



**KingMakers**  
**IAS Academy**

**Good Morning Test (GMT)**

**Prelims Compilation**

**May - 2025**

KingMakers IAS Academy

Chennai I Trichy I Madurai I Coimbatore I Salem I Namakkal I Pondicherry I Thanjavur I New Delhi

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KingMakers IAS Academy

**GOOD MORNING TEST (GMT)**

**MAY 2025**

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**POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**
**1. e-Zero FIR Initiative**

1. With reference to the e-Zero FIR initiative launched by the Government of India in 2025, consider the following statements:

- I. It allows automatic registration of FIRs for cybercrime complaints involving financial losses above ₹1 lakh.
- II. The initiative is launched by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- III. It is a provision that allows registration of FIRs irrespective of territorial jurisdiction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Cyber fraud complaints of over ₹10 lakh, lodged via helpline or portal, to automatically convert into FIRs

- The e-Zero FIR initiative has been launched on a pilot basis first in Delhi; complaints have to be registered on the 1930 helpline or cybercrime.gov.in portal

**e-Zero FIR Initiative:**

- Launched by: Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs. **Hence statement II is correct**
- It enables automatic FIR Registration for financial cybercrime complaints over ₹10 lakh. **Hence statement I is incorrect**
- Applies to complaints made via:
  - 1930 helpline, or
  - Cybercrime.gov.in (National Cybercrime Reporting Portal – NCRP)
- A Zero FIR can be filed at any police station, irrespective of jurisdiction. It's then transferred to the correct police station for investigation. **Hence statement III is correct**
- Victim can visit the station within 3 days to convert the Zero FIR into a regular FIR.
- It is in line with Sections 173(1) and 1(ii) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)

**Expected Benefits:**

- Faster FIR registration for high-value financial cybercrime.
- Better chance of recovering stolen money.
- Stronger crackdown on cybercriminals.
- Increased efficiency in the complaint-to-FIR pipeline.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cyber-fraud-complaints-of-over-10-lakh-lodged-via-helpline-or-portal-to-automatically-convert-into-firs/article69594649.ece>

**2. Sikkim's Statehood**

2. Which among the following Constitutional Amendments led to the formal integration of Sikkim into the Indian Union as the 22nd state?

- (a) 35th Amendment
- (b) 36th Amendment
- (c) 38th Amendment
- (d) 40th Amendment

**Answer: (c) 38th Amendment**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIKKIM'S STATEHOOD

**Sikkim's Statehood Journey:**

- Sikkim was a Himalayan kingdom ruled by a monarchy, with the Chogyal as the head of state.
- In the early 1970s, the political climate in Sikkim became chaotic, leading to the **1973 Tripartite Agreement, which was signed by the Indian government, the Sikkim government, and the people.**
- A critical step in Sikkim's journey was the **special opinion poll** conducted on April 14, 1975. The result showed an overwhelming majority in favor of merger with India.
- Following the referendum, the Indian Parliament enacted the Constitution (**Thirty-Eighth Amendment**) Act of 1975. **Hence option (c) is correct.**
- On May 16, 1975, the act was promulgated, formally making Sikkim the **22nd state of India** and abolishing the monarchy.
- **Article 371F** was also added to the Constitution to provide for the unique circumstances of the new state.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2132238>

**3. Right to Digital Access**

3. Under which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India, has the Supreme Court of India placed the Right to Digital Access?

- (a) Article 15
- (b) Article 16
- (c) Article 19
- (d) Article 21

**Answer: (d) Article 21**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Digital access a part of fundamental right to life and liberty: Supreme Court

**Supreme Court Ruling: Digital Access as a Fundamental Right:**

Bench: Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan  
 Petitioners: Pragya Prasun (acid attack survivor) & others  
 Amar Jain (visually impaired)

**Key Highlights of the judgement:**

**Digital Access = Fundamental Right**

- Digital access is now recognised as part of the Fundamental Right to Life and Liberty under Article 21. **Hence option (d) is correct.**
- State has a constitutional obligation to build inclusive digital ecosystems.

**Accessible KYC Processes Ordered**

- 20 directions issued to improve digital KYC (Know Your Customer) procedures.
- Must be redesigned for disabled, marginalised, and excluded communities.

**Petitioners' Challenges**

- Acid attack survivors and visually impaired individuals struggled with facial recognition & visual instructions required in current KYC systems.
- Resulted in denial of access to Bank accounts, Government welfare schemes, Healthcare and essential services

**Constitutional Articles Invoked in this case:**

- Article 21 – Right to Life and Dignity
- Article 14 – Equality before Law
- Article 15 – Prohibition of Discrimination
- Article 38 – Directive to promote welfare of people and reduce inequalities

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sc-upholds-inclusive-digital-access-as-a-part-of-fundamental-right-to-life/article69508394.ece>

**4. Article 143**

**4. With reference to the provisions under 'Article 143', consider the following statements:**

1. The Supreme Court can provide advice to the President on legal or constitutional issues.
2. The President has the discretion to refer questions to the Supreme Court.
3. The opinion given by the Supreme Court is binding on the President.

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

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

**Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** After President Murmu seeks advisory opinion from SC, can court overturn its R N Ravi decision?

**Article 143:**

- Article 143 empowers the President of India to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on significant legal or constitutional questions.
- This provision is unique in allowing a non-judicial authority (the President) to directly consult the apex court.

**Key Provisions:**

- Advisory Role: The Supreme Court can provide advice to the President on legal or constitutional issues. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Discretionary Power: The President has the discretion to refer questions to the Supreme Court. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Non-Binding Opinion: The opinion given by the Supreme Court is advisory and not binding on the President. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Source:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/president-murmu-seeks-advisory-opinion-sc-can-court-overturn-r-n-ravi-decision-10008362/>

**5. Operation Hawk-2025**

**5. The aim of 'Operation Hawk-2025', recently seen in the news is**

- (a) to detect and dismantle international cybercrime networks involved in online child sexual exploitation and abuse.
- (b) to investigate and prevent illegal wildlife trafficking and poaching activities across international borders.
- (c) to combat financial crimes such as money laundering, tax evasion, and fraudulent banking transactions on an international scale.
- (d) to monitor and intercept the illegal trade of firearms and ammunition through online darknet marketplaces.

**Answer: (a) to detect and dismantle international cybercrime networks involved in online child sexual exploitation and abuse.**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Operation Hawk-2025: CBI cracks down on child sexual exploitation networks

**Operation Hawk-2025:**

- Operation Hawk-2025 is a targeted initiative launched by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to identify, investigate, and dismantle international cybercrime networks involved in **online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA)**. **Hence option (a) is correct.**
- Acting on intelligence inputs received from U.S. law enforcement agencies, Operation Hawk-2025 focuses on individuals operating across international borders who use digital platforms, particularly encrypted or anonymous messaging and social media services, to exploit minors online.
- The accused coerced minors into sharing obscene images and videos, engaged them in sexually explicit conversations, and used intimidation and blackmail to prolong the abuse.
- Following the registration of FIRs, searches were conducted at multiple locations in Delhi and Mangalore, leading to the seizure of incriminating digital evidence and the arrest of key suspects.
- Operation Hawk-2025 underscores the CBI's commitment to proactively tackling cyber-enabled child sexual exploitation, **enforcing the provisions of the Protection of Children from**

Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Information Technology Act, and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/operation-hawk-2025-cbi-cracks-down-on-child-sexual-exploitation-networks/article69510788.ece>

### 6. 'Sagar Mein Samman' (SMS)

6. "Sagar Mein Samman (SMS)" initiative recently seen in the news is related to:

- Promoting maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Enhancing gender equity and women's participation in the maritime sector.
- Strengthening coastal disaster preparedness.
- Promoting sustainable fishing practices.

**Answer: (b) Enhancing gender equity and women's participation in the maritime sector.**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Shri Sarbananda Sonowal unveiled the 'Sagar Mein Samman' (SMS), a policy initiative of the Government of India to create a future ready gender equitable maritime workforce with the ultimate aim to increase participation of women in the maritime sector.

**'Sagar Mein Samman' (SMS):**

- **Launched by:** Government of India
- **Objective:** To create a **future-ready, gender-equitable maritime workforce** and enhance **women's participation** in the maritime and shipping sectors. **Hence option (b) is correct.**

**Key Aims:**

- Promote **diversity, inclusion, and leadership** among women in the maritime sector.
- Ensure **safety, skill development, and equal opportunities** for women.
- Aligns with:
  - **IMO's** (International Maritime Organization) gender inclusion agenda.
  - **UN SDG-5** – Gender Equality.
  - **Maritime India Vision 2030** and national **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)** goals.

**Key Highlights:**

- **649% increase** in women's participation in the last decade.
- **Recognition of women achievers** in the Indian maritime sector.
- Backed by **PM Modi's vision** of *women-led development* and inclusive growth.

**Significance:**

- Addresses **gender disparity** in maritime careers.
- Promotes **career opportunities** for women in both Indian and foreign-flagged ships.
- Reinforces India's aspiration to be a **global maritime leader** with equitable values.

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/newsite/erecontent.aspx?relid=271053>

### 7. The National Human Rights (NHRC)

7. With reference to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), consider the following statements:

- It is a statutory body constituted by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (PHRA).
- The NHRC consists of the chairperson and five members including the ex-officio members.
- The NHRC can take cognizance of violations without any formal complaint.

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

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

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

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** NHRC, India takes suo motu cognizance of the media report about more than 100 children falling ill after consuming mid-day meal in the Mokama area of Patna, Bihar

**The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):**

- The National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC) is a statutory body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993.
- It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (PHRA). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The NHRC is responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, which are defined by the act as "rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India".

**Composition**

- The NHRC consists of the chairperson and five members (excluding the ex-officio members). **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- A Chairperson, who has been a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- One member who is, or has been, a judge of the Supreme Court of India and one member who is, or has been, the Chief Justice of a High Court.
- Three Members, out of which at least one shall be a woman to be appointed from amongst persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights.
- In addition, the Chairpersons of National Commissions viz., National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women, National Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Backward Classes, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights; and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities serve as ex officio members.

- A serving judge of the Supreme Court or incumbent Chief Justice of any High Court can be appointed only after the consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

**Powers of NHRC:**

**1. Inquiry and Investigation:** Inquire into complaints of human rights violations, either suo motu (on its own) or on petitions presented by victims or others. Can summon witnesses, call for documents, and conduct spot investigations. Can use the services of any investigating agency of the central or state government.

**Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**2. Visit to Institutions:** Visit jails, detention centers, mental hospitals, etc. to study the living conditions of inmates and make recommendations.

**3. Review of Safeguards:** Review constitutional and legal safeguards related to human rights.

Recommend measures for their effective implementation.

**4. Promotion of Human Rights:** Undertake and promote research, awareness campaigns, and human rights education. Encourage the efforts of NGOs and institutions working in the field of human rights.

**5. Recommend Relief:** Recommend to the government to grant interim relief or compensation to the victims of human rights violations.

**6. Suo Motu Powers:** Take cognizance of violations without any formal complaint.

**7. Recommend Reforms:** Suggest changes in laws, policies, and practices that affect human rights.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2125686>

**8. Judicial Service Entry**

**8. With respect to Indian judicial service, which among the following statements are correct?**

1. To be eligible for appointment as a Civil Judge (Junior Division), a candidate must have a minimum of five years of active legal practice.
2. The practice must be certified by an advocate with at least five years' standing and endorsed by a judicial officer.

**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: (d) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Supreme Court makes three years' legal practice mandatory to apply for judicial service

- In a landmark judgment (May 20, 2025), the Supreme Court of India ruled that a minimum of three years of legal practice is mandatory for candidates applying for the Civil Judge (Junior Division) post.

- The decision was delivered by a bench headed by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai.

- It restores the earlier practice requirement that had been waived by several High Courts, allowing fresh law graduates to apply directly.

**Background**

- Earlier, some High Courts allowed direct recruitment of fresh graduates as Civil Judges.

- The Supreme Court reviewed affidavits from High Courts showing adverse results due to lack of practical exposure among recruits.

- The Court found that inexperience affected judicial quality, efficiency, and public trust.

**Key Directions of the Judgment**

- All High Courts and State Governments must amend service rules to include this new eligibility condition.

- Minimum 3 years of legal practice is now compulsory before applying for the Civil Judge (Junior Division) post. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

- The practice period will be counted from the date of provisional enrollment with the Bar Council.

- Candidates must provide proof of practice certified by,

- Principal Judicial Officer of the court, or
- Advocate with at least 10 years' experience, endorsed by a judicial officer. Hence statement 2 is incorrect

- Experience as a law clerk to a judge or judicial officer will be counted toward the three-year requirement.

- The rule will apply to future recruitment cycles only and not those already underway.

**Source:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-makes-three-years-legal-practice-mandatory-to-apply-for-judicial-service/article69596456.ece>

**9. Functional Literacy**

**9. 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.

**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.

● **Literacy rate and full functional literacy are different. Kerala has the highest literacy rate and not full functional literacy.**

**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.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2130080>

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

**10. Private Member's Bill**

**10. Which of the following statements regarding Private Member Bills in India is/are correct?**

1. The Constitution of India explicitly defines and mentions Private Member Bills under Article 107.
2. Private Member Bills can be introduced only on days allotted for Private Members' business, generally Fridays.
3. Private Member Bills can be introduced on any subject except money bills.
4. Private Member Bills require a prior notice of at least one month before introduction.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Reviving a far-sighted but forgotten Bill mechanism

**Private Member Bill:**

- A Private Member Bill is a bill introduced in either house of Parliament by a member who is not a minister (i.e., a private member).
- The Constitution of India does not explicitly mention or define Private Member Bills; however, their procedure is governed by the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Parliament. **Hence statement I is incorrect.**

● According to the Rules of Procedure, Private Member Bills can be introduced only on days allotted for Private Members' business, generally Fridays. **Hence statement II is correct.**

● Private Member Bills require prior notice of at least one month before introduction. **Hence statement IV is correct.**

● Private Member Bills have historically had very low success rates in becoming law compared to Government Bills.

● Notable exceptions where Private Member Bills became laws include the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the One Hundred and Twenty-Second Amendment Act, 2018 (Goods and Services Tax).

● Private Member Bills can cover any subject except money bills, which can only be introduced by the government. **Hence statement III is correct.**

● The Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha has the discretion to allot time for the discussion of Private Member Bills.

● The objective of Private Member Bills is to provide members an opportunity to raise issues of public importance and influence government policy.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/reviving-a-far-sighted-but-forgotten-bill-mechanism/article69522308.ece>

**SCHEMES**

**11. PRAGATI**

**11. Which of the following statements best describes the term 'PRAGATI', recently seen in the news?**

- (a) A digital platform for real-time governance review by bringing together the Prime Minister, Union Secretaries, and State Chief Secretaries.
- (b) A rural development scheme aimed at promoting self-help groups and microfinance.
- (c) An initiative to promote renewable energy and green technology in urban areas.
- (d) A parliamentary committee for assessing financial performance of central ministries.

