

Value Added Topics

CRISP, CONCISE & COMPLETE

For UPSC CSE
PRELIMS 2025

JAN 2024 - APR 2025

CURRENT AFFAIRS MATERIAL

GEOGRAPHY, AGRICULTURE, INTERNAL SECURITY, DISASTER MANAGEMENT & MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

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Day 44

Topic 431

431. National Agriculture Code

- It will be a guidance note for standard agriculture practice.
- will serve as a guide for farmers, agriculture universities, and officials involved in the field.

Current news?

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has begun the process of formulating a National Agriculture Code (NAC).
- It will be in line with existing National Building Code.

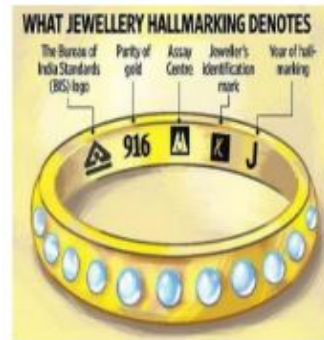
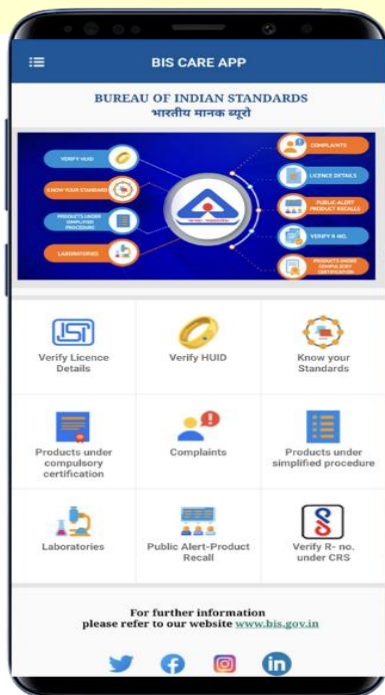
Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- National Standard Body
- established under the BIS Act 2016
- activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods.
- under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

BIS provides 3 types of Mark-

- Hallmark-gold and silver
- EcoMark-Eco Friendly pdts
- ISI-Industrial pdts

ISI mark logo bears ten digit licence number at the bottom which can be verified through “**BIS CARE App**” to ensure the **authenticity** of the certification.



BIS Hallmarking
in India i.e., gold
and silver

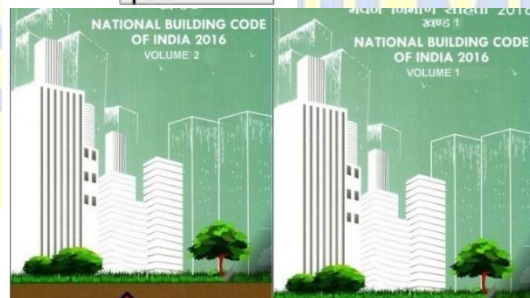
Industrial Pdts



ISI mark



EcoMark for
Eco Friendly
pdts



National Building Code of India

- National guidelines for regulating the building construction activities across the country.
- Model for Public Works Departments, other government construction departments, local bodies or private construction agencies.
- Developed by BIS.
- Similarly National Electrical Code has been prepared by BIS.

Q1291. Consider the following statements regarding National Agriculture Code (NAC).

- National Agriculture Code (NAC) is being formulated by the FSSAI.
- NAC will cover natural farming and organic farming.



3. NAC will not cover post-harvest operations.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The National Agriculture Code (NAC) is being formulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), not the FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The NAC will indeed cover natural farming and organic farming, aiming to standardize and promote these sustainable practices.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The NAC will cover the entire agriculture cycle, including post-harvest operations. This comprehensive approach ensures standardization across all stages of agricultural production.

Q1292. Consider the following statements regarding the National Agriculture Code (NAC):

1. The NAC will serve as a guidance document for farmers, agriculture universities, and officials involved in agriculture.
2. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which is formulating the NAC, functions under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
3. The NAC is being developed in line with the National Building Code.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The NAC is intended to guide farmers, agriculture universities, and officials regarding standard agricultural practices.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The BIS functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, not the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

- **Statement 3: Correct.** The NAC is being formulated in alignment with the National Building Code.

Thus, only Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q1293. Match the following BIS certification marks with their correct descriptions:

BIS Certification Mark	Description
A. ISI Mark	1. Certification for gold and silver articles
B. Hallmark	2. Indicates eco-friendly products
C. EcoMark	3. Ensures authenticity of industrial products

- (a) A-1, B-2, C-3
- (b) A-3, B-1, C-2
- (c) A-2, B-3, C-1
- (d) A-3, B-2, C-1

Ans: b

Sol:

1. ISI Mark → (3): The ISI mark ensures the authenticity of industrial products and comes with a ten-digit license number that can be verified through the BIS CARE app.
2. Hallmark → (1): Hallmark certification is used for gold and silver articles to indicate purity.
3. EcoMark → (2): EcoMark is used to certify eco-friendly products.

Thus, the correct match is A-3, B-1, C-2.

Topic 432

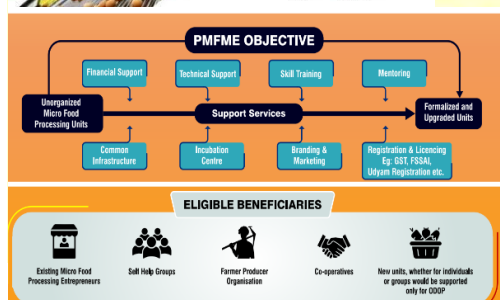
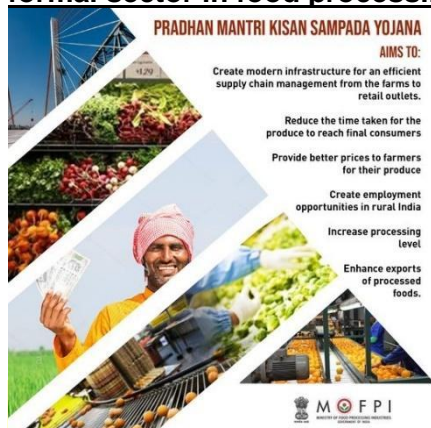
432. World Food India 2024 conference

- An international conference named **World Food India 2024** held in New Delhi.
 - **PM Modi** talked of **2 important food processing schemes** of India.
1. **Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana**
 - by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** in 2016-17.
 - The scheme aims to **create modern infrastructure** for food processing.
 - **Key Components:**
 - Mega Food Parks
 - Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
 - Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters
 2. **Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises scheme**



- **By Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).**
- **Objective**
- Increase in **access to finance by micro food processing** units.
- **Increase in revenues** of target enterprises.
- Enhanced **compliance with food quality** and safety standards.

Transition from the **unorganized sector** to the **formal sector in food processing.**



Q1294. Consider the following statements regarding World Food India 2024 and related food processing schemes:

1. The World Food India 2024 conference was organized in New Delhi as an international event.
 2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) aims to create modern infrastructure for food processing and is implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
 3. The Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) scheme aims to increase access to finance, enhance food safety compliance, and transition micro-enterprises into the formal sector.
 4. The PM-FME scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

(a) Only one



- (b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four
Ans: c

Ans: c

Sol:-

- **Statement 1: Correct** – The World Food India 2024 was indeed organized in New Delhi as an international event.
- **Statement 2: Correct** – The PMKSY focuses on developing modern food processing infrastructure and is implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- **Statement 3: Correct** – The PM-FME scheme indeed aims to increase access to finance, improve food quality compliance, and shift micro-enterprises into the formal sector.
- **Statement 4: Incorrect** – The PM-FME scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), not the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

Thus, only three statements are correct.

Q1295. Which of the following is NOT a key component of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana?

- (a) Mega Food Parks
- (b) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
- (c) Development of Rural Agricultural Market Infrastructure
- (d) Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters

Ans: c

Sol: The Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) includes the following components:

- Mega Food Parks – Large infrastructure projects for food processing units.
- Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure – Storage and transportation facilities to reduce post-harvest losses.
- Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters – Facilities to support agro-based industries.

However, "Development of Rural Agricultural Market Infrastructure" is not a component of PMKSY; rather, it is a part of agricultural market reforms under other government schemes.

Q1296. Which of the following is NOT a direct objective of the Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) scheme?

- Increasing access to finance for micro food processing units
- Enhancing compliance with food quality and safety standards
- Promoting large-scale export of processed food items
- Transitioning micro food enterprises from the unorganized sector to the formal sector

Ans: c

Sol: The PM-FME scheme focuses on the micro food processing sector with the following objectives:

- Providing better access to finance for small enterprises.
 - Improving food safety and quality compliance to enhance competitiveness.
 - Formalizing small businesses to bring them under regulations and support mechanisms.
- However, "promoting large-scale export of processed food items" is not a direct objective of this scheme. While better compliance may improve export potential, the primary focus is on domestic micro-enterprises rather than large-scale international trade.

Topic 433

433. PM AASHA scheme

- stands for **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan**.
- launched in **September 2018** to **supplement** the **existing MSP system**.

The scheme has **three key components-**

- Price Support Scheme (PSS)**
 - Under this component, the central government directly procures **pulses, oilseeds, and copra** from farmers at the MSP.

Why PM-AASHA is needed despite MSP-

- MSP is declared for **23 crops**, but open ended procurement is only for Rice and Wheat.
- Thus to support farmers of **pulses, oilseeds, and copra** PM AASHA has **been introduced**.

2. Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)

- This component covers **oilseeds**.
- It involves **compensating farmers** for the **difference between the MSP and the actual selling price** (market price) if the latter is lower.

3. Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPSS)

- Under this component, the **government allows private players to participate in procurement of oilseeds**.
- This reduces burden on government agencies like FCI and NAFED for implementing MSP.



Copra

- Dried coconut
- Source of coconut oil



Sowing by Farmers of Crop-A



सत्यमेव जयते
Government Of India

Government of India announces in advance MSP for crop A- say Rs 50/kg

MSP

Price Deficiency

- To be compensated directly farmers account

Actual selling price

ENSURING REMUNERATIVE PRICES TO FARMERS

Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan



PRICE SUPPORT SCHEME (PSS)

Physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds & Copra by Central Nodal Agencies. Central Government to bear procurement expenditure and losses due to procurement



PRICE DEFICIENCY PAYMENT SCHEME (PDPS)

To cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified. Farmers to get direct payment to the difference between MSP & selling price



PILOT OF PRIVATE PROCUREMENT & STOCKIST SCHEME (PPPS)

Private sector participations in procurement operation to be piloted. For oilseeds, states have the option to roll out PPPS on pilot basis



Government Guarantee increased to **₹45,550 cr**



Q1297. Regarding the PM-AASHA Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA) is an umbrella scheme to ensure a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers.

2. Under PM-AASHA, States/UTs can select either the Price Support Scheme (PSS) or the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) for a specific oilseed crop for the entire state in a given procurement season.

3. Only one scheme i.e. PSS or PDPS may be made operational in one State with respect to one commodity.

How many of the statement(s) given above is/are not correct?

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

Ans: d

Sol:

1. **Correct:** Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) is an umbrella scheme aimed at ensuring remunerative prices for farmers through Minimum Support Price (MSP) implementation. It includes multiple procurement mechanisms to support farmers.

2. **Correct:** Under PM-AASHA, States/UTs can choose either Price Support Scheme (PSS) or Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) for a specific oilseed crop for the entire state in a given procurement season.

3. **Correct:** As per the guidelines of PM-AASHA, only one scheme (PSS or PDPS) can be implemented in a State for a specific crop in a given season to avoid duplication of benefits.

Q1298. Consider the following statements regarding the PM-AASHA scheme:

1. The scheme supplements the existing Minimum Support Price (MSP) system by introducing additional procurement mechanisms.

2. Under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) component, the government procures all crops for which MSP is declared.

3. Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) applies only to pulses and oilseeds and ensures farmers get compensated for price shortfalls.

4. The Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPSS) allows private players to procure pulses and oilseeds, reducing the burden on government agencies.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** PM-AASHA was launched to supplement MSP by introducing additional procurement mechanisms.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Under PSS, the government procures only pulses, oilseeds, and copra, not all MSP-declared crops.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** PDPS only covers oilseeds, not pulses.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** PPSS allows private players to procure oilseeds, reducing government procurement burden.

Q1299. Which of the following correctly explains the need for PM-AASHA despite the existence of MSP?

- (a) MSP is declared for all crops, but only pulses and oilseeds were left out of procurement.
- (b) MSP procurement is open-ended only for wheat and rice, while pulses, oilseeds, and copra needed additional support.
- (c) The scheme was introduced to replace MSP procurement by the government with private procurement.
- (d) Under PM-AASHA, all crops for which MSP is declared are covered under Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS).

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Option A is incorrect.** MSP is declared for 23 crops, but procurement was not guaranteed for all, not just pulses and oilseeds.
- **Option B is correct.** While MSP is announced for 23 crops, only wheat and rice have open-ended procurement. PM-AASHA was introduced to support farmers growing pulses, oilseeds, and copra.



- **Option C is incorrect.** PM-AASHA supplements MSP; it does not replace government procurement.
- **Option D is incorrect.** PDPS covers only oilseeds, not all MSP-declared crops.

Topic 434

434. Precision farming

- Precision farming, is an advanced agricultural technique that **uses modern technology** to **optimize the management** of crops and livestock.

Key Features of Precision Farming

1. Technology driven

- Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), satellite imagery, drones, and sensors.

2. Data specific management

- Real-time data about **soil moisture levels, nutrient content, crop health** are **basis for making decision.**

3. Site-Specific Management

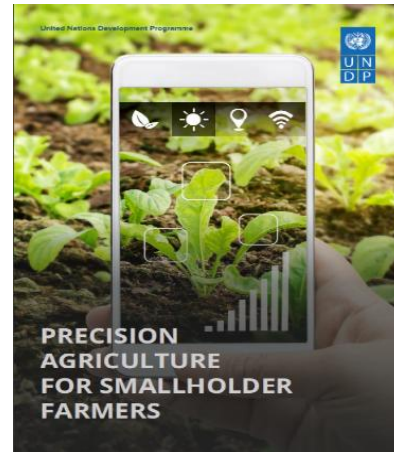
- Instead of treating an entire field uniformly, precision farming **allows farmers to treat each part of the field differently** based on its unique conditions.

4. Optimization of Resources

- By using data-driven insights, farmers can optimize the use of resources like water, fertilizers, and pesticides etc.

Current context

- The Indian government is planning to **allocate ₹6,000 crore** to promote **precision farming.**
- For this purpose a **new programme** named **Smart Precision Horticulture Programme** under the **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)** will be started.



Q1300. With reference to Precision Farming, consider the following statements:

1. Precision farming utilizes advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), drones, and satellite imagery to enhance agricultural productivity
2. It follows a one-size-fits-all approach, ensuring that all parts of a field receive the same amount of inputs such as water and fertilizers.
3. Precision farming is aimed at optimizing resource usage by making data-driven decisions regarding irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticide application.
4. The Indian government is promoting Precision Farming through the Smart Precision Horticulture Programme under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

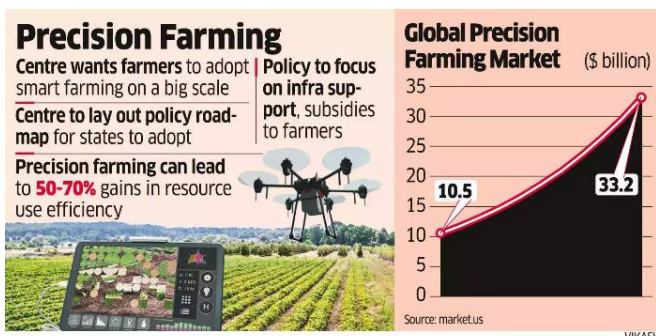
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Precision farming incorporates AI, drones, satellite imagery, and IoT for better decision-making.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Precision farming follows Site-Specific Management, meaning each part of a field is treated differently based on its specific needs, rather than applying a uniform approach.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Precision farming optimizes resource usage by leveraging data-driven insights.



- **Statement 4 is correct.** The government has allocated ₹6,000 crore for a Smart Precision Horticulture Programme under MIDH.

Q1301. Which of the following best describes the concept of "Site-Specific Management" in Precision Farming?

- (a) It involves treating an entire farm uniformly, ensuring all parts receive equal amounts of fertilizers and pesticides.
- (b) It refers to monitoring weather patterns to decide on the best time for sowing and harvesting crops.
- (c) It ensures that each section of a field is treated based on its unique conditions, rather than applying uniform treatment.
- (d) It primarily focuses on automating farm equipment to reduce human labour in agriculture.

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Option a is incorrect.** Precision farming does not use a uniform approach; it applies site-specific management based on data analysis.
- **Option b is incorrect.** While weather monitoring is used in precision farming, Site-Specific Management specifically refers to varying input applications within a single farm.
- **Option c is correct.** Site-Specific Management means different areas of a field receive customized treatment based on real-time data like soil health and moisture.
- **Option d is incorrect.** While automation can be part of precision farming, site-specific management is about targeted input application, not just automation.

Q1302. With reference to the Indian government's efforts in Precision Farming, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The government has proposed an allocation of ₹6,000 crore for promoting Precision Farming.
2. The Smart Precision Horticulture Programme is being launched under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM).
3. Precision Farming in India is being promoted under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
4. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) is a key part of government-led Precision Farming initiatives.

Select the correct option:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2 and 4
- (c) Only 1, 3, and 4
- (d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Indian government has indeed proposed ₹6,000 crore for promoting Precision Farming.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Smart Precision Horticulture Programme is not under NHM but under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
- **Statement 3 is correct.** MIDH is the actual scheme under which Precision Farming is being promoted.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** AI and IoT play a significant role in the government's push for Precision Farming, enabling real-time monitoring and automation.

Topic 435

435. Palm trees for protection against lightning

- Because of heating by Sun Rays water evaporates and moves vertically along with wind known as Convectional wind.
- The water vapor after moving to some height condensates into liquid.
- When the liquid drop becomes too heavy for the upward moving wind to carry along it drops it in the form of convectional rainfall.
- But the upward moving wind breaks some water droplets into ions(+ve and -ve).
- The movement of these ions leads to lightning.
- Lightning leads to sudden expansion of air that releases large sound known as thunderstorm.
- Some charges moves towards the Earth's surface causing lightning strike on Earth, causing damage to life and property.

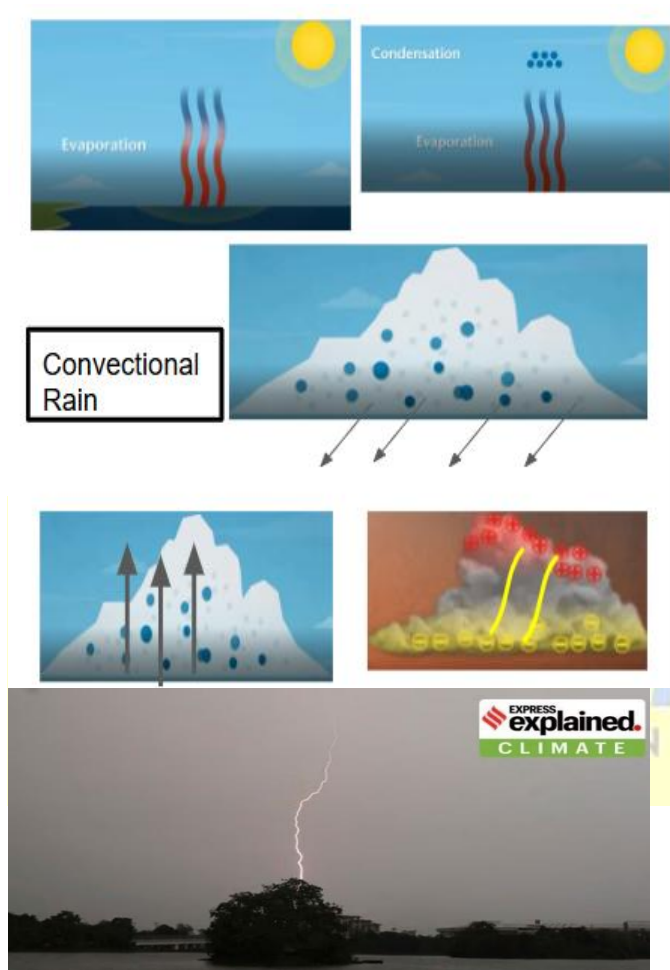
Current news?

- Odisha has initiated the plantation of 20 lakh palm trees as a protective measure against lightning strikes, focusing on vulnerable areas like schools.



Reason for Using Palm Trees

- Palm trees are considered **effective natural lightning conductors** due to their **height, moisture, and sap** (natural fluid of a plant), which can **absorb lightning** and **reduce its impact** on the ground.



Q1303. Regarding the formation of lightning, consider the following statements:

1. Convective wind carries water vapor upwards, which later condenses into liquid droplets.
2. The process of condensation never results in the formation of ions.
3. The breaking of water droplets into positive and negative ions contributes to the occurrence of lightning.
4. The loud sound associated with lightning is due to the sudden contraction of air.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two

- (c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol:-

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Convectional wind carries water vapor upwards, leading to condensation.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Some water droplets break into positive and negative ions due to upward moving winds, which can contribute to lightning formation.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The movement of ions results in charge buildup, leading to lightning.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Lightning causes the air to expand suddenly, not contract, leading to the sound known as thunder.

Q1304. Why has Odisha initiated the plantation of 20 lakh palm trees in lightning-prone areas?

- (a) Palm trees have a naturally strong root system that prevents lightning from striking.
- (b) Palm trees act as natural lightning conductors due to their height, moisture, and sap.
- (c) Palm trees absorb negative ions from the atmosphere, preventing lightning formation.
- (d) Palm trees reduce wind speed, preventing the buildup of convective currents.

Ans: b

Sol:

- Odisha has started planting palm trees in vulnerable areas such as schools because palm trees can effectively absorb lightning strikes, reducing their impact on the ground.
- Palm trees are not responsible for reducing wind speed (Option D) or absorbing negative ions (Option C).
- Their height, moisture, and sap (natural fluid) act as conductors, allowing them to dissipate lightning energy safely.

Q1305. Which of the following is/are correct regarding the relationship between convective winds, rainfall, and lightning?

1. Convective wind plays a key role in both cloud formation and lightning strikes.
2. Convective rainfall occurs when condensed water droplets become too heavy to remain suspended.



3. Lightning strikes on Earth due to charge accumulation in clouds and the movement of ions.
 4. Unlike thunder, lightning occurs without any significant air expansion or compression.

Select the correct option:

- (a) Only 1 and 3
 (b) Only 1, 2, and 3
 (c) Only 2 and 4
 (d) All four

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Convectional winds carry water vapor upwards, leading to both cloud formation and charge separation, which results in lightning strikes.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Once condensed water droplets become too heavy, they fall as convectional rainfall.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Lightning occurs due to charge accumulation in clouds and the movement of ions towards the ground.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Lightning causes rapid expansion of air, leading to thunder, so it is not independent of air expansion/compression.

Topic 436

436. International Conference of Agricultural Economists

- **International Association of Agricultural Economists** conducts an international conference **once every three years**.
- It is being held from 02 to 07 August 2024 and is **taking place in India after 65 years**.
- The **theme** for this year's conference is **"Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems."**

Purpose of the conference?

- To facilitate the **exchange of knowledge, ideas, and innovations** in the field of agricultural economics.
- To **addresses global challenges**

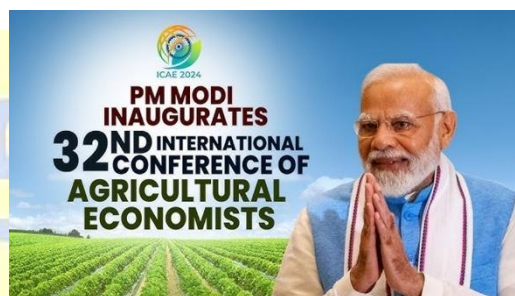
Highlights

1. Mentioned initiatives like **Soil Health Cards**, **e-NAM**, and **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi** to modernize Indian agriculture.
2. **Climate Smart Agriculture**

- Shri Anna or Millet as a solution given the superfood's quality of **'minimum water and maximum production'**.

Black Rice

- Preferred choice in northeast states due to its **health benefits**.
- Require **25% less water** compared to traditional varieties.
- Thus black rice is known as **superfood**.



Q1306. Why is Black Rice considered a superfood, particularly in Northeast India?

- (a) It is highly resistant to pests and requires no fertilizers.
 (b) It requires 25% less water compared to traditional rice varieties.
 (c) It can grow in arid desert conditions without irrigation.
 (d) It contains high amounts of starch, making it more energy-dense than white rice.

Ans: b

Sol: Black rice is preferred in Northeast India due to its health benefits and lower water requirements.

- **Option a is incorrect.** While black rice has nutritional benefits, it is not specifically known for pest resistance or being fertilizer-free.
- **Option c is incorrect.** It still needs adequate water and cannot survive in desert conditions without irrigation.



- **Option d is incorrect.** Black rice is nutrient-dense, but its main advantage is not high starch content, but rather high antioxidants and fiber.

Q1307. Which of the following agricultural initiatives were highlighted at the ICAE 2024 conference as part of India's modernization efforts?

1. Soil Health Cards
2. e-NAM (Electronic National Agriculture Market)
3. PM Kisan Samman Nidhi
4. National Food Security Act

Select the correct option:

- (a) Only 1 and 3
- (b) Only 1, 2, and 3
- (c) Only 2, 3, and 4
- (d) All four

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Soil Health Cards help farmers monitor soil fertility and nutrient levels.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** e-NAM promotes digital marketing of agricultural products.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** PM Kisan Samman Nidhi provides direct financial assistance to farmers.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** National Food Security Act (NFSA) is not mentioned in ICAE 2024 discussions; it deals with food distribution, not modernization of agriculture

Q1308. Regarding the International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE), consider the following statements:

1. The conference is held annually to discuss agricultural economic policies.
 2. The 2024 edition of the conference is being held in India after 65 years.
 3. The theme of the 2024 conference is "Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems."
 4. The conference is organized by the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE).
- How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) Only three
 - (d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) is held once every three years, not annually.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The 2024 edition is being held in India after 65 years.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The theme for ICAE 2024 is "Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems."
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) organizes the conference.

Topic 437

437. Megaquake advisory in Japan

- Japan comprises of **five main islands**- Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu, Okinawa (relatively smaller)-known for centenarians

Diaoyu/ Senkaku island dispute-

- **Japan** calls it **Senkaku**.
- **China** calls it **Diaoyu**.

Recent development

- A **7.1-magnitude earthquake** that recently struck **southern Japan**.
- Meteorological agency of Japan to issued a "**megquake advisory**" along Nankai trough.

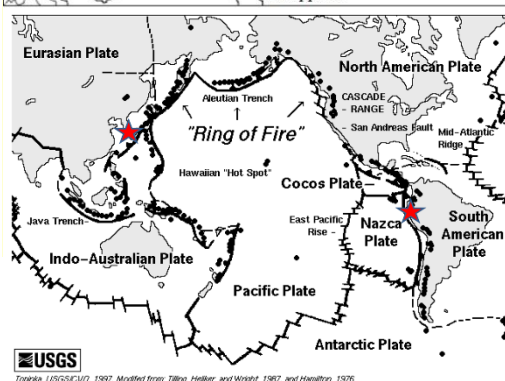
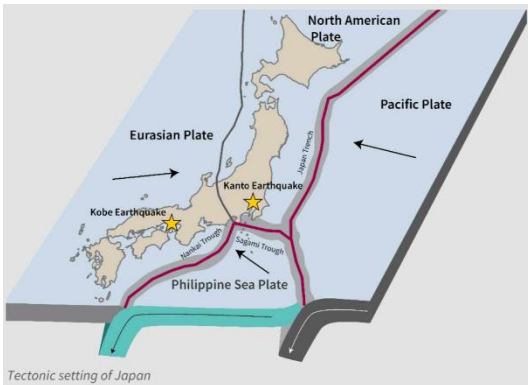
The Nankai Trough

- The Nankai Trough is a **900-km long** underwater subduction zone where the **Eurasian Plate collides** with the **Philippine Sea Plate**.
- It is part of **Pacific ring of fire**.

What is the Pacific Ring of Fire?

- The **Ring of Fire** traces the meeting points of **numerous tectonic plates boundaries**, including the **Eurasian, North American, Juan de Fuca, Cocos, Caribbean, Nazca, Antarctic, Indian, Australian, Philippine,** and other smaller plates.





- **Highest Earthquake** incidences are found along **Pacific Ring of Fire**.
- **90% of the world's earthquakes** take place in the region.

Q1309. Regarding Japan and its earthquake preparedness, consider the following statements:

1. Japan comprises five main islands: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu, and Okinawa.
2. Japan is relatively immune to earthquakes due to its geographic location outside the Pacific Ring of Fire.
3. A 7.1-magnitude earthquake recently struck southern Japan, triggering a megaquake advisory from Japan's Meteorological Agency.
4. Okinawa is the largest island of Japan.

How many of the above statement(s) are correct?

- (a) One only
- (b) Two only
- (c) Three only
- (d) Four only

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Japan consists of five main islands, including Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu, and Okinawa.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Japan is located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, making it highly susceptible to earthquakes.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** A recent 7.1-magnitude earthquake occurred in southern Japan, prompting the megaquake advisory.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Okinawa is relatively smaller, not the largest of Japan's main islands.

Q1310. Consider the following statements regarding the Nankai Trough and the Pacific Ring of Fire:

1. The Nankai Trough is a subduction zone where the Eurasian Plate collides with the Philippine Sea Plate.
2. The Nankai Trough is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region known for frequent volcanic and earthquake activity.
3. The Pacific Ring of Fire traces the meeting points of only three tectonic plates.
4. The Pacific Ring of Fire accounts for 90% of the world's earthquakes.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2 and 4
- (c) Only 1, 2, and 4
- (d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Nankai Trough is a subduction zone between the Eurasian Plate and Philippine Sea Plate.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The Nankai Trough is located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region with significant tectonic activity.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Pacific Ring of Fire traces the meeting points of numerous tectonic plates, not just three.



- **Statement 4 is correct.** The Pacific Ring of Fire experiences about 90% of the world's earthquakes.

Q1311. Regarding the ongoing Diaoyu/Senkaku island dispute, consider the following statements:

1. Japan refers to the disputed island chain as Senkaku.
 2. China refers to the disputed island chain as Diaoyu.
 3. The Senkaku/Diaoyu islands are part of Japan's mainland.
 4. The Senkaku/Diaoyu dispute is primarily about territorial control of natural resources in the region.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1, 2, and 4
- (c) Only 1 and 4
- (d) All four

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Japan refers to the disputed islands as Senkaku.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** China calls them Diaoyu.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Senkaku/Diaoyu islands are not part of Japan's mainland but are in the East China Sea.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The dispute centers on territorial control, including natural resources such as fishing rights and potential underwater oil and gas reserves.

