

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

**Source:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/200-0-indians-visit-shipki-la-near-china-himachal-opens-border-tourism-10086021/>

## ART AND CULTURE

### 1. International Day of Yoga 2025

**58. Consider the following statements:**

- 21st June is proclaimed as the International Day of Yoga by the United Nations.
- Yoga is one of the six schools of Indian philosophy which focuses on logic and epistemology.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (a) 1 only**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Yoga for One Earth, One Health – India's Global Message of Harmony and Well-being

● The United Nations proclaimed **June 21** as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

● The word "Yoga" is derived from the Sanskrit root 'yuj' meaning "to join", "to yoke" or "to unite", symbolizing the unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfillment; harmony between human and nature, and a holistic approach to health and well-being.

● Theme 2025: "Yoga for One Earth, One Health", aligning yoga with sustainability and global well-being.

● Signature Events: 10 targeted events like Yoga Sangam, Yoga Bandhan, Harit Yoga, Yoga Samavesh, and Yoga Unplugged for amplifying the narrative of yoga.

● Yoga traces its roots to the Indus Valley Civilization through seals (yogic posture on Pashupati seal) and fossils, is mentioned in the Vedas, and was systematically compiled in **Patanjali's Yogasutra** (2nd century BC).

● Yoga is one of the six orthodox schools of Indian philosophy (along with Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Sankhya, Mimamsa, Vedanta).

○ **Nyaya:** This school focuses on logic and epistemology, emphasizing the importance of reason and valid means of knowledge (pramanas) like perception, inference, and testimony.

○ **Vaisheshika:** Known for its atomic theory and naturalism, Vaisheshika explores the nature of reality through categories and attributes, proposing that all things are composed of atoms.

○ **Samkhya:** A dualistic philosophy, Samkhya distinguishes between Purusha (consciousness or soul) and Prakriti (matter or nature), and analyzes the interaction between them.

○ **Yoga:** This school emphasizes the practical application of Samkhya principles through physical and mental disciplines (āsanas, pranayama, meditation) to achieve liberation (moksha). **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

○ **Purva Mimamsa:** This school focuses on the interpretation of the Vedic rituals and duties, emphasizing the importance of performing actions (karma) as prescribed in the Vedas.

○ **Vedanta:** Also known as Uttara Mimamsa, this school explores the nature of Brahman (ultimate reality) and the relationship between the individual self (Atman) and Brahman.

## PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. Consider the following statements:**

- 21st February is declared to be the International Mother Language Day by UNICEF.
- The demand that Bangla has to be one of the national languages was raised in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/FeaturesDeatils.aspx?NoteId=154688&ModuleId=2>

### 2. Sree Narayana Guru

**59. The famous statement "One Caste, One Religion, One God for All" which reflects the unity of all humanity and all living beings is stated by**

- (a) Sree Narayana Guru  
(b) Swami Dayananda Saraswati  
(c) Raja Ram Mohan Roy  
(d) Ramakrishna Paramahansa

**Answer: (a) Sree Narayana Guru**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses the centenary celebration of historic conversation between Sree Narayana Guru & Mahatma Gandhi

**Sree Narayana Guru:**

● Sree Narayana Guru was a philosopher, spiritual leader and social reformer in India. He led a reform movement against the injustice in the caste-ridden society of Kerala in order to promote spiritual enlightenment and social equality.

● He was born on 20 August 1856 to Madan Asan and Kuttiamma in an Ezhava family of ayurvedic physicians, in the village of Chempazhanthy near Thiruvananthapuram, in the erstwhile state of Travancore.



## Key Contributions

### Social Reformer

- Fought against caste-based discrimination, especially untouchability.
- Advocated for equality, education, and empowerment of oppressed communities.
- Opposed Brahmanical orthodoxy and rituals used to justify caste hierarchy.

### Religious Reformer

- In 1888, established a Shiva temple at Aruvippuram with the message: "This is not a Brahmin Shiva, but an Ezhava Shiva."
- Built multiple temples across Kerala open to all castes – promoted temple entry rights for the lower castes.