**Answer: (a) A digital platform for real-time governance review by bringing together the Prime Minister, Union Secretaries, and State Chief Secretaries.**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** PM Chairs PRAGATI Meeting

- The Prime Minister chaired the PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation).
- Eight key infrastructure projects from sectors such as **Mines, Railways, Water Resources, Industrial Corridors, and Power.**
- Projects spread across **15 States/UTs** with a total investment of over **₹65,000 crore.**

**PRAGATI - Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation:**

- It is an ICT-based, multi-purpose, multi-modal platform launched by the Prime Minister of India in 2015.
- **Objective:** To bring together the Prime Minister, Union Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States on one platform for **real-time governance review.** **Hence option (a) is correct.**

**Functions:**

1. Monitors implementation of **flagship programmes and schemes**.
2. Tracks **projects involving investments above ₹500 crore**.
3. Reviews **public grievances and complaints** received through the CPGRAMS (Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System).

**Technology Used:**

- Combines **video-conferencing, data management, and digital monitoring tools**.
- Enables the PM to directly interact with Central and State officials.

**Impact:**

- Faster resolution of bottlenecks in infrastructure projects.
- Enhances **accountability and transparency**.
- Helps improve **Centre-State coordination**.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2132189>

**12. SPICED Scheme**

**12. Which of the following are the components under the 'SPICED' scheme implemented by the Spices Board, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry?**

1. Export Development and Promotion
2. Crop Development and Infrastructure Support
3. Capacity Building and Institutional Support
4. Support Geographical Indication (GI) spices
5. Promotion of new value-added spice products

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

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

**Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Spices Board to disburse ₹130 crore under SPICED Scheme

**The SPICED Scheme:**

- The SPICED Scheme stands for **"Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development"**.
- It is implemented by the Spices Board, which functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India**.
- The total financial outlay of the scheme is ₹422.30 crore and it is scheduled to conclude by the end of 2025-2026.
- The scheme is aimed at **improving productivity, expanding the cultivation area of key spices like cardamom**, and generating an exportable surplus to boost India's spice exports.
- The scheme supports stakeholders through components like:
  - Export Development and Promotion
  - Crop Development and Infrastructure Support
  - Capacity Building and Institutional Support

- Support Geographical Indication (GI) spices
- Promotion of new value-added spice products. **Hence option (d) is correct.**

- SPICED is part of the government's broader push to sustainably develop India's spice sector, increase global competitiveness, and enhance farmers' income.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/business/spices-board-to-disburse-130-crore-under-spiced-scheme/article69606078.ece>

**13. Jan Suraksha Schemes**

**13. Consider the following information:**

S.No	Scheme	Age	Objective
1	Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)	18 to 40 years	life insurance coverage
2	Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)	18 to 70 years	affordable accidental insurance
3	Atal Pension Yojana (APY)	18 to 50 years	guaranteed monthly pensions for workers in the unorganized sector

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

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

**Answer: (d) None**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Three Jan Suraksha Schemes - Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) complete 10 years of providing social security cover

**Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):**

- The Ministry of Finance administers the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), an **affordable accidental insurance** scheme providing coverage up to Rs. 2 lakh for accidental death or disability.
- The annual premium is just Rs. 20, making it accessible to a wide population, especially low-income groups.
- As of April 2025, over 51 crore people have enrolled, and claims exceeding Rs. 3,121 crore have been paid.
- PMSBY covers individuals aged **18 to 70** years with bank or post office accounts and utilizes auto-debit for convenient premium payment. **Hence the 1st row is incorrectly matched.**

**Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):**

- The Ministry of Finance oversees the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), which offers **life insurance coverage** of Rs. 2 lakh for death due to any cause, at an annual premium of Rs. 436.
- It targets individuals aged **18 to 50 years** with bank or post office accounts, with auto-debit facilities ensuring easy premium collection.
- Over 23.63 crore people have enrolled under PMJJBY, with claims worth Rs. 18,398 crore paid to beneficiaries as of April 2025.
- The scheme aims to provide financial protection to families in case of the untimely demise of the insured. **Hence the 2nd row is incorrectly matched.**

**Atal Pension Yojana (APY):**

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), under the Ministry of Finance, administers the Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
- APY targets **workers in the unorganized sector, offering guaranteed monthly pensions** ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000 after age 60.
- Open to individuals aged **18 to 40 years** with bank accounts, APY offers flexible contribution frequencies including monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly payments.
- As of April 2025, over 7.66 crore subscribers have enrolled, securing financial stability in retirement, with provisions for spouse pension and nominee benefits. **Hence the 3rd row is incorrectly matched.**

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2127981>

**14. TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan**

**14. Which among the following statements best describes the 'Ni-kshay Mitra initiative' which is a part of the TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan?**

- A nationwide initiative to ensure timely procurement and distribution of TB medicines through government health facilities.
- A program designed to use mobile health technology and AI tools to detect TB cases in remote and tribal areas.
- An initiative where individuals and organizations adopt TB patients to provide nutritional, emotional, and social support during treatment.
- A central government scheme focused on creating awareness campaigns through mass media to reduce TB-related stigma.

**Answer: (c) An initiative where individuals and organizations adopt TB patients to provide nutritional, emotional, and social support during treatment.**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** PM reviews status and progress of TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan

**TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan:**

- TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan is a nationwide **campaign launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) from the country by 2025.**
- The campaign is part of the broader National Strategic Plan (NSP) for TB Elimination 2017–2025, which aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target of ending TB by 2030—but advances India's goal by five years.
- **India has the highest TB burden in the world**, contributing to nearly 25% of global TB cases.
- Under the **Ni-kshay Mitra initiative**, part of the Abhiyaan, individuals, organizations, and corporates can "adopt" TB patients and support them with nutrition, vocational training, and other assistance. **Hence option (c) is correct.**

**Some key strategic principles underpinning this Campaign:**

- **Differentiated and patient-centric care:** Recognize that not all TB patients are the same; high-risk groups (e.g. severely undernourished, those with comorbidities) need more intensive management.
- **Targeted case-finding and screening:** Use active case finding in priority/geographically vulnerable settings (mining areas, urban slums, congregate settings, tribal areas).
- **Use of advanced diagnostics and technology:** Deploy Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAAT), AI-enabled portable X-rays, mobile screening units (e.g. Nikshay Vahans) to reach remote/underserved areas.
- **Community engagement & social support:** Strengthen the network of Nikshay Mitras (community supporters), NGOs, volunteers to provide non-clinical support (nutrition, psychosocial, linking to services).
- **Monitoring & accountability:** Robust data systems, feedback loops, district/state-level reviews to track progress, identify gaps, course-correct.
- **Inter-sectoral coordination:** Link health with social welfare, nutrition, housing, environment, labour, urban development, etc., since TB is shaped by social determinants.
- **Sustainability & scale-up:** Pilots and innovations should be scalable, with clear budget and human resource planning.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2128490>

**15. Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**

**15. Consider the following:**

- Modernized station buildings
- Retail outlets
- Inter-modal connectivity
- Green building features
- Wi-Fi

**How many of the above are the components under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme?**

- Only two
- Only three
- Only four
- All the five

**Answer: (d) All the five**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Vadakara, Mahe, and Chirayinkeezhu Railway Stations Redeveloped Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme Set for Inauguration

**Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS):**

- The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) is an initiative of the Ministry of Railways, Government of India, launched to revamp and modernize railway stations across the country.
- The scheme aims to redevelop over 1,300 railway stations in phases, making them future-ready, passenger-friendly, and equipped with modern infrastructure.
- The focus is on continuous development rather than a one-time overhaul, ensuring stations evolve over time to meet increasing passenger and operational demands.
- The scheme integrates stations with the local culture, heritage, and architecture of the region to create unique passenger experiences.
- It emphasizes multi-modal integration, ensuring smooth transition between different modes of transport.

**Key features of the redevelopment under ABSS include:**

- Modernized station buildings with upgraded architecture
- Roof plazas with waiting lounges, food courts, and retail outlets
- Improved accessibility with escalators, lifts, and foot overbridges
- Better inter-modal connectivity (metro, bus, taxi, parking)
- Green building features for energy and water efficiency
- Smart signage, Wi-Fi, and digital passenger amenities **Hence option (d) is correct.**

**The scheme also addresses long-term growth, including provisions for:**

- Expansion of platforms
- Improved station circulation plans
- Integrated development of surrounding areas

**ABSS complements other key rail initiatives such as:**

- Station redevelopment under the PPP mode
- Gati Shakti Master Plan
- Vande Bharat trains and Bharat Gaurav trains for tourism

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2130259>

### 16. 'NAMASTE Yojana'

**16. Which among the following statements is not the correct description of the 'NAMASTE Yojana', seen in the news?**

- It is a central government scheme launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- Provision of capital subsidies (including up to ₹5 lakh) for procurement of sanitation-related vehicles and equipment to support mechanization.
- The scheme aims to eliminate hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks in India.
- The scheme encourages community participation in manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks to preserve traditional sanitation practices.

**Answer: (d) The scheme encourages community participation in manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks to preserve traditional sanitation practices.**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Union Minister presides over Special Programme focused on 'NAMASTE Yojana', to honour Sanitation Workers, in Chhatarpur

**NAMASTE Yojana:**

- NAMASTE Yojana stands for National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem.
- It is a central government scheme launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- The scheme aims to eliminate hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks in India. **Hence option (d) is correct. It does not encourage manual scavenging in any form.**
- It focuses on providing mechanised cleaning equipment and skill development for sanitation workers.
- NAMASTE also seeks to rehabilitate sanitation workers by offering them access to livelihood support, health insurance, and safety gear.
- The scheme promotes the dignity and safety of sanitation workers through legal, financial, and social empowerment.
- It is part of India's broader effort to promote Swachh Bharat (Clean India) and uphold human rights.

**Key Components:**

- Digital profiling via a mobile app to identify and validate SSWs across Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), assigning them a unique NAMASTE ID.
- Provision of occupational safety training, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits, and health insurance under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY (AB-PMJAY).
- Capital subsidies (including up to ₹5 lakh) for procurement of sanitation-related vehicles and equipment to support mechanization.
- Strengthening of Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) and conducting IEC campaigns to raise awareness about safety and dignity in sanitation work.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2131186>

### 17. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

**17. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, consider the following statements:**

- The scheme provides a life insurance benefit of ₹2 lakh.
- Individuals aged 18 to 50 years can enroll in the scheme.
- The scheme is open to all eligible bank account holders, including Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), with claim settlements made in Indian Rupees.
- The policy covers only accidental deaths and excludes natural deaths.

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

- II and IV only

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

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

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana completed 10 years.

**Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):**

- PMJJBY is a life insurance scheme launched by the Government of India in 2015.
- PMJJBY is administered through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and other participating life insurers.

**Salient Features of PMJJBY:**

- Coverage: ₹2 lakh life insurance in case of the subscriber's death (from any cause). **Hence statement I is correct**
- Affordable Premium: Just ₹436 per annum, auto-debited from the subscriber's bank or post office account.
- Eligibility: Age 18–50 years to enroll; coverage continues up to age 55 for those who join before 50. **Hence statement II is correct**
- Must have a savings bank or post office account.
- Renewal: Annual, with coverage period from June 1 to May 31 each year.
- Simple Enrollment: Available at bank branches, post offices, or online. Consent and basic KYC (Aadhaar) required.

**What Makes PMJJBY Special?**

- Universal Access: Open to all eligible account holders, including NRIs (claims paid in INR). **Hence statement III is correct**
- No Medical Examination: Simple, hassle-free process.
- Covers All Causes of Death: Including natural, accidental, and even during natural disasters or pandemics. **Hence statement IV is incorrect**
- Pro-rata Premiums: If you enroll mid-year, you pay only for the remaining months.

**Source:**

<https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2025/may/doc202558551501.pdf>

### 18. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025

**18. With reference to 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025' consider the following statements:**

- The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) is India's highest civilian honour for children aged 5 to 18 years.
- The award recognizes exceptional achievements by children in the fields of bravery, social service, innovation, sports, arts & culture, and scholastic excellence.
- The PMRBP is instituted under the Ministry of Ministry of Education
- The award comprises a medal, certificate, and citation presented by the President of India.

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

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

**Answer: (c) Only three**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Call for Nominations for Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025

**Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025:**

- The **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)** is India's highest civilian honour for children aged **5 to 18 years**. **Hence statement I is correct.**
- The award recognizes exceptional achievements by children in the fields of **bravery, social service, innovation, sports, arts & culture, and scholastic excellence**. **Hence statement II is correct.**
- The eligible act, innovation, or achievement must have occurred **within two years preceding the last date of application**.
- The award comprises a **medal, certificate, and citation** presented by the **President of India**. **Hence statement IV is correct.**
- In **2025, 17 children** were conferred the award on **Veer Bal Diwas (December 26)**.
- The award aims to **encourage young achievers** and **highlight the contribution of children** in various sectors.
- The PMRBP is instituted under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**. **Hence statement III is incorrect.**

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2126399>

### 19. Depot Darpan Portal and Digital Platforms-Anna Mitra and Anna Sahayata

**19. Consider the following pairs:**

S. no	Digital Platform	Purpose
1.	Depot Darpan	to track food depots across the country using IoT-based technologies
2.	Anna Mitra	enabling real-time communication between PDS officials and beneficiaries
3.	Anna Sahayata	technology-enabled grievance redressal mechanism, integrating tools like Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) and AI-based tracking.

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

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi launches Depot Darpan Portal and Digital Platforms-Anna Mitra and Anna Sahayata

● The **Government of India**, under the leadership of **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi**, launched **Depot Darpan, Anna Mitra**, and **Anna Sahayata** to strengthen the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**.

● The initiatives aim to enhance **transparency, efficiency**, and **citizen-centric service delivery** within India's food distribution network.

○ **Depot Darpan** is a **digital monitoring platform** designed to track food depots across the country using **IoT-based technologies**.

○ **Anna Mitra** serves as a **stakeholder empowerment and engagement platform**, enabling real-time communication between PDS officials and beneficiaries.

○ **Anna Sahayata** functions as a **technology-enabled grievance redressal mechanism**, integrating tools like **Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR)** and AI-based tracking.

**Hence all the pairs are correct.**

● The initiatives support the goals of **Digital India** and **Viksit Bharat**, promoting smart governance in food and civil supplies.

● They are backed by **substantial financial and infrastructural support** to enable nationwide scaling after pilot implementations.

● Together, these platforms aim to make **India's PDS more accountable, data-driven, and citizen-oriented**.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2129981>

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### 20. Golden Dome

**20. What is "Golden Dome", sometimes seen in the news?**

- (a) An Israeli radar system
- (b) India's indigenous anti-missile programme
- (c) Multi-layered missile defense system announced by U.S
- (d) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea.

**Answer: (c) Multi-layered missile defense system announced by U.S**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** US President unveils 175-billion dollar Golden Dome missile defence shield for US

**The Golden Dome:**

● The Golden Dome is a proposed multi-layered missile defense system announced by U.S. President Donald Trump in May 2025. **Hence option (c) is correct.**

● Designed to protect the U.S. homeland from a range of missile threats—including ballistic, hypersonic, and cruise missiles—the system aims to integrate space-based and ground-based interceptors into a unified defense architecture.