Topic 438

438. Panama Canal facing restricted passage

- located in Central America, stretching across the Isthmus of Panama.
- It connects the Atlantic Ocean (via the Caribbean Sea) on the eastern side to the Pacific Ocean on the western side.

Construction History

- The U.S. government purchased an 8-kilometer wide area on either side of the canal, known as the Panama Canal Zone, which was under U.S. control until the canal was handed over to Panama in 1999.

Engineering systems of Panama Canal

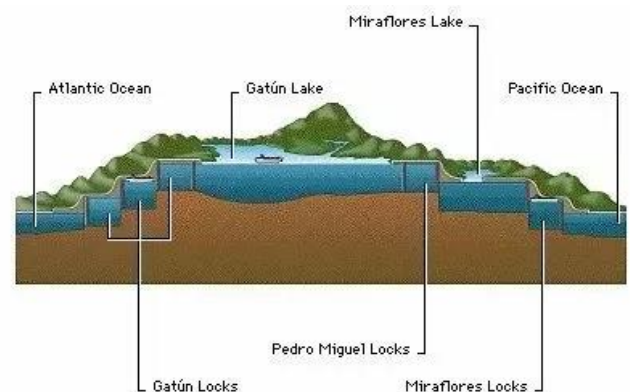
- There is elevation differences between the Atlantic and Pacific sides.
- The Atlantic side is slightly lower in elevation compared to the Pacific side.
- Thus the Panama Canal operates as a lock-based system to give necessary elevation for ships passing through it.
- Ships are lifted up to 85 feet above sea level to cross Gatun Lake (artificial lake created as part of the canal).
- After crossing the lake, ships are then lowered back down to sea level on the opposite side.

Why in news?

- The canal's operation has been increasingly impacted by climate change.
- The water levels in Gatun Lake, which are crucial for the lock operations has reduced.



Panama Canal shortens the distance between New York and San Francisco by 13,000 km by sea.



Q1312. Regarding the Panama Canal, consider the following statements:

1. The Panama Canal connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean through Central America.
2. The canal operates as a lock-based system to overcome the elevation difference between the Atlantic and Pacific sides.



3. The Panama Canal was handed over to Panama in 1999, after being under U.S. control since its construction.

4. The canal's main function is to directly link South America with North America.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Panama Canal connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The canal utilizes a lock-based system to adjust for the elevation difference between the two sides.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The canal was handed over to Panama in 1999, ending U.S. control.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** The canal links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans rather than directly linking South America with North America.

Q1313. Regarding the current situation with the Panama Canal, consider the following statements:

1. Climate change has affected the operation of the Panama Canal, specifically by lowering water levels in Gatun Lake.

2. The reduced water levels in Gatun Lake have made the lock operations of the canal more efficient.

3. The Panama Canal Zone was an area purchased by the U.S. government and was under U.S. control until 1999.

4. The Gatun Lake is an artificial lake that ships cross after being lifted in elevation via the Panama Canal locks.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Climate change has led to reduced water levels in Gatun Lake, affecting the canal's operations.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Lowered water levels in Gatun Lake are actually hindering the lock operations, not making them more efficient.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Panama Canal Zone was purchased by the U.S. and remained under U.S. control until 1999.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The Gatun Lake is an artificial lake that ships must cross after being raised in elevation through the canal locks.

Q1314. Consider the following statements about the Panama Canal and its impact on global shipping:

1. The Panama Canal helps ships navigate between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, reducing the need for longer sea routes around South America.

2. The Panama Canal was designed to accommodate only small vessels, making it unsuitable for modern large ships.

3. Climate change has led to a reduction in Gatun Lake water levels, impacting the canal's operational capacity.

4. The canal serves as an essential trade route for global shipping, connecting major maritime routes and reducing travel distances for cargo ships.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Panama Canal significantly reduces shipping distances between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Panama Canal is designed for large vessels and not just small ones.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Climate change has caused a reduction in the water levels of Gatun Lake, which affects the canal's ability to function properly.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The Panama Canal is a critical trade route that facilitates global shipping, reducing travel distances for cargo vessels.



Topic 439
439. Climate change making days longer

- Scientists found that the **climate change** is **interfering** with something as fundamental as **how the earth spins** around its axis.

How?

- When **polar ice melts**, the water flows to the **equator**, which makes the **earth bulge** out slightly.
- This **increases the moment of inertia**, and the **rotation rate slows** (due to basic concept of Physics known as **conservation of angular momentum**).
- This, **increases the time taken** to complete a rotation and thus **lengthening our day**.

What is the rate of slowdown?

- Over the last two decades, climate effects on sea levels around the equator have slowed the rate of the earth's rotation by around **1.3 milliseconds per century**.

Significance of the finding?

- This is **imperceptible to us**.
- But systems like **GPS, stock trading, and space travel** bank on **accurate** measures of time and can be impacted.

Conservation of Angular momentum

- Angular momentum is conserved in a system where **no external torques** (twisting forces) **act on the object**.
- If an **object's shape changes**, it's **angular speed will adjust** in such a way that the **total angular momentum remains constant**.



The Earth may further bulge around the Equator

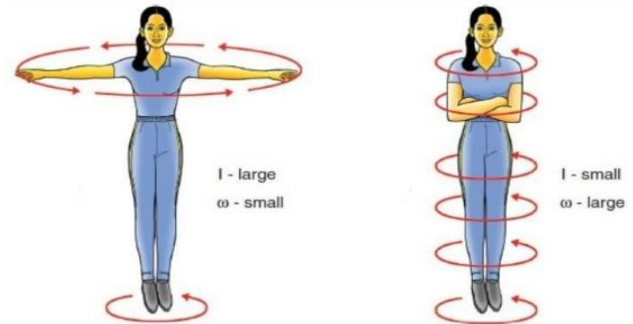


Figure 5.27 Conservation of angular momentum for ice dancer

Q1315. Consider the following statements regarding the impact of climate change on the Earth's rotation:

- The melting of polar ice leads to water flowing towards the equator, causing the Earth to bulge slightly.
- This bulging increases the moment of inertia, causing the Earth to rotate faster and shortening the length of a day.
- Due to this change, the Earth's rotation has slowed down by around 1.3 milliseconds per century over the last two decades.
- This slowdown in the Earth's rotation is imperceptible to human senses, but it may impact systems like GPS and space travel.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct.** The melting of polar ice causes the water to flow towards the equator, which results in the Earth bulging.
- Statement 2 is incorrect.** The bulging increases the moment of inertia, which causes the Earth's rotation to slow down, not speed up.
- Statement 3 is correct.** The Earth's rotation has indeed slowed by 1.3 milliseconds per century over the last two decades due to climate change.
- Statement 4 is correct.** While this slowdown is imperceptible to us, it can impact systems that rely on precise measurements of time, such as GPS and space travel.



Q1316. Regarding the concept of angular momentum and Earth's rotation, consider the following statements:

1. The conservation of angular momentum dictates that if an object's shape changes, its angular speed will adjust to keep the total angular momentum constant.
2. The slowdown of Earth's rotation due to climate change is caused by an increase in angular speed.
3. If water from the polar regions flows towards the equator, it affects the Earth's moment of inertia, leading to a slowdown in rotation.
4. The conservation of angular momentum explains how the Earth's moment of inertia changes as the polar ice melts and redistributes water.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Conservation of angular momentum ensures that when an object's shape changes, its angular speed adjusts to maintain constant angular momentum.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The melting of polar ice and redistribution of water causes the Earth's rotation to slow down, not increase.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The redistribution of water towards the equator affects the moment of inertia, which results in the Earth's rotation slowing down.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The conservation of angular momentum explains the changes in moment of inertia as polar ice melts and the water moves towards the equator.

Q1317. Which of the following statements correctly describe the consequences of climate change on the Earth's rotation?

1. The slowdown of the Earth's rotation is imperceptible to human senses but could affect technological systems requiring precise timekeeping.
2. GPS, space travel, and stock trading systems are examples of operations that rely on precise

time measurements and could be impacted by the gradual slowing of the Earth's rotation.

3. The Earth's rotation has been speeding up due to climate change and the melting of polar ice caps.
 4. The slowdown of the Earth's rotation has no observable impact on technological systems, as it occurs at a rate of 1.3 milliseconds per century.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The slowdown is imperceptible to human senses, but technological systems that rely on accurate timekeeping could be impacted.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** GPS, space travel, and stock trading systems could be affected due to the need for precise time measurements.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Earth's rotation has been slowing down, not speeding up, due to climate change.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** The slowing down of the Earth's rotation has potential impacts on technological systems, particularly those that rely on precise timekeeping.

Topic 440

440. Aphelion and Perihelion

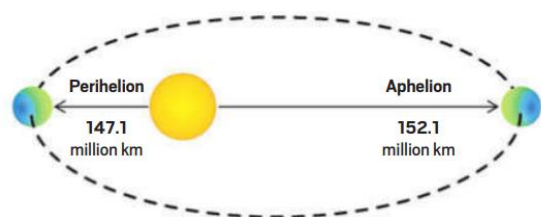
Earth's orbit around the Sun

- Earth revolves around the Sun in an **elliptical path**.

Why?

- All the **planets tend to jostle each other** around," **pulling their orbits** from **perfect circles**.
- It's literally this **chaotic tug of war** between small amounts of gravitational influence that the planets have on each other that does **not allow circular orbit**.





Aphelion

- It is the point of the Earth's orbit that is farthest away from the Sun.
- It always happens in early July, about two weeks after the June solstice.

Perihelion

- The point at which it is closest to the Sun.

Impact of Aphelion on Northern Hemisphere?

- Northern Hemisphere get 7% less sunlight at aphelion compared to what we are exposed to at perihelion.
- This leads to slightly milder summers and winters in the Northern Hemisphere.

Q1318. Consider the following statements about Earth's orbit and its points of Aphelion and Perihelion:

1. Earth's orbit around the Sun is elliptical due to the gravitational tug-of-war between the planets.
2. The Aphelion is the point in Earth's orbit where it is closest to the Sun, occurring in early July.
3. The Perihelion is the point in Earth's orbit where it is farthest from the Sun.
4. The Northern Hemisphere experiences 7% less sunlight at Aphelion compared to Perihelion.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Earth's orbit is elliptical, influenced by the gravitational pull of other planets.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Aphelion is when Earth is farthest from the Sun, not closest, and occurs in early July.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Perihelion is when Earth is closest to the Sun, not farthest.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** At Aphelion, the Northern Hemisphere receives 7% less sunlight compared to Perihelion, which leads to slightly milder seasons.

Q1319. Which of the following best explains the cause of Earth's elliptical orbit around the Sun?

1. The Earth's orbit is perfectly circular due to gravitational forces.
2. The elliptical orbit results from gravitational interactions between Earth and other planets in the Solar System.
3. The Sun's gravitational force exclusively governs Earth's circular path.
4. The elliptical orbit is the result of Earth's unique axial tilt and distance from the Sun.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Earth's orbit is elliptical, not perfectly circular, due to gravitational influences from other planets.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The elliptical orbit results from the gravitational tug-of-war between Earth and other planets.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Sun's gravity alone does not create a perfect circle but contributes to the overall elliptical path.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** The axial tilt and distance from the Sun do not determine the elliptical nature of Earth's orbit.

Q1320. Consider the following statements regarding the impact of Aphelion on the Northern Hemisphere:

1. Aphelion occurs in early July, and during this time, the Northern Hemisphere experiences 7% more sunlight than at Perihelion.
2. The Northern Hemisphere experiences slightly milder summers and winters at Aphelion due to receiving 7% less sunlight.
3. The Earth's orbit is at its farthest from the Sun during Aphelion, resulting in cooler temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere.
4. Aphelion and Perihelion cause significant changes in global climate due to Earth's proximity to the Sun.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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



Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Aphelion results in 7% less sunlight at that point, not more.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Due to receiving 7% less sunlight at Aphelion, the Northern Hemisphere experiences slightly milder summers and winters.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** At Aphelion, Earth is at its farthest point from the Sun, leading to cooler conditions.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Aphelion and Perihelion cause only slight variations in temperatures, not significant global climate changes.

Day 45

Topic 441

441. Green Revolution in Maize

- India witnessed Green Revolution in 1960's with high-yielding variety rice and wheat led to increase in production.
- There is another less celebrated revolution that has taken place in India ie Maize revolution.
- Between 1999-2000 and 2023-24, annual production of maize has more than tripled, with average per-hectare yields rising from 1.8 to 3.3 tonnes.

Maize crop

- Both kharif (83% area) and rabi crop (17% area).
- India ranks 4th in area and 7th in production.
- The largest producer of maize/corn in the world is the United States.

New varieties of maize

- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has bred India's first "waxy" maize hybrid with high starch content, making it better suited for ethanol production.

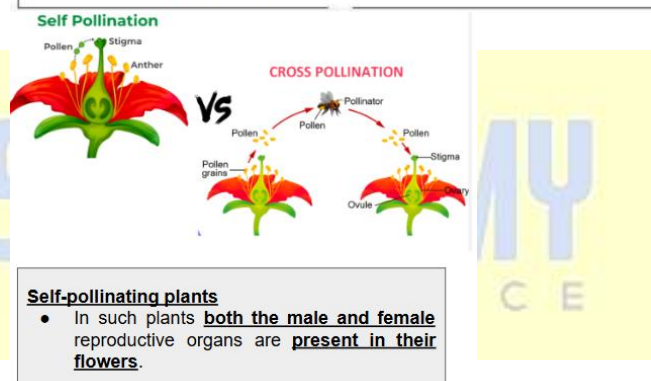
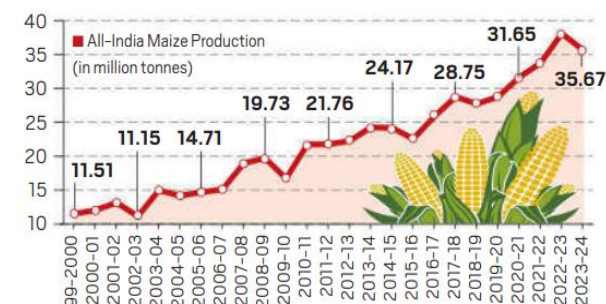
Hybridization of crops

- Rice and wheat are self-pollinated plant but it can be hybridized.
- Maize plant can cross-pollinate makes hybrid breeding a commercial profitable endeavour.

RISE IN MAIZE PRODUCTION OVER LAST TWO DECADES



India's maize production peaked in 2022-23 at just over 38 mt. ExpressArchive



Q1321. Consider the following statements regarding the Green Revolution in Maize:

1. The Green Revolution in India primarily focused on rice and wheat, while maize saw a significant but less celebrated increase in production.
 2. Between 1999-2000 and 2023-24, maize production in India has more than tripled due to improved yields.
 3. India is the largest producer of maize in the world.
 4. The majority of maize cultivation in India takes place in the rabi season.
- How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b



Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Green Revolution mainly focused on rice and wheat, but maize has also seen a significant rise in production, termed as a "Maize Revolution."
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Maize production has tripled from 1999-2000 to 2023-24, with per-hectare yields rising from 1.8 to 3.3 tonnes.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** India is ranked 4th in maize cultivation area and 7th in production. The United States is the largest producer of maize in the world.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Maize is primarily a kharif crop in India, with 83% of the area under cultivation during the kharif season and 17% in rabi.

Q1322. Consider the following statements regarding maize crop and hybridization:

1. Maize is a cross-pollinating crop, making it suitable for commercial hybrid breeding.
2. Hybridization is possible in wheat and rice although they are self-pollinating plants.
3. India's first "waxy" maize hybrid, bred by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), has a high starch content suitable for ethanol production.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Maize is a cross-pollinating plant, making it highly suitable for hybrid breeding, which enhances yields and profits.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Hybridization is possible in wheat and rice although they are self-pollinating plants.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** IARI has developed India's first "waxy" maize hybrid with high starch content, making it ideal for ethanol production.

Q1323. Consider the following statements regarding maize production and its global significance:

1. India ranks 4th in maize cultivation area and 7th in production globally.
2. Maize in India is primarily a kharif crop, but it is also grown in the rabi season.
3. The United States is the largest producer of maize in the world due to its extensive mechanized farming practices.
4. Maize production in India has remained stagnant over the last two decades due to a lack of high-yielding varieties.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** India ranks 4th in maize cultivation area and 7th in production globally.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** While maize is primarily a kharif crop (83% of cultivation area), it is also grown during the rabi season (17% of cultivation area).
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The United States is the world's largest maize producer, largely due to its mechanized large-scale agriculture.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Maize production in India has increased significantly over the last two decades, tripling between 1999-2000 and 2023-24, thanks to high-yielding varieties.

Topic 442

442. Agri sure Fund

- Launched by **Ministry of Agriculture** and **NABARD**
- **Rs 750 crore fund**
- **Purpose- tech based intervention** in agriculture sector

Funding

- NABARD: ₹250 crore
- Ministry of Agriculture: ₹250 crore
- Other institutions: ₹250 crore

Who is eligible for funding?

- Innovative startups in agriculture & allied sectors.



- The fund will offer both equity and debt support.

How much funding is available per startup?

- Up to ₹25 crore.

What areas will the fund focus on?

- Technology-driven solutions for agriculture, rural development.

How will the fund be managed?

- By Nabventures, a NABARD subsidiary.



Examples of potential investments:

1. Precision farming solutions using drones and AI.
2. Supply chain platforms connecting farmers with markets.
3. Innovative food processing technologies.
4. Rural fintech solutions for financial inclusion.

Q1324. Consider the following statements regarding the Agri Sure Fund:

1. The fund has been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with NABARD.
2. The total corpus of the fund is ₹1,000 crore to support agri-tech startups.
3. The fund provides both equity and debt support to eligible startups.
4. The fund will be managed by Nabventures, a subsidiary of NABARD.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Ministry of Agriculture and NABARD have jointly launched the Agri Sure Fund.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The total corpus of the fund is ₹750 crore, not ₹1,000 crore.

- **Statement 3 is correct.** The fund offers both equity and debt support to startups.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The fund will be managed by Nabventures, a subsidiary of NABARD.

Q1325. Consider the following statements regarding the funding and focus areas of the Agri Sure Fund:

1. NABARD and the Ministry of Agriculture each contribute ₹250 crore to the fund.
2. The maximum funding available for an individual startup is ₹50 crore.
3. The fund will primarily focus on technology-driven solutions for agriculture and rural development.
4. Precision farming solutions using drones and AI are among the potential investment areas.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** NABARD and the Ministry of Agriculture each contribute ₹250 crore, while other institutions contribute another ₹250 crore, making a total of ₹750 crore.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The maximum funding per startup is ₹25 crore, not ₹50 crore.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The fund focuses on technology-driven solutions for agriculture and rural development.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** Precision farming solutions using drones and AI are among the key areas of investment.

Q1326. Which of the following is/are eligible for funding under the Agri Sure Fund?

1. A startup developing AI-powered precision farming solutions.
2. A company providing supply chain platforms connecting farmers with markets.
3. A financial institution offering general banking services to urban customers.
4. A startup working on rural fintech solutions for financial inclusion.

Which of the above options is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2, and 4 only



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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Option 1 is correct.** AI-powered precision farming solutions align with the fund's objective.
- **Option 2 is correct.** Supply chain platforms connecting farmers with markets are among the potential investment areas.
- **Option 3 is incorrect.** The fund does not support general banking services but focuses on rural fintech solutions for financial inclusion.
- **Option 4 is correct.** The fund targets rural fintech solutions for financial inclusion to benefit farmers and rural communities.

Topic 443

443. Embankments on Brahmaputra

- Annual floods are not unusual for Assam.

Factors

1. Funnel shaped topography
2. Siltation on Brahmaputra bed
3. Narrow valley

Assam earthquake of 1950

- Added enormous amounts of sediments to river bed increasing flood intensity.

What should be done?

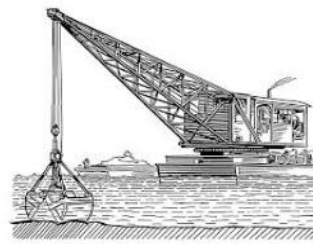
1. Conduct regular dredging of rivers to manage sediment and improve flow
2. Arrest soil erosion along riverbanks through modern techniques like Geobags

Embankments on Brahmaputra to curb flood

- in 1951, a committee headed by G R Garg opposed the idea of embankments. Yet embankments were created.

Long term negative Impact of embankments-

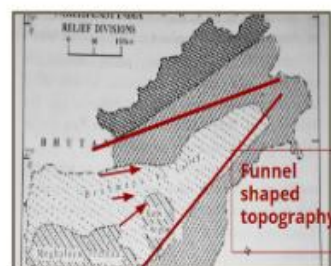
1. floodplains became drier, human habitation moved closer to the river, putting their lives and properties at risk.
2. Coarse silt and sand are heavily deposited on the river beds- reducing fertility of Assam plains and increasing intensity of floods.



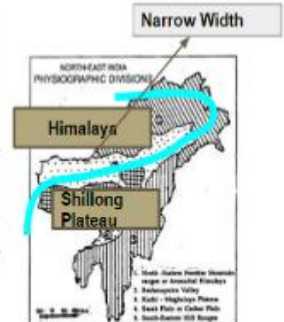
Dredging- clear the bed of (a harbour, river, or other area of water) by **scooping out mud, weeds, and rubbish with a dredge**.



Sand-filled geobags being used for protection of the Brahmaputra riverbank at Hekru in Guwahati, on Saturday - IRI Photos

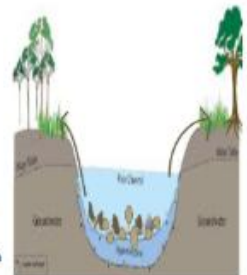


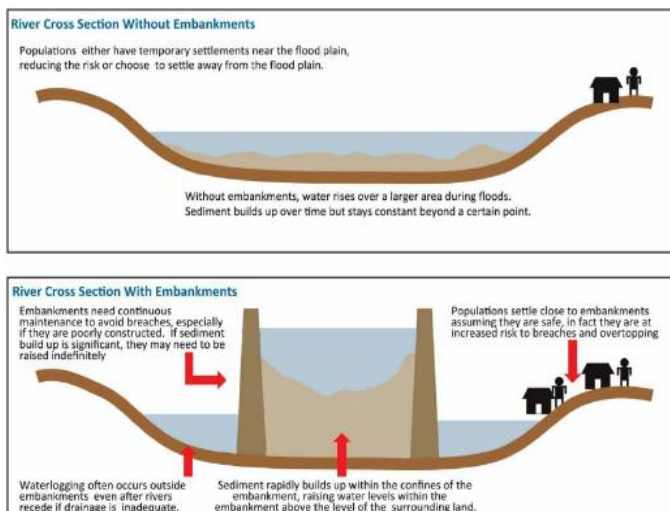
Monsoon winds get trapped and causes huge rainfall



Because of Narrow Width of Brahmaputra Valley there is problem of Flood

Siltation





National Flood Commission (1976-1980)

- It concluded that **post-embankment** Assam's situation had been **made worse**.

Q1327. Consider the following statements regarding factors contributing to Assam's annual floods:

1. The funnel-shaped topography of the region intensifies flooding.
2. The 1950 Assam earthquake significantly increased sediment levels in the Brahmaputra, worsening flood conditions.
3. The narrow valley of the Brahmaputra River allows floodwaters to drain quickly, reducing flood duration.
4. Siltation on the riverbed leads to reduced water-carrying capacity, exacerbating floods.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The funnel-shaped topography of the region traps water, worsening flood conditions.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The 1950 Assam earthquake deposited massive amounts of sediment, raising the riverbed and intensifying floods.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The narrow valley actually restricts drainage, prolonging the

impact of floods instead of reducing their duration.

- **Statement 4 is correct.** Siltation on the riverbed reduces the river's water-carrying capacity, increasing flood risks.

Q1328. Consider the following statements regarding embankments on the Brahmaputra River:

1. A 1951 committee led by G. R. Garg opposed embankments, yet they were built.
2. The National Flood Commission (1976-1980) found that embankments had improved Assam's flood situation.
3. One of the long-term consequences of embankments is that coarse silt and sand get deposited on riverbeds, reducing soil fertility.
4. Embankments caused human settlements to move closer to the river, increasing vulnerability to floods.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:-

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The 1951 committee led by G. R. Garg opposed embankments, but they were constructed anyway.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The National Flood Commission (1976-1980) concluded that embankments had worsened Assam's flood situation.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Coarse silt and sand deposit heavily on riverbeds, reducing soil fertility and increasing flood risks.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** Embankments dried up floodplains, forcing people to settle closer to the river, making them more vulnerable to floods.

Q1329. Which of the following measures can help mitigate the impact of floods in Assam?

1. Conducting regular dredging of rivers to manage sediment levels.
2. Using Geobags and modern techniques to control riverbank erosion.
3. Constructing more embankments to contain floodwaters.



4. Reducing human settlements near riverbanks to minimize loss of life and property.

Which of the above options is/are correct?

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

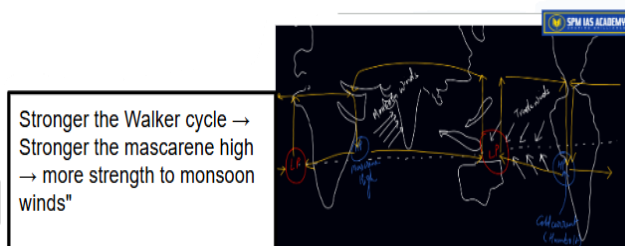
Ans: a

Sol:

- **Option 1 is correct.** Regular dredging helps remove excess sediment, improving the river's capacity to handle floodwaters.
- **Option 2 is correct.** Geobags and modern erosion control methods help stabilize riverbanks, reducing flood damage.
- **Option 3 is incorrect.** Constructing more embankments has historically worsened Assam's flood situation by trapping sediment and increasing risks.
- **Option 4 is correct.** Restricting human settlements near riverbanks can reduce flood-related casualties and property damage.

Topic 444

444. Bayesian Convolutional Neural Network for ENSO



La-Nina

- Strong trade winds in the Southern Pacific—warm North East Australian coast —cold Peru coast
- Strong Mascarene HP-**Good Monsoon in India**

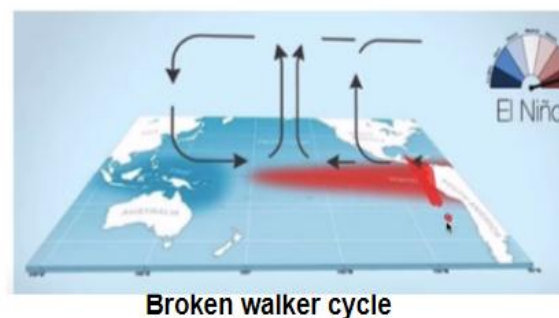
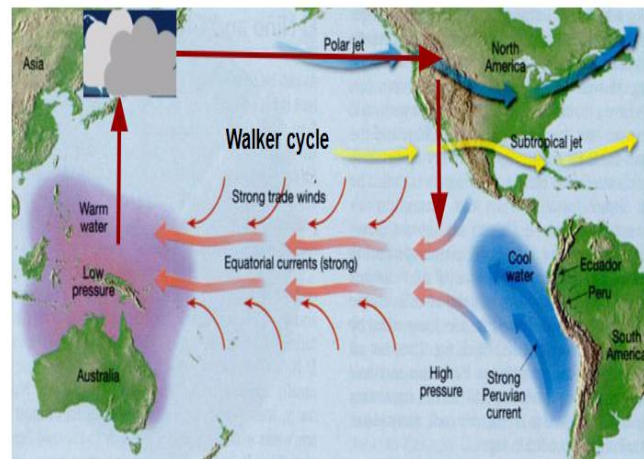
El-Nino

- Weak trade winds in the Southern Pacific-cold Northeast Australian coast warm Peru coast

- Weaker Mascrene-**Poor Monsoon in India**/Drought in Australia/Increased rainfall-Peru Coast

ENSO (El-Nino Southern Oscillation)

- Cycle of La-Nina and El Nino



What is the news?

- **INCOIS** has developed Bayesian Convolutional Neural Network (BCNN) an AI tool to predict EL NINO.

INCOIS (Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services)

- Hyderabad
- Under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

Q1330. Consider the following statements regarding La Niña and El Niño:

1. La Niña is characterized by strong trade winds in the Southern Pacific, which lead to warming near the northeast Australian coast and cooling near the Peru coast.
2. El Niño results in weakened trade winds, leading to cooler waters near the northeast Australian coast and warmer waters near the Peru coast.
3. A stronger Mascarene High is associated with weaker monsoon winds over India.



4. The ENSO (El Niño-Southern Oscillation) cycle consists of alternating phases of El Niño and La Niña.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** La Niña is characterized by strong trade winds, warm waters near the northeast Australian coast, and cold waters near the Peru coast.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** El Niño occurs when trade winds weaken, resulting in cooler waters near Australia and warmer waters near the Peru coast.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** A stronger Mascarene High leads to stronger monsoon winds, not weaker ones.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** ENSO represents the cyclic transition between El Niño and La Niña phases.

Q1331. Consider the following statements regarding the Bayesian Convolutional Neural Network (BCNN):

1. It has been developed by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) to predict El Niño.
2. INCOIS operates under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is headquartered in Hyderabad.
3. BCNN is a machine learning model that uses Bayesian probability to improve the accuracy of ENSO predictions.
4. The strength of the Walker Circulation has no impact on BCNN's predictive accuracy.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Bayesian Convolutional Neural Network (BCNN) was developed by INCOIS for predicting El Niño.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** INCOIS is headquartered in Hyderabad and functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- **Statement 3 is correct.** BCNN is an AI-based model that applies Bayesian probability to improve ENSO forecasts.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** The strength of the Walker Circulation impacts the accuracy of BCNN predictions, as it influences the formation of El Niño and La Niña events.

Q1332. Which of the following statements correctly explain the relationship between the Walker Circulation, Mascarene High, and Indian Monsoon?

1. A stronger Walker Circulation leads to a stronger Mascarene High, which in turn strengthens the monsoon winds over India.
 2. A weaker Walker Circulation results in a weaker Mascarene High, leading to poor monsoon conditions in India.
 3. The Mascarene High is a low-pressure system located in the Southern Hemisphere that influences monsoon winds.
 4. During El Niño, the Walker Circulation weakens, leading to drought-like conditions in India.
- How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** A stronger Walker Circulation strengthens the Mascarene High, increasing the strength of monsoon winds in India.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** A weaker Walker Circulation leads to a weaker Mascarene High, reducing monsoon strength and potentially causing droughts in India.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Mascarene High is a high-pressure system, not a low-pressure system.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** El Niño weakens the Walker Circulation, disrupting normal monsoon patterns and leading to deficient rainfall in India.



Topic 445
445. Direct Seeding of Rice vs Traditional Seeding

Two methods of Rice seeding-

1. Traditional seeding of Rice

- Traditionally, paddy farmers prepare nurseries where seeds are first sown.
- After 25-35 days, the young seedlings are uprooted and replanted, in the flooded main field.
- Benefits-maximise yields/better crop health
- Issues- labour and water-intensive

2. Direct Seeding of Rice (known as 'tar-wattar' technique)

- Paddy seeds are directly sown, roughly 20-30 days prior to when they would have been transplanted.