### Philosophy

- Advocated Advaita Vedanta (non-dualism) but simplified it for the masses.
- Emphasized "One Caste, One Religion, One God for All" ("Oru Jati, Oru Matham, Oru Daivam Manushyanu"). **Hence option (a) is correct.**
- Promoted universal brotherhood, spiritual upliftment, and rational thinking.

### Education Reformer

- Believed education is the key to social upliftment.
- Established schools and gave importance to English and modern education.

### Institutional Legacy

- Founded the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam in 1903.
- First president: Dr. Palpu (disciple)
- Guru served as life patron.
- SNDP Yogam worked for:
- Upliftment of backward castes.
- Educational and economic development.
- Temple reforms and social equality.

### Literary Works

Wrote in Malayalam, Sanskrit, and Tamil. Key works include:

- Atmopadesa Śatakam
- Daiva Dasakam (Ten Verses to God)
- Jati Nirnayam (Critique of caste)
- Commentaries on Vedanta texts in simple language.

#### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. Who among the following was associated as Secretary with Hindu Female School which later came to be known as Bethune Female School?**

- Annie Besant
- Debendranath Tagore
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- Sarojini Naidu

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2139144>

### 3. Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath

**60. The World famous Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath is recognized as a symbol of India's spiritual and cultural soft power. The Lord Jagannath temple is built by**

- Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva
- Kapilendra Deva
- Mahapadma Nanda
- Vishnuvardhana

**Answer: (a) Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva.**

#### Explanation:

**In NEWS:** World famous Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his 2 siblings begins today at Puri in Odisha

#### Jagannath Temple – Puri (Odisha)

- One of the **Char Dhams** (Badrinath, Dwarka, Rameswaram, Puri).
- Built in the 12th century by **King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva. Hence option (a) is correct.**

#### Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath:

- Rath Yatra is a Hindu chariot festival associated with Lord Jagannath (a form of Vishnu/Krishna), held annually in Puri, Odisha.
- It involves the procession of Lord Jagannath, along with his siblings **Balabhadra and Subhadra**, in massive wooden chariots from the **Jagannath Temple to the Gundicha Temple**, 3 km away.
- It is celebrated during the **Ashadha Shukla Paksha Dwitiya** (second day of the waxing phase of Ashadha month) – usually in June or July.

#### Religious and Cultural Significance

- Symbolizes **Lord Krishna's** journey to Vrindavan with his siblings.
- Promotes equality and inclusivity — even non-Hindus and foreigners can pull the chariot.
- Reflects elements of bhakti movement, devotion, and public participation in rituals.
- It is globally recognized as a symbol of India's spiritual and cultural soft power.

#### PYQ REFERENCE:

**Q. With reference to Chausath Yogini Temple situated near Morena, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a circular temple built during the reign of Kachchhapaghata Dynasty.
2. It is the only circular temple built in India.
3. It was meant to promote the Vaishnava cult in the region.
4. Its design has given rise to a popular belief that it was the inspiration behind the Indian Parliament building.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/world-famous-rath-yatra-of-lord-jagannath-and-his-2-siblings-begins-today-at-puri-in-odisha/>

### 4. Kathak dance

**61. With reference to the famous Kathak dance, consider the following statements:**

1. Kathak is characterized by intricate footwork, expressive gestures, and storytelling through dance.
2. It is one of the eight recognized classical dance forms of India.
3. While Nritya is pure dance, focusing on rhythm and movement, Nritta is an expressive dance, telling a story or conveying emotions.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** How a Kathak dancer is rewriting tradition, in ghungroos and turban

**Kathak:**

● Kathak is a classical dance form from North India, characterized by intricate footwork, expressive gestures, and storytelling through dance. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

● It is one of the eight recognized classical dance forms of India and has a rich history influenced by various cultural elements.

**Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Historical Background**

- Originated in the temples of North India.
- Evolved through the Mughal era, incorporating Persian influences.
- Traditionally performed by male dancers, now includes female dancers prominently.

**Key Features**

- Footwork (Tatkar): Complex rhythms and patterns created by foot strikes.
- Expressions (Abhinaya): Use of facial expressions and hand gestures (Mudras) to convey emotions and narratives.
- Costumes: Dancers typically wear elaborate costumes, including long skirts for women and dhotis for men.