**Key Features of the Golden Dome:**

● **Multi-Layered Defense:** Combines space-based sensors and interceptors with ground-based systems like THAAD, Aegis, Patriot, and the Next Generation Interceptor (NGI).

● **Global Coverage:** Utilizes a constellation of satellites to detect and neutralize threats from space, similar to the "Brilliant Pebbles" concept from the 1980s.

● **Advanced Radar Systems:** Incorporates cutting-edge technologies such as the Long Range Discrimination Radar (LRDR) and Gallium Nitride (GaN)-equipped AN/TPY-2 radar for enhanced tracking capabilities.

**Source:** <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/us-president-unveils-175-billion-dollar-golden-dome-missile-defence-shield-for-us/>

#### 21. Bhargavastra

**21. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Bhargavastra':**

I. 'Bhargavastra' is a newly developed, low-cost hard-kill counter-drone system.

II. It is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Make in India initiative.

III. It is capable of neutralising drone swarms using unguided micro rockets and guided micro-missiles, forming a multi-layered defence architecture.

**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

**Answer: (c) I and III only**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** India's homegrown 'Bhargavastra' counter swarm drone system test fired successfully

**'Bhargavastra' Counter Drone System:**

● 'Bhargavastra' is a newly developed, low-cost hard-kill counter-drone system designed and developed by Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) under the Make in India initiative.

**Hence statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect.**

● The system is capable of neutralising drone swarms using unguided micro rockets and guided micro-missiles, forming a multi-layered defence architecture. **Hence statement III is correct.**

● The trials included:

- Two single rocket launches
- One salvo-mode launch with two rockets fired within 2 seconds

● The first layer consists of unguided micro rockets with a lethal radius of 20 meters and a range of up to 2.5 km, ideal for neutralising drone swarms.

- The second layer involves guided micro-missiles for pinpoint accuracy, enhancing effectiveness against individual or high-value aerial targets.
- Bhargavastra is deployable in diverse terrains, including high-altitude areas (>5,000 meters), addressing the specific operational needs of the Indian armed forces.
- The system is modular and scalable, allowing the integration of soft-kill components like jamming and spoofing, and configurable sensor and shooter units (Radar, EO/IR, RF Receivers).
- Equipped with advanced C4I (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence) architecture, Bhargavastra ensures real-time coordination and network-centric warfare compatibility.
- The radar system can detect Low Radar Cross-Section (LRCS) targets at 6 to 10 km, while the EO/IR sensor suite ensures precise target identification and tracking.
- Bhargavastra provides comprehensive situational awareness, enabling operators to track and engage individual drones or entire swarms effectively.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indias-homegrown-bhargavastra-counter-swarm-drone-system-test-fired-successfully/article69575021.ece>

## 22. Operation Sindoor

22. Operations undertaken as a precision military strike targeting nine terrorist-linked infrastructure sites across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the Pahalgam terror attack is called:

- (a) Operation Sankalp
- (b) Operation Sindoor
- (c) Operation Sadbhavana
- (d) Operation Sindhu

Answer: (b) Operation Sindoor

Explanation:

In news: Operation SINDOOR: Forging One Force - The Synergy of India's Armed Forces

Operation Sindoor:

- Operation Sindoor was a precision military strike executed by the Indian Armed Forces on May 7, 2025, targeting nine terrorist-linked infrastructure sites across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). This was in response to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, which claimed 26 civilian lives. **Hence option (b) is correct.**
- Date - 7 May 2025
- Purpose - Retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack
- Targets - 9 terror-linked sites across Pakistan and PoK
- Armed Forces - Combined operation by IAF, Army, and Navy
- Weapons Used - SCALP missiles, HAMMER bombs, loitering munitions
- Strategic Aim - Precise targeting of terror infrastructure with no escalation

- Symbolism - Powerful cultural naming ("Sindoor") honoring victims
- Recognition - Multiple gallantry awards across military branches

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2129453>

## 23. Sodium-ion battery

23. Consider the following:

1. Low-cost
2. Less risk of fire
3. Works well at high temperatures
4. Fast Charging

How many of the above are the advantages of Sodium-ion batteries?

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

Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation:

In news: Supercharging the future: India's Scientists design fast-charging & long-lasting sodium-ion battery

Sodium-ion battery:

- A sodium-ion battery (SIB) is a **rechargeable battery** that uses sodium ions (Na+) as charge carriers, similar to lithium-ion batteries but with sodium instead of lithium.
  - Like lithium-ion batteries, sodium-ion batteries operate on a "rocking chair" principle, where sodium ions move between the anode and cathode during charging and discharging.
- Sodium-Ion Battery - Applications:**
- **Energy Storage:** For solar, wind, grid backup, and data centers.
  - **Electric Mobility:** Ideal for affordable 2- & 3-wheel EVs.
  - **Consumer & Backup:** Powers gadgets, inverters, and UPS systems.
- Advantages:**
- **Abundant & Cheap:** Sodium is low-cost and widely available.
  - **Safer:** Less risk of fire, dendrites, or short circuits.
  - **Eco-Friendly:** Lower environmental impact, easy storage.
  - **Performs in Cold:** Works well at low temperatures.
  - **Fast Charging:** Charges quicker than Li-ion. **Hence option (c) is correct.**

**Disadvantages:**

- **Lower Energy Density:** Stores less energy per unit weight/volume.
- **Shorter Lifespan:** Fewer charge-discharge cycles (still improving).
- **Immature Ecosystem:** Manufacturing and supply chain underdeveloped.

- **Limited Use Cases:** Not yet as versatile as lithium-ion batteries.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2129649>

#### 24. "Gaganyaan" programme

24. With reference to the 'Gaganyaan mission', consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first human spaceflight programme launched by the DRDO
2. It encourages and supports microgravity research
3. It is supported by the IAF, Roscosmos, and ESA.
4. India will become the 4th nation after Russia, USA, and China to send humans into space indigenously.

**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:** India's first human Space mission "Gaganyaan" programme has entered its final phase: Dr. Jitendra Singh



#### Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-1)

- ISRO successfully conducted its first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-1) on 24 August 2025 as part of the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme.
- The IADT was aimed at end-to-end demonstration of the parachute-based deceleration system for safe crew module recovery.
- A dummy crew capsule weighing ~5 tonnes was airlifted by an IAF Chinook helicopter and released from altitude.
- The capsule's parachutes deployed in sequence during descent, reducing its speed for a safe splashdown.
- During actual Gaganyaan missions, parachutes will deploy after atmospheric re-entry, following deceleration by heat shields and drogue parachutes.
- The test was a coordinated effort involving ISRO, IAF, DRDO, Indian Navy, and Coast Guard.

#### Gaganyaan Mission

- Launched by ISRO - India's first human spaceflight programme. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Aim: To demonstrate human spaceflight capability by sending a crew of 2-3 astronauts into a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) of ~400 km for 3 days and safely return to Earth.
- Approved by the Union Cabinet in 2018 with an outlay of ~₹10,000 crore.
- Timeline: First uncrewed mission (G1) expected before the manned mission (target: mid-2020s).
- It encourages and supports microgravity research. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Objectives

- To establish India's ability to launch humans into space using indigenous systems.
- Develop technologies for crew safety, life support, re-entry, and recovery.
- Promote Atmanirbhar Bharat in advanced space technologies.
- Boost national prestige and open pathways for future deep space missions.

#### Key Components

- Crew Module (CM): Pressurised capsule carrying astronauts, equipped with life support & safety systems.
- Service Module (SM): Provides power, propulsion, thermal control, and support.
- Crew Escape System (CES): Ensures astronaut safety in case of launch emergency.
- Launch Vehicle: Human-rated LVM3 (formerly GSLV Mk-III) with enhanced safety features.
- Parachute Recovery System: Tested through IADT-1 (Aug 2025) for safe splashdown in sea.

#### Preparatory Tests

- Pad Abort Test (2018) - validated Crew Escape System.
- Test Vehicle Missions (TV-D1, TV-D2, etc.) - validate crew safety mechanisms.
- Hot tests of propulsion system for crew & service modules.
- Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-1, 2025): successful demonstration of parachute deceleration system.

#### Collaborations

- Supported by IAF (astronaut selection & training), DRDO (life support & recovery tech), Navy & Coast Guard (sea recovery ops). **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Russia's Roscosmos trained 4 IAF test pilots as astronaut candidates.
- European Space Agency (ESA) providing technical support in spaceflight safety.

#### Significance

- India will become the 4th nation (after Russia, USA, China) to send humans into space indigenously. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- Strengthens national security, technology base, and global standing.
- Provides spin-offs in aerospace, materials, robotics, medicine, and AI.
- Lays foundation for future missions - space station, Moon, Mars exploration.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2127312>

### 25. Trachoma disease

25. In the context of Trachoma disease, consider the following statements:

1. It is a viral infection that affects the eyes caused by Chlamydia Trachomatis.
2. It is a contagious disease which can cause irreversible blindness.
3. India has completely eliminated Trachoma as a public health problem.

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: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

In news: India receives WHO certification for elimination of Trachoma as Public Health Problem

● The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared that the Government of India has eliminated Trachoma as a public health problem becoming the third country in the South-East Asia Region to achieve this milestone. Hence statement 3 is correct.

Trachoma:

- Trachoma is a bacterial infection that affects the eyes. It is caused by the bacterium Chlamydia Trachomatis. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.
- Trachoma is contagious, spreading through contact with the eyes, eyelids, nose or throat secretions of infected people, if left untreated it causes irreversible blindness. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- WHO has termed Trachoma as a neglected tropical disease.
- WHO estimates suggest that 150 million people worldwide are affected by Trachoma and 6 million of them are blind or at risk of visually disabling complications.
- Trachoma is found in underprivileged communities living in poor environmental conditions.
- The Government of India launched the National Trachoma Control Program in 1963 and later on Trachoma control efforts were integrated into India's National Program for Control of Blindness (NPCB).
- In 1971, blindness due to Trachoma was 5% and today, owing to the various interventions under the National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCBVI), it has come down to less than 1%.

Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/india-receives-who-certification-for-elimination-of-trachoma-as-public-health-problem/>

### 26. Gyan Bharatam Mission

26. With reference to the Gyan Bharatam Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to digitize, preserve and disseminate India's manuscript heritage.
2. The Mission has been allocated more than ₹400 crore for the period 2024-31.
3. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Education.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

In NEWS: PM Modi to launch revamped manuscripts mission on June 9

Gyan Bharatam Portal / Mission:

- Launched in 2025 by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.
- Objective: Preserve, digitise, document, and disseminate India's manuscript heritage. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- Mission period: 2024-31.
- Total outlay: ₹482.85 crore. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- Aims to make manuscripts a "living legacy" through translation, research, and public access.
- Uses digital and AI-driven tools for preservation, decipherment, and metadata creation.
- The Gyan Bharatam Portal acts as the main digital platform for manuscript access.
- Over 44.07 lakh manuscripts are already documented in the Kriti Sampada digital repository.
- First International Conference on Gyan Bharatam held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi (Sept 2025).
- Significance: Protects India's vast manuscript wealth, supports research, education, cultural identity, and soft power diplomacy.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-to-launch-revamped-manuscripts-mission-on-june-9/article69587353.ece>

### 27. Genome-Edited Rice Varieties

27. Consider the following statements:

- I. India Becomes the First Country in the World to develop Genome-Edited Rice Varieties.
- II. These new varieties were developed using CRISPR-Cas genome-editing technology.

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: (c) Both I and II**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** India Becomes the First Country in the World to Develop Genome-Edited Rice Varieties. **Hence statement I is correct.**

**Genome-Edited Rice Varieties:**

- ICAR has developed India's first genome-edited rice varieties – **DRR Rice 100 (Kamla) and Pusa DST Rice 1.**
- These new varieties were developed using genome-editing technology based on **CRISPR-Cas**, which makes precise changes in the organism's genetic material without adding foreign DNA. **Hence statement II is correct.**
- Genome **editing of SDN 1 and SDN 2 types of genes** has been approved under India's biosafety regulations for general crops.
- The DRR Rice 100 (Kamala) variety was developed by ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad, based on Samba Mahsuri (BPT 5204). Its objective is to increase the number of grains per panicle and it matures 20 days earlier (~130 days).
- Due to its shorter duration, it helps save water and fertilizers and reduces methane gas emissions. Its stalk is strong and does not fall. The rice quality is similar to the original variety, Samba Mahsuri.
- The second variety, Pusa DST Rice 1, was developed by ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, based on MTU 1010. This variety can increase yields by 9.66% to 30.4% in saline and alkaline soils, with the potential for up to 20% increase in production.

**Benefits:**

- A 19% increase in yield.
- A 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- A saving of 7,500 million cubic meters of irrigation water.
- Improved tolerance to drought, salinity, and climate stresses.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2126802>

### 28. LUPEX Mission, AXIOM-4 mission & GRAIL mission

**28. Consider the following pairs:**

S. No	Mission	Conducted by	Aim
1	LUPEX	ISRO and JAXA	To solve the puzzle of the Moon's asymmetrical appearance
2	AXIOM-4	NASA	To study microalgae and cyanobacteria under microgravity conditions to evaluate their viability as sustainable food sources for future long-duration space missions
3	GRAIL	ISRO	To detect water and water-ice at the Moon's south pole

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

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

**Answer: (d) None**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** ISRO and JAXA Gear Up for Joint Chandrayaan-5 / LUPEX Mission in the Technical Interface Meet

**Chandrayaan-5 / LUPEX Mission:**

- **India and Japan's** Chandrayaan-5 (also called LUPEX) mission is advancing to the design phase, aiming **to detect water and water-ice at the Moon's south pole.**
- Scheduled for launch in 2027–28 on **Japan's H3 rocket**, the 6.5-tonne lander and a 350-kg rover equipped with seven instruments (from **ISRO, JAXA, ESA, and NASA**) will perform in-situ scientific experiments.

**Hence pair 1 is incorrectly matched.**

**AXIOM-4 mission:**

- India has announced its first-ever biological space experiments aboard the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the AXIOM-4 mission, conducted by **ISRO and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).**
- The initiative focuses on studying microalgae and cyanobacteria under microgravity conditions to evaluate their viability as sustainable food sources for future long-duration space missions.

**Hence pair 2 is incorrectly matched.**

**NASA's GRAIL mission:**

- **NASA's GRAIL mission**, launched in 2011, has helped solve the puzzle of the Moon's asymmetrical appearance.
- Using dual satellites Ebb and Flow, the mission mapped the Moon's gravity field, revealing that the nearside has a thinner crust, higher heat levels, and was more volcanically active due to heat-producing elements like thorium and titanium. In contrast, the far side has a thicker crust and fewer lava plains.
- These differences are due to gravitational asymmetry and tidal flexing, caused by Earth's gravitational pull—a key insight into the Moon's internal structure and thermal evolution.