Seed treatment

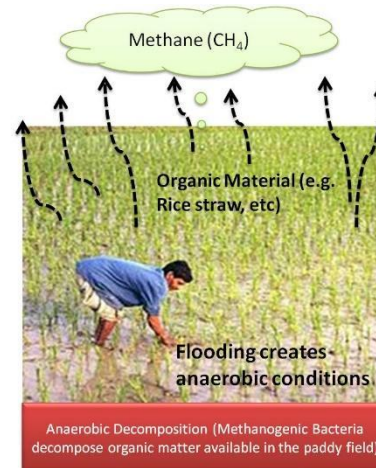
- Seed treatment is a crucial step in DSR.
- Seeds soaked in a fungicide solution for eight hours, then dried for half a day before sowing.

Advantage of DSR over traditional seeding

- Water conservation
- Save labour cost
- Reduce Methane pollution-since no water logging is required
- Crop maturity-7 to 10 days sooner than traditional method

Issues with DSR

- Weed management is difficult/Laser Land levelling required/High Nitrous Oxide emissions/Specific soil texture is required in DSR


Rice Paddy Field


Laser land leveling (LLL) is a laser-guided technology used to level fields by removing soil from high points of the field and depositing it in low points of the field.



Q1333. Consider the following statements regarding Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR):

- In DSR, paddy seeds are directly sown in the field without transplanting, which reduces labor costs and water usage.
- One of the major advantages of DSR is that it helps in reducing methane emissions from rice fields.
- DSR eliminates the need for seed treatment as seeds are sown directly into the soil.
- Crop maturity in DSR takes longer than in traditional transplanting methods.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a



Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** In DSR, paddy seeds are directly sown, reducing the need for labor-intensive transplanting and minimizing water use.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Since DSR does not require continuous waterlogging, it helps in reducing methane emissions, which occur due to anaerobic decomposition in flooded fields.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Seed treatment is essential in DSR, where seeds are soaked in a fungicide solution before sowing.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** DSR leads to faster crop maturity (7-10 days earlier than traditional methods).

Q1334. Which of the following are the key challenges associated with Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR)?

1. Higher emissions of nitrous oxide compared to traditional transplanting.
2. Increased dependency on herbicides due to weed management issues.
3. High requirement for laser land leveling for efficient water retention.
4. DSR is suitable for all types of soil, making it widely adaptable.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** DSR leads to higher nitrous oxide emissions due to increased soil aeration and fertilizer use.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Weed management is more difficult in DSR, leading to greater dependence on herbicides.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Laser land leveling is required in DSR to ensure even water distribution and uniform seed placement.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** DSR requires specific soil textures (well-drained loamy soils), making it less adaptable to all regions.

Q1335. Which of the following best describes the differences between Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) and Traditional Transplanting?

Feature	Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR)	Traditional Transplanting
Water Requirement	(i) Less water required	(ii) High water requirement
Labor Intensity	(iii) Less labor needed	(iv) More labor needed
Methane Emissions	(v) Higher methane emissions	(vi) Lower methane emissions
Crop Maturity	(vii) Takes longer to mature	(viii) Matures faster

Which of the following correctly matches the features?

- (a) (i), (iii), (vi), (viii)
- (b) (i), (iii), (v), (vii)
- (c) (i), (iii), (v), (viii)
- (d) (i), (iii), (vi), (vii)

Ans: c

Sol:

- (i) Less water required (DSR) → Correct
- (iii) Less labor needed (DSR) → Correct
- (v) Higher methane emissions (DSR) → Incorrect (DSR reduces methane emissions)
- (vi) Lower methane emissions (Traditional Transplanting) → Incorrect (Traditional methods cause more methane emissions)
- (vii) Takes longer to mature (DSR) → Incorrect (DSR leads to faster crop maturity)
- (viii) Matures faster (DSR) → Correct

Topic 446

446. "Land of Fire and Ice"

- Iceland, with its **glaciers and volcanoes**, is the **"Land of Fire and Ice."**
- Iceland is one of the most **volcanically active regions** on the **planet**.
- It is a part of the **Scandinavia**.

Scandinavia

- Scandinavia is a **subregion of Northern Europe** **includes Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland**.

Reason behind frequent volcanic eruption in Iceland

1. **Mid-Atlantic Ridge**

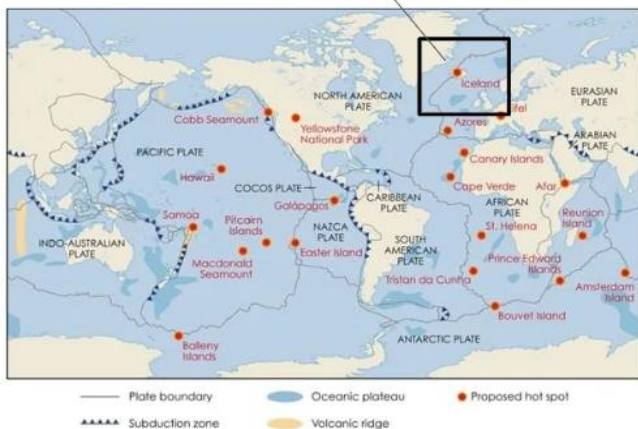


- Iceland sits on the **Mid-Atlantic Ridge** (part of the longest mountain range in the world) in the North Atlantic Ocean.
 - **Eurasian and North American plates** are **moving apart** a few centimetres every year.
2. **Iceland location over a Hotspot**



2 factors combined-

1. Mid Oceanic Ridges
2. Hot Spot



Q1336. Consider the following statements regarding Iceland's geological characteristics:

1. Iceland is situated on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates are moving apart.
2. Iceland experiences frequent volcanic activity due to both its position on a divergent plate boundary and its location over a hotspot.
3. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is the longest mountain range in the world.
4. Iceland is the only country entirely located on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Iceland lies on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the Eurasian and North American plates are diverging.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Iceland's volcanic activity results from both plate divergence and its hotspot location.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is the longest mountain range on Earth, extending over 40,000 km.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** While Iceland is one of the few habitable places on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, it is not the only country located on it. The Ridge extends into the Atlantic Ocean, affecting multiple countries.

Q1337. Which of the following statements about Iceland's geographical and cultural identity are correct?

1. Iceland is often called the "Land of Fire and Ice" due to its glaciers and volcanic activity.
2. Iceland is part of the Scandinavian region.
3. Iceland is the only Nordic country that does not belong to the European continent.
4. The Scandinavian region consists of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark only.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Iceland is called the "Land of Fire and Ice" due to its glaciers and active volcanoes.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Iceland is considered part of the Scandinavian region, along with Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Iceland is a Nordic country and is not geographically part of mainland Europe.



- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** While Norway, Sweden, and Denmark form traditional Scandinavia, Finland and Iceland are often included in a broader definition of the Scandinavian region.

Q1338. Which of the following correctly explains the geological reason behind Iceland's frequent volcanic eruptions?

Geological Factor	Description
(i) Hotspot Volcanism	(A) Iceland is positioned above a mantle plume that supplies magma from deep inside the Earth.
(ii) Convergent Plate Boundary	(B) Iceland is located where two tectonic plates are colliding, leading to subduction and volcanic activity.
(iii) Mid-Atlantic Ridge	(C) Iceland lies along a tectonic boundary where plates are moving apart, allowing magma to rise.
(iv) Transform Fault	(D) Iceland experiences frequent earthquakes, but no volcanic eruptions occur along transform faults.

Which of the following correctly matches the geological factors?

- (a) (i) → A, (ii) → B, (iii) → C, (iv) → D
 (b) (i) → A, (ii) → D, (iii) → C, (iv) → B
 (c) (i) → A, (ii) → C, (iii) → B, (iv) → D
 (d) (i) → A, (ii) → C, (iii) → D, (iv) → B

Ans: a

Sol:

- (i) Hotspot Volcanism → (A) Correct. Iceland sits over a hotspot, which brings magma from deep within the Earth.
- (ii) Convergent Plate Boundary → (B) Incorrect. Iceland is not at a convergent boundary; instead, it is on a divergent boundary.
- (iii) Mid-Atlantic Ridge → (C) Correct. Iceland lies on a divergent boundary, where plates are moving apart, allowing magma to surface.
- (iv) Transform Fault → (D) Correct. Transform faults cause earthquakes but do not create volcanic activity.

447. Digital Agri Mission

- The Indian government has launched the **Digital Agri Mission**.

Aim of the mission

- Transforming the agricultural sector through digital technology.

Key Components

1. Farmers' Database

- A comprehensive database of farmers, capturing details such as landholding, crop cultivation, and income.

2. Soil Health Card Scheme

- A scheme providing soil health cards to farmers, enabling them to make informed decisions about fertilizers and crop selection.

3. Crop Insurance Scheme (PM Fasal Bima Yojana)

- An insurance scheme protecting farmers from crop failures and natural calamities.

4. Digital Agricultural Marketplace

- An online platform connecting farmers with buyers, processors, and exporters.

5. Digital Land Record System (help in land reforms)-integrated with SVAMITVA Scheme

- A digital platform for maintaining land records and ensuring secure ownership rights. This will help landless farmers to get land on rent to practice agriculture



Benefits of the mission

1. Enhanced agricultural productivity and efficiency
2. Improved farmers' income and livelihoods
3. Increased transparency and accountability in agricultural governance

Q1339. Consider the following statements regarding the Digital Agri Mission:

Topic 447



1. The mission aims to transform the agricultural sector using digital technology.
2. The Digital Land Record System under this mission is integrated with the SVAMITVA scheme.
3. The Digital Agricultural Marketplace aims to facilitate direct interactions between farmers and buyers.
4. The mission primarily focuses on large-scale commercial farming and excludes small and marginal farmers.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Digital Agri Mission seeks to digitally transform agriculture by leveraging technology.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The Digital Land Record System under this mission is linked with the SVAMITVA Scheme, which provides rural land ownership records.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Digital Agricultural Marketplace helps connect farmers with buyers, processors, and exporters, increasing market access.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** The mission does not exclude small and marginal farmers; rather, it aims to improve their access to digital tools and markets.

Q1340. Which of the following pairs related to key components of the Digital Agri Mission are correctly matched?

Component	Description
(i) Farmers' Database	(A) Provides information on soil health to improve crop yield.
(ii) Soil Health Card Scheme	(B) Aims to digitize land records and integrate them with the SVAMITVA scheme.
(iii) Crop Insurance Scheme	(C) Protects farmers from financial loss due to crop failures.

(iv) Digital Agricultural Marketplace	(D) An online platform for connecting farmers with buyers.
---------------------------------------	--

Select the correct option:

- (a) (i) → A, (ii) → B, (iii) → C, (iv) → D
- (b) (i) → B, (ii) → A, (iii) → C, (iv) → D
- (c) (i) → A, (ii) → C, (iii) → B, (iv) → D
- (d) (i) → D, (ii) → C, (iii) → A, (iv) → B

Ans: b

Sol:

- (i) Farmers' Database → Incorrect (A) → It does not provide soil health information but captures farmer details such as landholding, crop patterns, and income.
- (ii) Soil Health Card Scheme → Correct (A) → It helps farmers make informed fertilizer and crop decisions.
- (iii) Crop Insurance Scheme → Correct (C) → It protects farmers from financial losses due to crop failure or natural calamities.
- (iv) Digital Agricultural Marketplace → Correct (D) → It connects farmers with buyers, processors, and exporters.

Q1341. Which of the following are benefits of the Digital Agri Mission?

1. Increased transparency and accountability in agricultural governance.
2. Reduction in government subsidies for farmers.
3. Enhanced agricultural productivity and efficiency through digital tools.
4. Improvement in farmers' income and livelihoods.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Digital interventions increase transparency and accountability in agricultural governance.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The mission does not aim to reduce subsidies but rather improves access to technology and financial support.



- **Statement 3 is correct.** The use of digital tools enhances agricultural productivity and efficiency.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** Farmers' income and livelihoods improve through better market access and financial security.

Topic 448

448. Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- a global partnership of national governments, United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks and the private sector.

Aim

- To increase the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks.

Origin

- Launched in **2019**, at the **United Nations Climate Action Summit** in New York.
- Indian **PM Modi** **proposed** CDRI during his **speech at the UN Climate Action Summit**.
- CDRI complements **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)**.

Sendai Framework

- adopted at the **Third UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (UNCDR)** in **Sendai, Japan** in 2015.
- It is the successor instrument to the **Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015)**.
- The Sendai framework will apply to the risk caused by natural or manmade hazards (technological and biological hazards)
- It is a non binding agreement.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

1 OUTCOME

The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries

1 GOAL

Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, culture, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience

4 PRIORITIES

Understanding disaster risk	Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
Involving in disaster risk reduction for resilience	Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

7 TARGETS

- To Decrease**
- ↓ DISASTER MORTALITY BY 2030
 - ↓ NUMBER OF AFFECTED PEOPLE BY 2030
 - ↓ ECONOMIC LOSS BY 2030
 - ↓ INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE BY 2030
- To Increase**
- ↑ DRR NATIONAL/LOCAL STRATEGIES BY 2030
 - ↑ INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BY 2030
 - ↑ EWS AND DR INFORMATION BY 2030

- According to Sendai framework, every \$1 spent in disaster risk reduction leads to gain of \$7.

Q1342. Consider the following statements regarding the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):

1. It is a global partnership that includes national governments, UN agencies, and the private sector.
2. The initiative was launched in 2015 as part of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
3. The primary goal of CDRI is to enhance the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks.
4. CDRI was proposed by the Prime Minister of India at the UN Climate Action Summit.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** CDRI is a global partnership that includes national governments, UN agencies, and the private sector.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** CDRI was launched in 2019, not 2015.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The main goal of CDRI is to increase the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** Indian PM Modi proposed CDRI at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019.

Q1343. Which of the following statements regarding the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction are correct?

1. It was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015.
2. It is a legally binding international agreement.
3. It applies to disaster risks caused by both natural and manmade hazards.
4. The Sendai Framework replaced the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015).



Select the correct option:

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Sendai Framework was adopted in 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Sendai Framework is non-binding, meaning countries are not legally obligated to follow it.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The framework covers risks from natural, technological, and biological hazards.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The Sendai Framework replaced the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015).

Q1344. According to the Sendai Framework, how does investment in disaster risk reduction impact economic returns?

- (a) Every \$1 spent in disaster risk reduction leads to a gain of \$4.
- (b) Every \$1 spent in disaster risk reduction leads to a gain of \$7.
- (c) Every \$1 spent in disaster risk reduction leads to a gain of \$10.
- (d) Every \$1 spent in disaster risk reduction leads to a gain of \$5.

Ans: b

Sol: The Sendai Framework emphasizes that investing in disaster risk reduction provides significant economic benefits. It states that every \$1 spent on disaster risk reduction results in a \$7 gain, as it helps mitigate damage, prevent loss of life, and reduce economic disruptions.

Topic 449

449. National Disaster Management Authority

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the **apex statutory body** for disaster management in India.
- Created as per **Disaster Management Act, 2005.**

- **Prime Minister as its Chairperson** and nine other members (one amongst them is Vice Chairperson).

Mandate

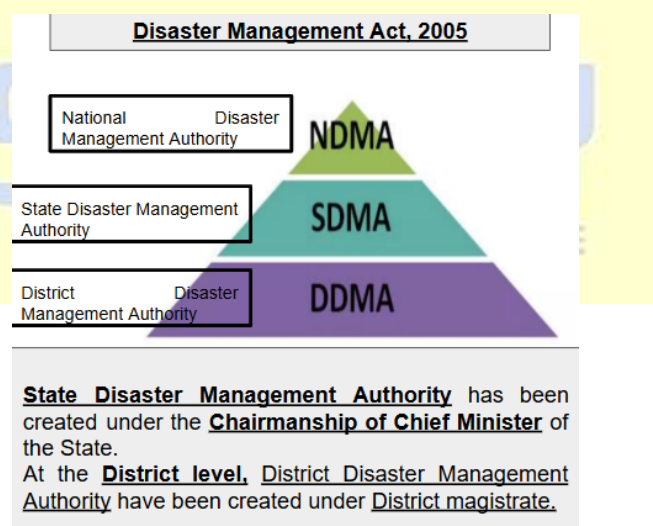
- Primary purpose is to coordinate response to natural or man-made disasters
- Capacity-building against disaster
- lay down policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management
- Prepared National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009

Current news?

- **Heatwaves** has been **notified disasters** under the **Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005.**

Currently, there are 12 categories of disasters which are notified under this Act-

- These are cyclones, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, and frost and cold waves.
- Heat wave is 13th notified disaster.



Q1345. Consider the following statements regarding the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):

1. It is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India, created under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
2. The NDMA is headed by the union home minister, with nine other members.
3. NDMA is responsible for formulating disaster management policies, capacity-building, and disaster response coordination.
4. The NDMA formulated the National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009.



How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The NDMA is a statutory body, established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The NDMA is chaired by the Prime Minister of India, not the union home minister.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** NDMA's responsibilities include disaster response coordination, policy formulation, and capacity-building.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** NDMA formulated the National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009.

Q1346. Which of the following disasters were already notified under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, before heatwaves were included?

- 1. Cyclones
- 2. Tsunami
- 3. Frost and Cold Waves
- 4. Lightning

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- The 12 disasters notified under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 before heatwaves were: Cyclones, Drought, Earthquakes, Fire, Floods, Tsunami, Hailstorms, Landslides, Avalanches, Cloudbursts, Pest Attacks, Frost and Cold Waves.
- Lightning was not a notified disaster under the Act before heatwaves were included.

Q1347. Regarding the disaster management framework at the state level in India, which of the following statements are correct?

1. The State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) are chaired by the Chief Minister of the respective state.
2. State Executive Committees (SECs) are responsible for implementing disaster management policies and are headed by the Chief Secretary.
3. SDMAs were established under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
4. SDMAs play a role in formulating state-specific disaster management plans.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Chief Minister is the Chairperson of the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA).
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The State Executive Committees (SECs) are headed by the Chief Secretary and are responsible for implementing disaster management measures.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** SDMAs were established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, not the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** SDMAs are responsible for formulating state-specific disaster management plans.

Topic 450

450. Funds to deal with disaster

- **Funds** to deal with disaster under Disaster Management Act.
- 1. **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)** at National level
 - 100% money of the NDRF comes from the central government.
 - It is placed in the "Public Account" of the GOI.
 - NDRF is financed through the levy of a cess on certain items.
 - The NDRF accounts are audited by CAG every year.
- 2. **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** at the state level



- **States** contribute **25% of the money in the SDRF** (10% in case of special category states), the **rest** comes from the **Centre**.

How the fund can be used?

- If a catastrophe happens, then the provisions of the DM Act can be invoked.
- The provisions allow states to draw money from the two funds that have been set up under this law.
- The states first utilise the funds available in the SDRF, and only if the magnitude of the disaster is unmanageable with the SDRF, states seek the money from the NDRF.



Note

- The NDRF also may covers man-made disasters such as terrorist attacks, chemical or biological disasters, or nuclear disasters as notified by the Central Government.

Q1348. Consider the following statements regarding the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF):

1. NDRF is placed in the Consolidated Fund of India and is directly controlled by the Finance Ministry.
2. The entire funding of NDRF comes from the Central Government, with no contribution from the states.
3. NDRF is primarily financed through a cess on certain items imposed by the government.
4. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audits the NDRF accounts annually.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** NDRF is placed in the Public Account of India, not the Consolidated Fund of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** 100% of the NDRF money comes from the central government.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** NDRF is financed through the levy of a cess on certain items.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The CAG audits NDRF accounts annually to ensure transparency.

Q1349. Which of the following statements regarding the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) are correct?

1. The SDRF is primarily financed by the Central Government, with states contributing 25% (or 10% for special category states).
2. SDRF funds must be exhausted before a state can request assistance from the NDRF.
3. SDRF can be used only for natural disasters and not for man-made disasters.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** SDRF is jointly funded, where the Centre contributes 75% (90% for special category states), and the states contribute 25% (10% for special category states).
- **Statement 2 is correct.** States must first utilize SDRF funds before seeking NDRF assistance.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** NDRF covers both natural and man-made disasters such as terrorist attacks, chemical, biological, or nuclear disasters as notified by the Central Government.

Q1350. Which of the following are conditions under which states can withdraw money from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)?

1. When the disaster's magnitude exceeds the capacity of the SDRF to manage it.
2. Only natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and droughts qualify for NDRF assistance.
3. The central government must approve the withdrawal before the funds can be utilized.



4. NDRF assistance is available only after a disaster has occurred, and not for disaster preparedness or mitigation.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** NDRF funds can be accessed only if a disaster is beyond the SDRF's capacity.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** NDRF also covers man-made disasters, such as terrorist attacks and nuclear incidents, as notified by the government.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The central government must approve the disbursement of funds from NDRF.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** NDRF is meant for post-disaster relief and not for preparedness or mitigation efforts.

Day 46

Topic 451

451. 'Urban Heat Island' effect

What is "urban heat island"?

- a local and temporary phenomenon experienced when certain pockets within a city experience higher temperature than surrounding or neighbouring areas on the same day.
- The temperature variation can range between 3 to 5 degrees Celsius.

Factors behind 'Urban Heat Island'?

1. **Low Albedo of Surfaces of Urban areas**
 - Dark Roads and Asphalt parking lots
 - Dark Rooftops
2. **Lack of trees** means less shade and less **evapotranspiration** (that cools air around)
3. **Heat trapped between tall buildings**
4. **Waste heat from factories and automobiles**

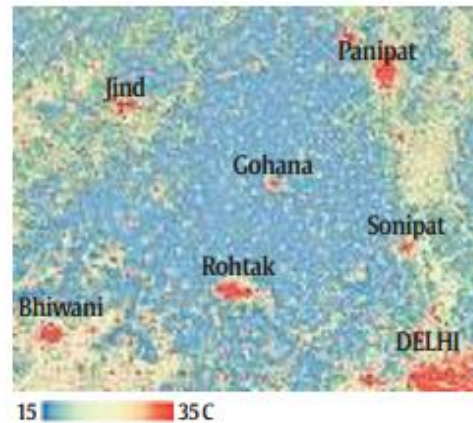
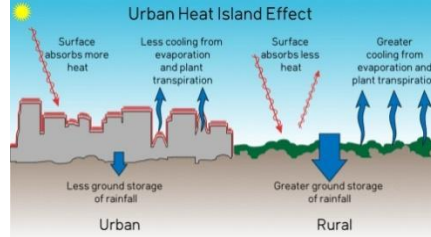
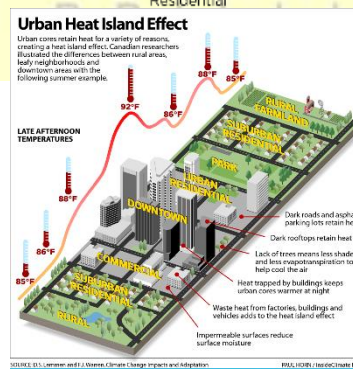
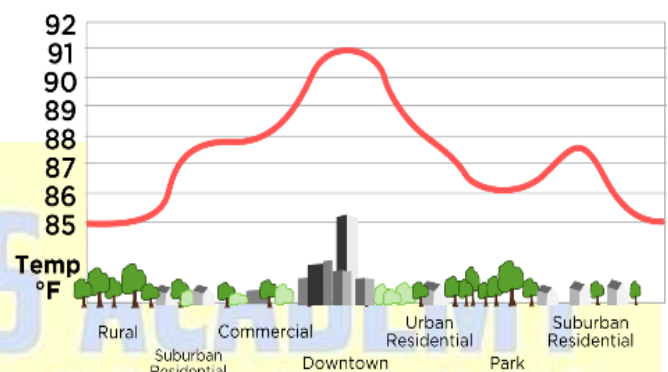
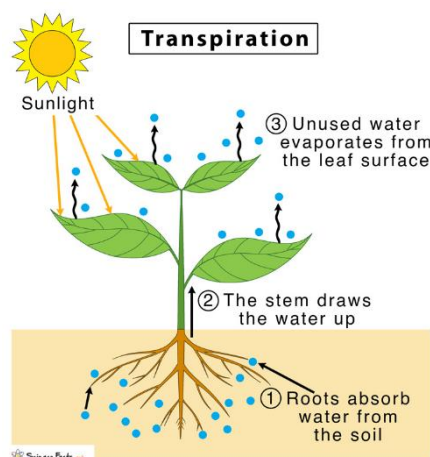


Image from ECOSTRESS shows heat islands around Delhi on midnight (local time) on May 5. NASA/JPL

URBAN HEAT ISLAND PROFILE





Evapotranspiration

- **Upward water movement** through a plant and **its evaporation from aerial parts**, such as leaves, stems and flowers.
- It reduces the air temperature of the surrounding as **latent heat is absorbed** by the leaf.

Q1351. With reference to the urban heat island, consider the following statements:

1. Urban heat islands have a mean temperature variation range between 3 to 5 degrees Celsius.
2. Urban heat island is basically a phenomenon associated with the greenhouse effect of the gases.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are not correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 2: Urban heat island is basically a phenomenon associated with the greenhouse effect of the gases. This is also incorrect. While the greenhouse effect *contributes* to the overall warming of the planet, the urban heat island effect is primarily caused by other factors. These include:

- Land surface modification: Replacing natural vegetation with concrete, asphalt, and other building materials that absorb and retain more heat.
- Reduced evapotranspiration: Less vegetation means less cooling through evaporation.
- Waste heat: Heat generated by vehicles, air conditioners, and other human activities.

- Urban geometry: Tall buildings trap heat and reduce wind flow, hindering cooling.

Q1352. Which of the following are factors contributing to the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect?

1. High albedo surfaces in urban areas.
2. Heat trapped between tall buildings.
3. Lack of trees, leading to reduced evapotranspiration.
4. Waste heat from industrial activities and automobiles.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Low albedo surfaces (like dark asphalt) contribute to the UHI effect by absorbing more heat, not high albedo surfaces.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Heat gets trapped between tall buildings, exacerbating UHI.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Lack of trees leads to reduced evapotranspiration, which contributes to higher local temperatures.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** Waste heat from industrial and automobile activities adds to the urban heat effect.

Q1353. Which of the following statements about evapotranspiration is correct?

1. It refers to the upward movement of water through the soil.
2. Evapotranspiration helps in cooling the surrounding air by absorbing latent heat.
3. It occurs mainly through the roots of plants and not the aerial parts.
4. Evapotranspiration is not significant in mitigating urban heat island effects.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: d

Sol:



- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Evapotranspiration refers to water movement through a plant and its evaporation from aerial parts, not the soil.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Evapotranspiration absorbs latent heat, which cools the surrounding air, contributing to cooling effects.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Evapotranspiration mainly occurs through aerial parts like leaves, not just roots.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Evapotranspiration is critical in reducing local temperatures and mitigating UHI effects.

Topic 452

452. Venezuela lost its last glacier

- Venezuela used to be home to six glaciers, located at about 5,000 metres above sea level in the Andes mountains.
- By 2011, five of them had vanished. Scientists expected the Humboldt glacier to last another decade.

Current news?

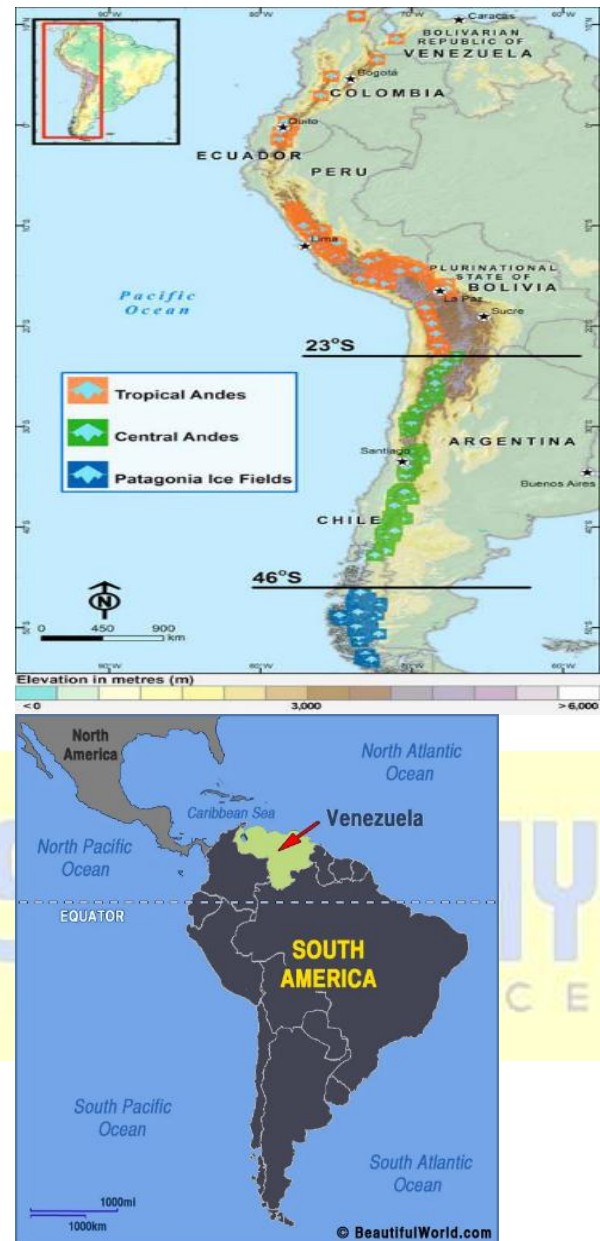
- The Humboldt glacier, last glacier of Venezuela, has completely melted away.
- This made Venezuela first country — in modern history to lose all its glaciers.

Why glaciers are disappearing?

- Due to global warming due to rising accumulation of GHGs in atmosphere.

What are the impacts of glacier loss?

- Water scarcity
- Sea level rise



Q1354. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the loss of glaciers in Venezuela?

1. Venezuela had six glaciers, located in the Andes mountains.
2. The Humboldt glacier was expected to survive until 2025.
3. Venezuela is the first country in modern history to lose all its glaciers.
4. The last glacier in Venezuela, Humboldt, completely melted away in 2011.

Select the correct option:

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



(d) 2 and 4 only

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Venezuela had six glaciers, located in the Andes mountains.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Humboldt glacier was expected to last until about 2021, not 2025.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Venezuela is the first country in modern history to lose all its glaciers.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** The Humboldt glacier completely melted in 2021, not 2011.

Q1355. Which of the following are the main impacts of glacier loss in Venezuela?

1. Increased freshwater availability.
2. Water scarcity in the region.
3. Rising sea levels.
4. Increased agricultural productivity.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Glacier loss leads to water scarcity, not increased freshwater availability.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Water scarcity is a direct consequence of glacier loss, as glaciers are an important source of freshwater.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Rising sea levels are an indirect effect of global warming, which is driven by the melting of glaciers worldwide.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Glacier loss tends to decrease agricultural productivity due to reduced water availability.