**Performance Structure**

- Alaap: Introduction with slow, melodic movements.
- Tala: Rhythmic section with fast-paced footwork.
- Nritya: Pure dance, focusing on rhythm and movement.
- Nritya: Expressive dance, telling a story or conveying emotions. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Notable Gharanas**

- Lucknow Gharana: Emphasizes grace and subtlety.
- Jaipur Gharana: Known for its vigorous footwork and fast-paced performances.
- Banaras Gharana: Combines elements of both Lucknow and Jaipur styles.

**Cultural Significance**

- Kathak serves as a medium for storytelling, often depicting themes from mythology and epics.
- It plays a role in cultural preservation and education, often featured in festivals and cultural events.

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. With reference to the famous Sattriya dance, consider the following statements:**

1. Sattriya is a combination of music, dance and drama.
2. It is a centuries-old living tradition of Vaishnavites of Assam.
3. It is based on classical Ragas and Talas of devotional songs composed by Tulsidas, Kabir and Mirabai.

**Which of the statements above is/are correct?**

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

**Source:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/how-a-kathak-dancer-is-rewriting-tradition-in-ghungroos-and-turban-10091340/>

## 5. Kuppadam sarees

**62. A famous 'Kuppadam Sarees' which is unique for its Interlock Weaving Technique originates from which among the following regions of India?**

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Maharashtra

**Answer: (b) Andhra Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Kuppadam sarees: a woven tale of innovation, elegance and tradition

**Kuppadam sarees:**

● Kuppadam sarees are a distinctive and traditional type of handloom saree originating from the **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana** regions of India. **Hence option (b) is correct.**

● These sarees are known for their rich borders, intricate weaving techniques, and elegant look, making them a popular choice for festive and formal occasions.

**Key Features of Kuppadam Sarees:**

**Interlock Weaving Technique:**

● A hallmark of Kuppadam sarees is the "Kupadam interlock technique", where the body of the saree and the contrasting border are woven separately and then joined with a precise interlocking method.

● This ensures durability and gives the saree a sharp border-body contrast.

**Rich Borders and Pallu:**

● Typically feature Zari work (gold or silver thread), especially on the borders and pallu. Common motifs include temple designs, checks, stripes, and floral patterns.

**Fabric Composition:**

● Usually made from a blend of cotton and silk—offering the comfort of cotton with the grace of silk.

**PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. Consider the following towns of India:**

1. Bhadrachalam
2. Chanderi
3. Kancheepuram
4. Karnal

**Which of the above are famous for the production of traditional sarees/fabric?**

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

**Source:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/kuppadam-sarees-a-woven-tale-of-innovation-elegance-and-tradition/article69717102.ece>

## 6. Tansen's tomb

63. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Tansen's tomb was constructed after the death of Sufi saint Sheikh Muhammad Ghaus and stands as one of the most remarkable monuments from Emperor Akbar's reign.
2. The tomb is listed as a Centrally Protected Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, and has been maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) since 1962.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2**

### **Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Madhya Pradesh High Court last week rejected a plea by a private person to allow religious and cultural practices at the tomb of the Sufi saint Hazrat Sheikh Muhammad Ghaus in Gwalior, a protected monument of historical importance.

● Sufi tradition describes Tansen as a disciple of Sheikh Muhammad Ghaus.

### **Tansen's tomb:**

● The tomb, built some time after the death of **Sheikh Muhammad Ghaus** in 1563, has significant architectural and historical value and is considered one of the most notable structures of **Akbar's reign** (1556-1605). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

● The tomb is listed as a **Centrally Protected Monument** under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, and has been maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) since 1962. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

● The square building is topped by a large, squat dome and is flanked by chhatris, giving it a multi-tiered appearance.

● Around the tomb's central chamber runs a veranda with intricate stone screens, a design influence traced to Gujarat, where the saint had spent considerable time.

● These elements prefigure later monuments, such as the tomb of Shaikh Salim Chishti at **Fatehpur Sikri**.

### **PYQ REFERENCE:**

**Q. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements:**

1. White marble was used in making Buland Darwaza and Khankah at Fatehpur Sikri.
2. Red Sandstone and marble were used in making Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza in Lucknow.

**Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Source:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/tansen-tomb-16th-century-bhopal-litigation-10090084/>



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