**Hence pair 3 is incorrectly matched.**

**Source:**

[https://www.isro.gov.in/ISRO\\_JAXA\\_CH5\\_Technical\\_Interface\\_Meet.html](https://www.isro.gov.in/ISRO_JAXA_CH5_Technical_Interface_Meet.html)

### 29. Geotubing

**29. "Geotubing technology" is talked about in which one of the following situations?**

- (a) Enhancing crop yield through precision irrigation systems
- (b) Restoration of damaged coral reefs
- (c) Identification of areas for exploration/extraction of shale gas
- (d) Coastal protection and erosion control

**Answer: (d) Coastal protection and erosion control**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Study finds geotubing at Poonthura effective in controlling coastal erosion

**Geotubing Technology:**

● Geotubing (or Geo-tube technology) is an innovative **coastal protection and erosion control technique** that uses large, tube-like structures made of geotextile fabric. **Hence option (d) is correct.**

● These tubes are filled with sand or slurry and laid along coastlines, riverbanks, or eroded land to act as a barrier against wave action, tides, and floods.

● It is commonly used in low-lying coastal areas prone to cyclones, wave action, and sea-level rise, especially under programs like ICZMP (Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project).

**Applications:**

- Coastal erosion control (especially in cyclone-prone areas)
- Riverbank stabilization
- Artificial dunes or levees
- Temporary flood barriers
- Rehabilitation of beaches or shorelines

**Source:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/study-finds-geotubing-at-poonthura-effective-in-controlling-coastal-erosion/article69564389.ece>

**30. Akashteer**

**30. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Akashteer':**

- I. It is India's fully indigenous, automated Air Defence Control and Reporting System.
- II. It integrates multiple radar systems and sensors and provides a common, real-time air picture to all defense units.
- III. It played a decisive role in intercepting and neutralizing missiles and drones during Operation SINDOOR.

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

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

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

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Akashteer: The Unseen Force Behind India's New War Capability

**Akashteer:**

Akashteer is India's **fully indigenous, automated Air Defence Control and Reporting System** designed to detect, track, and neutralize enemy aircraft, drones, and missiles in real-time.

**Hence statement I is correct.**

**Key Features:**

- Integrates multiple radar systems and sensors like Tactical Control Radar REPORTER, 3D Tactical Control Radars, Low-Level Lightweight Radar, and Akash Weapon System radars.
- Provides a common, real-time air picture to all defense units (Army, Navy, Air Force) for coordinated and automated engagement. **Hence statement II is correct.**

- Vehicle-mounted and mobile, suitable for active war zones.
- Part of the broader C4ISR ecosystem, enabling seamless command and control.

**Operational Impact:**

- Played a decisive role in intercepting and neutralizing missiles and drones during the Pakistan attack on 9-10 May 2025 (Operation SINDOOR). **Hence statement III is correct.**
- Enables India to shift from passive defense to proactive retaliation with faster decision-making and strike capability.
- Reduces risk of friendly fire by integrating air defense networks of all three forces (Army, Navy, Air Force).

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2129132>

**31. MATSYA 6000**

**31. 'MATSYA 6000', recently in the news is a/an**

- (a) Heavy-lift launch vehicle under ISRO's Gaganyaan mission
- (b) Unmanned underwater drone developed for coastal surveillance
- (c) Manned submersible developed for deep ocean exploration
- (d) Naval submarine used for anti-submarine warfare

**Answer: (c) Manned submersible developed for deep ocean exploration**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** India's first manned deep ocean mission into 6000m depth expected to launch by the end of 2026

**Samudrayaan Mission:**

- Samudrayaan is India's first manned deep-sea mission aimed at exploring the ocean's depths, similar in concept to ISRO's Gaganyaan (manned space mission).
- It is part of the larger Deep Ocean Mission launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- The mission aims to send humans in a submersible vehicle to a depth of 6,000 meters (6 km) in the ocean.

**MATSYA 6000 - The Manned Submersible:**

- An indigenously developed manned submersible capable of carrying 3 crew members. **Hence option (c) is correct.**
- Designed to dive up to 6,000 meters deep.
- Developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.
- Has a titanium hull, life-support for 12 hours of normal operation + 96 hours emergency backup.

**Objectives:**

Explore deep-sea resources, including:

- Polymetallic nodules
- Hydrothermal sulfides
- Gas hydrates
- Study deep-sea biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Support development of blue economy through undersea mining and energy.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2128424>

**ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE**

**32. Global Methane Tracker 2025**

**32. The Global Methane Tracker is developed and published by**

- (a) The European Union
- (b) The World Bank
- (c) The United Nations Environment Programme
- (d) The International Energy Agency

**Answer: (d) The International Energy Agency**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Global Methane Tracker 2025 report published

**Global Methane Tracker:**

- The Global Methane Tracker monitors and reports methane emissions worldwide, especially from the energy sector.
- It is developed and published by the International Energy Agency (IEA). **Hence option (d) is correct.**
- Focus: Provides transparent, up-to-date data on methane emissions, identifies key sources, and tracks progress on emission reductions.

**Global Methane Tracker 2025 - findings:**

- Methane emissions from the energy sector are 70% higher than official reports, showing underreporting.
- About 50% of oil and gas methane emissions can be cut at no net cost using existing technologies.
- The Middle East and North Africa are major methane emission hotspots.
- Nearly 160 countries pledged to cut methane by 30% by 2030, but many lack strong policies yet.
- Reducing methane now could prevent 1 million premature deaths and save billions in crop losses and labor hours by 2050.
- The Tracker offers detailed country data, projections, and tools to track emissions and mitigation options.

**Source:** <https://www.iea.org/reports/global-methane-tracker-2025>

**33. ECINET**

**33. The 'ECINET', a e-sign feature recently launched by the Election Commission of India is aimed at:**

- (a) Facilitating electronic voting for overseas voters.
- (b) Preventing fraudulent addition or deletion of names in the electoral roll.
- (c) Enabling blockchain-based digital voting.
- (d) Linking Voter ID with PAN for tax compliance.

**Answer: (b) Preventing fraudulent addition or deletion of names in the electoral roll.**

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Election Commission to develop new digital interface for voters, other stakeholders

- The new one-stop platform, ECINET, will integrate and reorient over 40 of the EC's existing mobile and web applications, including the Voter Helpline app, Voter Turnout app, etc

**ECINET:**

- Election Commission of India (ECI) launched an **e-sign authentication feature** in ECINET for voter list addition, deletion, and correction.
- It uses **Aadhaar-based OTP verification** for applicants through their Aadhaar-linked mobile number.
- Ensures that only genuine voters can request changes to the electoral roll.
- ECINET is a **unified digital platform** integrating more than 40 ECI applications for voters, officials, and stakeholders.
- Initially piloted in select states during by-elections; nationwide rollout started in September 2025.

**Significance:**

- **Prevents fraudulent voter roll manipulations** like fake deletions or multiple additions. **Hence option (b) is correct.**
- **Strengthens electoral integrity** by creating a digital audit trail of applications.
- Promotes **citizen convenience and digital governance** by enabling remote, paperless services.
- Enhances **transparency and accountability** in electoral roll management.

**Challenges & Concerns:**

- **Digital divide** may exclude citizens without Aadhaar-linked mobiles or digital literacy.
- **Privacy risks** due to linking voter services with Aadhaar and mobile authentication.
- **Dependence on Aadhaar ecosystem and telecom networks** could cause delays or mismatches
- **Need for fallback mechanisms** for those unable to use e-sign.
- **Administrative and legal challenges** in ensuring uniform, inclusive implementation.

**Source:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/election-commission-to-develop-new-digital-interface-for-voters-other-stakeholders/article69537428.ece>

**34. State of the World's Animal Health report**

**34. Consider the following statements with respect to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH):**

1. It is a UN agency which works under the One Health framework.
2. India is a member of the World Organisation for Animal Health.
3. It has released the 'State of the World's Animal Health report', its first annual global assessment.

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

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Animal diseases spreading to new regions; nearly half pose threat to humans: WOAH report

**State of the World's Animal Health report - findings:**

- First annual global assessment by World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Several animal diseases are appearing in new geographic areas and infecting new species, especially mammals.
- Raises risk of cross-species spillover.
- 47% of diseases reported to WOAH (2005–2023) are zoonotic.
- Avian influenza in mammals doubled in 2024 vs 2023.
- Other notable diseases: FMD, Lumpy Skin Disease, Bluetongue, New World Screwworm.
- Disease spread threatens livestock, agriculture, biodiversity, and global supply chains.
- Unequal vaccine access globally.
- Emphasizes vaccination, hygiene, and biosecurity as key prevention tools.
- Antibiotic use in animals fell by ~5% (2020–2022).
- AMR remains a threat, potentially impacting 2 billion people and causing major economic losses.

**World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH):**

- Established: **1924**
- Headquarters: **Paris, France**
- Mandate: Improve animal health and welfare globally, including controlling animal diseases, zoonoses (diseases that spread from animals to humans), and promoting safe trade.
- **WOAH is not a UN agency**, but it works closely with the WHO, FAO, and WTO, especially under the One Health framework. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It has 183 member countries, **including India**. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Source:** <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/wildlife-biodiversity/animal-diseases-spreading-to-new-regions-nearly-half-pose-threat-to-humans-woah-report>

### 35. Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve

**35. It is currently India's largest Conservation Reserve. It lies between the Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary in the east and the Chandertal Wildlife Sanctuary in the west. It is also known to be the fifth Conservation Reserve in the State. It is**

- Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve
- Naina Devi Conservation Reserve
- Bhairabnagar Conservation Reserve
- Tekonia Conservation Reserves

**Answer: (a) Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** India's largest conservation reserve comes up in Spiti Valley

**Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve:**

- Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve is located in the **Spiti region of Himachal Pradesh, near the border with Ladakh.**
- It was officially notified on 7 May 2025 under Section 36A(1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- With an area of approximately 1,585 square kilometers, it is **currently India's largest Conservation Reserve.**
- The reserve lies between important protected areas — **Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary to the east and Chandertal Wildlife Sanctuary to the west** — and serves as a crucial wildlife corridor.
- It is located in a high-altitude cold desert ecosystem, ranging from about 3,000 to 5,000 meters above sea level.
- The reserve is home to several iconic and endangered species including the Snow Leopard, Tibetan Wolf, Himalayan Ibex, Blue Sheep (Bharal), Kiang (Tibetan Wild Ass), and Tibetan Argali.
- Bird species found in the area include the Tibetan Raven, Rose Finch, and Yellow-billed Chough.
- Unlike National Parks or Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves allow for certain regulated traditional activities, making it a community-inclusive model of conservation.
- This is the **fifth Conservation Reserve in Himachal Pradesh, after Darlaghat, Naina Devi, Potter Hill, and Shilli.**
- The area has significant ecological and hydrological value, being part of the catchment of Tsarap Nala, and includes the confluence of Unam River and Charap Nala.

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

**Source:** <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/wildlife-biodiversity/indias-largest-protected-area-comes-up-in-spiti-valley>

### 36. Asiatic Lion

**36. Which among the following statements is/are correct regarding the Asiatic Lion?**

- It is slightly larger and darker than the African lion.
- Asiatic lions are naturally found in India only.
- It is protected under the 'Endangered' category under IUCN.

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

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

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

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** Gujarat's lions numbers have risen by 32% since 2020

**Asiatic Lion (Panthera leo leo):**

- The Asiatic Lion, also known as the Persian Lion or Indian Lion, is a member of the Panthera leo leo subspecies and is found only in India today. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Once ranging across West Asia and the Middle East, the species is now regionally extinct outside India.

**Key Features**

- Slightly smaller and lighter than the African lion. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**

- A distinctive longitudinal belly fold, present in all Asiatic lions but rare in African lions.
- Males have shorter manes, allowing ears to remain visible.

**Distribution**

- Historical Range: Extended from West Bengal in the east to Rewa (Madhya Pradesh) and across the Middle East.
- Current Habitat: Confined to the Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat, India.

**Major Threats**

- Low genetic diversity due to a single, isolated population.
- Vulnerability to epidemics, such as canine distemper or natural disasters.
- Poaching for illegal wildlife trade.
- Human-wildlife conflict, with locals killing lions in retaliation for attacks on livestock.

**Protection Status**

- IUCN Red List - **Endangered. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- CITES - **Appendix I**
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (India) - **Schedule I**

**Conservation Efforts**

**Asiatic Lion Conservation Project (2018–2021)**

- Launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Focuses on:
  - Scientific habitat and population management.
  - Disease surveillance and veterinary care.
  - Community participation and awareness.
  - Coordination with multi-sectoral agencies for long-term conservation.

**Source:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/gujarat/asiatic-lion-population-in-gujarat-goes-up-from-674-to-891-in-5-years-footprint-expands-too/article69600636.ece>

**37. Retrospective Environmental Clearances**

**37. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** The Supreme court struck down the 2017 notification, 2021 Office Memorandum, and related circulars allowing ex post facto environmental clearances, declaring them illegal and arbitrary.

**Statement II:** ECs already granted till date under the 2017 notification and the 2021 OM would be unaffected by the judgment.

**Statement III:** Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, projects likely to have significant environmental impacts must obtain prior Environmental Clearance (EC).

**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: (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Supreme Court struck down retrospective environmental clearances

**Environmental Clearances:**

- The Supreme Court of India struck down the 2017 EIA Notification, the 2021 Office Memorandum (OM), and related circulars.
- These instruments allowed ex post facto environmental clearances (i.e., environmental clearances granted after a project has already started or completed without prior approval). **Hence statement I is correct.**
- The Court held such ex post facto ECs as illegal and arbitrary.
- ECs already granted with retrospective effect will remain in force. **Hence statement II is correct but does not explain statement I.**
- **Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, projects likely to have significant environmental impacts must obtain prior Environmental Clearance (EC). **Hence statement III is correct and explains the action of the Supreme Court.**
- EIA Notification, 2006 - Made under Section 3(1) and Section 6(2)(e) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
  - Prior Environmental Clearance for projects listed in its schedule (based on their potential environmental impact).
  - Clearance must be obtained before beginning construction, expansion, or modernization.
- The EIA Notification, 2006 lists development projects that require prior EC, including:
  - Mining
  - Infrastructure (roads, ports, airports)
  - Thermal and nuclear power plants
  - Real estate and construction
  - Industrial units (chemical, cement, etc.)
  - These projects are categorized into:
    - Category A (cleared at the central level – MoEFCC)
    - Category B (cleared at the state level – SEIAAs)

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/supreme-court-strikes-down-ex-post-facto-environmental-clearances-to-building-projects-constructions/article69584582.ece>

**38. 'Operation Olivia'**

**38. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** Operation Olivia is an annual coastal protection operation launched by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) to protect Olive Ridley Sea turtles during their nesting season.

**Statement II:** Olive Ridley turtles are endemic to the Bay of Bengal and classified as Critically Endangered under the IUCN Red List.