Q1356. What is the main cause of the disappearance of glaciers in Venezuela?

1. Increased seismic activity.
2. Global warming due to the rise in greenhouse gases.
3. Changes in ocean currents.
4. Deforestation in the Andes region.

Select the correct option:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only

(c) 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 3, and 4 only

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Seismic activity does not directly affect the melting of glaciers in Venezuela.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Global warming due to rising greenhouse gases is the primary cause of glacier melting in Venezuela.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Changes in ocean currents do not have a direct role in the glacier disappearance in Venezuela.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** While deforestation can impact local ecosystems, it is not the main driver of glacier loss in this case.

Topic 453

453. Biggest solar flares in last 2 decades

- Sun is made of **hydrogen (74%)** and **helium (about 24%)**.
- Sun is 1% oxygen; remaining 1% include iron, nickel, silicon, sulfur, magnesium, carbon, neon, calcium and chromium.

Sun can be broken up into distinct layers.

1. The Core

- Hydrogen combines into helium (fusion reaction) atoms- releases light and heat

2. Radiation Zone

- Starts at the edge of the core of the Sun (0.2 solar radii), and extends up to about 0.7 radii.
- In the radiative zone, energy generated by nuclear fusion in the core moves outward as electromagnetic radiation.

3. Convection Zone

- Outside the radiative zone is another layer, called the convective zone, where heat from inside the Sun is carried up by columns of hot gas.

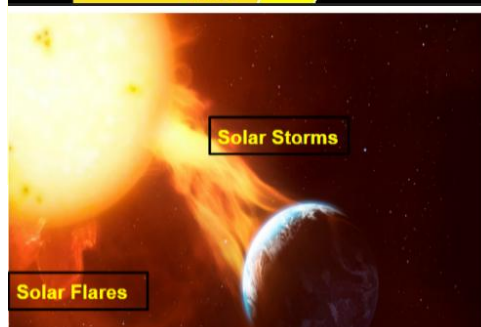
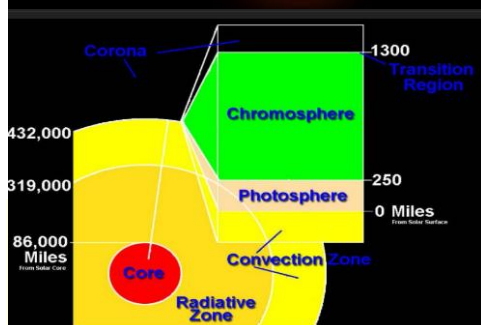
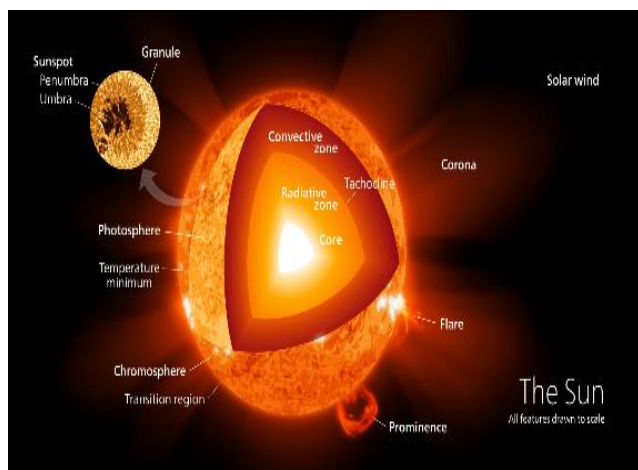
4. Sun's atmosphere

- Photosphere
- Chromosphere
- Corona-The corona region of Sun mainly contains Plasma (an electrically charged gas).

Current news?



- The sun produced its **biggest flare** in nearly **two decades**.



Solar Flares

- intense, localized emission** of electromagnetic radiation in **the Sun's atmosphere**

Solar storms

- flares that travel to Earth.

Q1357. Which of the following statements about the Sun's composition and structure are correct?

- The Sun is composed of approximately 74% hydrogen and 24% helium.
- The Sun's core is the primary source of energy, where nuclear fusion occurs.
- The Sun's atmosphere includes the photosphere, chromosphere, and corona.
- The corona is composed mainly of solid particles.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct.** The Sun is primarily composed of 74% hydrogen and 24% helium.
- Statement 2 is correct.** The core of the Sun is where nuclear fusion takes place, releasing light and heat.
- Statement 3 is correct.** The Sun's atmosphere consists of the photosphere, chromosphere, and corona.
- Statement 4 is incorrect.** The corona is made up of plasma (not solid particles), which is an electrically charged gas.

Q1358. Which of the following statements about solar flares and solar storms are true?

- Solar flares are intense emissions of electromagnetic radiation from the Sun's atmosphere.
- Solar storms are solar flares that travel toward Earth and affect its space weather.
- The biggest solar flare in nearly two decades occurred in 2023.
- Solar flares are harmless to Earth as they do not reach the planet.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct.** Solar flares are intense emissions of electromagnetic radiation from the Sun's atmosphere.
- Statement 2 is correct.** Solar storms are flares that travel toward Earth and can affect its space weather.
- Statement 3 is incorrect.** The biggest solar flare in nearly two decades occurred in 2022, not 2023.
- Statement 4 is incorrect.** Solar flares can affect Earth, especially through disruptions in



satellite communications, power grids, and space weather.

Q1359. What are the characteristics of the Sun's convection zone?

1. It starts at the edge of the radiative zone and extends up to about 0.7 solar radii.
2. Heat from inside the Sun is transferred outward by electromagnetic radiation.
3. The convection zone is the layer where heat is transported by columns of hot gas.
4. The convection zone is the source of nuclear fusion in the Sun.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The convection zone starts at the edge of the radiative zone and extends up to about 0.7 solar radii.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The radiative zone is where heat is transferred by electromagnetic radiation, not the convection zone.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The convection zone transports heat by columns of hot gas.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Nuclear fusion occurs in the core, not in the convection zone.

Topic 454

454. How and why are cyclones named?

Why Cyclones are named?

- For effective cyclone warning and disaster mitigation.

Naming process

- WMO and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) started the tropical cyclone naming system in 2000.
- Panel of Tropical Cyclone (PTC) was created involving 13 countries.
- All 13 countries have sent 13 names (total 169) for naming of cyclones.
- Countries are arranged in alphabetical order, and lists all the names suggested by them alongside.
- Names are allotted to any cyclone, which takes place in the region, on a rotational

basis regardless of which country proposed it.

The proposed name should be-

- neutral to (a) politics and political figures (b) religious beliefs, (c) cultures and (d) gender;
- does not hurt the sentiments
- is not very rude and cruel in nature;
- is short, easy to pronounce, is at most eight letters long

New List of Names for Tropical Cyclone over North Indian Ocean													The Weather Channel
Place	List I	List 2	List 3	List 4	List 5	List 6	List 7	List 8	List 9	List 10	List 11	List 12	List 13
Bangladesh	Nisarga	Biparjoy	Amab	Upakul	Barshan	Rajani	Nabith	Umi	Meghala	Samiran	Pratikul	Sarobar	Mahanisha
India	Gati	Tej	Murasu	Aag	Viyom	Jhar	Prabho	Neer	Prabhanjan	Ghurmi	Armbud	Jaladhi	Vega
Iran	Nivar	Hamon	Alkan	Sepand	Booran	Anahita	Azar	Pooyan	Ansham	Hengame	Savas	Tahamtan	Toolan
Maldives	Burevi	Midhili	Kaani	Odi	Kenau	Endheri	Riyau	Guruva	Kurangi	Kureadhi	Horangu	Thundi	Faana
Myanmar	Taukrete	Michaung	Ngamantan	Kyarrthi	Sapakiyee	Wetun	Mwashout	Kywe	Pinku	Vinkauung	Ujrayone	Kyeekan	Boutphat
Oman	Yaas	Remal	Sail	Naseem	Muzn	Sadeem	Dima	Marjour	Rukam	Wataad	Al-Jar	Rabab	Road
Pakistan	Gulab	Asma	Sahab	Alfahan	Manzili	Shujana	Parwar	Zannata	Sarsar	Badihan	Sarrah	Gulnar	Wasdaq
Qatar	Shahreen	Dana	Lulu	Mauji	Suhail	Sadaf	Reem	Rayhan	Anbar	Oud	Bahar	Seef	Fanar
Saudi Arabia	Jawad	Fengal	Ghazeer	Asif	Sidrah	Hareed	Faid	Kaseer	Nakheel	Habooob	Baraq	Alreem	Wazili
Sri Lanka	Asani	Shakthi	Glyum	Gagana	Verambha	Gargana	Neeba	Ninnada	Viduli	Ogha	Sollitha	Rivi	Rudu
Thailand	Sitrang	Montha	Thianlyot	Bulan	Phutala	Aliyara	Saming	Kraisan	Matcha	Mahalinga	Phaeewa	Asuri	Thara
United Arab Emirates	Mandous	Senyar	Altoor	Nahhaam	Quffal	Daaman	Deem	Gargoor	Khubb	Degi	Athmad	Boom	Saffar
Yemen	Mocha	Ditwah	Diksam	Sira	Bakhur	Ghweyi	Hawl	Bahfal	Bram	Shugra	Fartak	Darash	Samhah

Recent Cyclones?

1. Dana Odisha Coast October 2024-Qatar
2. Remal-Sagar Island (India) May 2024-Oman
3. In January 2025-Cyclone Fengal is expected to hit Odisha coast.

Q1360. Which of the following statements regarding cyclones and anti-cyclones is/are correct?

1. In the Northern Hemisphere, cyclones rotate counter clockwise anticyclones rotate clockwise. and
2. Cyclones are often associated with cloudy or rainy weather, whereas anticyclones are often associated with fair weather.
3. In the Southern Hemisphere, the cyclonic spiral will be clockwise because the Coriolis force acts to the left.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: d



Sol:

- **Statement 1:** In the Northern Hemisphere, cyclones rotate counter clockwise and anticyclones rotate clockwise.

This statement is correct. Due to the Coriolis effect, which is a result of the Earth's rotation, cyclones (low pressure systems) rotate counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, while anticyclones (high pressure systems) rotate clockwise.

- **Statement 2:** Cyclones are often associated with cloudy or rainy weather, whereas anticyclones are often associated with fair weather.

This statement is also correct. Cyclones are low-pressure systems where air converges and rises, leading to cloud formation and precipitation. On the other hand, anticyclones are high-pressure systems where air descends, leading to clear skies and fair weather.

- **Statement 3:** In the Southern Hemisphere, the cyclonic spiral will be clockwise because the Coriolis force acts to the left.

This statement is correct as well. In the Southern Hemisphere, the Coriolis effect acts in the opposite direction compared to the Northern Hemisphere. As a result, cyclones rotate clockwise and anticyclones rotate counterclockwise.

Q1361. Regarding the naming of cyclones, consider the following statements:

1. The naming system for tropical cyclones in the Indian Ocean was started by WMO and ESCAP in 2000.
2. A Panel of Tropical Cyclone (PTC) involving 13 countries selects the names.
3. The name proposed must be short, easy to pronounce, and at most eight letters long.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Sol: All three statements are correct. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and ESCAP initiated the cyclone naming system in 2000 (**Statement 1**). A 13-country panel selects the

names (**Statement 2**). The names must be easy to pronounce and limited to eight letters (**Statement 3**).

Q1362. Consider the following recent cyclones and their details:

1. Cyclone Dana hit the Odisha Coast in October 2024 and was named by Qatar.
2. Cyclone Remal made landfall at Sagar Island (India) in May 2024 and was named by Oman.
3. Cyclone Fengal is expected to hit the Odisha Coast in January 2025 and was named by India.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol: Cyclone Dana (October 2024) was named by Qatar (**Statement 1 is correct**), and Cyclone Remal (May 2024) was named by Oman (**Statement 2 is correct**). However, Cyclone Fengal (expected in January 2025) was not named by India, as names are assigned by different countries on a rotational basis, not necessarily by the affected country (**Statement 3 is incorrect**).

Topic 455

455. Auroras

- An Aurora is a display of light in the sky predominantly seen in the high latitude regions (Arctic and Antarctic).

There are **two types**-

- **aurora borealis**-northern lights
- **aurora australis**-southern lights.

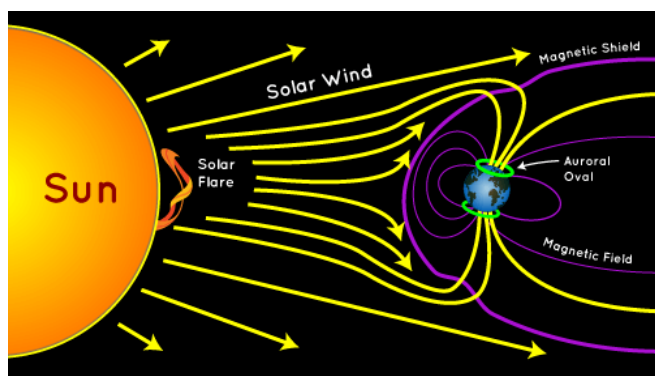
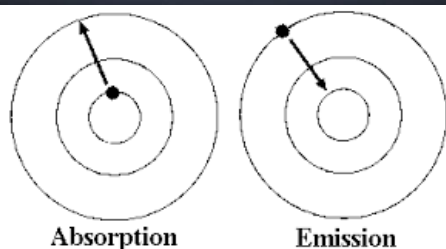
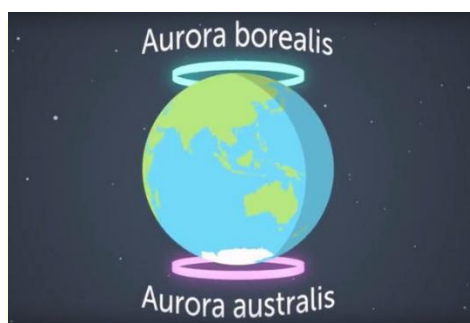
Why Auroras are formed?

- **Charged particles** from the **sun's corona** are constantly **striking near the Earth** and are more or less **deflected** by the **Earth's magnetic field**, which in turn **protects life on the Earth** from being harmed by these solar winds.
- When these **charged particles** encounter the **Earth's magnetic field**, they end up **traveling along the field lines**.
- With this deflection, the electrons move around the planet and hit **near the polar regions**



(gets accumulated as Magnetic Field is strongest here).

- The electrons transfer **their energy to the oxygen and nitrogen atoms** and molecules, making them “**excited**”.
- **Absorption of energy** will lead to electrons moving from lower to higher state.
- Movement of electron from **higher to lower state** will lead to **emission of Energy**.



Q1363. If a major solar storm (solar flare) reaches the Earth, which of the following are the possible effects on the Earth?

1. GPS and navigation systems could fail.
2. Tsunamis could occur at equatorial regions.
3. Power grids could be damaged.
4. Intense auroras could occur over much of the Earth.
5. Forest fires could take place over much of the planet.
6. Orbits of the satellites could be disturbed.
7. Shortwave radio communication of the aircraft flying over polar regions could be interrupted.

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

Ans: c

Sol: Solar flares are intense bursts of radiation from the sun that can directly influence electronics on Earth. They are often associated with coronal mass ejections (CMEs), which are large clouds of gas that erupt from the sun's interior into its atmosphere.

- **Statement 1 and 3 are correct:** The large solar flare is projected to strike satellites in the Earth's upper atmosphere. Thus, it affects GPS navigation, mobile phone transmissions, and satellite TV. The flares might potentially disrupt power grids and electrical networks in various regions of the planet.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Solar flares can temporarily alter the upper atmosphere creating disruptions. But it does not cause Tsunamis. It only affects the upper atmosphere.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The high-energy particles emitted by the flare could also cause certain atoms in the Earth's atmosphere to glow, leading to auroras in Central Europe as well as North America. The phenomenon could only be seen if the weather is clear.
- **Statement 5 is incorrect:** There is no causal link between the coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and the deadly forest fires. There is a common misconception that solar storms are associated with extreme geological and atmospheric effects on Earth. The sun cannot produce solar flares or CMEs that physically



burn the landscape, if it did, I doubt complex life would have had much of a chance at evolving over the last few billion years if our planet was constantly being sterilized.

- **Statement 6 is correct:** The scientists found that solar flares and storms heated and expanded the atmosphere and that these effects could extend to the satellites' orbits. The density of atmospheric gases increases, slowing the satellites and causing them to lose altitude by a few kilometres per day.
- **Statement 7 is correct:** Solar flares allow interference with the short-wave radios that are being used, emitting more rays allowing people to get more of a sun burn during this time frame. A study by NASA of polar flights during a solar storm in 2003 showed that passengers received about 12 percent of the annual radiation limit recommended by the International Committee on Radiological Protection. The exposures were greater than on typical flights at lower latitudes, and confirmed concerns about commercial flights using polar routes.

Q1364. Consider the following statements regarding Auroras:

1. Auroras are naturally occurring displays of light seen mainly in high-latitude regions near the Arctic and Antarctic.
2. The northern lights are called aurora australis, while the southern lights are called aurora borealis.
3. Auroras occur due to the interaction between charged solar particles and Earth's magnetic field.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** —auroras occur in high-latitude regions near the Arctic and Antarctic.
- **Statement 3 is also correct**, as auroras result from charged particles from the Sun interacting with Earth's magnetic field.
- However, **Statement 2 is incorrect** because the northern lights are called aurora borealis,

while the southern lights are called aurora australis (not the other way around).

Q1365. Which of the following correctly explains the process of aurora formation?

- (a) Charged particles from the Sun's corona directly reach the Earth's surface, causing light emissions near the poles.
- (b) Solar winds interact with Earth's atmosphere, ionizing oxygen and nitrogen, which then produce auroras.
- (c) Electrons from solar particles get trapped in Earth's magnetic field, move towards the poles, excite oxygen and nitrogen atoms, and release energy in the form of visible light.
- (d) The Earth's rotation generates auroras by creating friction between the atmosphere and space particles.

Ans: c

Sol: Solar wind particles are mostly deflected by Earth's magnetic field but get trapped near the polar regions where the field is strongest. These charged electrons excite oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which absorb and later release energy as light, forming auroras. Options A, B, and D contain incorrect or incomplete explanations.

Topic 456

456. Heat wave

- A Heat Wave is a **period of abnormally high temperatures.**

Definition of Heatwaves by IMD

1. **Plains:** When the maximum temperature is $\geq 40^{\circ}\text{C}$
2. **Hilly Regions:** When the maximum temperature is $\geq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$
3. **A severe heat wave** occurs when temperatures are $\geq 6.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ above normal
4. If the maximum temperature reaches 45°C or more, it is declared a heatwave, irrespective of deviation from normal.





ANATOMY OF A HEATWAVE

What causes a heatwave?

Heatwaves are generally the result of trapped air. They occur when a system of high atmospheric pressure moves into an area and lasts two or more days.



Q1366. Consider the following statements regarding heat waves as defined by the India Meteorological Department (IMD):

1. A heat wave is declared in plains when the maximum temperature reaches 40°C or more.
2. A severe heat wave occurs when temperatures are 4°C above normal.
3. In hilly regions, a heat wave is declared when the maximum temperature reaches 30°C or more.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

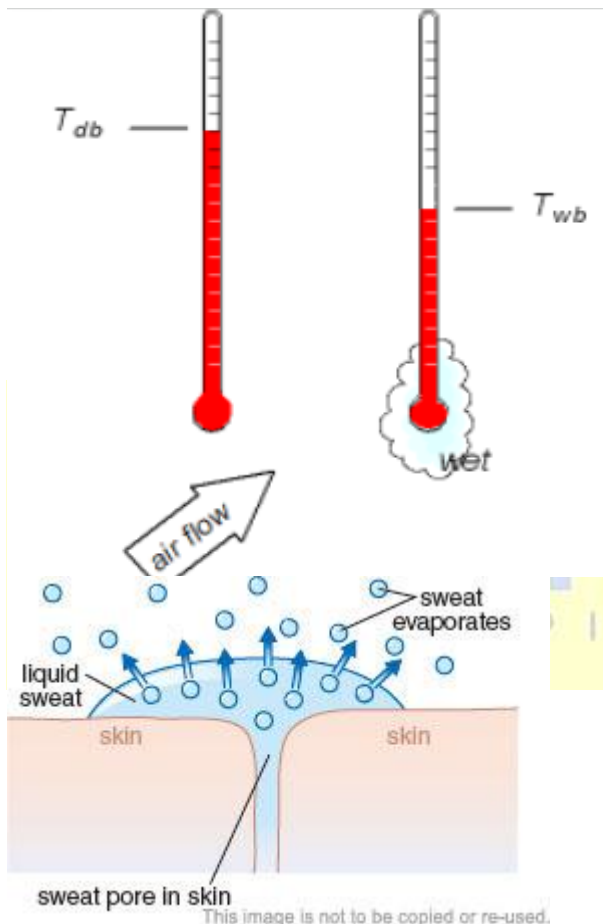
Sol: Statements 1 and 3 are correct—IMD defines a heat wave when temperatures are $\geq 40^{\circ}\text{C}$ in plains and $\geq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ in hilly regions. However, **Statement 2 is incorrect**, as a severe heat wave occurs when the temperature is 6.4°C or more above normal, not just 4°C .

Q1367. Under which of the following conditions does the IMD declare a heat wave?

1. When the temperature in hilly regions reaches 35°C or more.
2. When the temperature in plains is 40°C or more.
3. When the temperature deviation from normal is $\geq 6.4^{\circ}\text{C}$.



- The **Dry Bulb temperature**, usually referred to as "**air temperature**" around.
- **Wet Bulb temperature** can be measured by using a **thermometer** with the **bulb wrapped in wet muslin**.
- The **Wet Bulb temperature is low** as compared to Dry Bulb due to **evaporation of moisture from the muslin**.
- The logic here is **same-evaporation taking away heat**.



Q1369. Why does high humidity make hot weather feel more uncomfortable?

1. High humidity prevents sweat from evaporating efficiently.
2. The body struggles to regulate temperature due to reduced heat loss.
3. Humidity directly increases the temperature of the surroundings.

4. In humid conditions, the body's cooling mechanism speeds up, leading to rapid dehydration.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol: High humidity prevents sweat from evaporating efficiently (Statement 1), making it harder for the body to cool down (Statement 2). However, humidity does not directly increase air temperature (Statement 3), and the body's cooling mechanism does not speed up in humid conditions (Statement 4).

Q1370. What is the primary reason for the difference between Dry Bulb Temperature and Wet Bulb Temperature?

- (a) The presence of water vapor in the air reduces Dry Bulb Temperature.
- (b) Wet Bulb Temperature is lower because of the evaporation of moisture, which absorbs heat.
- (c) Dry Bulb Temperature is influenced by the sun, while Wet Bulb Temperature is influenced by wind speed.
- (d) Wet Bulb Temperature is always higher than Dry Bulb Temperature in humid conditions.

Ans: b

Sol: Wet Bulb Temperature is lower than Dry Bulb Temperature because the evaporation of moisture from the muslin wrap absorbs heat, cooling the thermometer bulb.

- **Option a is incorrect** because water vapor affects humidity, not Dry Bulb Temperature.
- **Option c is incorrect** because both temperatures are influenced by multiple environmental factors, not just wind and sun.
- **Option d is incorrect** because Wet Bulb Temperature is never higher than Dry Bulb Temperature.

Q1371. Consider the following statements regarding Wet Bulb Temperature (WBT):

1. It is measured using a thermometer wrapped in wet muslin cloth.



2. It is always equal to or lower than the Dry Bulb Temperature.
3. Wet Bulb Temperature is higher in dry conditions due to increased evaporation.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

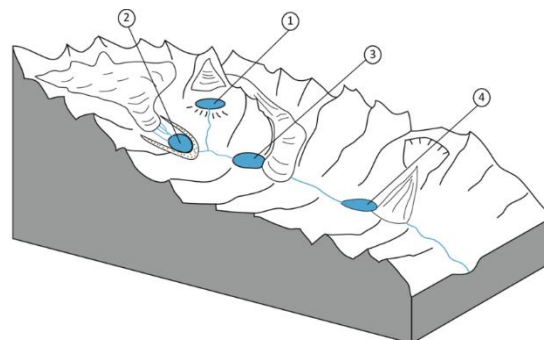
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a

Sol: Wet Bulb Temperature is measured using a thermometer wrapped in wet muslin cloth (**Statement 1 is correct**).

It is always equal to or lower than the Dry Bulb Temperature due to evaporative cooling
(Statement 2 is correct).

However, in dry conditions, evaporation increases, making Wet Bulb Temperature lower, not higher (**Statement 3 is incorrect**).



Topic 458

458. Glacial lake outburst floods

- A **glacial lake** is a body of water that originates from a glacier.

Moraine Landform-

- A moraine is material left behind by a moving glacier.

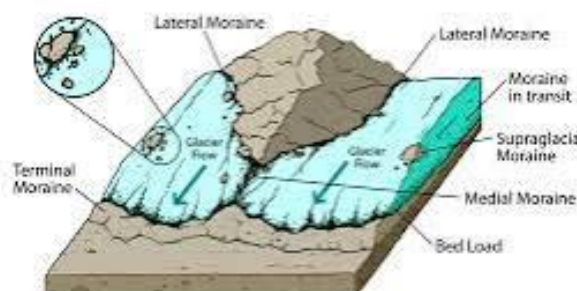
Glacial lake outburst floods

- **As glacial lakes grow larger in size,** they **become more dangerous** because they are **mostly dammed by unstable ice** or sediment composed of loose rock and debris.
- In case the **boundary around them breaks,** called **glacial lake outburst floods or GLOF.**
- GLOF can be triggered by several reasons, including **earthquakes, extremely heavy rains, climate change and ice avalanche**

Past examples-

- 2013 Kedarnath in Uttarakhand
- 2021 Chamoli in Uttarakhand
- 2023 North Sikkim

Moraine



Q1372. What is a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)?

1. It occurs when the boundary of a glacial lake fails, releasing large volumes of water suddenly.
2. It is triggered by factors like earthquakes, heavy rainfall, climate change, or ice avalanches.
3. GLOFs occur only when glaciers melt due to extremely high temperatures.
4. Moraine landforms help prevent GLOFs by acting as stable natural dams.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a



Sol: GLOFs occur when the natural dam around a glacial lake fails (**Statement 1 is correct**), and they can be triggered by earthquakes, heavy rainfall, climate change, and ice avalanches (**Statement 2 is correct**). However, they are not solely caused by high temperatures (**Statement 3 is incorrect**). Moraines are unstable and can contribute to GLOFs, not prevent them (**Statement 4 is incorrect**).

Q1373. Which of the following past events in India were caused by Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)?

1. 2013 Kedarnath disaster
2. 2015 Chennai floods
3. 2021 Chamoli disaster
4. 2023 North Sikkim floods

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Ans: b

Sol: The 2013 Kedarnath disaster, 2021 Chamoli disaster, and 2023 North Sikkim floods were caused by GLOFs. The 2015 Chennai floods, however, were caused by extreme rainfall and improper drainage, not a GLOF (**Statement 2 is incorrect**).

Q1374. Why do glacial lakes pose a risk of outburst floods (GLOFs)?

- (a) They are dammed by unstable ice or loose rock and debris, making them prone to sudden collapse.
- (b) Their size remains constant, but climate change increases the pressure within them, causing outbursts.
- (c) They are mostly formed in flat regions, where water movement is unpredictable.
- (d) GLOFs only occur when glaciers melt completely, leading to uncontrolled water flow.

Ans: a

Sol: Glacial lakes grow larger over time and are often dammed by unstable ice or sediment (moraines), making them highly vulnerable to sudden collapse. Climate change does increase their size, but GLOFs are not caused simply by "pressure buildup" (**Statement b is incorrect**).

Glacial lakes are mostly found in mountainous regions, not flat areas (**Statement c is incorrect**). GLOFs can occur even when glaciers are partially intact, not only when they melt completely (**Statement d is incorrect**).

Topic 459

459. Swell surge

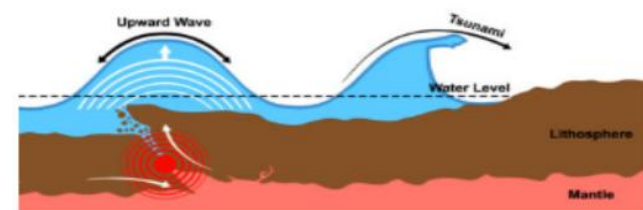
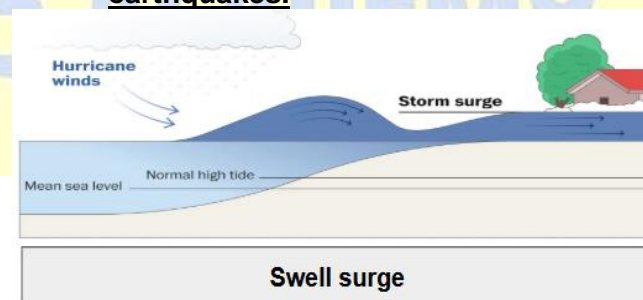
- It is a **localised disaster** caused due to **sudden coastal flooding**.
- It **appears like Tsunami** but it's generating **mechanism is different**.

How it happens?

- **Ocean swells** occur due to **distant storms** like **hurricanes**.
- During such storms, **huge energy transfer** takes place from the **air into the water**, leading to the **formation of very high waves**.
- Such **waves can travel thousands of kilometres** from the storm centre until they **strike shore**.

How is it different from Tsunami?

- **Swell surge** is caused by **strong winds**.
- While **Tsunamis** are caused by **undersea earthquakes**.



Q1375. What is a Swell Surge?

1. It is a localized disaster caused by sudden coastal flooding.
2. It occurs due to the impact of distant storms like hurricanes.
3. It is caused by undersea earthquakes similar to tsunamis.
4. It involves a significant energy transfer from air to water, generating high waves.



Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol: Swell surges are localized coastal flooding events (**Statement 1 is correct**), caused by ocean swells originating from distant storms like hurricanes (**Statement 2 is correct**). They involve energy transfer from air into water, generating large waves (**Statement 4 is correct**). However, they are not caused by undersea earthquakes (**Statement 3 is incorrect**), which differentiates them from tsunamis.

Q1376. How is a Swell Surge different from a Tsunami?

- (a) Swell surges are caused by strong winds, whereas tsunamis are caused by undersea earthquakes.
- (b) Swell surges originate from deep-sea volcanic eruptions, whereas tsunamis are triggered by changes in atmospheric pressure.
- (c) Tsunamis occur only in tropical regions, while swell surges are restricted to polar regions.
- (d) Swell surges occur instantly without warning, whereas tsunamis take time to develop.

Ans: a

Sol: The primary difference is the cause—swell surges result from strong winds and distant storms, while tsunamis occur due to undersea earthquakes (**Option a is correct**).

Deep-sea volcanic eruptions and atmospheric pressure changes do not primarily cause swell surges or tsunamis (**Option b is incorrect**).

Tsunamis and swell surges can occur globally, not just in specific regions (**Option c is incorrect**).

Both events can develop quickly, but early warning systems exist for tsunamis (**Option d is incorrect**).

Q1377. Which of the following statements correctly describes the formation of Swell Surges?

- 1. They are caused by the energy transfer from air into water during storms.
- 2. The waves generated can travel thousands of kilometers before reaching the shore.
- 3. Swell surges require an earthquake or volcanic eruption for their formation.

- 4. They are more likely to occur in inland water bodies than in coastal regions.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Ans: a

Sol: Swell surges form due to energy transfer from air to water during distant storms (**Statement 1 is correct**).

The resulting high waves can travel long distances before striking the shore (**Statement 2 is correct**). However, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions do not cause swell surges (**Statement 3 is incorrect**).

Swell surges occur in coastal regions, not inland water bodies (**Statement 4 is incorrect**).

Topic 460

460. Millet in India

Millets

- **Superfood/known as Shree food.**
- Millets were cultivated by the **Indus valley people (3,000 BC)**
- **Kharif crop**
- Short growing season
- **Lower water** requirement.
- Can grow even in **poor soil** India.
- Known for **Climate Smart Agriculture**.

Millets production in India

- India accounts for about **20% of world production (largest in the world)**.
- **Rajasthan** is the **highest** producer of millet in India

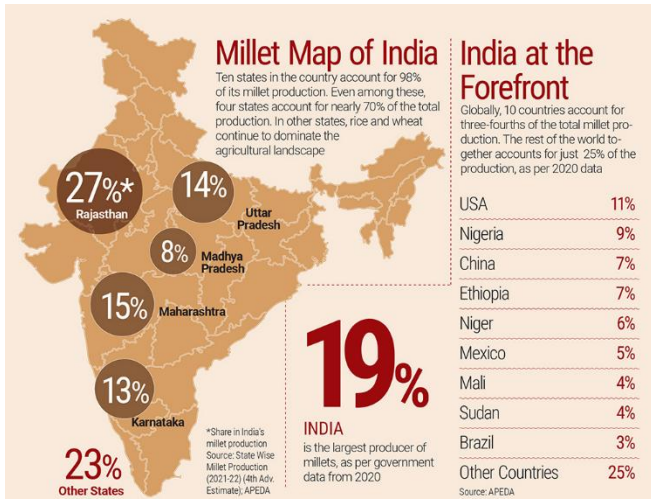
2023-International year of Millets by United Nations

- **2018 year: 'National Year of Millets'** in India
- **SCO- "Millet Food Festival"**.

Assam Millet Mission

- **District Millets Cells** will be established with **DCs as its chairpersons**.
- Focus on Increase millet consumption





Q1378. Why are millets considered suitable for "Climate Smart Agriculture"?

1. They have a short growing season.
2. They require less water compared to other staple crops.
3. They can grow even in poor soil conditions.
4. They need high external inputs like fertilizers and pesticides for better yield.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol: Millets are considered Climate Smart Crops because they have a short growing season (**Statement 1 is correct**), require less water (**Statement 2 is correct**), and can grow in poor soil conditions (**Statement 3 is correct**). However, they do not require high external inputs like fertilizers and pesticides, making Statement 4 incorrect.

Q1379. Which of the following statements regarding millet production in India is correct?

- (a) India accounts for approximately 10% of the world's millet production.
- (b) Rajasthan is the highest producer of millet in India.
- (c) The "National Year of Millets" was celebrated in India in 2023.
- (d) The United Nations declared 2018 as the "International Year of Millets."

Ans: b



Sol: India is the largest producer of millets in the world, contributing about 20% of global production, not 10% (Statement a is incorrect). Rajasthan is indeed the highest millet-producing state (Statement B is correct). India celebrated 2018 as the "National Year of Millets", while the United Nations declared 2023 as the "International Year of Millets", making Statements c and d incorrect.

Q1380. What are the key objectives of the Assam Millet Mission?

1. Establishment of District Millets Cells with Deputy Commissioners (DCs) as chairpersons.
2. Promotion of millet-based food products through the "Millet Food Festival" of the SCO.
3. Increasing millet consumption among people.
4. Enhancing millet export by collaborating with international organizations.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Ans: a

Sol: The Assam Millet Mission aims to establish District Millets Cells with DCs as chairpersons (**Statement 1 is correct**) and promote increased millet consumption (**Statement 3 is correct**). However, the "Millet Food Festival" is an initiative under the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation), not specifically under the Assam Millet Mission (**Statement 2 is incorrect**). The mission does not primarily focus on enhancing millet exports (**Statement 4 is incorrect**).

Day 47

Topic 461

461. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958

- Gives special powers to armed forces and Central Armed Police Forces to maintain internal security.
- First-by Britishers-to suppress-the Quit India movement

After independence

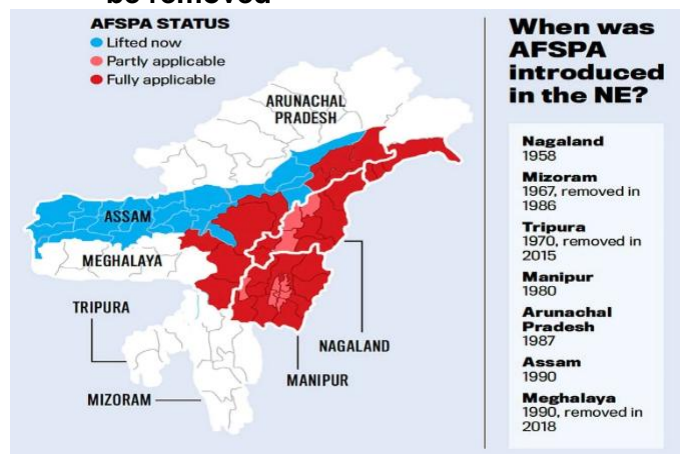
- Introduced in **1958** to deal with **insurgency in Nagaland** (1958: **G B Pant** Introduced the **Bill in Parliament**.)

Special powers are enjoyed by the armed

- Sec 3- 'disturbed area' declared by Government or the Central Government-once declared for 6 months then subsequently extended
- Sec4-authorised officer has the power to open fire at any individual even if it results in death if the individual violates laws.
- Section 5-authorised officer-arrest without a warrant; and seize and search without any warrant any premise
- Section 6-Individuals who have been taken into custody-handed over to the nearest police station as soon as possible. (Part of **Article 22** that says that an arrested person must be produced in front of a magistrate within 24 hours)

Possibility of misuse

- **Justice B P Jeevan Reddy committee**
2004- recommended to **repeal AFSPA**
(amend **Unlawful Activities (Prevention)**
Act, 1967 to deal with internal security
issues)
- **2nd ARC 5th Report (2007)-**
recommended repeal
- **Justice JS Verma Committee (2013)-**
Protection to members of armed forces
even in case of **sexual violence should
be removed**



- **Application of AFSPA-**
- Currently AFSPA is in effect in **parts** of **Nagaland, Assam, Manipur,** and **Arunachal Pradesh**

- AFSPA remains **in force in Jammu and Kashmir**.

Districts like Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Charaideo and Sivasagar in Assam are under AFSPA.

Q1381. Regarding the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), consider the following statements:

1. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, enacted by the Parliament in 1958, grants the armed forces special powers and immunity to maintain public order in "disturbed areas."
 2. The Central Government, the Governor of a State has the authority to declare a State or Union Territory, or a part thereof, as a disturbed area.
 3. Under the act, the armed forces are immune from prosecution unless the State Government provides sanctions to the prosecuting agencies.
- How many of the statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 3 is incorrect, Under AFSPA, armed forces are immune from prosecution unless the Central Government, not the State Government, grants sanction for prosecution.

Q1382. Which of the following statements about the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) are correct?

1. AFSPA was originally introduced by the British to suppress the Quit India Movement.
2. After independence, it was first implemented in Nagaland in 1958.
3. The power to declare an area as a 'disturbed area' under AFSPA lies only with the Central Government.
4. AFSPA is currently in effect in Jammu & Kashmir and parts of the Northeast.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: b



Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The British first used such provisions during the Quit India Movement to suppress nationalist movements.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** AFSPA was introduced in 1958 to tackle insurgency in Nagaland.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Governor of a state or the Central Government can declare an area as 'disturbed' under Section 3.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** AFSPA is still in force in Jammu & Kashmir and parts of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Q1383. Which of the following are recommendations related to AFSPA?

1. The Justice B P Jeevan Reddy Committee (2004) recommended its repeal and suggested amending the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 instead.
2. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2007) suggested retaining AFSPA with modifications.
3. The Justice J S Verma Committee (2013) recommended that protection given to armed forces under AFSPA should be removed in cases of sexual violence.
4. The AFSPA Review Committee (2020) suggested extending AFSPA to all border states.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Justice B P Jeevan Reddy Committee (2004) recommended repealing AFSPA and suggested strengthening the UAPA to handle internal security.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Second ARC (2007) recommended repealing AFSPA, not retaining it.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Justice J S Verma Committee (2013) recommended removing the immunity granted to security forces in cases of sexual violence.

- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** There was no AFSPA Review Committee (2020) recommending its extension.

Topic 462

462. Internal Security challenges region wise

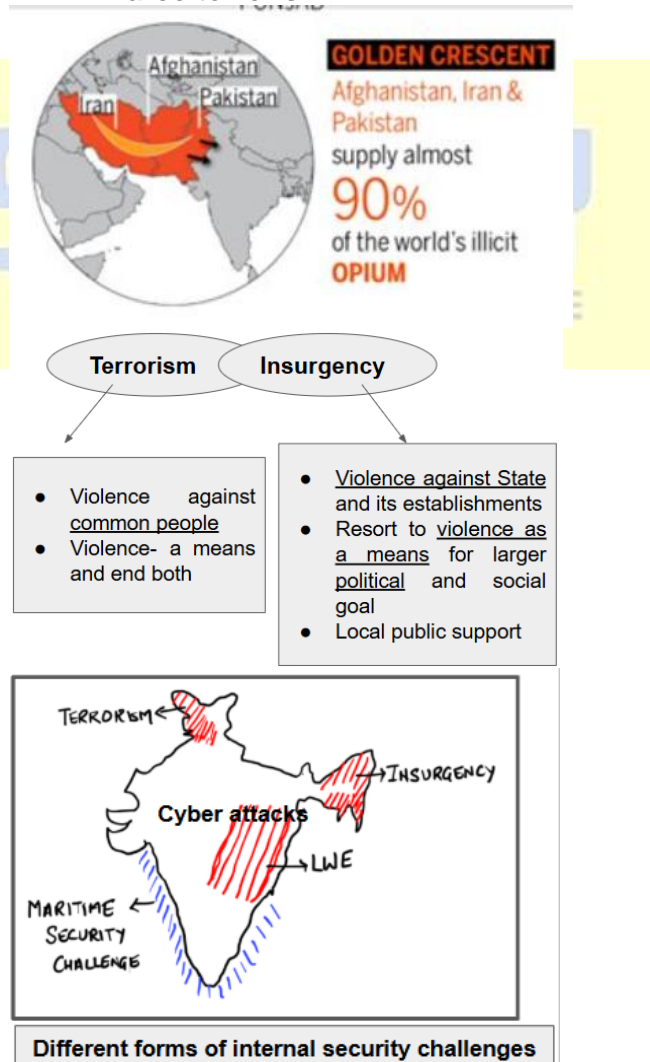
1. Central India-Left Wing Extremism (LWE)
2. Northeast-Insurgency
3. J&K and Punjab- Narco Terrorism
4. Coastal Region-Maritime Security Challenges

Terrorism

- Calculated use of violence to generate fear, and thereby to achieve political goals or religious agenda.

What is Narco terrorism?

- **Pakistan** is trying to fund terrorism and incite insurgency by drug trafficking ie **Narco terrorism**.



Q1384. Which among the following actions would violate human rights?

1. State forces disrupting peaceful protests
2. State forces carrying out search warrants in insurgency affected areas
3. State forces engaging with armed insurgents in civilian areas resulting in loss of civilian lives.

Select the correct option:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None

Ans: a

Sol:

1. State forces disrupting peaceful protests: This action violates human rights because it infringes on the freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. Peaceful protests are a fundamental right for individuals to express their opinions and concerns.
2. State forces carrying out search warrants in insurgency-affected areas: This action does not necessarily violate human rights if it is carried out within the legal framework and respects the principles of proportionality and necessity. In insurgency-affected areas, states may need to conduct searches to ensure public safety and national security.
3. State forces engaging with armed insurgents in civilian areas resulting in loss of civilian lives: This action violates human rights because it disregards the principle of distinguishing between combatants and civilians. State forces have a responsibility to protect civilian lives and must take all necessary measures to minimize harm to civilians during armed conflicts.

Therefore, option a is the correct answer as it includes actions that clearly violate human rights.

Q1385. The Indian military occupies a border village believed to be harbouring insurgents and asked the residents to vacate their houses in a night operation.

Which one among the following statements is the correct interpretation of this incident?

- (a) India is a democracy and no citizen can be asked to leave their home without a warrant. Hence, this act constitutes a human rights violation

- (b) The military operation does not constitute a human rights violation as it is operating in an insurgency infested area
- (c) Under the Indian Constitution, every individual is entitled to basic fundamental rights and hence the military cannot ask anyone to leave their house on mere suspicion of supporting insurgents. Hence, this act by the military constitutes a human rights violation
- (d) Just mere suspicion of supporting insurgency cannot be used as a pretext to occupy a village. Hence, the military action constitutes a human rights violation.

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Option 1:** This option states that asking residents to vacate their houses without a warrant is a human rights violation. However, the answer is incorrect because it does not take into account the circumstances of the situation, such as the presence of insurgents in the village.
- **Option 2:** This option correctly interprets the incident by stating that the military operation does not constitute a human rights violation because it is taking place in an insurgency-infested area. In such areas, the military may need to take necessary action to address the security threat posed by the insurgents.
- **Option 3:** This option argues that the military cannot ask anyone to leave their house based on mere suspicion of supporting insurgents, and therefore, constitutes a human rights violation. Although it acknowledges the importance of fundamental rights, it fails to consider the specific context of an insurgency-infested area.
- **Option 4:** This option states that occupying a village based on mere suspicion of supporting insurgency is a human rights violation. This interpretation is incorrect because it overlooks the security concerns and the need for the military to take proactive measures to neutralize threats.

Q1386. With reference to Home Guards, consider the following statements:

1. Home Guards are raised under the Home Guards Act and Rules of the Central Government.



2. The role of the Home Guards is to serve as an auxiliary force to the police in maintenance of internal security.

3. To prevent infiltration on the international border/coastal areas, the Border Wing Home Guards Battalions have been raised in some States.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol: Home Guards are raised under the Home Guards Act and Rules of the States/Union Territories. They are recruited from amongst all classes of people and walks of life, who give their spare time to the organisation for betterment of the community. So, statement 1 is not correct.

Topic 463

463. Naxalism

- **Naxalism** derives its name from the **village Naxalbari** of **West Bengal**.
- It started as as **rebellion against local landlords**.
- **Initiated in 1967**-leadership of **Kanu Sanyal** and **Jagan Santhal**.
- Spread across the **Eastern India**; in **less developed areas of states** such as **Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh** (known as **Naxal movement**).
- Naxal movement in India is **inspired by Maoist revolution in China**- which aimed at capturing power by peasants through armed struggle.

Naxal affected areas- Red Corridor

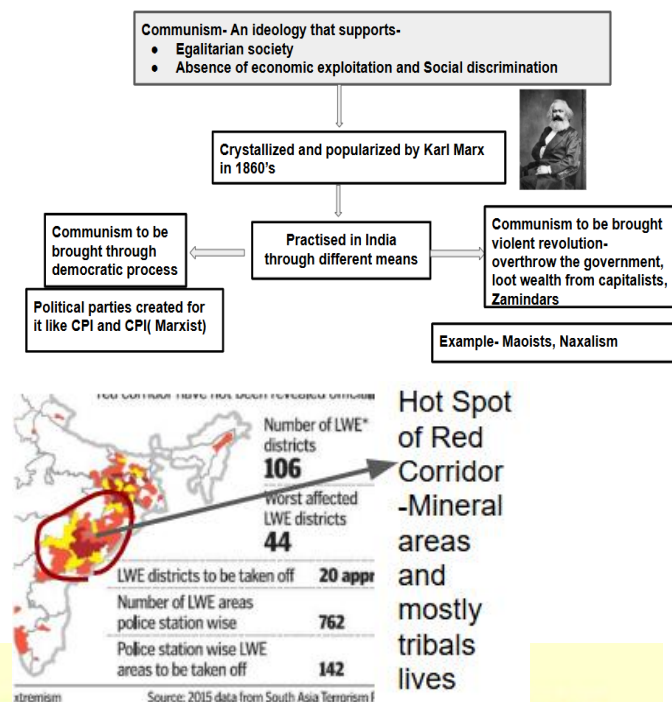
- spanning across 70 districts in 10 States, namely **Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.**

Causes behind rise of Naxal movement in India

1. Tribal discontent

- a. **The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980** **deprives** tribals, who depend on **forest produce** for their living, from **even cutting a bark**.

- b. **Forest Rights Act, 2006** tried to reverse it.
2. Poor socio-economic conditions of tribals.



Chhattisgarh-why heavily naxal affected

1. Rugged topography of Chhattisgarh
2. Late induction of state police-flushed paxals from other states in to CG.

Q1387. Suppose, the naxalites have kidnapped a Deputy Commissioner from Baster region in Chattisgarh and taken him to the Abujmad area. In return for his release, the Nexals demand that all naxal prisoners must be released from jails across India. In such a situation, which among the following may be the best conflict resolution mechanism?

1. The paramilitary and local police attack the naxalites and attempt to release the kidnapped.
2. The state force offer huge sums of money to the naxals as ransom and release all naxal prisoners.
3. The state forces engaged the naxals in a dialogue while simultaneously sending in a commando force to release the prisoners.
4. The state forces utilize local mediators to engage wiith the naxals to workout a resolution process for release of the kidnapped.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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



(d) 4 only
 Ans: d

Sol: The given scenario poses a challenging situation where a Deputy Commissioner has been kidnapped by naxalites. The naxalites demand the release of all naxal prisoners from jails across India in exchange for the kidnapped official's release. Among the options provided, option 4 seems to be the best conflict resolution mechanism.

- **Option 1**, which involves paramilitary and local police attacking the naxalites to release the kidnapped official, could escalate the situation and put the official's life at risk. It may also lead to casualties on both sides.
- **Option 2** suggests offering huge sums of money to the naxals as ransom and releasing all naxal prisoners. This approach may set a dangerous precedent and encourage further kidnappings. It also undermines the judicial process and the rule of law.
- **Option 3** proposes engaging the naxals in a dialogue while simultaneously sending in a commando force to release the prisoners. Although dialogue is crucial, the use of force may not be the most effective approach, as it can escalate tensions and lead to violence.
- **Option 4** suggests utilizing local mediators to engage with the naxals and work out a resolution process for the release of the kidnapped official. This approach emphasizes diplomatic negotiation and peaceful resolution. By involving mediators who can understand.

Q1388. Consider the following statements regarding Left Wing Extremism:

1. The term Naxalism derives its name from the village Naxalbari of Chhattisgarh.
 2. The Red Corridor is the region in the central, eastern and southern parts of India that experience severe Naxalism-Maoist insurgency.
 3. Dandakaranya region includes areas of Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra only.
- How many of the above given statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol: Naxalism derives its name from the village Naxalbari of West Bengal. Dandakaranya region includes areas of Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

Q1389. Binagunda and Koronar forests" were often seen in the news due to:

- (a) Rare Indian tree species having water in trunks
- (b) Smuggling of red sandalwood
- (c) Interlinking of rivers
- (d) Anti-Naxal operation

Ans: d

Sol: The Binagunda and Koronar forests have been in the news due to D. Anti-Naxal operations. These forests are located in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, which is a known area of Naxalite activity. Security forces often conduct operations in these forests to counter Naxalite insurgents.

Topic 464

464. Actions to counter Naxalism

Two pronged approach by the government-

1. Security approach

- a. **Operation Green Hunt:** It was started in 2010 and massive deployment of security forces was done in the naxal-affected areas.
- b. **Andhra Police rose 'Greyhounds':** special forces to deal with naxalism in the state.
- c. Almost every state created its own special Police force to fight Naxalism.

2. Development approach for tribals

- **SAMADHAN doctrine** adopted by Ministry of Home Affairs
- **Aspirational Districts Programme**
- **Forest Rights Act, 2006**
- **Tribal Panchsheel**
- **Tribal Sub plan**
- **Janjatiya gaurav Diwas**
- **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**-came into existence through the Constitution **(89th Amendment) Act, 2003- Article 338A of the Constitution**
- **Welfare Schemes for the Tribals-** Like Eklavya model school, Dharti Aba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana, Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY), PM Janman



scheme, Scheme for Denotified Tribes (SEED) etc

SAMADHAN stands for-

- S- Smart Leadership,
- A- Aggressive Strategy,
- M- Motivation and Training,
- A- Actionable Intelligence,
- D- Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key Result Areas),
- H- Harnessing Technology,
- A- Action plan for each Theatre,
- N- No access to Financing.

Q1390. CORAS is a separate Commando Unit of:

- (a) National Security Guard (NSG)
- (b) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- (c) Railway Protection Force (RPF)
- (d) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

Ans: c

Sol: CORAS was planned in Railway Protection Force keeping in mind the threat from disruptive forces. Former Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched the Commandos for Railway Safety (CORAS). It comprises Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) personnel and is headed by the RPF DG.

Q1391. Which of the following initiatives are related to countering Naxalism in India?

1. Operation Green Hunt – A security-based approach involving massive deployment of forces.
2. Greyhounds – A special anti-Naxal force created by the Andhra Pradesh Police.
3. SAMADHAN Doctrine – A comprehensive strategy by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
4. Rashtriya Rifles – A special force primarily deployed for counterinsurgency in Naxal-affected areas.

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Operation Green Hunt (2010) was a major security operation against Naxals.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Greyhounds is a special anti-Naxal force set up by the Andhra Pradesh Police.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** SAMADHAN doctrine is a holistic approach to counter Naxalism using a mix of security, intelligence, and technology.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Rashtriya Rifles is a counterinsurgency force primarily deployed in Jammu & Kashmir, not in Naxal-affected areas.

Q1392. Which of the following schemes/initiatives focus on the development of tribal communities to counter Naxalism?

1. Aspirational Districts Programme
2. Forest Rights Act, 2006
3. Van Dhan Scheme
4. Cyber Suraksha Yojana

Select the correct option:

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Aspirational Districts Programme focuses on development in backward districts, including many Naxal-affected regions.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The Forest Rights Act, 2006 recognizes tribal land rights, addressing a major cause of Naxalism.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Van Dhan Scheme promotes self-employment among tribals through value addition to forest products.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Cyber Suraksha Yojana deals with cybersecurity, not Naxalism or tribal development.

Topic 465

465. Aspirational District Programme Aspirational District Programme

- started in **2018**
- by **NITI Aayog** in partnership with **state governments**



- Aim-to **bring improvement in lifestyle** of people living in **backward districts** of India.
- **112 backward districts** were identified from **28 states, at least one from each state.**
- Aim to **improve HDI ranking** of India.

7 Aspirational districts from Assam

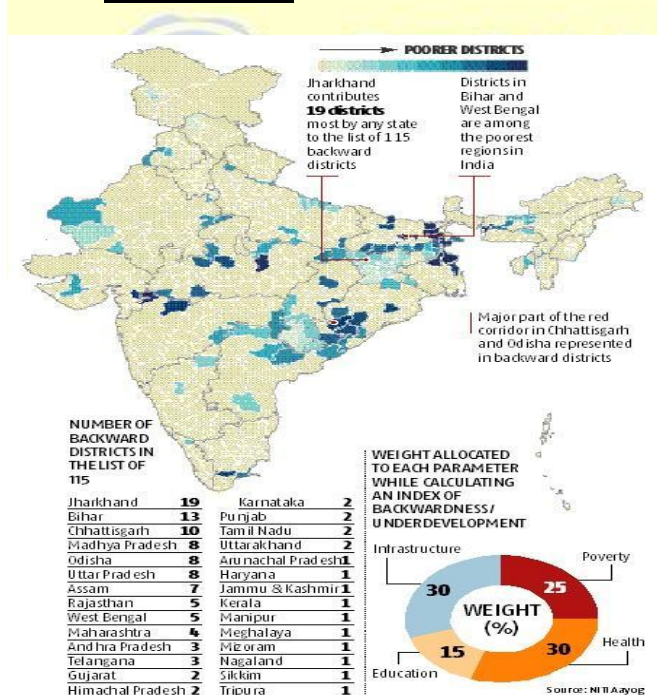
- Darrang, Barpeta, Dhubri, Goalpara, Baksa, Udalguri and Hailakandi.

Aspirational Block Programme

- Success of Aspirational District Programme led to **launch of Aspirational Block Programme.**
- The programme will cover **500 districts across 31 states** and **Union Territories** initially.

Note-

- Earlier there were **115 districts** under Aspirational Districts Programme, **now there are 112.**



Q1393. With reference to the Aspirational Districts Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2018 which aims to transform districts that have shown relatively less progress in key social areas.
2. The delta ranking of the Aspirational Districts is launched by the NITI Aayog.

3. The broad contours of the programme are Convergence, Collaboration and Competition among districts through monthly delta ranking. How many of the above given statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol: Statement 1 is correct.

- The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) was launched in 2018 to transform districts that have shown relatively less progress in key social areas such as health, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, and skill development.

Statement 2 is correct.

- NITI Aayog is responsible for the delta ranking of Aspirational Districts based on key performance indicators (KPIs). This ranking helps in monitoring progress and identifying areas for improvement.

Statement 3 is correct.

- The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (among districts), and Competition (promoted through monthly rankings) based on improvements (delta ranking).

Q1394. With reference to the Aspirational District Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by NITI Aayog in partnership with state governments in 2018.
2. The programme initially covered 115 districts, but now focuses on 112 districts.
3. The primary aim of the programme is to improve India's GDP growth rate.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b



Sol: Statement 3 is incorrect – The primary aim is to improve the Human Development Index (HDI), not GDP growth rate.

Q1395. Which of the following statements regarding the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) is correct?

- It was launched before the Aspirational District Programme.
- It aims to improve governance and development in 500 blocks across 31 states and UTs.
- It covers only backward districts of Assam.
- It is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Ans: b

Topic 466

466. Forest Rights Act, 2006

- known as the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers** (Recognition of Forest Rights) **Act**.

Rights recognised under FRA

1. Individual Rights

- Ownership rights** over land cultivated for livelihood (**up to a maximum of 4 hectares**).

2. Community Rights

- Use and access to **forest resources** like **minor forest produce**, water bodies, grazing areas, and fish.

Eligibility Criteria

- Scheduled Tribes (STs)** residing in the **forests** before **13 December 2005**.
- Other **traditional forest dwellers** who have lived in and depended on the forest for at **least three generations (75 years)**.

Process of Recognition

- Gram Sabha** (village assembly) plays **a central role** in identifying beneficiaries.
- Claims are verified and **approved by a committee** at the **district level**.

Rights for the dwellers

What the Forest Rights Act, 2006, entails

- Tenurial security over the forestland under occupation prior to December 13, 2005
- Recognition of community right over forest and forest products
- Protection and conservation of community forest resources
- Conversion of all forest villages and habitation located inside the forestland into revenue villages
- In situ rehabilitation of displaced persons evicted without compensation prior to December 13, 2005
- Recognition of ancestral domain (habitat) right to



Residents of Gunduribadi village in Odisha's Nayagarh district get ready for mapping their land boundaries for the Forest Rights Act implementation. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

- Conversion of all leases granted by erstwhile governments, zamindars and king into permanent land records
- Seasonal access to nomadic, pastoral and semi-nomadic communities over forestland



Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a term for **non-timber forest products** that **come from plants**.

Q1396. Which of the following rights are recognized under the Forest Rights Act, 2006?

- Ownership rights over forest land cultivated for livelihood (up to 4 hectares).
- Access to minor forest produce, grazing areas, and water bodies.
- Right to transfer ownership of forest land to private entities.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 3 is incorrect – The Act does not allow transfer of ownership of forest land to private entities.

Q1397. Which of the following conditions must be met for eligibility under the Forest Rights Act, 2006?

- The person must be from a Scheduled Tribe (ST) and residing in forests before 13 December 2005.
- Other traditional forest dwellers must prove at least three generations (75 years) of residence and dependence on forests.



3. A person from any community can claim rights if they have lived in a forest area for at least 50 years.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 3 is incorrect – The Act requires at least three generations (75 years) of residence for Other Traditional Forest Dwellers, not 50 years.

Q1398. What is the role of the Gram Sabha in the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006?

- (a) It directly grants forest land ownership to individuals.
- (b) It identifies eligible beneficiaries and verifies claims before sending them to a district-level committee.
- (c) It collects forest revenue on behalf of the state government.
- (d) It determines the commercial use of forest land.

Ans: b

Topic 467

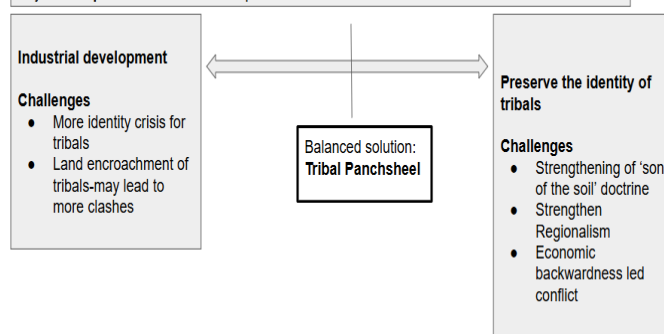
467. Tribal Panchsheel

- **Jawaharlal Nehru** introduced the **Tribal Panchsheel** in **1952** as part of India's approach to **tribal development**.
- **Fifth and Sixth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution are **in line** with principles of **Tribal Panchsheel**.

Five fundamental principles for tribal development:

1. **Non-imposition**:- People should develop along the lines of their own genius.
2. **Tribal rights** in **land and forest** should be **respected**.
3. Introducing **too many outsiders** into tribal territory should be **avoided**.
4. Tribal areas should **not be over administered**
5. **Result-not** to be **measured on money spent**.

Any mains question on Tribal development can be concluded with the idea of 'Tribal Panchsheel'



Q1399. With reference to Jawaharlal Nehru's Tribal Panchsheel, consider the following statements:

1. The principles of Tribal Panchsheel emphasize that tribal people should develop along their own cultural and social lines.
2. It explicitly mandates that economic development in tribal areas should be measured by the amount of money spent by the government.
3. It aligns with the provisions of the Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Indian Constitution, which provide special protections for tribal areas.
4. One of its principles suggests that excessive administration in tribal areas should be avoided.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – Tribal Panchsheel emphasizes that development should happen along the lines of tribal people's own genius.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – The approach discourages measuring success merely by money spent.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The Fifth and Sixth Schedules align with Tribal Panchsheel's principles.
- **Statement 4 is correct** – It suggests tribal areas should not be over-administered.