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

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I

- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II is not the correct explanation for 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: (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Coast Guard's 'Operation Olivia' shields 8-lakh olive Ridley turtles on Odisha's Gahirmatha coast

**Operation Olivia:**

- **Operation Olivia** is an **annual coastal protection operation** launched by the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.
- It aims to **protect Olive Ridley sea turtles** during their **nesting season** along India's **eastern coast**, especially in **Odisha. Hence statement I is correct.**
- The operation is conducted **every year (Nov–May)**, coinciding with the **breeding and nesting season** of Olive Ridley turtles.
- It covers the **entire Odisha coast**, including the **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, Devi River mouth, and Rushikulya rookery** — the three major nesting sites in India.
- **Coast Guard aircraft, ships, and hovercraft** are deployed for round-the-clock surveillance to prevent:
  - Illegal trawling and fishing,
  - Turtle poaching,
  - Disturbance to nesting sites.

**Olive Ridley turtle:**

- The **Olive Ridley turtle (Lepidochelys olivacea)** is the **smallest and most abundant** of all sea turtles found worldwide.
- They are famous for **mass nesting (arribada)** events, where thousands come ashore simultaneously to lay eggs.
- Listed as **Vulnerable** under the **IUCN Red List. Hence statement II is incorrect.**
- Protected under:
  - **Schedule I** of the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972,**
  - **CITES Appendix I** (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).

**Source:** <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/coast-guards-operation-olivia-shields-8-lakh-olive-ridley-turtles-on-odishas-gahirmatha-coast/>

### 39. 'Forests Are Our Lungs'

**39. "If forests are the lungs of the Earth, which one of the following functions of forests best reflects the above statement?"**

- (a) Forests modulate albedo and surface energy balance, thereby influencing local and regional climate systems.  
 (b) Forests facilitate evapotranspiration, contributing to cloud formation and influencing precipitation cycles.  
 (c) Forests act as long-term carbon sinks by sequestering atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and contributing to net primary productivity.  
 (d) Forests provide microhabitats that support high trophic-level interactions within complex ecological niches.

**Answer: (c) Forests act as long-term carbon sinks by sequestering atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and contributing to net primary productivity.**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Forests Are Our Lungs, Forests Regulate Climate, Buffer Disasters, and Support the Marginalised, Says VP

**Why are Forests Called the "Lungs of the Earth"?**

- **Photosynthesis:** Forests absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. They release oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) as a byproduct through photosynthesis, similar to how lungs exchange gases in the human body.
- **Oxygen Production:** Forests, especially tropical rainforests, contribute significantly to global oxygen generation, supporting life on Earth.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Trees act as carbon sinks, storing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in their biomass (trunks, roots, leaves) and soil. This helps reduce greenhouse gas levels and mitigate climate change.
- **Air Purification:** Forests trap dust, pollutants, and harmful gases, cleaning the air. Some trees can absorb toxic substances like sulfur dioxide, ozone, and ammonia.
- **Global Climate Regulation:** By managing CO<sub>2</sub> levels and influencing rainfall and temperature, forests help regulate the Earth's climate system.
- **Continuous Gas Exchange:** Just like lungs maintain gas exchange in the human body, forests maintain the balance of atmospheric gases — mainly O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> — vital for survival of aerobic organisms.
- **Support for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:** Healthy forests enable stable ecosystems, which in turn contribute to stable atmospheric functions.

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

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2126995>

### 40. 'Project Lion'

**40. How many of the following are the objectives of 'Project Lion', being implemented in the Gir landscape?**

1. To secure and restore lions' habitats for managing its growing population
2. Scale up livelihood generation and participation of local communities
3. Become a global hub of knowledge on big cat disease diagnostics and treatment
4. Inclusive biodiversity conservation through project lion initiative.

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

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

**Answer: (d) All four**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Prime Minister hails the efforts being made under 'Project Lion'

**Project Lion:**

- The Project Lion is being implemented in the Gir landscape in Gujarat.
- The Project envisages landscape ecology-based conservation of the Asiatic Lion in Gujarat by integrating conservation and eco-development.
- The Project Lion document titled 'Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrutkal' has been prepared with the following objectives:
  - To secure & restore lions' habitats for managing its growing population
  - Scale up livelihood generation and participation of local communities
  - Become a global hub of knowledge on big cat disease diagnostics and treatment
  - Inclusive biodiversity conservation through project lion initiative.

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

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2130230>

**41. Green Hydrogen Certification scheme**

**41. With reference to the Green Hydrogen Certification scheme, Consider the following statements:**

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. Under the scheme, Hydrogen is classified as "green" if the total well-to-gate emissions are not more than 2 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per kg of hydrogen produced.
3. The certification applies to hydrogen produced through electrolysis using renewable electricity and biomass-based production pathways.

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

**Explanation:**

**In news:** MNRE Minister Pralhad Joshi launches Green Hydrogen Certification scheme

**Green Hydrogen Certification scheme:**

- The Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in August 2023. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The scheme provides a framework for certifying hydrogen produced using renewable energy sources as "green hydrogen."

- Hydrogen is classified as "green" if the total well-to-gate emissions are not more than 2 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per kg of hydrogen produced. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The certification applies to hydrogen produced through:
  - Electrolysis using renewable electricity
  - Biomass-based hydrogen production pathways **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The scheme is a part of India's broader strategy under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which targets 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of green hydrogen production per year by 2030.
- Certified green hydrogen is expected to support domestic use and exports, especially to countries with clean energy import requirements.
- The certification process will follow life cycle emission (LCE) analysis and is designed to be compatible with international standards.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2125231>

**ECONOMY**
**42. NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK**

**42. Which among the following countries are members of the New Development Bank (NDB):**

1. Uruguay
2. Algeria
3. India
4. Argentina
5. Bangladesh
6. United Arab Emirates (UAE)
7. Egypt

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

- (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- (b) 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 only
- (c) 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

**Answer: (b) 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 only**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Algeria became the 9th member of NDB.

**The New Development Bank (NDB):**

- The New Development Bank (NDB) is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).
- It was formally established in July 2015, with its **headquarters in Shanghai, China.**
- The primary purpose of the NDB is to **mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging economies and developing countries.**
- Each founding BRICS member contributed an equal share to the initial authorized capital, ensuring **equal voting rights** — making it different from institutions like the World Bank or IMF.
- The NDB has a mandate to lend in local currencies of member countries, reducing dependency on the US dollar and lowering currency risks.

- In recent years, the NDB has focused heavily on climate financing, sustainable development goals (SDGs), and post-COVID economic recovery in member nations.
- In 2021, the NDB expanded its membership beyond BRICS to include countries like **Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt.**
- In 2025, **Algeria became the 9th member of NDB.**

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

**Source:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/brics-bank-ndb-admits-algeria-as-new-member/article69605512.ece>

#### 43. Vizhinjam International Seaport

**43. Consider the following statements with respect to Vizhinjam International Seaport:**

1. It is India's First Deep-Water Container Transshipment Port.
2. The port is being developed entirely by the Government of India on an EPC model.

**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:** Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicates Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala worth ₹8,800 crore to the nation

**Vizhinjam International Seaport:**

- It is India's First Deep-Water Container Transshipment Port. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is designed primarily to cater container transshipment besides multi-purpose and break bulk cargo.
- The port is currently being developed in a landlord model with a Public Private Partnership component on a design, build, finance, operate and transfer ("DBFOT") basis. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- With a natural draft depth of nearly 20 meters, Vizhinjam port requires minimal dredging and is ideal for large container vessels.
- The port will significantly reduce India's reliance on foreign ports for transshipment, saving foreign exchange and enhancing trade efficiency.
- The Port will reduce India's dependency on foreign transshipment hubs like Colombo (Sri Lanka), Singapore, and Port Klang (Malaysia).

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2126080>

#### 44. Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)

**44. With reference to 'Financial Fraud Risk Indicator', consider the following statements:**

1. FRI is a risk-based metric that classifies a mobile number to have been associated with Medium, High, or Very High risk of financial fraud.
2. It empowers banks, NBFCs, and UPI service providers to prioritize enforcement and take additional customer protection measures in case of a mobile number with high risk.
3. It is introduced by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

**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:** DoT Introduces "Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)" to strengthen Cyber Fraud Prevention

**Financial Fraud Risk Indicator:**

- Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has introduced Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI), a multi-dimensional analytical tool to empower financial institutions with advance actionable intelligence for cyber fraud prevention. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- This will enhance cyber protection and validation checks in case of mobile numbers flagged with this tool when digital payment is proposed to be made to such numbers.
- FRI is a risk-based metric that classifies a mobile number to have been associated with Medium, High, or Very High risk of financial fraud. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It empowers stakeholders-especially banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies, and UPI service providers to prioritize enforcement and take additional customer protection measures in case a mobile number with high risk. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2130249>

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

**45. 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's human development continues to make progress, ranks 130 out of 193 countries

#### 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.

**Source:** <https://www.undp.org/india/press-releases/indias-human-development-continues-make-progress-ranks-130-out-193-countries>

#### 46. 'Orange Economy'

**46. Which one of the following statements best describes the term "Orange economy"?**

- (a) It refers to industries that focus on agriculture and horticulture to boost rural employment.
- (b) It refers to economic activities driven by fossil fuel extraction and energy production.
- (c) It refers to industries that leverage creativity, culture, and intellectual property to produce goods and services.
- (d) It refers to a financial system driven by the manufacturing and export of electronic goods.

**Answer: (c) It refers to industries that leverage creativity, culture, and intellectual property to produce goods and services.**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** PM Modi champions 'orange economy' at WAVES

#### Orange Economy:

● The Orange Economy, also known as the creative economy, is a term for industries that leverage creativity, culture, and intellectual property (IP) to create value, goods, and services.

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

● Popularized by the Inter-American Development Bank, it includes sectors like film, music, design, publishing, gaming, and software development, transforming individual ideas and cultural heritage into tangible economic and social benefits.

● PM Modi referred to India as an emerging "orange economy", i.e., an economy driven by creativity, culture, and intellectual property.

#### Key Characteristics

- **Knowledge-Based:** The core capital of the orange economy is creativity, skill, talent, and knowledge.
- **IP-Driven:** Intellectual property rights are crucial for protecting and monetizing ideas and creations within this sector.
- **Cultural & Social Impact:** It fosters cultural identity, promotes storytelling, and creates jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities, contributing to a nation's soft power and innovation.
- **Innovation & Technology:** The sector thrives on digital platforms, modern technology, and constant innovation to create and distribute cultural goods and services.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-at-waves-says-right-time-for-create-in-india-create-for-world/article69519204.ece>

#### 47. Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)

**47. With reference to the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), consider the following statements:**

1. MISS is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Government of India.
2. It provides short-term agricultural credit to farmers at concessional interest rates through banks and cooperatives.
3. It is implemented through Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks, Small Finance Banks, RRBs, and Cooperative Banks.

**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:** Cabinet approves continuation of Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for FY 2025-26 with existing 1.5% Interest Subvention (IS)

### Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) - Key Statements

- MISS is a **Central Sector Scheme** implemented by the **Government of India**. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It provides **short-term agricultural credit** to farmers at **concessional interest rates** through banks and cooperatives. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The scheme covers **crop loans up to ₹3 lakh** and **loans up to ₹2 lakh** for allied activities such as animal husbandry and fisheries.
- The **nominal interest rate** under the scheme is **7% per annum**.
- The Government provides an **interest subvention of 1.5%** to banks on the use of their own funds for lending.
- Farmers who **repay loans promptly** are eligible for an **additional 3% interest incentive**, reducing their **effective interest rate to 4% per annum**.
- The scheme also provides interest subvention for **post-harvest loans** against **Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs)** for **Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs)** for up to six months.
- It is implemented through **Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks, Small Finance Banks, RRBs, and Cooperative Banks**. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- **RBI and NABARD** act as **nodal agencies** for reimbursement of subvention to different categories of banks.
- The scheme was **renamed as Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)** from the **Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS)** in **FY 2021-22**.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **continuation of MISS for FY 2025-26** with the existing interest subvention rate of 1.5%.
- The scheme presently covers over **7.75 crore Kisan Credit Card (KCC) accounts** across the country.
- It encourages **timely repayment**, promotes **financial discipline**, and ensures **institutional credit flow** to agriculture.
- MISS supports the government's vision of **doubling farmers' income, financial inclusion, and rural credit reforms**.
- However, challenges include **limited awareness, administrative delays, and a fiscal burden** on the exchequer.

#### Source:

[https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/cabinet-approves-continuation-of-modified-interest-subvention-scheme-miss-for-fy-2025-26-with-existing-1-5-interest-subvention-is/](https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet-approves-continuation-of-modified-interest-subvention-scheme-miss-for-fy-2025-26-with-existing-1-5-interest-subvention-is/)  
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/government-approves-continuation-of-interest-subvention-scheme-for-farmers/article69628927.ece>

### 48. Minimum Support Prices

48. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Minimum Support Price (MSP) in India?

1. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices(CACP) approves the MSP.
2. The government announces MSPs for various crops after the sowing season.
3. Major millets like bajra, jowar and ragi are covered under the Minimum Support Prices framework in India.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (c) 3 only

#### Explanation:

**In news:** Minimum Support Prices for Kharif crops approved The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved an increase in the minimum support prices (MSP) for kharif crops for the marketing season 2025- 26.

#### Minimum Support Price (MSP):

- In India, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the government to protect farmers from price drops for their produce.
- The government announces MSPs for various crops **before the sowing season** based on recommendations from the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- The government procures crops at the MSP if market prices fall below it.
- The MSP is announced twice a year, before the Kharif (monsoon) and Rabi (winter) sowing seasons.

#### How is MSP determined?

- The CACP recommends the MSP based on various factors.
- These factors include:
  - Cost of production (including A2+FL costs and C2 costs).
  - Market prices (domestic and international).
  - Demand and supply dynamics.
  - Other relevant factors like crop patterns and industry trends.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by the Prime Minister, approves the MSP based on CACP recommendations.

#### Crops under MSP:

- **Cereals (7):** Paddy, wheat, maize, bajra, jowar, ragi, and barley.
- **Pulses (5):** Chana, arhar/tur, urad, moong, and masur.
- **Oilseeds (7):** Rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, safflower, and nigerseed.
- **Commercial Crops (4):** Cotton, sugarcane, copra, and raw jute.

**Table 2: Minimum Support Price for Kharif crops 2025-26 (in Rs per quintal)**

Crops	2025-26	2024-25	% change
Paddy (common)	2,369	2,300	3%
Jowar (hybrid)	3,699	3,371	10%
Bajra	2,775	2,625	6%
Ragi	4,886	4,290	14%
Maize	2,400	2,225	8%
Tur/Arhar	8,000	7,550	6%
Moong	8,786	8,682	1%
Urad	7,800	7,400	5%
Groundnut	7,263	6,783	7%
Sunflower seed	7,721	7,280	6%
Soybean (yellow)	5,328	4,892	9%
Sesamum	9,846	9,267	6%
Nigerseed	9,537	8,717	9%
Cotton (medium staple)	7,710	7,121	8%

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, PRS.