Q1400. Consider the following regarding the principles of Tribal Panchsheel:

1. It was introduced in 1952 by Mahatma Gandhi as a part of India's post-independence tribal development policy.
2. The principles discourage the introduction of excessive outsiders into tribal territories.
3. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, which provides for autonomous district councils in tribal areas, aligns with the principles of Tribal Panchsheel.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** – It was introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru, not Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The principles discourage the influx of outsiders into tribal areas to preserve their identity.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The Sixth Schedule, which provides for autonomous governance in tribal areas, aligns with the Panchsheel approach.

Q1401. The Tribal Panchsheel lays down principles for tribal development. Consider the following statements:

1. It recommends that the rights of tribals over their land and forests should be respected.
2. The policy advocates for heavy industrialization in tribal areas to boost economic growth.
3. Excessive administration and government intervention in tribal affairs should be avoided.
4. The results of tribal development should primarily be measured in terms of improved economic metrics and GDP contribution.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:



- **Statement 1 is correct** – Tribal rights over land and forests should be respected.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – The principles discourage aggressive industrialization in tribal areas.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – Over-administration should be avoided.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – Success should not be measured solely in economic terms but also in terms of social and cultural well-being.

Topic 468

468. Tribal Sub plan

- Introduced in the Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-75)
- It is strategy for the development of Scheduled Tribes and areas having tribal concentration in the country.

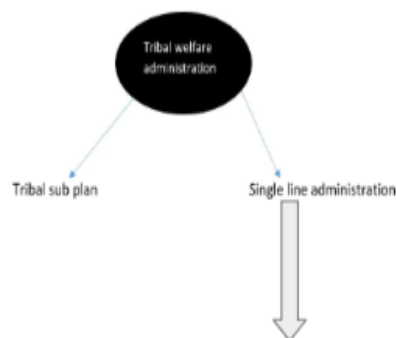
The objectives of TSP are as given below:

- To eradicate the exploitation of tribals and enable the development of remote tribal areas.
- To reduce poverty and unemployment prevailing among the tribals.
- To provide physical and financial security against any kind of oppression and exploitation.

Key features

- Concerned ministries in center, states and UTs are allocated funds under TSP.
- Share of central ministries in TSP is decided by the Ministry of Finance.
- Tribal Sub Plan funds cannot be diverted to any other head and are non-lapsable.
- Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) is not applicable to states where the tribal population is more than 60% (because TSP is a program that aims to reduce the gap between the tribal population and the general population).

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has been mandated to monitor TSP.


Convergence of Ministries like

1. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
 2. Ministry of Rural Development
 3. Ministry of Education
- On schemes related to tribals.

Q1402. With reference to the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), consider the following statements:

1. It was introduced during the Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-75) for the development of Scheduled Tribes and tribal-dominated areas.
2. TSP funds are allocated to various ministries at the central, state, and UT levels, and their share is decided by the Ministry of Finance.
3. The TSP is applicable to all states and UTs, including those where the tribal population is more than 60%.
4. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is responsible for monitoring the TSP.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – TSP was introduced in the Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-75) for tribal development.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The Ministry of Finance decides the share of central ministries under TSP.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – TSP is not applicable to states where the tribal population is more than 60%.

- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) monitors the implementation of TSP, not the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Q1403. Consider the following statements regarding the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP):

1. TSP aims to reduce the poverty and unemployment among tribal communities.
2. Funds allocated under TSP are non-lapsable and cannot be diverted for other purposes.
3. TSP was originally introduced as part of the First Five-Year Plan (1951-56) to provide financial assistance to tribal communities.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – A key objective of TSP is to reduce poverty and unemployment among tribals.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – TSP funds are non-lapsable and cannot be diverted.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – TSP was introduced in the Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-75), not the First Five-Year Plan (1951-56).

Q1404. With reference to the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), consider the following statements:

1. The primary objective of TSP is to bridge the developmental gap between tribal and non-tribal populations.
2. TSP funding is mandatory for all states and Union Territories, regardless of their tribal population percentage.
3. The Ministry of Finance plays a crucial role in determining the share of TSP funds allocated to various central ministries.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

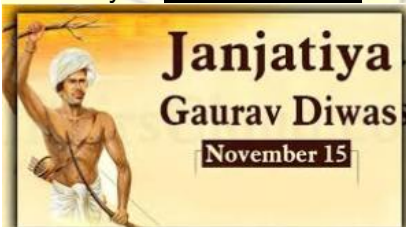


- **Statement 1 is correct** – TSP aims to bridge the development gap between tribal and non-tribal populations.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – TSP is not applicable in states where tribal population is more than 60%.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The Ministry of Finance decides the share of TSP funds allocated to central ministries.

Topic 469

469. Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas

- In 2021 Union Cabinet has approved declaration of 15th November as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.
- The date is the birth anniversary of Sri Birsa Munda who is revered as Bhagwan by tribal communities across the country.
- Birsa Munda was from the current state of Jharkhand.
- Birsa Munda fought bravely against the exploitative system of the British colonial system and spearheaded movement against British oppression giving a call for 'Ulgulan' (Revolution).
- In 2023 on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (**PM JANMAN**).



Q1405. With reference to Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, consider the following statements:

1. The Government of India declared November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in 2021 to honor tribal heroes.
2. The day marks the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, a revered tribal leader who led the Ulgulan movement against British rule.
3. In 2023, the Union Cabinet launched the PM JANMAN scheme to support tribal welfare on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
4. Birsa Munda belonged to the present-day state of Chhattisgarh.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) Only one

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The Union Cabinet approved the declaration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in 2021.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – Birsa Munda led the Ulgulan movement against British rule.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The PM JANMAN scheme was launched in 2023 on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – Birsa Munda belonged to Jharkhand, not Chhattisgarh.

Q1406. Consider the following statements regarding Birsa Munda:

1. Birsa Munda played a key role in leading tribal uprisings against British oppression in the late 19th century.
2. His movement primarily focused on political resistance and did not include any elements of social reform.
3. The Munda Rebellion led by Birsa Munda was one of the earliest revolts against British rule in India.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: b

Sol:-

- **Statement 1 is correct** – Birsa Munda led tribal uprisings against British rule in the late 19th century.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – Birsa Munda's movement was not just political but also included social reform, advocating against superstitions and social evils in tribal society.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The Munda Rebellion (1899-1900) was one of the significant early revolts against British rule.

Q1407. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN), consider the following statements:



1. It was launched in 2023 on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
2. The scheme aims to improve infrastructure, education, and healthcare in particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs).
3. The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal ministry for the implementation of PM JANMAN.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The PM JANMAN scheme was launched in 2023 on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The scheme focuses on education, healthcare, and infrastructure development for PVTGs.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, not the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, is the nodal ministry for PM JANMAN.

Topic 470

470. PM JANMAN for PVTG

- In **1973**, on recommendation of the **Dhebar Commission** government created **Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)** as a **separate category**, who are **less developed** among the tribal groups.
- In **2006**, the Government of India **renamed** the **PTGs as PVTGs**.
- There are about **75 listed PVTG's in India**
- The highest number of **PVTGs** are found in **Odisha**.
- There are **no identified Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** in **Assam**.

PM JAN MAN Yojana

- Announced in **2023**.

The Scheme is aimed at providing **PVTG households and habitations with:**

- basic facilities **such as safe housing, clean drinking water** and sanitation,

- improved **access to education, health and nutrition**,
- road and telecom connectivity, and **sustainable livelihood opportunities**.
- **Includes both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.**

Note-

A 2015 report by **Virginus Xaxa committee** was published on **PVTG** recommending a **separate scheme** for them.



Characteristics of PVTGs:

- Population – stagnant/declining
- Technology – pre-agricultural
- Literacy Level – extremely low
- Economy – Subsistence level



Q1408. With reference to Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, consider the following statements:

1. The Government of India declared November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in 2021 to honor tribal heroes.
2. The day marks the birth anniversary of Birsu Munda, a revered tribal leader who led the Ulgulan movement against British rule.
3. In 2023, the Union Cabinet launched the PM JANMAN scheme to support tribal welfare on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.



4. Birsa Munda belonged to the present-day state of Chhattisgarh.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The Union Cabinet approved the declaration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in 2021.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – Birsa Munda led the Ulgulan movement against British rule.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The PM JANMAN scheme was launched in 2023 on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – Birsa Munda belonged to Jharkhand, not Chhattisgarh.

Q1409. Consider the following statements regarding Birsa Munda:

1. Birsa Munda played a key role in leading tribal uprisings against British oppression in the late 19th century.
2. His movement primarily focused on political resistance and did not include any elements of social reform.
3. The Munda Rebellion led by Birsa Munda was one of the earliest revolts against British rule in India.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – Birsa Munda led tribal uprisings against British rule in the late 19th century.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – Birsa Munda's movement was not just political but also included social reform, advocating against superstitions and social evils in tribal society.

- **Statement 3 is correct** – The Munda Rebellion (1899-1900) was one of the significant early revolts against British rule.

Q1410. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2023 on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
2. The scheme aims to improve infrastructure, education, and healthcare in particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs).
3. The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal ministry for the implementation of PM JANMAN.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The PM JANMAN scheme was launched in 2023 on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The scheme focuses on education, healthcare, and infrastructure development for PVTGs.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, not the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, is the nodal ministry for PM JANMAN.

Day 48

Topic 471

471. Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY)

- It is a government scheme launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- to ensure holistic development of tribal communities- focussing on their education, healthcare, livelihood, and infrastructure.
- to bridge gaps between tribal and non-tribal regions.

Implementation Strategy

1. **Education:** Establishment of **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** and scholarships for tribal students.



2. **Health & Nutrition:** Strengthening healthcare facilities in remote tribal areas.

Eklavya model school residential school scheme

- Started in **1997-98**
- **Central Sector Scheme**
- administered by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

Purpose

- **Quality Education** to children of **Schedule Tribe community** by setting up **residential schools**.
- The scheme provides **completely free education**.
- Fund comes from the **centre under Article 275(1) in the form of Grant in Aid**.
- **Management and administration** is taken care by the **state governments**.
- **Each school** has a capacity of **480 students**, catering to students from **Class VI to XII**.

Objective

- The government aims to set up **740 EMRSs** across **India**, ensuring **at least** one such school in every block with **50% or more ST population**.



Q1411. With reference to the Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to ensure the holistic development of tribal communities.
2. The scheme aims to bridge gaps between tribal and non-tribal regions by focusing on education, healthcare, livelihood, and infrastructure.
3. VKY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme where the Centre provides funding, and the states share the implementation responsibility.
4. The scheme provides financial assistance directly to tribal families to support their economic upliftment.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) Only one

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – VKY was launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The scheme aims to bridge gaps between tribal and non-tribal regions by focusing on key areas like education, healthcare, livelihood, and infrastructure.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – VKY is not a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, but a Central Sector Scheme, meaning it is 100% funded by the central government.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – VKY does not provide direct financial assistance to tribal families, but invests in community development through schools, healthcare, and infrastructure projects.

Q1412. Consider the following statements regarding Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):

1. The EMRS scheme was launched in 1997-98 to provide quality education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students through residential schools.
2. The funding for EMRS is provided under Article 275(1) of the Constitution as Grant-in-Aid from the Central Government.
3. The management and administration of EMRSs are directly handled by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs without any role of the state governments.
4. The government aims to establish at least one EMRS in every block where the ST population is 50% or more.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The EMRS scheme was launched in 1997-98 to provide free, quality education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) children.



- **Statement 2 is correct** – Funding for EMRS is provided under Article 275(1) of the Constitution as Grant-in-Aid from the Centre.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The management and administration of EMRS are handled by the state governments, not directly by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **Statement 4 is correct** – The government aims to set up at least one EMRS in every block where the ST population is 50% or more.

Q1413. Consider the following statements regarding the implementation of Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY) and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):

1. VKY focuses on infrastructure development, while EMRS focuses on education for Scheduled Tribe children.
2. VKY includes the establishment of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) as part of its education initiative.
3. Under the EMRS scheme, each school has a capacity of 480 students, catering to students from Class VI to XII.
4. The VKY and EMRS schemes operate under different ministries, with VKY under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and EMRS under the Ministry of Education.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – VKY focuses on infrastructure development, while EMRS focuses on education for Scheduled Tribe students.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – VKY includes EMRS as part of its education strategy.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – Each EMRS school has a capacity of 480 students, catering to students from Class VI to XII.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – Both VKY and EMRS operate under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, not under different ministries.

Topic 472

472. Dharti Aba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan

- A comprehensive initiative launched by the **Government of India** in **2024** to promote the **holistic development of tribal communities**.

Key Objectives:

1. Infrastructure Development

- Ensure the provision of pucca (permanent) housing, access to clean drinking water, electricity, and road connectivity in tribal areas.

2. Economic Empowerment

- Promote sustainable livelihood opportunities through skill development, agricultural support, and market linkages.

3. Healthcare Improvement

- Strengthen healthcare services to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates and address prevalent health issues in tribal communities.

4. Educational access for tribals



Birsa Munda

- The scheme is named in **honor of Birsa Munda**, a **revered tribal leader**.
- He is known as **"Dharti Aaba"** (Father of the Earth),

Q1414. Consider the following characteristics:

1. Launched the Ulgulan Movement in 1899.
2. Arrested by British authorities in 1900 along with his guerrilla group in the Jamkopai forest.
3. The state of Jharkhand was established on his birth anniversary in 2000.

Which of the following personalities is best described by these characteristics?

- (a) Sidhu Murmu
- (b) Birsa Munda
- (c) Laxman Naik
- (d) Tirot Sing

Ans: b

Sol: Birsa Munda. The Ulgulan (The Great Tumult) movement, Birsa Munda's arrest in 1900,



and the establishment of Jharkhand on his birth anniversary are all key details associated with him.

Q1415. With reference to the Dharti Aba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, consider the following statements:

1. The initiative was launched by the Government of India in 2024 to promote holistic development of tribal communities.
2. One of its key objectives is economic empowerment, which includes market linkages and agricultural support for tribal populations.
3. The scheme primarily focuses on healthcare and education, without addressing infrastructure development in tribal areas.
4. It aims to strengthen healthcare services in tribal regions to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The Dharti Aba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan was launched by the Government of India in 2024 for the holistic development of tribal communities.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The scheme promotes economic empowerment by providing agricultural support and market linkages to help tribal populations sustain their livelihood.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The scheme does include infrastructure development, such as pucca housing, road connectivity, electricity, and clean drinking water.
- **Statement 4 is correct** – A major focus of the initiative is healthcare improvement, aiming to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates in tribal areas.

Q1416. Consider the following statements regarding the objectives of Dharti Aba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan:

1. The scheme aims to ensure permanent housing, access to clean drinking water, and electricity in tribal areas as part of its infrastructure development goal.

2. It emphasizes skill development and sustainable livelihood opportunities to empower tribal communities economically.
3. One of the key healthcare interventions under this scheme is the promotion of traditional tribal medicine systems alongside modern healthcare facilities.
4. The scheme seeks to improve educational access for tribal children but does not focus on healthcare improvement.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The scheme ensures infrastructure development, including permanent housing, clean drinking water, electricity, and road connectivity in tribal areas.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The scheme promotes economic empowerment through skill development, sustainable livelihood opportunities, and market linkages.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – While the scheme strengthens healthcare services, it does not specifically mention the promotion of traditional tribal medicine systems.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – The scheme does focus on healthcare improvement, including measures to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates.

Topic 473

473. Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY)

- The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative **launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs** in **2018**, under the **Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY)**.
- Initiative targeting livelihood generation for **tribal gatherers** and transforming them into **entrepreneurs**.
- By **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** (100% central funded)

Income augmentation for the tribals-

- **SHGs** of tribal population will be created-- **encouraged to collect minor forest**



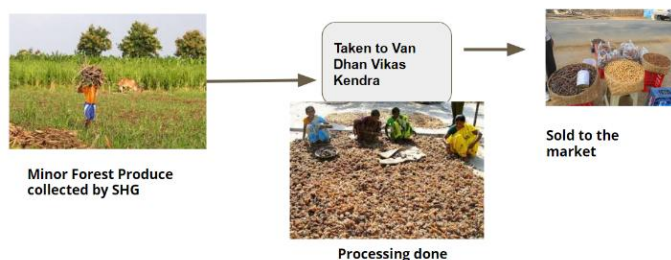
produce--process it--encouraged for **sale**
in nearby market areas.

- Van Dhan Samuh (15 tribal Self Help Groups, each comprising 20 Tribal gatherers) are trained at Van Vikas Kendra in Processing, Branding, Marketing etc

TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India)

- Nodal Agency for implementing Van Dhan Yojana.
- TRIFED assists in branding and selling these products under the "TRIBES India" brand.
- Tribal products are promoted via e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, and Tribes India website.

'Minor Forest Produce (MFP)' means all **non-timber** forest produce of plant origin and will include **bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins** and many forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, Honey, Lac, Tusser etc.



Q1417. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY), consider the following statements:

1. The scheme was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and is fully funded by the central government.
2. Under this initiative, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of tribal gatherers are trained at Van Vikas Kendras for processing, branding, and marketing of minor forest produce (MFP).
3. TRIFED is the nodal agency responsible for the implementation of the scheme and also helps

in branding and selling tribal products under the "TRIBES India" brand.

4. The scheme primarily focuses on timber-based products to improve the income levels of tribal gatherers.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – PMVDY was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and is 100% centrally funded.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The scheme promotes Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of tribal gatherers, which are trained at Van Vikas Kendras for processing, branding, and marketing of minor forest produce.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – TRIFED is the nodal agency for implementation, branding, and marketing under "TRIBES India" and various e-commerce platforms.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – The scheme focuses on minor forest produce (MFP), not timber-based products. Timber is not included under MFP.

Q1418. Consider the following statements regarding the implementation and impact of the Van Dhan Scheme:

1. Van Dhan Samujhs consist of 15 tribal Self-Help Groups (SHGs), each having 20 tribal gatherers, and are trained in value addition processes.
2. The scheme aims to increase income levels of tribal communities by processing and marketing forest produce instead of selling them in raw form.
3. Products processed under PMVDY are sold under the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana brand exclusively through physical markets in tribal regions.
4. TRIFED facilitates the sale of tribal products through e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, and the Tribes India website.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only



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

Ans: d

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – Van Dhan Samuhs are structured as 15 tribal SHGs, each with 20 tribal gatherers.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The scheme ensures income augmentation by promoting processing and value addition of minor forest produce (MFP) before selling.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The processed products are not exclusively sold in physical markets; they are also sold online through e-commerce platforms.
- **Statement 4 is correct** – TRIFED promotes tribal products through Amazon, Flipkart, and the Tribes India website.

Q1419. Consider the following statements regarding Minor Forest Produce (MFP) under PMVDY:

1. MFP refers to non-timber forest produce of plant origin, which includes bamboo, fodder, resins, and wild fruits.
2. Honey, Lac, and Tusser silk are explicitly classified as Minor Forest Produce (MFP) under the scheme.
3. Only forest dwellers belonging to Scheduled Tribes (STs) are eligible to benefit from the collection and trade of MFP under PMVDY.
4. The scheme provides training in branding and marketing but does not focus on processing techniques for MFP.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – MFP excludes timber and includes bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins, and wild fruits.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – Honey, Lac, and Tusser silk are explicitly recognized as Minor Forest Produce (MFP) under the scheme.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The scheme is not exclusively for Scheduled Tribes (STs); other forest dwellers who collect MFP can also benefit.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – The scheme focuses on training in processing, branding, and marketing of MFP.

Topic 474

474. Scheme for Denotified Tribes (SEED)

- **Britishers acquired forest areas** forcefully for extraction of natural resources like timber.
 - The tribal communities **who mainly live in and around the forests** were **forced to evacuate** their place and **move to the urban areas**.
 - Some tribal communities **resisted** against the Britishers.
 - In order to counter them the **Britishers passed Criminal Tribes Act, 1871**.
 - According to Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 more than **200 tribes were notified as 'born criminal'**
 - **Since then** they were known as **Notified criminals**.
 - There **names were not included** in the **depressed classes** list prepared by the Britishers in **1935 for giving separate electorate**.
 - India after independence **prepared list of Schedule Tribes under Article 366(25)** for the **welfare** of tribals.
 - But this list was mainly **prepared on the basis the list** prepared by the **Britishers of Scheduled Tribes under Government of India Act, 1935**.
 - Thus these **tribes were left out-not benefit** from the **welfare programmes** run by the government (forced to beg)
 - **Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment**, launched the **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)**.
- 2 commissions for welfare of Denotified Tribes-**
1. Renke Commission in 2005
 2. **Idate Commission (2014)**



4 components of SEED

1. To provide coaching of good quality for competitive examinations.
2. To provide health insurance
3. To facilitate livelihoods initiative.
4. To provide financial assistance for construction of houses.



Q1420. With reference to Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. Denotified Tribes were once labelled as 'born criminals' during British rule under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871.
2. All Denotified Tribes are listed under the Scheduled Castes (SC) category.
3. Nomadic Tribes and Semi-Nomadic Tribes generally do not have access to private land or home ownership.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – Denotified Tribes (DNTs) were labeled as 'born criminals' under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871 during British rule. After independence, the Act was repealed in 1952, and these tribes were "denotified."
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – Not all Denotified Tribes (DNTs) are listed under the Scheduled Castes (SC) category. Some are classified under Scheduled Tribes (STs), some under Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and a few remain unclassified.

- **Statement 3 is correct** – Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes often lack private land ownership as they traditionally lead a migratory lifestyle without permanent settlements.

Q1421. With reference to the historical background and welfare measures for Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Criminal Tribes Act of 1871 categorized over 200 tribes as 'born criminals,' leading to their marginalization.
2. The Scheduled Tribes (ST) list prepared under Article 366(25) of the Indian Constitution was entirely new and independent of the British-era classifications.
3. The SEED scheme, launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, aims to provide economic empowerment exclusively through housing and livelihood support.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The Criminal Tribes Act of 1871 classified over 200 tribes as 'born criminals,' leading to severe discrimination and marginalization.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – The ST list under Article 366(25) was not entirely new; rather, it was based on the British-era Scheduled Tribes classification under the Government of India Act, 1935, which led to many DNTs being excluded from welfare benefits.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The SEED scheme provides four components of economic empowerment: education, health insurance, livelihood support, and housing (not just housing and livelihood support).

Thus, the correct answer is (a) Only one.

Q1422. With reference to the SEED scheme and commissions related to Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, consider the following statements:

1. The Renke Commission (2005) and Idate Commission (2014) were established to study



the socio-economic conditions of DNTs in India.

- The SEED scheme offers free coaching for students from DNT communities for Civil Services and professional courses like medicine and engineering.
- Health insurance under the SEED scheme is provided through the National Health Authority's Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).
- The entire funding of the SEED scheme is shared equally by the Centre and State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct** – The Renke Commission (2005) and Idate Commission (2014) were set up to study the socio-economic conditions of DNTs and recommend welfare measures.
- Statement 2 is correct** – Under SEED, free coaching is provided to DNT students for Civil Services and professional courses (medicine, engineering, MBA, etc.).
- Statement 3 is correct** – Health insurance under SEED is provided through PMJAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) of the National Health Authority.
- Statement 4 is incorrect** – SEED is 100% centrally funded; it is not shared between the Centre and State Governments.

Topic 475

475. Insurgency in Northeast-Nagaland

- During independence in 1947 Nagas formed a group - **Naga National Council (NNC)**
- They demanded **complete independence from India**
- AFSPA** was brought in independent India for the first time to suppress **Naga insurgency in 1958**.

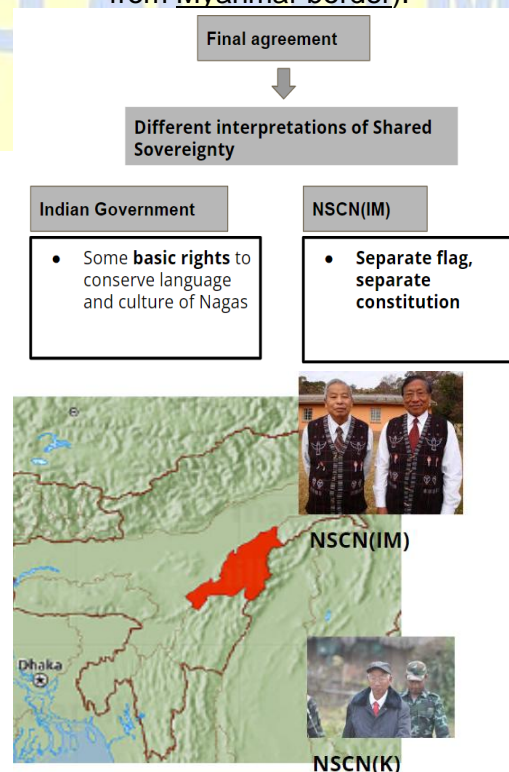
- Shillong Accord 1975**-Naga National Council (NNC) leaders **surrendered** and accepted **Indian constitution**
- Now new insurgent group **NSCN became active after 1980**-Its two top most leaders were **Isak and Muivah**
- 1988**- Division in NSCN **and new group NSCN(Khaplang) was formed**
- In **1997 NSCN(IM)** and **Central government declared a ceasefire** and talks began
- 2015**- A **basic framework** agreement was finalised
- But **final agreement is yet to be finalised** because of disagreement on some key words like '**shared sovereignty**'.

Current news?

- The **Isak-Muivah faction** of the NSCN has issued a **statement** threatening to resume **armed resistance** against India if **its** demands of **Greater Nagalim** are **not met**.

Note

- NSCN(K)** continues to participate in insurgency and violence (operates mainly from Myanmar border).





Proposed Nagalim
 Naga-inhabited
 areas of **Assam,**
Manipur, and
Arunachal Pradesh
 and some parts of
Myanmar.

Q1423. Consider the following statements regarding Naga insurgent groups:

1. The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) was formed in 1980 by Isak and Muivah after rejecting the Shillong Accord.
2. The NSCN later split into two factions in 1988, one led by Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) and the other by Khaplang (NSCN-K).
3. The NSCN (K) was the first Naga faction to sign a ceasefire agreement with the Indian government in 1997.

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The NSCN was formed in 1980 by Isak and Muivah after rejecting the Shillong Accord of 1975.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – In 1988, the NSCN split into NSCN-IM (Isak-Muivah) and NSCN-K (Khaplang) due to internal disagreements.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The NSCN-IM was the first faction to sign a ceasefire agreement with the Indian government in 1997, not NSCN-K. The NSCN-K has continued to engage in insurgency and operates from Myanmar.

Thus, the correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only.

Q1424. With reference to the recent developments in the Naga peace process, consider the following statements:

1. The Framework Agreement of 2015 was signed between the Government of India and NSCN(K), aiming to provide a solution to the Naga issue.
2. The final Naga peace agreement has not been signed yet due to disagreements over terms like 'shared sovereignty.'

3. The NSCN-IM has recently issued a warning that it may resume armed resistance if its demand for 'Greater Nagalim' is not met.

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

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** – The Framework Agreement (2015) was signed between the Indian Government and NSCN-IM, not NSCN-K. NSCN-K continues to be involved in insurgency.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The final agreement has not been signed due to disagreements over terms like 'shared sovereignty.'
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The NSCN-IM has recently threatened to resume armed resistance if its demand for 'Greater Nagalim' is not met.

Q1425. With reference to the insurgency in Nagaland, consider the following statements:

1. The Naga National Council (NNC) was formed before India's independence and demanded complete independence from India.
2. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) was introduced for the first time in independent India in response to the Naga insurgency.
3. The Shillong Accord of 1975 resulted in all factions of Naga insurgents surrendering and permanently accepting the Indian Constitution.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The Naga National Council (NNC) was formed before independence in 1947 and demanded complete independence from India.



- **Statement 2 is correct** – The AFSPA (1958) was first introduced in independent India to suppress the Naga insurgency.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – While the Shillong Accord (1975) led to the surrender of some NNC leaders, it did not end Naga insurgency. Instead, it led to the formation of the NSCN (1980) by Isak and Muivah, which continued the armed movement.

Topic 476

476. Insurgency in Northeast-Mizoram

- Mizoram was a part of the state of Assam before it was **granted statehood in 1987**.
- **Rise in militancy** after the Union government **failed to respond positively** to its demand for assistance during the massive "**Mautam famine**"-(1958-59).
- The **Mizo National Front (M.N.F.)**, led by the legendary leader **Laldenga**, demanded **independence for Mizoram in 1966**.
- Dialogue with the **M.N.F.** is an example of the culmination of a **successful peace process** that **ended militancy in Mizoram in 1986**.
- **Lal Denga** became **first Chief Minister** of Mizoram as a **federated state**, the office of which he held from **1986 to 1988**.

Mautam Famine

- In 1959, Mizo Hills was devastated by **a great famine known in Mizo history** as 'Mautam Famine'.
- The cause of the famine was attributed to **flowering of bamboos** which consequent resulted in **rat population boom** in large numbers.
- After eating up bamboos seeds, the **rats turned towards crops** and infested the huts and houses and became a plague to the Villages.



Q1426. As per Article 371G of the Constitution of India, special provisions have been made with respect to the state of Mizoram. Accordingly, no Act of Parliament shall apply on certain matters unless the Legislative Assembly of Mizoram so decides by a resolution. Which one of the following matters is not covered under this Article?

- Religious or social practices of the Mizo's
- Mizo customary law and procedure
- Administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Mizo customary law
- Ownership and transfer of natural resources

Ans: d

Sol: Article 371G. Special provision with respect to the State of Mizoram. Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, -

- no Act of Parliament in respect of-
 - religious or social practices of the Mizos,
 - Mizo customary law and procedure,
 - administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Mizo customary law,
 - ownership and transfer of land, shall apply to the State of Mizoram unless the Legislative Assembly of the State of Mizoram by a resolution so decides:

Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply to any Central Act in force in the Union territory of Mizoram immediately before the commencement of the Constitution (Fifty-third Amendment) Act, 1986;
- the Legislative Assembly of the State of Mizoram shall consist of not less than forty members.

Q1427. With reference to the insurgency and peace process in Mizoram, consider the following statements:

- The Mizo National Front (MNF) was formed as a result of the Mautam famine when the Union government failed to provide adequate assistance to the Mizo people.
- The MNF launched an armed struggle for an independent Mizoram in 1966, but later signed a peace accord with the Indian government in 1986.
- The Mizoram Peace Accord of 1986 resulted in Mizoram becoming a full-fledged state immediately.



How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The MNF was formed due to the Mautam famine (1958-59), which devastated the region, and the Union government's failure to respond positively.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The MNF launched an armed struggle in 1966, demanding independence, but later signed the Mizoram Peace Accord in 1986, which ended militancy in the region.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – While the peace accord granted greater autonomy, Mizoram became a Union Territory first (1972) and was granted statehood in 1987, not immediately after the peace accord.

Thus, the correct answer is (b) Only two.