Source:

[https://prsindia.org/files/policy/policy\\_annual\\_policy\\_review/Monthly%20Policy%20Review/2025-05-01/MPR\\_2025\\_May.pdf](https://prsindia.org/files/policy/policy_annual_policy_review/Monthly%20Policy%20Review/2025-05-01/MPR_2025_May.pdf)  
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2131983>

#### 49. Payments Regulatory Board Regulations, 2025

49. With reference to the 'Payments Regulatory Board Regulations, 2025', consider the following statements:

1. It repeals the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems Regulations, 2008.
2. The 2025 Regulations retain the RBI Governor as the chairperson and specify that the regulatory board will only have the RBI Deputy Governor in charge of payment and settlement systems.
3. The members to be nominated by the government must have expertise in the fields of payment systems, be less than 70 years of age, not be an MP/MLA, and not have been convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment of at least 180 days.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

**In news:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified the Payments Regulatory Board Regulations, 2025.

**Payments Regulatory Board Regulations, 2025:**

- It repeals the **Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems Regulations, 2008. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The 2008 Regulations constituted a committee of the RBI's central board for the regulation and supervision of payment and settlement systems.

**Key changes include:**

**Composition:** Under the 2008 Regulations, the committee comprised:

- (i) RBI governor as the chairperson,
  - (ii) deputy governors, and
  - (iii) up to three directors of the central board.
- Two executive directors and the principal legal advisor of RBI were permanent invitees to the Board.
  - It could also invite persons with experience in the fields of payment and settlement systems as permanent or temporary invitees.
  - The 2025 Regulations retain **the RBI Governor as the chairperson** and specify that the regulatory board will only have the RBI Deputy Governor in charge of payment and settlement systems. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - Instead of directors of the Central Board, the Board will nominate one RBI officer.

- Three persons will be nominated by the central government.
- RBI executive directors will no longer be permanent invitees to the Board.

**Eligibility for nominated members:** Members to be nominated by the central government must:

- (i) have expertise in the fields of payment systems, information technology, or law,
- (ii) be less than 70 years of age,
- (iii) not be an MP/MLA, and
- (iv) not have been convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment of at least 180 days. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Source:

[https://prsindia.org/files/policy/policy\\_annual\\_policy\\_review/Monthly%20Policy%20Review/2025-05-01/MPR\\_2025\\_May.pdf](https://prsindia.org/files/policy/policy_annual_policy_review/Monthly%20Policy%20Review/2025-05-01/MPR_2025_May.pdf)  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/six-member-board-to-regulate-payment-systems-rbi-notification/articleshow/121364177.cms?from=mdr>

#### 50. GeM platform

50. Consider the following:

1. Unified digital marketplace for government buyers and sellers.
2. Real-time price discovery and competitive pricing
3. Direct interaction between suppliers and government buyers.
4. Integrated payment and logistics systems

How many of the above are advantages of the GeM Platform (Government e-Marketplace)?

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

Answer: (d) All the four

Explanation:

**In news:** Prime Minister shares an article on the GeM platform

**GeM Platform (Government e-Marketplace):**

- GeM (Government e-Marketplace) is an **online public procurement platform** launched by the Government of India to facilitate transparent, efficient, and paperless procurement of goods and services by government departments, ministries, and public sector units.
- Launched in August 2016 by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India.

**Features of GeM:**

- **Single portal for procurement:** Offers a unified digital marketplace for government buyers and sellers.
- **Wide range of products and services:** From office supplies and electronics to consultancy and facility management services.

- **Transparency and accountability:** Real-time price discovery, comparison, and bidding to ensure competitive pricing.
- **Ease of use:** Simplifies the procurement process with minimal paperwork and faster delivery.
- **Inclusive platform:** Enables participation of MSMEs, startups, women entrepreneurs, and small businesses.
- **Helps eliminate middlemen and corruption:** Promotes direct interaction between suppliers and government buyers.
- **Integrated with payment and logistics systems:** Facilitates smooth transactions and timely deliveries.

Hence option (d) is correct.

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2129584>

### 51. Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs)

51. Which among the following statements are correct with reference to the Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs):

1. Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) are private funds in India that collect money from both the Indian and foreign investors.
2. AIFs are regulated by the RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
3. The minimum investment amount in an AIF is ₹1 crore per investor.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

In news: RBI issues revised draft directions on investment by REs in AIFs, seeks comments

**Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs):**

- **Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs)** are privately pooled investment vehicles established in India that collect funds from investors (Indian or foreign) for investing in accordance with a defined investment policy. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- AIFs are regulated by SEBI under the **SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012**. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- AIFs are not covered under mutual funds, collective investment schemes, or any other SEBI regulations.
- They are typically set up as a trust, company, limited liability partnership (LLP), or body corporate.
- AIFs target sophisticated investors, including high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), institutional investors, and venture capitalists.

**Categories of AIFs**

AIFs are classified into three categories under SEBI regulations:

(a) **Category I AIFs:**

- Invest in sectors or areas considered socially or economically desirable.
  - Examples: **Venture Capital Funds, SME Funds, Social Venture Funds, Infrastructure Funds.**
- Eligible for government incentives and tax benefits.

(b) **Category II AIFs:**

- Do not get specific incentives but do not employ leverage except for day-to-day operations.
  - Examples: **Private Equity Funds, Debt Funds.**

(c) **Category III AIFs:**

- Employ complex trading strategies and leverage, including through derivatives.
  - Examples: **Hedge Funds, PIPE Funds (Private Investment in Public Equity).**

**Eligibility & Investment Conditions:**

- The minimum investment amount in an AIF is ₹1 crore per investor (₹25 lakh for employees/directors of the AIF or fund manager). **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Each AIF scheme must have a minimum corpus of ₹20 crore (₹10 crore for Angel Funds).
- AIFs cannot accept retail investors; they are meant for sophisticated or institutional investors.
- Leverage or borrowing is not permitted for Category I and II AIFs except for temporary liquidity needs.
- Category III AIFs may engage in short-selling, derivatives trading, and other complex strategies.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/rbi-issues-revised-draft-directions-on-investment-by-res-in-aifs-seeks-comments/article69594520.ece>

### 52. India Becomes World's 4th Largest Economy

52. Consider the following countries:

1. China
2. United States
3. Germany
4. India

What is the correct chronological order of the above countries in terms of their GDP, given by the World Economic Outlook report 2025, starting from the highest?

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

Answer: (a) 2 - 1 - 3 - 4

Explanation:

In news: India Becomes World's 4th Largest Economy, Surpasses Japan: NITI Aayog

- The IMF had stated earlier this month in the World Economic Outlook report that India continues to remain the world's fastest-growing major economy and the only country expected to clock over 6 per cent growth in the next two years.

- According to the IMF, India's GDP currently stands at 4.3 trillion dollar. India's GDP was 2.1 trillion dollar in 2015, since then, the country has more than doubled its economy.
- According to the report, the high rate of growth will see India's GDP increasing to 5.5 trillion dollar in 2028 overtaking Germany to become the third-largest economy.



Hence option (a) is correct.

Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/india-becomes-worlds-4th-largest-economy-surpasses-japan-niti-aayog/>

### 53. Local Currency Settlement (LCS)

53. Consider the following countries:

1. UAE
2. Indonesia
3. Maldives
4. Mauritius
5. Bangladesh

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed Local Currency Settlement (LCS) agreements with which of the above-mentioned countries?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

In news: India & UAE forge new path with Local Currency Settlement System to reshape economic relations

**Local Currency Settlement (LCS):**

- Local Currency Settlement (LCS) is a system that allows two countries to conduct cross-border trade in their own domestic currencies, rather than relying on a third-party currency like the US dollar.

To make the Indian Rupee more important in international trade, the RBI has taken several steps:

- NRIs and foreigners can now hold INR accounts abroad.
- RBI signed Local Currency Settlement (LCS) agreements with:
  1. UAE
  2. Indonesia

3. Maldives
4. Mauritius

Hence (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only is correct.

**Benefits of LCS:**

- **Reduced costs:** Eliminates the need for currency conversion through a third-party currency, lowering transaction costs.
- **Faster settlements:** Speeds up the payment process by simplifying the transaction chain.
- **Reduced reliance on USD:** Decreases dependency on the US dollar, providing insulation from the effects of US monetary policy.
- **Avoidance of sanctions:** Helps to bypass potential currency or payment sanctions from other countries.
- **Promotion of domestic currencies:** Encourages the international use of domestic currencies, which can enhance their global status.
- **Development of forex markets:** Fosters the creation of foreign exchange markets between the participating countries for their local currencies.

Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/india-uae-forge-new-path-with-local-currency-settlement-system-to-reshape-economic-relations/#:~:text=This%20LCSS%20system%20will%20al low.transaction%20costs%20and%20settlement%20times>

### 54. India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

54. With reference to the Sample Registration System (SRS) 2021 released by the Registrar General of India (RGI), consider the following statements:

1. In India, Bihar has the highest Total Fertility Rate (TFR), while Delhi and West Bengal have the lowest TFR.
2. Kerala has the highest elderly population followed by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

In news: Total Fertility Rate remains constant at 2.0 in 2021: report

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** in India remained constant at 2.0 in 2021, same as 2020, according to the **Sample Registration System (SRS) 2021** by the **Registrar General of India (RGI)**.

- Bihar recorded the highest TFR at 3.0, while Delhi and West Bengal recorded the lowest TFR at 1.4. Hence statement 1 is correct.

- The 0-14 age group population declined from 41.2% in 1971 to 24.8% in 2021.

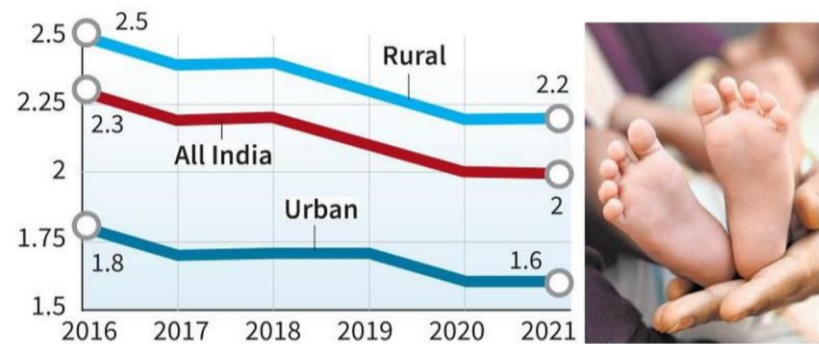
- The economically active population (15-59 years) increased from 53.4% in 1971 to 66.2% in 2021.

#### Elderly population trends:

- 60+ age group increased from 6% to 9%, 65+ age group from 5.3% to 5.9%.
- Kerala has the highest elderly population at 14.4% (60+), followed by Tamil Nadu (12.9%) and Himachal Pradesh (12.3%).  
**Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Bihar (6.9%), Assam (7%), and Delhi (7.1%) have the lowest elderly population.
- Mean age at effective marriage for females rose from 19.3 years in 1990 to 22.5 years in 2021.
- Replacement-level TFR (2.1) has been attained at the national level.

### A static trend

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for the country has remained at 2.0 in 2021 and 2020. The chart shows the TFR for 2016-2021



Source: SRS Statistical Report 2021

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/total-fertility-rate-remains-constant-at-20-in-2021-report/article69564709.ece>

#### 55. Metre Convention

55. Which among the following is an outcome of the 'Metre Convention', signed on 20 May 1875 in Paris?

- It led to the creation of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), tasked with maintaining global measurement standards.
- It resulted in the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to regulate international trade policies and resolve trade disputes among nations.
- It formed the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to coordinate global telecommunication standards and allocate radio spectrum.
- It initiated the foundation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to provide financial stability and economic cooperation among member countries.

**Answer: (a) It led to the creation of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), tasked with maintaining global measurement standards.**

#### Explanation:

**In news:** Department of Consumer Affairs, GoI celebrates 150 Years of Metre Convention on World Metrology Day 2025

#### World Metrology Day 2025 Highlights (20 May 2025):

Theme: "Measurements for all times, for all people"  
Celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Metre Convention.

#### Key Announcements & Initiatives:

- India is now the 13th country globally authorized to issue **OIML certificates**, boosting international trust in its measurement systems.
- The government has mandated the **use of 1 mg precision balances in gold trade** to ensure fair practices and protect consumers.
- Under the Draft IST Rules, 2025, IST will be delivered with millisecond-level accuracy through five Regional Reference Standard Laboratories.
- The **eMaap portal** digitizes Legal Metrology processes across 18 States to improve efficiency, compliance, and transparency.

#### Metre Convention (1875):

- An international treaty that established a **unified system for measurement standards worldwide**.
- Signed on 20 May 1875 in Paris, France.
- To ensure uniformity and accuracy in measurements across countries, facilitating fair trade, science, and industry.
- Key Outcome: Creation of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), tasked with maintaining global measurement standards. **Hence option (a) is correct.**
- Significance: Marked the foundation of the modern international metric system and global cooperation in metrology.
- Members: Started with 17 countries, now expanded to over 60 signatories worldwide.

#### Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2129915>

#### 56. Foreign direct investment (FDI)

56. Consider the following:

- Narrowing Current Account Deficit
- Reduced Job Creation
- High Capital formation
- Increased Currency volatility
- Balance of payments Crisis

**How many of the above are the impacts of declining FDI in India?**

- Only two
- Only three
- Only four
- All the five

**Answer: (b) Only three**

#### Explanation:

**In NEWS:** India's Net Foreign Direct Investment Plummets by 96.5% to Reach Record Low

#### Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) refers to investments made by a foreign entity (individuals, companies, or governments) into

businesses or production units in India with the intention of establishing a lasting interest or control.

● FDI inflows into India are regulated under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, and overseen by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

**FDI can come in the form of:**

- Setting up new businesses (Greenfield investments)
- Acquiring existing businesses (Brownfield investments)
- Joint ventures
- Buying equity shares in Indian companies

**Impacts of Declining FDI in India**

- Reduced capital availability for infrastructure, manufacturing, and innovation-led sectors. **Hence 3 is incorrect.**
- Slower job creation, especially in labor-intensive industries like manufacturing and services. **Hence 2 is correct.**
- Lower technology transfer, hindering modernization and productivity improvements.
- Weakening of industrial growth, as FDI is often a driver of sectoral expansion.
- Reduced integration with global value chains, limiting export competitiveness.
- Widening Current Account Deficit (CAD, a fall in FDI increases pressure on India's external accounts. **Hence 1 is incorrect.**
- Pressure on the balance of payments, making India more vulnerable to external shocks. **Hence 5 is correct.**
- Increased currency volatility, as lower FDI inflows reduce foreign exchange reserves. **Hence 4 is correct.**
- Loss of investor confidence hampers long-term investments, increases reliance on volatile capital, stalls strategic sector growth, slows "Make in India", and reduces tax revenues.

Source: <https://thewire.in/economy/indias-net-foreign-direct-investment-plummets-by-96-5-to-reach-record-low>

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### 57. INDIA-UK FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (FTA)

57. With reference to India and UK trade relations, consider the following statements:

- India is the second-largest investor in the UK, while the UK is the 6th largest inward investor in India.
- India and the United Kingdom signed the bilateral free trade agreement to double bilateral trade to USD 120 billion by 2030.
- Refined oil has the highest weightage in the imported goods from the UK to India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- I and II only
- II and III only
- I and III only
- I, II and III

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

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** A historic and ambitious deal to boost jobs, exports and national growth.