Q1428. With reference to the Mautam famine in Mizoram, consider the following statements:

1. The famine was caused by a disease outbreak that destroyed crops and led to widespread starvation in Mizo Hills.
2. The flowering of bamboo plants led to a surge in rat population, which consumed food grains and worsened the famine.
3. The Mautam famine of 1958-59 was a major factor in increasing resentment against the Indian government, ultimately leading to the formation of the Mizo National Front (MNF).

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** – The famine was not caused by a disease outbreak but by natural bamboo flowering, which led to a rat

population explosion and widespread crop destruction.

- **Statement 2 is correct** – The flowering of bamboo plants led to a boom in rat populations, which, after consuming bamboo seeds, attacked crops, leading to severe food shortages.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The Mautam famine (1958-59) created widespread resentment against the Indian government for not providing sufficient relief, which led to the rise of MNF and its armed struggle.

Topic 477

477. Insurgency in Northeast-Manipur

- Manipur has **3 major ethnic groups** who have hostile relations with each other.

Naga -

- The Naga movement (1950s) is the country's longest-running insurgency which fights for the **Greater Nagaland or Nagalim**.

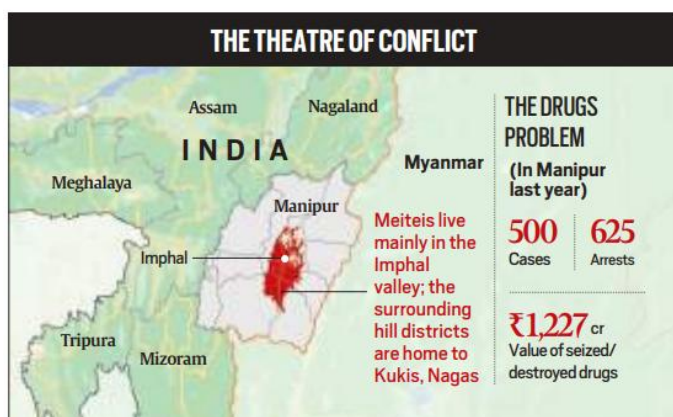
Kuki

- Kuki groups also have **fought the Indian government** for an 'independent Kuki homeland', spread across Manipur.

Meitei

- The Meiteis in Manipur **opposed the merger agreement** between the **Manipuri king and the Indian government (1949)**.
- In **1964**, the **United National Liberation Front (UNLF)**, a meitei insurgent group, was formed, demanding secession from India.





Q1429. With reference to the insurgency in Manipur, consider the following statements:

1. The Naga insurgency in Manipur is primarily driven by the demand for an independent Greater Nagaland (Nagalim).
2. The Kuki insurgency in Manipur has historically been against the Naga groups rather than the Indian government.
3. The Meitei insurgency in Manipur began after the Manipuri king opposed the merger agreement with India in 1949.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The Naga movement in Manipur is part of the broader Greater Nagaland (Nagalim) demand, which has been one of the longest-running insurgencies in India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – While there have been conflicts between Naga and Kuki groups, Kuki insurgents have also fought against the Indian government, demanding an independent Kuki homeland spread across Manipur.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The Meitei insurgency emerged from opposition to the merger agreement (1949), and in 1964, the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) was formed, demanding secession from India.

Thus, the correct answer is (b) Only two.

Q1430. With reference to the Meitei insurgency in Manipur, consider the following statements:

1. The United National Liberation Front (UNLF) was formed in 1964 by the Meiteis, demanding a separate state within India.
2. The Meiteis were historically against the merger of Manipur with India in 1949.
3. Unlike the Naga and Kuki insurgencies, the Meitei insurgency was never about ethnic identity but solely about economic grievances.

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The United National Liberation Front (UNLF) was formed in 1964 by Meitei insurgents demanding secession from India, not just a separate state within India.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The Meiteis opposed the merger agreement between the Manipuri king and the Indian government in 1949, which was one of the root causes of the insurgency.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The Meitei insurgency is not just about economic grievances; it has strong ethnic and political dimensions, including demands for an independent Manipur.

Q1431. Consider the following statements regarding the recent ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur:

1. The Imphal Valley, where the majority of the Meitei population resides, is geographically surrounded by hills, which are predominantly inhabited by the Kuki and Naga tribes.
2. The recent violence was triggered by the demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the Kuki community, which the Meiteis opposed due to concerns over land rights and political representation.
3. The buffer zones between the valley and the hills, mainly along the National Highways, have seen the most intense clashes, affecting both civilian movement and supply routes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The Imphal Valley, constituting about 10% of Manipur's land area, is home to the Meitei population, while the surrounding hilly regions (90% of the land area) are dominated by the Kuki and Naga tribes. This geographical divide has been a major factor in ethnic tensions.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – The recent violence was primarily triggered by the demand for ST status by the Meitei community, not the Kukis. The Kukis and Nagas, who already have ST status, strongly opposed this demand, fearing it would alter land ownership dynamics in their favor.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The buffer zones along the National Highways, especially NH-2 and NH-37, which connect the Imphal Valley to the rest of India, have been strategic conflict zones, witnessing road blockades, supply disruptions, and armed clashes between the two groups.

Topic 478

478. Insurgency in Northeast-Tripura / Meghalaya / Arunachal Pradesh

Tripura

- Migration of **people** from the **British-ruled East Bengal**-sparked a violent **backlash** among the indigenous people.

Meghalaya

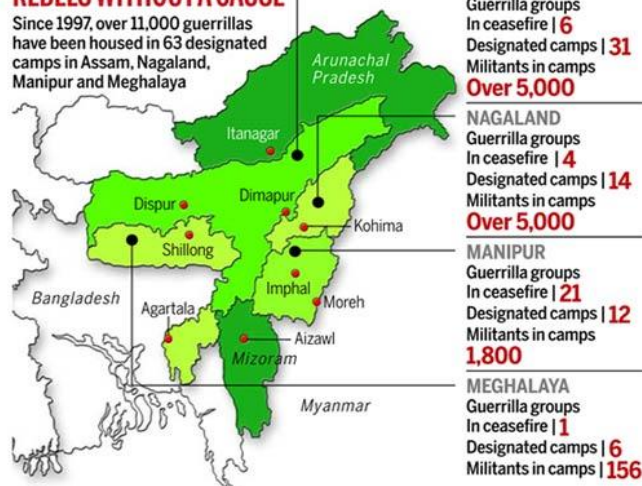
- Regional aspirations reflect in action of **Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA)** and **Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC)**.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **Insurgency** mainly against **settlement of outsiders**.
- **Arunachal Dragon Force (ADF)**, which was rechristened as **East India Liberation Front (EALF)** in 2001.

REBELS WITHOUT A CAUSE

Since 1997, over 11,000 guerrillas have been housed in 63 designated camps in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya



Q1432. Which of the following State/s is/are common to Bru-Reang Agreement, NLFT (SD) Agreement and Tripartite Agreement with TIPRA?

- (a) Tripura
- (b) Assam and Tripura
- (c) Tripura and Mizoram
- (d) Manipur and Mizoram

Ans: a

Sol:

- The Bru-Reang Agreement involves the rehabilitation and settlement of Bru-Reang refugees, primarily in the state of Tripura. These refugees had fled from Mizoram due to ethnic tensions and were residing in Tripura.
- The NLFT (SD) Agreement was signed with the National Liberation Front of Tripura (Sabir Debbarma) faction. This agreement aimed to bring peace and development to the state of Tripura by rehabilitating the surrendered militants.
- The Tripartite Agreement with TIPRA (Tripura Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance) involves the state of Tripura. This agreement was designed to address the socio-economic and political issues of the indigenous people of Tripura.

Given the involvement of the state of Tripura in all three agreements, it is clear that Tripura is the common state to the Bru-Reang Agreement, NLFT (SD) Agreement, and the Tripartite Agreement with TIPRA. Hence, the correct answer is Tripura.



Q1433. Consider the following statements regarding Arunachal Pradesh and its border dispute with China:

1. The McMahon Line, which defines the border between Arunachal Pradesh and Tibet, was drawn under the Simla Agreement of 1914 but is not recognized by China.
2. The Tawang region, located near the tri-junction of India, Bhutan, and China, is of strategic and cultural importance as it houses the Tawang Monastery, the second-largest monastery in the world.
3. The Siang River, a major tributary of the Brahmaputra, originates in China (as the Yarlung Tsangpo) and flows through Arunachal Pradesh, making water security a major geopolitical concern.
4. Arunachal Pradesh shares an international boundary with China and Bhutan, but not Myanmar.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The McMahon Line was established under the Simla Agreement of 1914 between British India and Tibet, but China rejects it, claiming Arunachal Pradesh as part of its South Tibet region.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The Tawang region is strategically vital because it is close to the Siliguri Corridor (Chicken's Neck) and has strong cultural ties to Tibetan Buddhism. The Tawang Monastery is one of the largest outside Tibet and holds religious significance for the Dalai Lama.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The Siang River, which originates as the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet, is crucial for Arunachal Pradesh's water resources. China's dam projects on this river raise concerns for India's hydro-security and ecological stability.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – Arunachal Pradesh shares international borders with China, Bhutan, and Myanmar, not just China and Bhutan.

Q1434. With reference to the India-France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI, consider the following statements:

1. The 7th edition of Exercise SHAKTI commenced in Umroi, Meghalaya, in May 2024.
2. Exercise SHAKTI is an annual military training event conducted alternatively in India and France.
3. The previous edition of Exercise SHAKTI was conducted in France in November 2021.
4. The primary objective of Exercise SHAKTI is to enhance bilateral defense cooperation and interoperability between the armed forces of both nations.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The 7th edition of Exercise SHAKTI is being conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya, from 13th to 26th May 2024.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – Exercise SHAKTI is a biennial (once every two years) training event, not an annual event.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The last edition (6th edition) was conducted in France in November 2021.
- **Statement 4 is correct** – The exercise aims to enhance bilateral defence cooperation and improve interoperability between the Indian and French armed forces.

Topic 479

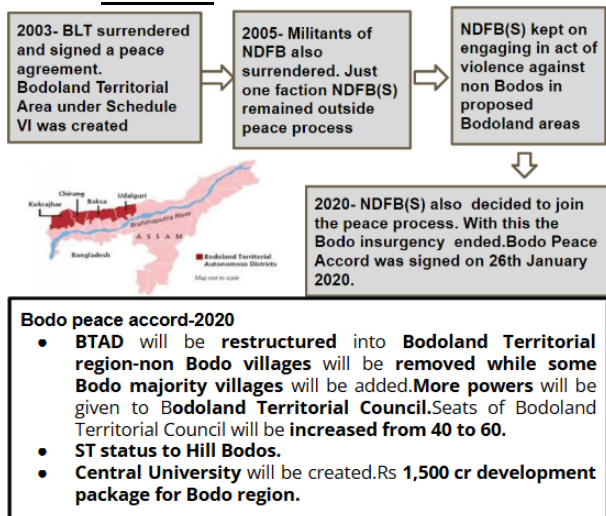
479. Insurgency in Northeast – Assam - Bodo insurgency

Bodo insurgency

- **1929- Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma** a Bodo leader submitted request to **Simon Commission** for **separate political identity** to Bodo tribe
- **1970-** Demand of a **separate state named 'Udayachal'** to be created out of Assam.
- **1980's-50-50 partition** of Assam for **separate state for Bodo's demanded.**



- Leaders like Upendra Nath Brahma adopted peaceful approach.
- Separatist insurgent groups like BLT (Bodoland Liberation Tigers) and NDFB created.



Q1435. With reference to the historical evolution of Bodo insurgency, consider the following statements:

1. The demand for a separate Bodo political identity was first raised in 1929 before the Simon Commission.
2. The first demand for a separate Bodo state was for the creation of 'Bodoland' in 1970.
3. The 50-50 partition demand in the 1980s referred to splitting Assam equally between Bodo and non-Bodo regions.
4. Upendra Nath Brahma was associated with the armed insurgent movement for Bodo self-rule.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – In 1929, Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma submitted a memorandum to the Simon Commission demanding a separate political identity for Bodos.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – The demand in 1970 was for a separate state named 'Udayachal', not 'Bodoland'.

- **Statement 3 is correct** – In the 1980s, Bodo leaders demanded a 50-50 partition of Assam to create a separate Bodo state.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – Upendra Nath Brahma followed a peaceful approach; he was not associated with armed insurgency.

Thus, the correct answer is (b) Only two.

Q1436. Regarding the Bodo Peace Accord 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The Bodoland Territorial Autonomous District (BTAD) was restructured and renamed as Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).
2. The Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), which governs the Bodo region, was abolished under the new accord.
3. The agreement included provisions to increase the number of BTC seats from 40 to 60.
4. The accord granted Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to all Bodo communities living in Assam, including those in the plains and hills.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:-

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The BTAD was restructured into the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), with some non-Bodo villages removed and some Bodo-majority villages added.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – The BTC was not abolished; rather, it was strengthened under the accord.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The number of BTC seats was increased from 40 to 60 to enhance political representation.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – The accord granted ST status only to the Hill Bodo's, not all Bodo communities in Assam.

Thus, the correct answer is (a) 1 and 3 only.

Q1437. With reference to the role of insurgent groups in Bodo politics, consider the following statements:

1. The Bodoland Liberation Tigers (BLT) and National Democratic Front of Bodoland



(NDFB) were major insurgent groups involved in the Bodo movement.

2. The BLT was formed with a separatist agenda, while the NDFB supported peaceful negotiations for a Bodo state.
3. The Bodo Peace Accord 2020 led to the dissolution of NDFB factions, with many insurgents surrendering.
4. Under the accord, a Central University was proposed for the Bodo region as part of a ₹1,500 crore development package.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – BLT and NDFB were the two key insurgent groups in the Bodo movement.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – The BLT later renounced violence and signed an accord in 2003, but the NDFB remained an active separatist militant group.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – Under the Bodo Peace Accord 2020, NDFB factions surrendered, marking the end of their insurgency.
- **Statement 4 is correct** – The ₹1,500 crore package included provisions for a Central University in the Bodo region.

Topic 480

480. Insurgency in Northeast – Assam - ULFA insurgency

United Liberation Front of Assam (U.L.F.A.)

- Started with demand of the deportation of the illegal migrants also witnessed the birth of the militant outfit the United Liberation Front of Assam (U.L.F.A.) in 1979.
- Now the only major insurgent group active in Northeast is ULFA.
- The ULFA challenge is that they demand a separate independent country Assam.
- Integrity of India is sacrosanct.

It can't be challenged-

- But it can be expected that ULFA may not be that powerful as it used to be because-
1. It used to get support from NSCN(IM). But NSCN(IM) has entered into peace deal.
 2. ULFA insurgents used Myanmar territory as their hideouts. But India has successfully convinced Myanmar for not allowing ULFA to use its territory.
 3. It is losing emotional support from local people.

ULFA Peace agreement

- **ULFA pro-talks faction**-led by its **chairperson Arabinda Rajkhowa** **signed peace agreement** with the Central government and the Assam government.
- A **major development package** of **1.5 Lakh crore** will be given to Assam.
- **hardline faction** of the **ULFA headed by Paresh Baruah** is still not part of the peace accord.



Sanctuary of ULFA

Operation against ULFA in the past-

1. **Operation Bajrang**
 - 1990, the government's **Operation Bajrang** launched against ULFA after Assam declared disturbed region under AFSPA.
2. **Operation Rhino**
 - Similarly **Operation Rhino** launched in 1990 against ULFA insurgency.
3. **Operation All Clear**
 - launched in collaboration with **Bhutan Royal Army in 2003.**



Q1438. As per the tripartite Memorandum of Settlement signed between Government of India, Government of Assam with representatives of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) on 29th December, 2023, which of the following will not be set up in Assam?

- (i) Indian Institute of Management
- (ii) School of Architecture Planning and
- (iii) Indian Institute of Science
- (iv) Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- (a) (i) only
- (b) (ii) and (iv) only
- (c) (iii) only
- (d) (iii) and (iv) only

Ans: c

Sol: The correct answer is (c) (iii) only.

The tripartite Memorandum of Settlement mentions setting up an Indian Institute of Management (IIM), a School of Architecture and Planning, and an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Assam. It does *not* mention setting up an Indian Institute of Science (IISc). The IISc is already located in Bengaluru.

Q1439. With reference to the origins and evolution of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), consider the following statements:

1. The ULFA was formed in 1979 primarily to demand the deportation of illegal migrants from Assam.
2. The primary demand of ULFA is to establish a separate independent country of Assam.
3. The ULFA has always operated independently and has never had any links with other insurgent groups in the Northeast.
4. The integrity of India cannot be challenged under Article 1 of the Indian Constitution.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:



- **Statement 1 is correct** – The ULFA was founded in 1979 due to growing concerns over illegal migration in Assam.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The ULFA demands a separate independent Assam, making it a secessionist group.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The ULFA had links with the NSCN(IM) and also sought safe havens in Myanmar.
- **Statement 4 is correct** – The territorial integrity of India is protected under Article 1 of the Constitution.

Thus, the correct answer is (c) Only three.

Q1440. Consider the following statements regarding ULFA's weakening position in recent years:

1. The NSCN(IM) had earlier supported ULFA, but after entering a peace deal, this support has reduced.
2. Myanmar has consistently provided ULFA with safe havens and has refused to cooperate with India.
3. The emotional support for ULFA among the local Assamese population has significantly declined.
4. The Assam government has successfully negotiated a peace agreement with all factions of ULFA, including Paresh Baruah's hardline faction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The NSCN(IM) earlier supported ULFA, but after its peace deal, this support declined.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – Myanmar initially provided safe havens, but India successfully convinced Myanmar to stop ULFA's operations on its soil.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – ULFA is losing local support, weakening its ability to sustain insurgency.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – The hardline faction of ULFA led by Paresh Baruah has not signed the peace agreement.

Day 49
Topic 481
481. Administrative measures to curb insurgency of Northeast

- 1. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)**-created for planning, execution and monitoring of development schemes
- 2. Protection of indigenous rights**
 - Inner Line Permit (ILP)-Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur
 - Constitutional provision-Article 244 (2) provides that – Provisions of the 6th schedule-Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram
- 3. Connectivity projects**
 - Kaladan Multi modal project, MT Trilateral Highway
 - Parvat Mala (Ropeway development connectivity in NE states and Hilly states of India) etc
- 4. Prevent discrimination**
 - MP Bezbaruah committee- to prevent discrimination against people of NE
- 5. Development Schemes**
 - PM DEVINE
 - UNNATI Scheme

Parvatmala – An efficient and safe alternate transport

- Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting Union Budget for 2022-23, announced the National Ropeways Development Programme – “Parvatmala” – which will be taken up on PPP mode.
- It will be a preferred, ecologically sustainable alternative in place of conventional roads in difficult hilly areas.
- The idea is to improve connectivity and convenience for commuters, besides promoting tourism.
- This may also cover congested urban areas, where conventional mass transit system is not feasible.
- Contracts for **eight ropeway projects for a length of 60 km** would be awarded in 2022-23. ¹



- Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting Union Budget 2022-23 announced the National Ropeways Development Programme – “Parvatmala”, which will be taken up on PPP mode.

Q1441. Consider the following schemes:

1. Sagarmala
2. Bharatmala
3. Parvatmal
4. UDAN
5. Gati Shakti
6. AMRUT

Which of the schemes given above are related to logistics development in India?

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

Ans: b

Sol: The schemes related to logistics development in India focus on improving transportation, connectivity, and infrastructure. Let's analyze each scheme:

- 1. Sagarmala** – Related to port-led development and coastal logistics. (Logistics-related)
- 2. Bharatmala** – Focuses on highways, road connectivity, and freight corridors. (Logistics-related)
- 3. Parvatmala** – Aimed at developing ropeways in hilly areas for better connectivity. (Logistics-related)
- 4. UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)** – Focuses on regional air connectivity but not primarily logistics-driven. (Not directly logistics-related)
- 5. Gati Shakti** – A multi-modal infrastructure master plan for logistics efficiency. (Logistics-related)
- 6. AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation)** – Aimed at urban infrastructure and water supply, not logistics. (Not logistics-related)

Q1442. Consider the following statements regarding the Parvatmala Pariyojana:

1. It is a National Ropeways Development Programme launched to improve connectivity in difficult hilly areas through an ecologically sustainable alternative.
2. The programme is being implemented entirely by the Government of India without private sector involvement.
3. It aims to enhance connectivity, promote tourism, and provide an alternative to conventional roads in states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and the North-East.



4. The financial model for the programme includes a Hybrid Annuity Model with 60% contribution from the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 – Correct.** The Parvatmala Pariyojana is a National Ropeways Development Programme aimed at improving connectivity in hilly areas through an ecologically sustainable mode.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect.** The programme is not solely implemented by the government but follows a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
- **Statement 3 – Correct.** It targets hilly states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and the North-East to improve connectivity and boost tourism.
- **Statement 4 – Correct.** The financial model follows a Hybrid Annuity Model, where 60% funding is provided by the Government of India.

Q1443. Consider the following statements with respect to "Inner line Permit": -

1. Only Four North eastern states are protected by Inner Line Permit.
2. The Home ministry has the power to extend any area under ILP.
3. It is for domestic tourists only.

Choose the correct code: -

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Ans: d

Sol: Inner line permit:

- It is a document required by non- natives to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system.
- It is an extension of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act 1873.

- ILP is issued by the concerned state government & can be availed both by applying online or in person.
- An ILP is only valid for domestic tourists.
- Both duration of stay & the areas allowed to be accessed for any non-native are determined by the ILP.

Topic 482

482. PM DEVINE and UNNATI Scheme

PM DEVINE Scheme

- **Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East (PM-DevINE)**-announced during **Union Budget 2022-23**
- **Implementing Agency:** Ministry of **Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)** through **North Eastern Council**.
- **Funding:** Outlay of **Rs.6,600 crore** for the four year period from **2022-23 to 2025-26**
- **Central Sector Scheme** with **100%** central funding
- **Project Selection:** projects can be **recommended by Centre**, **priority** will be **give to projects proposed by the states**.

UNNATI Scheme

- The **Union Cabinet approved** the proposal for Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (**UNNATI – 2024**).
- It is aimed at **developing industries** and **generating employment** in the North East Region.
- It seeks to **create productive economic activity** in manufacturing and services.
- Its main objective is to **generate gainful employment**, leading to the overall socio-economic development of the region
- **Central Sector Scheme**
- **By DPIIT Ministry of Commerce and Industry**



Uttar Poorva
Transformative
Industrialization
Scheme, 2024
(UNNATI-2024)

- Cabinet approves UNNATI – 2024 for a period of 10 years for development of Industries and generation of employment in North East Region



Q1444. Consider the following statements:

1. The PM-DevINE scheme aims to fund infrastructure in line with PM GatiShakti and support social development based on the needs of the border states.
2. The PM-DevINE scheme is being implemented from 2022-23 to 2025-26 and has an outlay of Rs. 1500 crore.

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

Ans: d

Sol:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect.** The Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East Region (PM-DevINE) aims to fund infrastructure projects aligned with PM GatiShakti and support social development based on the needs of the North-Eastern states.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect.** The scheme is being implemented from 2022-23 to 2025-26, but the financial outlay is ₹6,600 crore, not ₹1,500 crore

Q1445. Regarding the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme (UNNATI), 2024, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme's total cost is Rs. 10,037 crores, covering a 10-year period with an additional 8 years for committed liabilities.
2. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will implement the scheme in collaboration with the states.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** The scheme's total cost is Rs. 10,037 crore, covering a 10-year period with an additional 8 years for committed liabilities.
 - **This statement is correct.** The UNNATI scheme has a total financial outlay of Rs. 10,037 crore for a 10-year period, with an additional 8 years to cover committed liabilities.
- **Statement 2:** The Ministry of DoNER will implement the scheme in collaboration with the states.
 - **This statement is incorrect.** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, will implement the UNNATI scheme in collaboration with the state governments of the North Eastern Region.

Q1446. With reference to the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East (PM-DevINE) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) through the North Eastern Council.
2. The scheme follows a Centrally Sponsored Scheme model with funding shared between the Centre and the states.
3. The scheme has an outlay of ₹6,600 crore for the period 2022-23 to 2025-26.
4. Project proposals can be recommended by the Central Government, but priority is given to those proposed by the state governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 – Correct.** The scheme is implemented by MDoNER through the North Eastern Council.

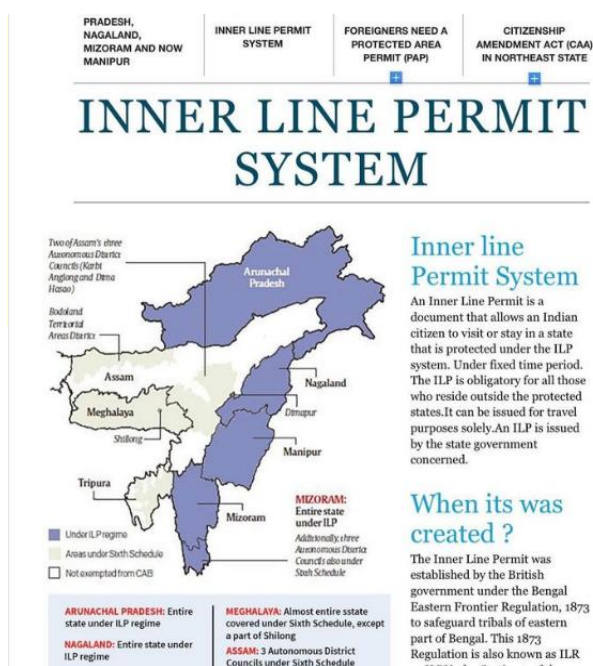


- **Statement 2 – Incorrect.** PM-DevINE is a Central Sector Scheme, meaning 100% of the funding comes from the Central Government, unlike a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, where costs are shared with states.
- **Statement 3 – Correct.** The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹6,600 crore for four years (2022-23 to 2025-26).
- **Statement 4 – Correct.** Project selection can be recommended by the Centre, but priority is given to projects proposed by state governments.

Topic 483

483. Inner Line Permit system

- **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram had ILP system as a result of Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act 1873**
- The **ILP system** came into effect in **Manipur** on January 1, 2020 as a **result of citizenship Amendment Act**.



Q1447. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution has provided the power to include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes to the State Legislature.
2. Sixth schedule states include Assam, Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland.
3. The Inner Line Permit is applicable to the states under the Sixth schedule only.

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

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

Ans: d

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** The Constitution has provided the power to include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes to the State Legislature.
 - **Incorrect.** According to Article 342(1) of the Constitution, the President notifies the list of Scheduled Tribes in a state or Union Territory.
 - Article 342(2) states that only Parliament has the power to include or exclude tribes from this list.
 - State Legislatures do not have this power.
- **Statement 2:** Sixth Schedule states include Assam, Manipur, Tripura, and Nagaland.
 - **Incorrect.** The Sixth Schedule applies to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram, not Manipur or Nagaland.
 - Nagaland and Manipur are not covered under the Sixth Schedule but have special provisions under Article 371A (Nagaland) and Article 371C (Manipur).
- **Statement 3:** The Inner Line Permit (ILP) is applicable to the states under the Sixth Schedule only.
 - **Incorrect.** The Inner Line Permit (ILP) system is governed by the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, and applies to certain states irrespective of the Sixth Schedule.
 - ILP is currently required in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Manipur, but not all of them are Sixth Schedule states.
 - Meghalaya (a Sixth Schedule state) does not have ILP.

Q1448. With reference to the Inner Line Permit, which of the following is/are true?

1. It is implemented under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation 1873.
 2. Only two states in the Northeast are currently covered under ILP.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 & 2
(d) None



Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** It is implemented under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation 1873.
 - **This statement is true.** The ILP system is indeed an offshoot of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873, which was originally designed to protect the interests of the British Crown in certain areas.
- **Statement 2:** Only two states in the Northeast are currently covered under ILP.
 - **This statement is false.** Currently, four states in Northeast India require an Inner Line Permit for Indian citizens from outside those states to enter. These states are:
 - Arunachal Pradesh
 - Mizoram
 - Nagaland
 - Manipur

Q1449. A traveller plans a road trip across the North-Eastern states of India. He starts from Guwahati (Assam) and intends to visit Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Meghalaya. Based on the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regulations, which of the following scenarios is correct regarding his journey?

1. He needs an ILP to enter Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
 2. He does not need an ILP to travel within Meghalaya.
 3. Assam, being a major transit state in the North-East, requires an ILP for non-residents.
 4. Manipur also falls under the ILP regime, so he must apply for an ILP if he extends his trip there.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland require an ILP for non-residents under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Meghalaya does not require an ILP, though there have been demands for its introduction.

- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Assam does not require an ILP for entry. It serves as a major transit state in the region.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** Manipur was brought under the ILP regime in December 2019, so an ILP is required to visit.

Topic 484

484. Maritime security

1. Maritime security revamp

- Post 26/11, the Indian navy was given overall charge of maritime security.
- Indian Coast Guard was given the responsibility for territorial waters and coordinate with hundreds of new marine police stations that came up along India's coastline.

2. Intelligence coordination

- Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)

3. Use of surveillance technology

- The government also made it mandatory for all vessels longer than 20 metres to have an Automatic Identification System (AIS) that transmits its identification and other information before reaching coast.

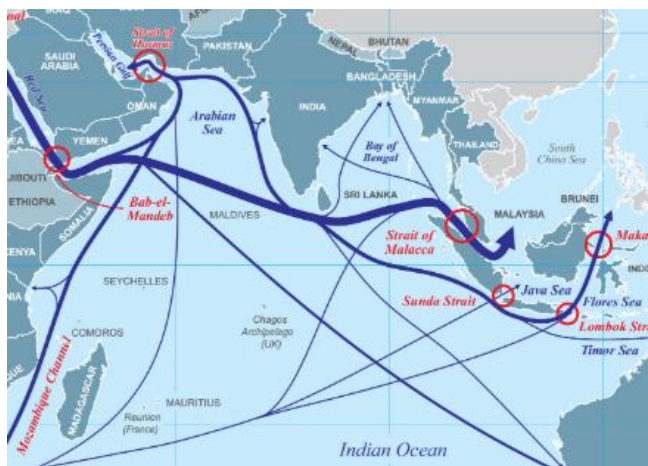
4. Coordination with Indian ocean countries

- Project Mausam, Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

IFC-IOR

- Real time maritime information sharing hub-Indian Ocean region.
- Managed by Indian Navy
- Located at-Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) Gurugram
- under the aegis of Ministry of defence.
- IMAC tracks only non-military commercial ships known as White shipping.
- Fusion centre has information sharing links with 50 nations and multinational/maritime centres.





Focus of IFC-IOR is Persian Gulf to Strait of Malacca

Q1450. Which of the following about the role of Indian Coast Guard is/are correct?

1. Indian Coast Guard has been entrusted with the Offshore security coordination authority.
2. Lead Intelligence agency for coastal and sea border
3. Coastal security in territorial waters

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Ans: b

Sol: All statements mentioned below are true about of Indian Coast Guard.