**India-UK Trade Relations:**

**Free Trade Agreement (FTA):**

● India and the United Kingdom signed the much-awaited **bilateral free trade agreement** in the backdrop of a global trade environment. **Hence statement II is correct.**

● **The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** promised to usher in "not just an economic partnership but a plan for shared prosperity" for both countries.

● This landmark free trade agreement (FTA) aims to double bilateral trade to USD 120 billion by **2030** by eliminating tariffs on key goods, such as Indian textiles, footwear, gems, and jewellery, and British automobiles, whisky, and medical devices.

● The agreement also covers services, innovation, government procurement, and intellectual property rights, while a Double Contribution Convention Agreement eases social security obligations for Indian professionals in the UK.

**Investment Flows:**

● **UK to India:** The UK is the 6th largest inward investor in India, with cumulative equity investments of USD 33.88 billion (April 2000–March 2023), accounting for 5.34% of India's total FDI.

● **India to UK:** India is the second-largest investor in the UK, creating over 110,000 jobs and investing in 118 projects in 2022–2023. Indian companies in the UK generated £47.5 billion in revenue, with telecom and pharmaceuticals leading. **Hence statement I is correct.**

**Institutional Mechanisms:**

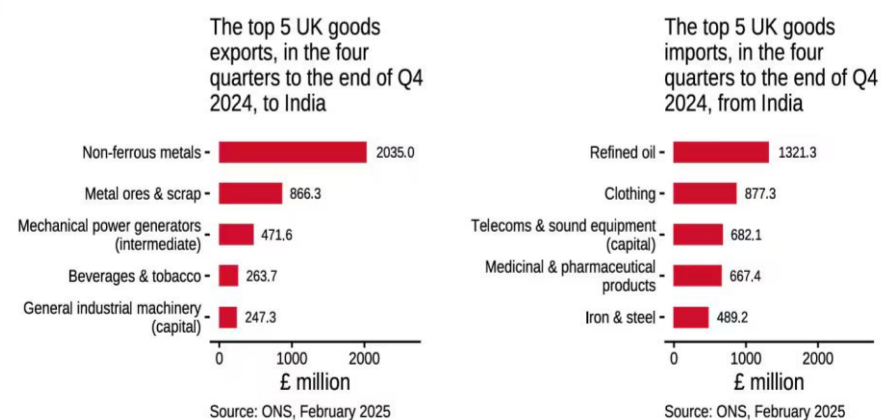
● **Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO):** Established in 2005 to address trade barriers and promote business links.

● **Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD):** Initiated in 2005 to strengthen financial cooperation.

● **India-UK Financial Partnership:** Supports collaboration in financial services.

● **UK-India Technology Security Initiative (TSI):** Launched in 2024 to foster cooperation in critical technologies like telecom, AI, and semiconductors.

**Bilateral Trade:**



**Hence statement III is correct.**

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2127321>

**58. ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION**

**58. Consider the following statements in respect of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO):**

- I. It is a regional intergovernmental organization established in 1961.  
 II. India is a founding member of the Asian Productivity Organization.

**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: (c) Both I and II**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** India Assumes Chairmanship of Asian Productivity Organization at 67th Governing Body Meeting in Jakarta

**The Asian Productivity Organization (APO):**

- The Asian Productivity Organization (APO) is a **regional intergovernmental organization established in 1961** to promote productivity growth and sustainable development across the Asia-Pacific region. **Hence statement I is correct.**
- **Headquartered in Tokyo**, Japan, the APO functions through capacity-building programs, policy advisory services, and knowledge-sharing initiatives to enhance productivity in member economies.
- The APO supports a wide range of sectors including industry, agriculture, services, and public administration, with a focus on innovation, green productivity, digital transformation, and human capital development.
- **India is a founding member of the APO** and has played a key role in shaping its programs and strategic direction since its inception. **Hence statement II is correct.**

**India's Chair at the Asian Productivity Organization (APO):**

- India took over as Chair of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for the 2025–26 term.
- India will lead APO's strategic agenda focusing on:
  - Innovation
  - Sustainability
  - Digital Transformation
- India reaffirmed support for:
  - APO Vision 2030
  - Green Productivity 2.0
  - Inclusive and results-driven productivity programs

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2130267>

**59. Triple Crisis**

**59. Which one of the following countries has been suffering from "triple crisis" – armed conflict and displacement, recurring extreme weather events, and months of post-electoral unrest?**

- (a) Brazil  
 (b) Mozambique  
 (c) Israel  
 (d) Ukraine

**Answer: (b) Mozambique**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Thousands flee homes in Mozambique as conflict and disasters fuel worsening crisis

**Triple Crisis in Mozambique:**

- Mozambique is currently facing a triple crisis involving armed conflict, extreme weather events, and post-electoral unrest, which has displaced nearly 1.3 million people. **Hence option (b) is correct.**
- Thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes multiple times and are now seeking shelter in already overstretched communities.
- Cyclone Jude, which struck in March, further devastated areas already hosting large numbers of displaced families, worsening the humanitarian situation.
- Food prices have increased by up to 20 percent in some regions, adding significant pressure to household economies and deepening poverty in one of the world's poorest countries.
- Displaced populations, especially women and children, face rising protection risks, including gender-based violence, family separation, and limited access to legal documentation.
- An estimated 5.2 million people across Mozambique currently require some form of humanitarian assistance.

**Source:** <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163671>

**60. Places in NEWS**

**60. In recent years Darfur region, Zimbabwe and Gaza Strip caught international attention for which one of the following reasons common to all of them?**

- (a) Discovery of rich deposits of rare earth elements  
 (b) Establishment of Chinese military bases  
 (c) Famine and hunger  
 (d) Successful coups

**Explanation: (c) Famine and hunger**

**In news:**

- The **Darfur region** of Sudan is severely affected by the ongoing civil war, resulting in one of the world's worst **hunger crises with widespread famine and malnutrition**, particularly in besieged areas like El Fasher.
- **Zimbabwe** has announced plans to cull 200 elephants to feed communities struggling with **severe hunger** due to a crippling drought, marking the first elephant cull in the country since 1988.

● **Gaza Strip in Palestine:** A critical **risk of famine** is present due to ongoing military operations and a blockade hindering aid, leading to widespread malnutrition.

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

Source:

<https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/sudan>  
<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/zimbabwe-to-cull-200-elephants-to-feed-people-left-hungry-by-drought/article68654280.ece>  
<https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1159596/>

### 61. EXERCISE NOMADIC ELEPHANT

**61. Exercise Nomadic Elephant is a joint military exercise between**

- (a) India and China
- (b) India and Mongolia
- (c) India and Russia
- (d) India and Japan

**Answer: (b) India and Mongolia**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT DEPARTS FOR INDIA-MONGOLIA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE NOMADIC ELEPHANT

**EXERCISE NOMADIC ELEPHANT:**

- **Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2025** is the **17th edition** of the joint military exercise between **India and Mongolia**. **Hence option (b) is correct.**
- The exercise was held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, from **May 31 to June 13, 2025**.
- The exercise **alternates annually** between India and Mongolia; the previous edition (2024) was in **Umroi, Meghalaya**.
- **Primary objective:** Enhance **interoperability** between Indian and Mongolian armed forces.
- **Focus areas** included **non-conventional operations, semi-urban and mountainous terrains, counter-terrorism, precision sniping, and peacekeeping operations** under a **United Nations mandate**.
- **Indian contingent:** 45 personnel, primarily from a **battalion of Arunachal Scouts**.
- **Mongolian contingent:** 150 Special Forces personnel.
- **Strategic significance:** Strengthens **India-Mongolia defence ties**, highlights India's role in **regional security** and **UN peacekeeping missions**.

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2132473>

### 62. Vessels in News

**62. Consider the following pairs:**

S.No	Indian Navy Vessel	Description
1	Arnala	Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft
2	INS Sunanya	Offshore Patrol Vessel
3	INS Kiltan	Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette

**Which of the pairs given correctly matched?**

- (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:** Indian Navy vessels in news

**INS Arnala:**

- Lead ship of the **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** class.
- Commissioned in **2025**. **Hence pair 1 is correct.**
- Designed for operations in **coastal and shallow waters**.
- Roles: anti-submarine warfare, coastal surveillance, mine laying, patrol duties.
- Named after **Arnala**, a coastal fort/island near Maharashtra.

**INS Sunayna:**

- An **Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)**. **Hence pair 2 is correct.**
- Commissioned in **2013**.
- Built by **Goa Shipyard Limited**.
- Roles: maritime surveillance, patrol, anti-piracy, humanitarian missions.
- Often deployed to the **Indian Ocean Region** for naval diplomacy and security operations.

**INS Kiltan:**

- A **Kamorta-class ASW corvette** (Project 28). **Hence pair 3 is correct.**
- Commissioned in **2017**.
- Known for high **indigenous content (~80%)** and stealth features.
- Equipped with advanced sonar, torpedoes, and ASW weapons.
- Designed for **anti-submarine warfare** in blue water operations.

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2127729>  
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2127730>  
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2127494>

**ART AND CULTURE**

**63. Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems**

63. Consider the following sites:

1. The Koraput region in Odisha
2. The High altitude nomadic agriculture in the Rupshu Plateau of Ladakh
3. The Kuttanad farming system in Kerala
4. Terrace cultivation of aromatic rice of the Western Himalayas
5. The Saffron Heritage of Kashmir.

**How many of the above sites are recognized as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) sites in India by the FAO?**

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

**Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 5 only**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Six new sites recognized as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

**GIAHS:**

- GIAHS stands for Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems — a flagship initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, launched in 2002.
- It recognizes and safeguards traditional farming systems around the world that:
  - Sustain biodiversity
  - Preserve traditional knowledge and cultures
  - Ensure food and livelihood security
  - Maintain resilient and sustainable agricultural landscapes
- As of May 2025:
  - 95 systems designated across 28 countries
  - China has the highest number with 25 GIAHS sites
  - Other leading countries include Japan, Spain, India, Mexico, and Peru
- GIAHS in India:
  - Koraput Traditional Agriculture – Odisha
  - Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System – Kerala
  - Saffron Heritage of Kashmir (Pampore) – Jammu & Kashmir.

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

**New Additions to GIAHS – May 2025:**

1. Brazil – Shade-grown Erva Mate in Paraná
2. China – Deqing Freshwater Pearl Mussels Composite Fishery (Zhejiang)
3. China – Fuding White Tea Culture System (Fujian)
4. China – Gaolan Shichuan Ancient Pear Orchard System (Gansu)
5. Mexico – Metepantle Ancestral Agricultural System (Tlaxcala)
6. Spain – Volcanic Agriculture in Lanzarote (Canary Islands)

**Source:** <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/six-new-sites-recognized-as-globally-important-agricultural-heritage-systems/en>

**64. Sushruta and Charaka**

**64. With reference to Ancient India, Sushruta and Charaka were known for their contributions in**

- (a) Mathematics
- (b) Medicine
- (c) Astronomy
- (d) Architecture

**Answer: (b) Medicine**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Vice-President unveils the statues of Sushruta and Charaka

**Sushruta:**

- Known as the “Father of Surgery”, Sushruta is credited with authoring the Sushruta Samhita, one of the oldest and most comprehensive **texts on surgery and medicine**.
- His work details various surgical techniques, including **plastic surgery, cataract surgery, and rhinoplasty (reconstructive nose surgery)**.
- Sushruta emphasized the importance of anatomy, surgical instruments, and patient care, and his teachings laid the foundation for Ayurvedic surgery.
- His contributions date back to around **600 BCE**, making him one of the earliest surgeons in recorded history.

**Charaka:**

- Charaka is considered the “**Father of Medicine**” and is known for the **Charaka Samhita, a foundational text of Ayurveda** focused on internal medicine.
- His work covers diagnosis, prognosis, herbal treatments, and preventive healthcare.
- Charaka emphasized the balance of **the three doshas (Vata, Pitta, Kapha)** and the holistic approach to health involving body, mind, and spirit.
- His teachings date back to approximately **300 BCE**, and his texts remain influential in traditional Indian medicine.

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

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2130490>

**65. UN Vesak Day**

**65. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I :** In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution, recognizing Vesak Day as a significant international occasion.

**Statement-II :** This day celebrates the birth, enlightenment (nirvana), and death (parinirvana) of Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha.

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

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

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

**Explanation:**

**In news:** India Reaffirms Commitment to Buddha's Teachings at UN Vesak Day-2025 in Vietnam

**UN Vesak Day:**

- UN Vesak Day (also known as International Day of Vesak) is an official United Nations observance that commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha, three major events that, according to tradition, all occurred on the full moon day of the month of Vesak (usually in April or May).
- In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution during its 54th session (A/RES/54/115), recognizing Vesak Day as a significant international occasion. **Hence statement I is correct.**
- This day celebrates the birth, enlightenment (nirvana), and death (parinirvana) of Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha. **Hence statement II is correct and explains statement I.**
- The UN acknowledges the contribution of Buddhism to humanity, particularly in promoting peace, compassion, and non-violence.
- It also reflects the values shared across cultures and religions, including mindfulness, tolerance, and ethical living.
- The exact date varies each year, as it follows the lunar calendar, but it's typically celebrated on the full moon day in May (or sometimes in April, depending on the lunar cycle and local customs).

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2127263>

#### 66. Rabindranath Tagore

66. Which of the following best describes Tagore's views as expressed in his book "Nationalism" (1917)?

- (a) Support for aggressive nationalist movements to oust the British
- (b) Advocacy of spiritual and ethical freedom over aggressive nationalism
- (c) Endorsement of violent revolution against colonial rule
- (d) Promotion of exclusive regional identities within India

**Answer: (b) Advocacy of spiritual and ethical freedom over aggressive nationalism**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** LOK SABHA SPEAKER PAYS TRIBUTE TO GURUDEV RABINDRANATH TAGORE

**Contributions of Rabindranath Tagore:**

- Tagore's compositions like "Jana Gana Mana" (India's national anthem) and "Amar Shonar Bangla" (Bangladesh's national anthem) ignited patriotism.
- During his stay at Madanapalle, Tagore translated "Jana Gana Mana" from Bengali to English for the first time.
- The tune for the anthem, as it is sung today, was also set to music in Madanapalle, by Margaret Cousins (wife of James Cousins), who was an expert in Western music.
- He wrote works such as "Gitanjali", which conveyed spiritual freedom and inner liberation, concepts that paralleled India's quest for political freedom.
- Though not directly involved in active politics, Tagore was a strong voice against British imperialism.
- He renounced his Knighthood in 1919 to protest the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, sending a powerful symbolic message of dissent.
- Tagore maintained a dialogue with national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, offering moral and intellectual guidance during the struggle.
- His book "Nationalism" (1917) criticized aggressive nationalism, advocating for ethical and spiritual freedom. **Hence option (b) is correct.**
- His writings empowered people to break free from mental slavery imposed by colonial domination.
- Tagore founded Visva-Bharati University in 1921 at Santiniketan, which became a center of learning rooted in Indian culture and open to the world.
- His educational philosophy blended the best of Eastern and Western traditions, preparing students to be free-thinking global citizens.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2127986>

#### 67. INSV KAUNDINYA

67. Which one of the following is the best description of 'INSV KAUNDINYA', that was in the news recently?

- (a) Amphibious warfare ship
- (b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- (c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- (d) Stitched Sail Ship

**Answer: (d) Stitched Sail Ship**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** TRADITIONALLY BUILT 'ANCIENT STITCHED SHIP' INDUCTED INTO THE INDIAN NAVY AS INSV KAUNDINYA

**INSV KAUNDINYA:**

- It is a **stitched sail ship**, based on a 5th century CE ship depicted in the paintings of Ajanta Caves. **Hence option (d) is correct.**
- The newly inducted vessel incorporates several culturally significant features.

- Her sails display motifs of the Gandabherunda and the Sun, her bow bears a sculpted Simha Yali, and a symbolic Harappan style stone anchor adorns her deck, each element evoking the rich maritime traditions of ancient India.
- Named after Kaundinya, the legendary Indian mariner who sailed across the Indian Ocean to Southeast Asia, the ship serves as a tangible symbol of India's long-standing traditions of maritime exploration, trade, and cultural exchange.

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2130294>

### 68. Gallantry Awards

**68. Consider the following Gallantry awards:**

1. Vir Chakra
2. Param Vir Chakra
3. Ashoka Chakra
4. Kirti Chakra
5. Shaurya Chakra

**How many of the above-mentioned awards are Peacetime Gallantry Awards?**

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

**Answer: (b) Only three**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** President confers six Kirti Chakras (four posthumous) & 33 Shaurya Chakras (seven posthumous) during Defence Investiture Ceremony 2025 (Phase-I)

**Gallantry Awards in India:**

- These are awarded to recognize bravery, courage, and sacrifice in both wartime and peacetime
- These awards may be conferred posthumously.
- Recipients include personnel from the armed forces, police, and even civilians in some cases.

**Wartime Gallantry Awards**

**1. Param Vir Chakra (PVC)**

- India's highest military decoration for wartime bravery.
- Awarded for most conspicuous bravery or self-sacrifice in the face of the enemy.

**2. Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)**

- Second-highest wartime gallantry award.
- Awarded for distinguished acts of gallantry in the presence of the enemy.

**3. Vir Chakra**

- Third in order of wartime gallantry awards.
- Given for acts of bravery on the battlefield, less than those qualifying for MVC.

**Peacetime Gallantry Awards**

**1. Ashoka Chakra**

- Highest peacetime gallantry award.
- Conferred for valor, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield.

**2. Kirti Chakra**

- Second-highest peacetime gallantry award.
- Awarded for conspicuous gallantry in peacetime, including counter-insurgency or rescue missions.

**3. Shaurya Chakra**

- Third in order of peacetime gallantry awards.
- Given for gallant action not in the face of the enemy, including anti-terror operations.

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

**Source:**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2130612>

### 69. Madhubani Art

**69. Consider the following statements regarding Madhubani Art:**

1. It is traditionally practiced in the Mithila region of Uttar Pradesh.
2. It is characterized by the use of geometrical patterns and symbolic motifs.
3. The art form received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2007.

**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:** ARTISTS OF MADHUBANI AND GOND ART CALL ON THE PRESIDENT AS PART OF THE ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAMME

**Madhubani Art:**

- Madhubani Art is a **traditional folk painting style originating from the Mithila region of Bihar, India. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**

- It is also known as Mithila Painting and has been practiced for centuries, mainly by women of the region.

- The paintings are known for the use of geometrical patterns and symbolic motifs, bold lines, vibrant colors, and intricate patterns. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- Artists use natural materials like plant-based colors, cow dung, and bamboo sticks for brushes.

- Common themes include mythology, nature, festivals, and social events like marriage.

- Madhubani Art has received international recognition and is now practiced on canvas, paper, and textiles.

- It gained attention during the 1960s after a severe drought, when the government encouraged locals to sell their art for income.
- In 2007, it received the GI (Geographical Indication) tag, certifying it as a unique art form from Bihar. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The art has helped empower rural women, giving them both creative expression and a source of income.

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2131288>

### 70. International Booker Prize 2025

70. The International Booker Prize is awarded for which of the following achievements?

- The best screenplay adapted from a novel published in English anywhere in the world.
- The most impactful literary contribution in any Indian language published in India.
- The best original full-length novel written in English and published in the UK or Ireland.
- The most outstanding contribution to literature written in any Indian or Commonwealth language.

**Answer: (c) The best original full-length novel written in English and published in the UK or Ireland.**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** International Booker 2025 winner Banu Mushtaq and Deepa Bhashti take Indian regional literature to world stage

**International Booker 2025:**

- **Heart Lamp** won the 2025 International Booker Prize, a global literary award that recognises fiction translated into English.
- It's the **first time a Kannada-language** work has won the International Booker.
- **Deepa Bhashti** becomes the first translator from India to win the International Booker
- Heart Lamp is a collection of **12 short stories by Banu Mushtaq, originally written in Kannada between 1990 and 2023.**
- It centers on the lives of women in southern India, especially Muslim women, depicting how they navigate patriarchy, social expectation, faith, caste, and tradition.

**Booker Prize:**

- The Booker Prize is a prestigious annual literary award for the best original novel written in the English language and published in the UK or Ireland. **Hence option (c) is correct.**
- The prize was first awarded in 1969, and was formerly known as the Man Booker Prize (2002–2019).
- The award is open to citizens of any country, as long as the book is originally written in English and published in the UK or Ireland. Each winning pair (author and translator) share the prize money of £50,000 equally.
- It aims to promote world literature and bring non-English voices to an international audience.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/books/international-booker-banu-mushtaq-heart-lamp-deepa-bhashti-indian-regional-literature/article69600154.ece>

### 71. Piprahwa relics

71. With reference to ancient India, consider the following statements :

- The early stupas were primarily constructed to enshrine sacred relics, especially of the Buddha.
- The Piprahwa relics in Uttar Pradesh were discovered by British archaeologist Alexander Cunningham in 1898.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- I only
- II only
- Both I and II
- Neither I nor II

**Answer: (a) I only**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Sacred Piprahwa Relics of Lord Buddha Return Home to India

**Piprahwa Relics:**

- The Piprahwa relics are among the most important archaeological discoveries related to the historical Buddha (Gautama Buddha) and his relics.
- Piprahwa is a village in Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- It is near the India-Nepal border, close to Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha.
- In 1898, British archaeologist William Claxton Peppé excavated a stupa mound in Piprahwa. **Hence statement II is incorrect.**
- Inside, he found a stone coffer (relic casket) containing:
  - Ashes and bone fragments
  - Jewels and gold
  - A Brahmi inscription dating to the 3rd century BCE

**Relationship Between Stupas and Relics:**

- Stupas were originally built to enshrine the sacred relics of the Buddha after his Mahaparinirvana (death).
- The central purpose of early stupas was to serve as a reliquary, housing the bodily remains or belongings of revered figures, especially the Buddha. **Hence statement I is correct.**
- According to Buddhist tradition, Buddha's relics were divided into eight parts and distributed among kingdoms, where stupas were constructed to preserve them.
- The cultural and religious value of relics preserved in stupas led to the construction of monumental structures like Sanchi, Bharhut, and Piprahwa stupas.

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2150352>

## 72. Lakkundi temples

72. Consider the following statements regarding the Lakkundi temples, recently talked about in news:

1. The temples of Lakkundi primarily belong to the Kakatiya dynasty period.
2. They are built mainly of soapstone, known for their plain and unornamented exteriors.
3. The site is known for both Hindu and Jain temples.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 3 only

Explanation:

In news: Lakkundi temples set to be finalised for UNESCO tentative listing as World Heritage Sites

**Lakkundi temples:**

- The temples of Lakkundi belong mainly to the **Kalyani Chalukya (Western Chalukya)** period (11th–12th century CE). **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The architecture represents a **transitional phase** between **Early Chalukya** and **Hoysala** styles.
- Temples are built mainly using **soapstone**, enabling detailed carvings and ornamentation. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The temple plans show **stellate (star-shaped)** and **square sanctums**, with **lathe-turned pillars** and **ornate doorframes**.
- The **Kashi Vishveshwara Temple** is the most well-known among them, showcasing **Nagari and Dravidian architectural fusion**.
- Lakkundi had **over 50 temples, 101 stepwells, and 29 inscriptions**, indicating its prosperity.
- Temples are dedicated to **Shiva, Vishnu, Jain Tirthankaras, and local deities**. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Lakkundi is protected under the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.



Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/lakkundi-temples-set-to-be-finalised-for-unesco-tentative-listing-as-world-heritage-sites/article69521699.ece>

## 73. UNESCO's Memory of the World Register

73. How many of the following are included in the UNESCO's Memory of the World (MoW) Register?

1. Bhagavad Gita manuscripts
2. Gilgit Manuscripts
3. Bharat Muni's Natyashastra
4. Panchatantra
5. Buddhacharita

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (b) Only three

Explanation:

In news:

- **Bhagavad Gita manuscripts** and **Bharat Muni's Natyashastra** were inscribed in UNESCO's **Memory of the World (MoW) Register** in April 2025.

**UNESCO's Memory of the World (MoW) Register:**

- The **Memory of the World Programme** was launched by **UNESCO in 1992**.
- The programme aims to **preserve and provide universal access** to documentary heritage of global significance.
- The MoW Register includes **manuscripts, archives, oral traditions, audio-visual content, and library collections**.
- In 2025, UNESCO inscribed **74 new items** on the International Register, bringing the **total number of collections to 570**. Recent additions include:
  - **Bhagavad Gita manuscripts (2025):** Manuscripts of this Hindu scripture from the *Mahabharata*, known for its philosophical and spiritual insights, are preserved at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute.
  - **Nāṭyaśāstra manuscripts (2025):** This ancient Sanskrit treatise on performing arts, considered foundational for Indian classical arts, is also held at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute.
  - **Abhinavagupta manuscripts (2023):** This collection documents the works of the 10th-century philosopher Abhinavagupta, who contributed to aesthetics, literary theory, and tantra.
  - **First Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) archives (2023):** A joint submission with Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, and Serbia, these archives document the 1961 Belgrade summit and the role of Third World countries.
  - **Gilgit manuscripts (2017):** These ancient birch-bark and clay-coated manuscripts from Kashmir contain Buddhist texts.
  - **Maitreyavyakaraṇa (2017):** A Pala period palm-leaf manuscript containing the prophecy of Maitreya, preserved by the Asiatic Society in Kolkata.

- **Shantinatha Charitra (2013):** This 14th-century Sanskrit text with miniature paintings, held at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, narrates the life of the 16th Jain Tirthankara.
- **Laghukalacakratantrarajatika Vimalaprabha (2011):** An 11th-century Tibetan Buddhist commentary also discussing astrology and astronomy, housed at the Asiatic Society in Kolkata.
- **Tarikh-e-Khandan-e-Timuriyah (2011):** A 16th-century illustrated manuscript recounting the history of the Timurid dynasty, preserved at the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library.
- **Rigveda manuscripts (2007):** A collection of the oldest Vedic Sanskrit hymns, held at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute.
- **Saiva manuscripts in Pondicherry (2005):** A collection of manuscripts on Shaivism, including philosophy, hymns, and medicine, preserved in French institutions in Pondicherry.
- **Archives of the Dutch East India Company (2003):** A joint submission with the Netherlands, South Africa, and Sri Lanka, featuring records of the company's operations.

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

- **I.A.S. Tamil Medical Manuscripts Collection (1997):** Tamil medical manuscripts on palm leaves documenting traditional medicine, preserved at the Institute of Asian Studies.

#### The UNESCO Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register (MOWCAP):

- The UNESCO Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register (MOWCAP) is a list that recognizes significant documentary heritage in the Asia-Pacific region, such as historical documents, literature, and archives.
- **Recent additions (2024)**
  - **Ramcharitmanas :** A significant Indian literary and religious work.
  - **Panchatantra :** An ancient Indian collection of fables and stories. **Hence 4 is not correct.**
  - **Sahṛdayāloka-Locana :** A Sanskrit text on Indian poetics with a commentary by Acharya Anandvardhan.
  - **Genealogical records:** Documents like Mongolia's Family Chart of Hereditary Lords of the Khalkha Mongols and records from Huizhou, China, and Kedah State, Malaysia.

**Source:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-culture/bhagavad-gita-natyashastra-unesco-memory-of-world-register-9951786/>

#### 74. Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project

74. Consider the following pairs:

	Project	Associated River
1	Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project	Godavari
2	Polavaram Project	Krishna
3	Sardar Sarovar Project	Narmada

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

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

**Explanation:**

**In NEWS:** What is Telangana's Kaleshwaram project?

#### 1. Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project – Godavari

- **Location:** Telangana
- **River:** Built on the **Godavari River**, specifically at the confluence of its Pranahita tributary. **Hence pair 1 is correct.**
- **Purpose:** To lift water to higher altitudes using pump houses and supply it to drought-prone regions of Telangana for irrigation and drinking.
- **Significance:** It's one of the **world's largest lift irrigation project**

#### 2. Polavaram Project – Krishna

- **Location:** **Andhra Pradesh on Godavari River** **Hence pair 2 is incorrect.**
- **Purpose:** A multipurpose irrigation project intended to supply water for irrigation, hydroelectric power generation, and drinking.

- **Why confusion occurs:** Since it benefits the Krishna basin indirectly (through Godavari-Krishna linkage), it's often mistakenly linked to the Krishna River. But the dam is physically located on the Godavari River.

#### 3. Sardar Sarovar Project – Narmada

- **Location:** Gujarat
- **River:** Built on the **Narmada River** **Hence pair 3 is correct.**
- **Purpose:** To provide irrigation water, drinking water, and hydroelectric power across Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.
- **Significance:** It is one of the most prominent river valley projects in India and part of the larger **Narmada Valley Development Project.**

**Source:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/kaleshwaram-probe-ghose-panel-to-summon-kcr-harish/articleshow/121276101.cms>

#### 75. Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)

75. Consider the following cities:

- 1. Kozhikode
- 2. Kochi
- 3. Kolkata

How many of the above cities are officially inducted into the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC) as of October 2025?

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

**Answer: (c) All three**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** Kozhikode gets WHO recognition as age-friendly city

**The Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC):**

- The Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC) is an **initiative launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2006.**
- It aims to support cities and communities worldwide in becoming more inclusive and responsive to the needs of older people.
- GNAFCC is part of the WHO's Ageing and Health Programme and aligns with the **United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030).**
- Member cities commit to assess their age-friendliness, develop action plans, and share best practices with other members globally.

**Cities under GNAFCC in India:**

- As of October 2025, three cities in India have been officially inducted into the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC):
- **Kochi (Kerala)** – The first city in India to join the network, inducted on March 21, 2024.
- **Kolkata (West Bengal)** – Joined the network as the 105th member on October 10, 2012.
- **Kozhikode (Kerala)** – Became the second city in India to receive recognition on May 2, 2025.

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

**Source:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kozhikode-gets-who-recognition-as-age-friendly-city/article69531589.ece>

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