- Indian Coast Guard was set up on 18 August 1978. It protects the India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law.
- The Indian Coast Guard's motto is "वयम रक्षामः" (Vayam Rakshamah), which means "We Protect". The mission of Coast Guard is to safety and protection of fisherman, people, coastal boundaries of the country.
- It works with Indian Navy, Department of Fisheries and Department

Q1451. The Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) plays a crucial role in maritime security and information sharing. Consider the following statements regarding IFC-IOR:

1. It is a real-time maritime information-sharing hub located at the Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC), Gurugram, and is managed by the Indian Navy.

2. The centre exclusively tracks military vessels operating in the Indian Ocean Region to enhance strategic defense preparedness.
 3. It operates under the Ministry of Defence and maintains information-sharing links with 50 nations and multinational maritime centers.
 4. The geographical focus of the IFC-IOR extends from the Persian Gulf to the Strait of Malacca, covering critical maritime chokepoints.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** IFC-IOR is a real-time maritime information-sharing hub located at IMAC, Gurugram and is managed by the Indian Navy.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** IMAC does not track military vessels. It focuses on non-military commercial shipping (White Shipping) for maritime domain awareness.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The centre functions under the Ministry of Defence and has information-sharing links with 50 nations and multinational maritime centres.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** The Persian Gulf to the Strait of Malacca is a strategically important region for IFC-IOR due to high maritime traffic and piracy risks.

Q1452. Consider the following statements regarding key chokepoints and strategic locations in the Indian Ocean:

1. The Strait of Malacca is a crucial maritime chokepoint connecting the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea, and it handles a significant portion of global trade.
2. The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait connects the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea, serving as a vital passage for crude oil shipments.
3. Diego Garcia, a key military base in the Indian Ocean, is controlled by India as part of its regional security strategy.
4. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands provide India with strategic leverage over the Strait of Malacca, enhancing its maritime surveillance capabilities.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The Strait of Malacca is a narrow and strategic passage connecting the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea. It is one of the world's busiest trade routes.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden (not the Persian Gulf), making it a crucial maritime passage for trade between the Middle East and Europe.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Diego Garcia is a strategically located island in the Indian Ocean, but it is controlled by the United Kingdom and hosts a U.S. military base, not India.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands provide India a strong vantage point over the Strait of Malacca, enabling it to monitor and control maritime traffic in the region.

Topic 485

485. Security forces in India

Central Reserve Police Force

- Maintain rule of law and public order, Countering the militancy, Dealing with Left Wing Extremism

Central Industrial Security Force

- Provide security to critical infrastructure installations, provide security on a payment basis to private enterprises

Border Security Force

- established in 1965
- Guard -Bangladesh and Pakistan border
- Jurisdiction upto 50 km of border

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- raised in 1962
- called "Himveers"
- vigil on the Sino-India border

National Security Guard

- raised in 1984

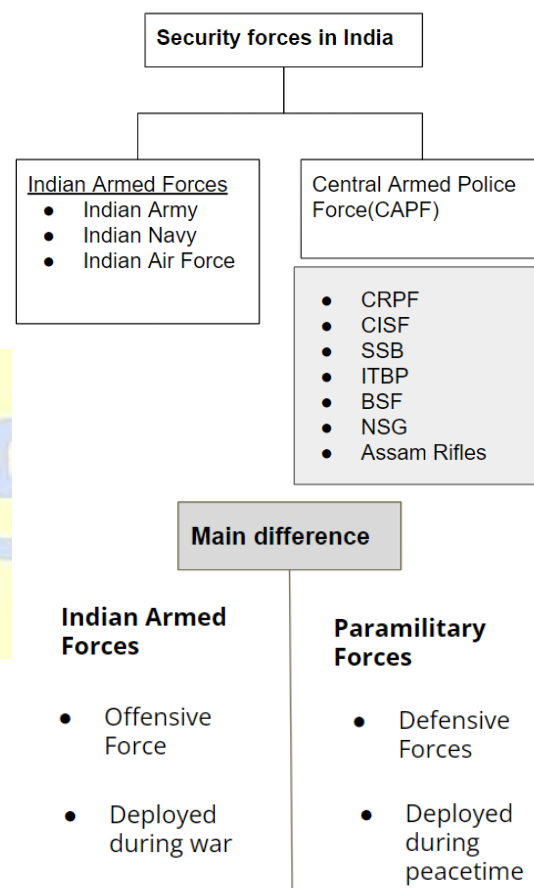
- Neutralise highly specialized terrorist attacks

Sashastra Seema Bal

- Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan Border

Assam Rifles

- oldest of all paramilitary forces-1835
- Guard Indo-Myanmar border
- **Dual control-** administrative control of the force is with the **MHA** and operational control is with the **Indian Army**, which is under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**



Q1453. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:

List I (Border)	List II (Guarding force)
A. India — Pakistan	1. Indo-Tibetan Police Force
B. India-Nepal	2. Border Security Force
C. India-China	3. Sashastra Seema Bal
D. India — Myanmar	4. Assam Rifles

- (a) A2 B1 C3 D4
- (b) A4 B3 C1 D4
- (c) A2 B3 C1 D4



(d) A4 B1 C3 D2

Ans: c

Q1454. Consider the following statements about Assam Rifles

1. It is the oldest Central Para Military Force in India.
2. It is designated by the Constitution of the Group of Ministers committee as the Border Guarding Force for the Indo -Myanmar border.
3. The headquarters of the Director-General of Assam Rifles (DGAR) is in Shillong.

How many of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** It is the oldest Central Para Military Force in India. This is correct. The Assam Rifles were raised in 1835, making them the oldest paramilitary force in India.
- **Statement 2:** It is designated by the Constitution of the Group of Ministers committee as the Border Guarding Force for the Indo -Myanmar border. This is correct. The Assam Rifles (AR) is the Border Guarding Force for the Indo-Myanmar border. The Group of Ministers recommended this designation after the Kargil episode.
- **Statement 3:** The headquarters of the Director-General of Assam Rifles (DGAR) is in Shillong. This is correct. The DGAR headquarters is located in Shillong, Meghalaya.

Q1455. Consider the following forces:

1. Assam Rifles (AR)
 2. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
 3. Border Security Force (BSF)
 4. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- How many of the above come under the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)?

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

Ans: d



Sol: The correct answer is (d) All four.

All the forces listed (Assam Rifles, CRPF, BSF, and SSB) fall under the umbrella of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). While the Assam Rifles has a slightly different command structure (it's under the Ministry of Home Affairs but its operational control is with the Indian Army), it is still considered a CAPF.

Topic 486

486. Cybercrimes-Types of Cyber attacks

- **Malware** - malicious software designed to cause damage. Example - Iran attempt against Israel
- **Ransomware** - Locks the user access and asks for the ransom to return access
- **Viruses** - It can self-replicate, inserting itself onto other programs or files
- **Trojans** - looks like a legitimate software, but once executed, it takes control of the computer. This is used for hacking
- **Phishing** - induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers
- **Vishing** - Phishing through voice call
- **Cyber bullying** - Online threats
- **Cyber kidnapping** - Cyber kidnapping refers to a crime where the 'kidnappers' convince their victim to hide, and then contact their loved ones for ransom.
- **Spyware** - Secretly giving out the information, used for hacking. Example - **Pegasus**

Pegasus

- **Malicious software**
- **Digital snooping(hacking) tool**
- Developed by an Israeli firm NSO
- **It is a zero-click-gain control over a device without human interaction or human error.**



- A "Digital Arrest" is a cyber crime that **involves fraudsters impersonating a law enforcement officer** via video calls, threatening **fake arrests to extort money.**

Q1456. Consider the following pairs (global news: related to country)

1. As per the study, 400 African elephants died in this country due to toxic algae boom: Botswana
2. Country adopted the a new 'Cyber Solidarity Act' to prevent cybercrimes: European Union

Select the correct code.

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

Ans: c

Sol: As per the study, 400 African elephants died in this country due to toxic algae boom: Botswana This statement is correct. A significant number of elephants died in Botswana in 2020 due to a toxic algae bloom.

Country adopted the a new 'Cyber Solidarity Act' to prevent cybercrimes: European Union This statement is also correct. The European Union has indeed adopted a Cyber Solidarity Act aimed at bolstering cooperation and resilience against cyberattacks.

Q1457. Consider the following pairs:

Term	Cyber Threat
1. Phishing	- involves emails tricking users into revealing sensitive details.
2. Malware	- Used to encrypt files and demand payment for decryption.
3. Ransomware	- Steals personal information to control a victim's computer.

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

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

Ans: a

Sol: Phishing - involves emails tricking users into revealing sensitive details. This is correct. Phishing is a common cyber threat that uses deceptive emails, websites, or messages to trick individuals

into divulging sensitive information like passwords, credit card details, or personal information.

1. **Malware** - Used to encrypt files and demand payment for decryption. This is partially correct. While malware *can* be used to encrypt files and demand payment (that's specifically *ransomware*), malware is a broader term. Malware encompasses many types of malicious software, including viruses, worms, spyware, and ransomware. So, while the description fits *ransomware*, it doesn't accurately describe *all* malware.
2. **Ransomware** - Steals personal information to control a victim's computer. This is incorrect. Ransomware primarily focuses on encrypting a victim's files or locking them out of their computer system and then demanding a ransom for the decryption key or access restoration. While some ransomware *might* also steal data, its primary function is not data theft. The description given is closer to spyware or other data-stealing malware.

Therefore, only pair 1 is correctly matched.

Q1458. Regarding warfare, consider the following statements:

1. Hybrid warfare refers to a combination of conventional military tactics and modern strategies such as cyber warfare, information manipulation, etc.
2. Non-kinetic warfare includes using jamming, lasers, or electromagnetic waves to disrupt drone operations instead of physically shooting down drones.

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** Hybrid warfare refers to a combination of conventional military tactics and modern strategies such as cyber warfare, information manipulation, etc. This statement is correct. Hybrid warfare blends traditional military approaches with non-traditional tactics, including cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, economic pressure, and other means to achieve strategic goals.



- **Statement 2:** Non-kinetic warfare includes using jamming, lasers, or electromagnetic waves to disrupt drone operations instead of physically shooting down drones. This statement is also correct. Non-kinetic warfare focuses on disabling or disrupting enemy systems without the use of physical force or projectiles. Jamming, lasers, and electromagnetic pulses fall under this category as they can interfere with drone operations without physically destroying them.

Topic 487

487. Cyber security mechanism

- Cyber security is the technique of defending computers, servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks, and data from malicious attacks.
- As per NITI Aayog India was ranked among the top five countries to be affected by cybercrime.

Current Provisions for Cyber-Security in India

1. National Cyber Security Strategy
 - To focus on security in the early stages of design in all digitisation initiatives.
2. Cyber Swachhta Kendra
 - To create a secure cyberspace by detecting botnet infections in India
3. Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)
 - For early alerts regarding cybersecurity breaches and issues.
4. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
 - To handle several issues regarding cybercrime in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
 - Works under the Union Home Ministry.



Note-

- There is just one major international convention on Cyber security ie Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.
- India is not a signatory to this convention.

Q1459. Regarding CERT-In, consider the following statements:

1. CERT-In, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, is a national nodal agency for managing cyber security threats like hacking and phishing.
2. CERT-In comes under the ambit of the RTI Act, 2005.

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** CERT-In, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, is a national nodal agency for managing cyber security threats like hacking and phishing. This is correct. CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team - India) is indeed the national nodal agency for responding to cybersecurity incidents and threats, and it operates under the



Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

- **Statement 2:** CERT-In comes under the ambit of the RTI Act, 2005. This is incorrect. Certain organizations, especially those dealing with national security and sensitive information, are exempt from the Right to Information (RTI) Act. CERT-In, due to the nature of its work concerning cybersecurity and potential vulnerabilities, is among these exempted organizations. Disclosing certain information could compromise national security or reveal sensitive details about cyber threats and responses.

Q1460. When was the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (14C) inaugurated?

- 2016
- 2018
- 2020
- 2022

Ans: c

Sol: It was inaugurated in New Delhi in January 2020 by Amit Shah, the Home Minister of India.

Q1461. With reference to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, consider the following statements:

1. It is the only major international convention focused on addressing cybercrime through legal cooperation among nations.
 2. The convention is under the aegis of the United Nations and aims to create a globally binding framework for cyber security governance.
 3. India is not a signatory to the Budapest Convention due to concerns over national sovereignty and lack of control in the decision-making process.
 4. The convention facilitates cross-border cooperation in investigating cybercrimes such as hacking, identity theft, and online fraud.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:



- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The Budapest Convention (2001) is the only legally binding international treaty on cybercrime, providing a framework for nations to cooperate in combating cyber threats.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The Budapest Convention is not under the United Nations; it is overseen by the Council of Europe (CoE), with participation from other non-European countries.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** India has not signed the Budapest Convention due to concerns over sovereignty and the fact that it was drafted without India's participation, meaning India has no role in shaping its provisions.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** The convention promotes international cooperation in investigating cybercrimes such as hacking, identity theft, child exploitation, and financial fraud across borders.

Topic 488

488. Cyber security infrastructure in Assam Assam Cyberdome Project

- Announced in the **Budget speech of 2017-18** by the then **Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** (Current Chief Minister of Assam).
- Budgetary allocation of **Rs 16 crores**.

How Cyberdome project will work?

- The Cyberdome will act as an **online police patrol**.
- Help the state police to **keep a tab on digital activities** and track any **suspicious action on cyber network like Child pornography, data hacking etc.**
- It is a **public private Partnership** in Cybersecurity-Help of **private ethical hackers and IT companies** will be also taken by the state police.

Note- Cyberdome project of Assam is based on **Cyberdome project of Kerala Police**.



Cyberdome office was opened at special branch **Police headquarters at Kahilipara** in Guwahati. It was opened **under MOITRI Project**.

Project MOITRI

- Has been started by the government of Assam to modernise Police stations of Assam.

Q1462. Assam Police cyberdome cyber security is developed in line with the cyber security model of which of the following state police?

- (a) Gujarat
(b) Kerala
(c) Telangana
(d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans: b

Q1463. Which cybersecurity exercise was launched by the National Security Council Secretariat in 2024?

- (a) Cyber Challenges Exercise 2024
(b) Bharat National Cyber Exercise (Bharat NCX 2024)
(c) Digital Shield 2024
(d) Cyber Defence India 2024

Ans: b

Sol: The cybersecurity exercise launched by the National Security Council Secretariat in 2024 was (b) Bharat National Cyber Exercise (Bharat NCX 2024)

Q1464. Leak ware, Wipers, and Scareware, recently in the news, are related to which of the following?

- (a) Malware and cyber-attack threats
- (b) Ocean-based renewable energy installations
- (c) Satellite communication protocols
- (d) Autonomous navigation systems for electric vehicles

Ans: a

Sol: Leak ware, Wipers, and Scareware are all types of A. Malware and cyber-attack threats.

Topic 489

489. Strategic Forces Command (SFC)

- It is the responsibility of the SFC to operationalize the orders of the NCA (**Nuclear Command Authority**).



- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The Executive Council of the NCA is not chaired by the Prime Minister. The Political Council is chaired by the Prime Minister and is the body that authorizes nuclear retaliation in the event of a nuclear attack. The Executive Council, which provides support to the Political Council, is led by the National Security Advisor (NSA) and provides technical advice but does not directly authorize a nuclear strike.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) is responsible for the administration and operational control of India's nuclear weapons. It would indeed be tasked with carrying out nuclear operations as per the direction from the NCA.

Q1466. Consider the following statements regarding the Strategic Forces Command (SFC):

1. The SFC is responsible for operationalizing the orders of the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), including the delivery of nuclear weapons.
2. The SFC can independently initiate the process of nuclear weapon delivery without the approval of the NCA.
3. The SFC's primary role is to ensure that nuclear weapons are prepared for launch, once cleared by the NCA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:-

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The SFC is indeed responsible for operationalizing the orders of the NCA. It takes the NCA's directives and ensures the readiness of nuclear forces.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The SFC cannot independently initiate nuclear weapon delivery. It requires clear approval from the NCA before launching any nuclear operations.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The SFC is tasked with ensuring the nuclear weapons are ready for launch, but only after receiving explicit instructions from the NCA.

Q1467. With reference to the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), consider the following statements:





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Q1468. Consider the following types of Dark Patterns:

Types	Deceptive Patterns
1. Subscription Trap	- Making Cancellation Complex
2. Basket Sneaking	- Inclusion of additional items
3. SaaS Billing	- Generating recurring payments

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

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

Ans: c

Sol:-

- **Subscription Trap:** This is a classic dark pattern where a service makes it intentionally difficult to cancel a subscription by hiding cancellation options or requiring multiple steps to complete the process.
- **Basket Sneaking:** This refers to the practice of adding extra items to a user's shopping cart without their knowledge or consent during checkout, often with the goal of increasing the total purchase amount.
- **SaaS Billing:** This describes a dark pattern where a service automatically renews subscriptions without clear notification or easy

opt-out options, often leading to unintended recurring payments.

Q1469. Forced action", "confirm shaming" and "basket sneaking" recently in news are related to

- (a) E-commerce
(b) Dark patterns
(c) Quantum computing
(d) Urban forestry

Ans: b

Sol: "Forced action," "confirm shaming," and "basket sneaking" are all related to B. Dark patterns.

Q1470. Choose the correct statements regarding dark patterns or deceptive strategies used by websites or apps.

1. Dark patterns are also called deceptive patterns. These patterns are used for intentionally manipulating or misleading users to make certain choices or perform specific actions that may not be in their best interest.

2. Dark patterns compromise consumers' personal autonomy because they lead consumers to make choices they may not otherwise have made.

3. These unethical strategies are designed to exploit certain cognitive and behavioural biases to persuade users into purchasing goods and services they would typically not pay for.

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

Ans: d

Sol:-

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Dark patterns are indeed also called deceptive patterns. They are designed to manipulate or mislead users into making choices or performing actions, often in ways that benefit the company but are not in the user's best interest.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Dark patterns do compromise consumers' personal autonomy by leading them to make decisions they may not otherwise make. This could include signing up for subscriptions, making unintended purchases, or sharing personal information.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Dark patterns are designed to exploit cognitive and behavioural



biases, using psychological manipulation to persuade users into making choices, such as purchasing goods and services they typically would not buy, or subscribing to services they don't need.

Miscellaneous Topics

Day 50

Topic 491

491. Raja Ravi Varma

- Referred to as the **father of modern Indian art.**
- known for his **realistic portrayal of Indian gods and goddesses**
- credited for **taking art to the masses** with his **affordable prints** and **oleographs**.

Oleographs

- imitations of **oil paintings**.
- **It looks like an original artwork but it has no texture** (original brush painting will have some texture).

Contribution of Raja Ravi Varma

- **Before** Raja Ravi Varma's paintings, the paintings of **Indian artists** were greatly **influenced** by the **Persian and Mughal schools**.
- Varma was the **first Indian** to **use Western techniques**.

His most famous work includes-

- Damayanti Talking to a Swan, Shakuntala Looking for Dushyanta, Indulekha, A family of beggars.

Recognitions

- In **1904**, **Viceroy Lord Curzon** bestowed upon **Raja Ravi Varma** the **Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal**.
- At this time, his name was mentioned as **"Raja Ravi Varma"** for the **first time**.



Damayanti Talking to a Swan



Shakuntala Looking for Dushyanta



A family of beggars



Painting Indulekha

Q1471. Which one of the following artworks was hailed by Sister Nivedita as the first masterpiece of Indian art'?

- Bharat Mata Tagore by Abanindranath
- Arjuna and Subhadra by Raja Ravi Varma
- Sita in Captivity in Lanka by Abanindranath Tagore
- Sati by Nandalal Bose

Ans: a

Sol: Sister Nivedita, born Margaret Elizabeth Noble, was an extraordinary woman who dedicated her life to India. She was deeply influenced by Swami Vivekananda's teachings and his vision for India. In 1898, she came to India and was given the name "Nivedita" (meaning "Dedicated to God") by Swami Vivekananda.

Q1472. Who was Raja Ravi Varma?

- A famous Indian painter known for his realistic portraits and paintings inspired by Indian mythology



- (b) A famous Indian politician and freedom fighter who played a key role in India's struggle for independence
- (c) A famous Indian scientist who made significant contributions to the field of mathematics
- (d) A famous Indian musician who popularized the use of the tabla in classical music.

Ans: a

Q1473. Consider the following statements about Indian Modern paintings

1. Raja Ravi Varma, belongs to Bengal school of art who played a important role in the development of the Indian national consciousness.
2. Abanindranath painted his works influenced by Mughal art.
3. Shantiniketan school established an Indian version of naturalism distinct from the oriental and western schools.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol: Raja Ravi Varma, belongs to Bengal school of art who played an important role in the development of the Indian national consciousness.

- **Incorrect:** Raja Ravi Varma was not associated with the Bengal School of Art. He was a pioneer of modern Indian painting and is known for his fusion of Indian mythological themes with European academic realism. The Bengal School was later developed as a reaction against his style.

Abanindranath painted his works influenced by Mughal art.

- **Correct:** Abanindranath Tagore, the founder of the Bengal School of Art, was indeed influenced by Mughal and Rajput miniature paintings. His works, such as *Bharat Mata*, reflect this influence.

Shantiniketan school established an Indian version of naturalism distinct from the oriental and western schools.

- **Correct:** The Shantiniketan School, led by Rabindranath Tagore and artists like Nandalal Bose, evolved a unique artistic style that blended Indian themes with a

naturalistic approach different from both the Western academic realism and the purely Oriental styles.

Topic 492

492. Classical Dances of India

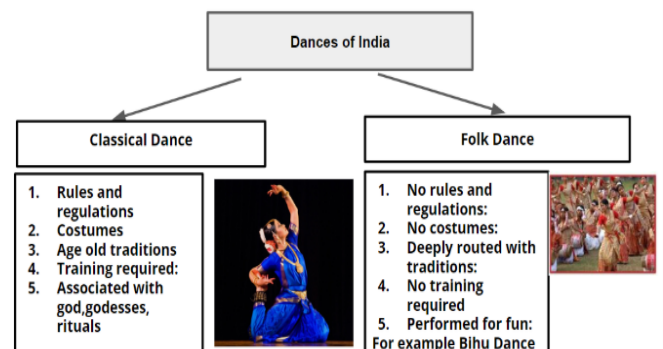
- **Natyashastra** also lays foundation for Indian Classical dances.
- **Natyashastra**, attributed to the **Bharata Muni**, is one of the **oldest and most comprehensive texts** on **performing arts**, including dance, drama and music.
- Dates back to the period between **200 BCE and 200 CE.**
- **Sangeet Natak Academy** gives **recognition to classical Dances.**

Sangeet Natak Akademi has identifies **8 dances** as **classical dances of India.**

1. Bharatnatyam (Tamil Nadu)
2. Kathak (North India)
3. Kathakali (Kerala)
4. Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh)
5. Mohiniyattam (Kerala)
6. Odissi (Odisha)
7. Sattriya (Assam)
8. Manipuri (Manipur)

Sangeet Natak Akademi

- India's **national academy** for **music, dance and drama.**
- an **autonomous Body** of the **Ministry of Culture.**
- **National School of Drama**, New Delhi was set up in 1959 by Sangeet Natak Akademi.





Bharatanatyam



Kathak



Kathakali



Kuchipudi



Mohiniyattam



Odissi



Sattriya



Manipuri

Q1474. What is Hallisalasya as depicted in Bagh cave paintings?

- (a) A folk-dance form
- (b) A classical dance form
- (c) A folk form of theatre
- (d) A percussion music instrument

Ans: a

Sol: Hallisalasya is depicted in the Bagh cave paintings as a folk-dance form. It's a group dance with both male and female dancers, accompanied by musicians playing various instruments. The paintings provide a glimpse into the rich cultural life of the people during that era.

Q1475. Arrange the following in correct chronological order -

1. Samhita
2. Bharat's Natyashastra
3. Sangam Literature
4. Ashtadhyayi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: c

Sol: The correct chronological order is:

- **Ashtadhyayi:** Attributed to Panini in the 5th Century BCE.
- **Sangam Literature:** Flourished primarily between the 3rd Century BCE and the 3rd Century CE.

- **Charak Samhita:** Composed by Charaka in the 2nd century BCE and the 2nd Century CE.
- **Bharata's Natyashastra:** Estimated to be written sometime between 2nd Century BCE and 2nd Century CE.

Q1476. Sattriya was recognized as a classical dance by Sangeet Natak Akademi of India in the Year?

- (a) 2002
- (b) 1998
- (c) 1999
- (d) 2000

Ans: d

Sol: Sattriya was recognized as a classical dance by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in the year 2000.

Topic 493

493. Shallow fakes and Doxxing

- Like deadfake, **shallowfake** is also an **act of morphing** people's pictures and **using them for malicious activities.**
- **Deep Fakes- Using AI**
- **Shallow fakes-** by using **basic editing software.**
- They are made with **existing cheap technologies** like **photoshop** etc

Why are they called shallow?

- The term '**shallow**' implies the **quality of such fakes**, which **are lower in quality** compared to deepfakes.
- **Deep fakes** is very **difficult to identify as false.**

Doxxing

- It is an **act of digitally publicizing** a person's **private content** that an **individual did not intend to share** for public consumption.
- It may be **mobile number** or **some pictures or videos.**
- It is **illegal as per IT Act 2000- Example of Cyberbullying**





Q1477. Consider the following statements regarding Deepfake:

1. Generators and discriminators are part of generative adversarial networks that are used in the creation of deepfakes.

2. Restoring lost voices of persons, enhancing artistic expression and enhancing medical training and simulation are the some of positive's use of deepfakes.

3. Sections 67 and 67A of the Information Technology Act (2000) have provisions that explicitly deal with all the aspects of deep fakes.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are not correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol: None of the provisions or section of the IT Act 2000 deal with each and every aspect of the deepfakes.

Q1478. Consider the following statements regarding Deepfakes:

1. These are modified images, text, audio, and video or synthetic media, created with the help of Artificial Intelligence.

2. The existence of deep fakes causes much distrust among the public that any true evidence of a crime can easily be dismissed as fake.

3. The existing legal framework in India criminalizes deep fakes.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** These are modified images, text, audio, and video or synthetic media, created with the help of Artificial Intelligence. **This is correct.** Deepfakes utilize AI, particularly deep learning techniques, to create convincing forgeries.
- **Statement 2:** The existence of deep fakes causes much distrust among the public that any true evidence of a crime can easily be dismissed as fake. **This is also correct.** Deepfakes erode trust in visual and audio information, making it easier for people to doubt genuine evidence. This can have serious implications for legal proceedings and public discourse.
- **Statement 3:** The existing legal framework in India criminalizes deep fakes. **This is incorrect.** While India's legal framework is evolving to address online harms, there isn't yet specific legislation explicitly criminalizing the creation or distribution of deepfakes in all cases. Existing laws related to defamation, forgery, and IT Act provisions might be applicable in certain situations, but there's a need for more targeted legislation.

Q1479. Which one of the following best describes the term "safe harbour" in the Information Technology (IT) Act 2000?

- (a) Protect online platforms from liability for the actions of their users.
- (b) Establish safe data storage practices within IT systems.
- (c) Regulate the transfer of personal data across international borders.
- (d) Store personal data of users within national borders.

Ans: a

Sol: The answer is A. Protect online platforms from liability for the actions of their users.

"Safe harbour" provisions in the IT Act 2000, specifically under Section 79, essentially provide a degree of legal protection to intermediaries (like online platforms, social media sites, etc.) from liability for the content posted or shared by their users. This protection is conditional and depends on the intermediary adhering to certain guidelines and taking down illegal content when notified. It's designed to encourage the growth of online

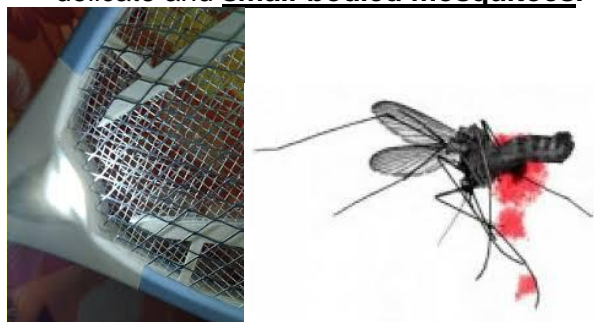


platforms without making them automatically responsible for everything their users do.

Topic 494

494. Science behind the Mosquito bat

- There are **three metal meshes** in the **Mosquito bat**.
- The **middle one** has a **positive charge**, and the **two on the sides** are **negatively charged**.
- Normally **current does not flow** as the **layers do not touch** each other.
- But when a **mosquito connects them**, a **current passes** through the **mosquito and kills it**.
- **Voltage** of the bat is **not lethal to humans**.
- However, the voltage **is enough to kill** the delicate and **small-bodied mosquitoes**.



Q1480. Consider the following statements regarding Wolbachia-Infected Mosquitoes for Dengue Control measures:

1. Wolbachia is a virus found in insects including butterflies, bees, and beetles.
2. They are not found in Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes.
3. When male Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes carrying Wolbachia mate with females that lack Wolbachia, the eggs produced do not hatch. 1K

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

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

Ans: a

Sol: Wolbachia is a common type of bacteria found in insects. Approximately 6 in 10 of all insects, including butterflies, bees, and beetles, around the world have Wolbachia.

Q1481. With reference to the working mechanism of a mosquito bat, consider the following statements:

1. The mosquito bat consists of three metal meshes, with the middle layer carrying a positive charge and the two outer layers carrying a negative charge.
2. Normally, no current flows through the bat unless a mosquito connects the layers.
3. The voltage of the mosquito bat is high enough to kill humans if touched directly.
4. When a mosquito touches the layers, it acts as a conductor, completing the circuit and allowing current to pass through, killing it.

How many of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The three metal meshes consist of a positively charged middle layer and negatively charged outer layers.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – No current flows unless a mosquito bridges the layers.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The voltage is not lethal to humans, though it may cause a mild shock.
- **Statement 4 is correct** – When a mosquito touches the layers, it completes the circuit, allowing current to pass through, which electrocutes and kills the insect.

Thus, the correct answer is (c) Only three.

Q1482. Consider the following statements regarding the voltage and effectiveness of a mosquito bat:

1. The voltage applied across the bat's mesh is enough to kill mosquitoes but not powerful enough to harm humans.
2. The efficiency of the mosquito bat depends on the size and conductivity of the insect's body.
3. If a mosquito touches only one layer of the mesh instead of bridging two layers, it will still be electrocuted.
4. The mosquito bat works on direct current (DC) rather than alternating current (AC) to ensure safety.



Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The voltage is sufficient to kill mosquitoes but not lethal to humans.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The effectiveness depends on the mosquito's body size and conductivity. Larger insects may require higher voltage.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – If a mosquito touches only one layer, no circuit is completed, and it does not get electrocuted.
- **Statement 4 is correct** – The mosquito bat typically works on high-voltage DC current for effective electrocution and safety reasons.

Topic 495

495. Indelible ink in election

- Indelible ink is a type of ink that **cannot be easily removed** or **erased**.

Indelible ink in election

- Section 61 of **Representation of the People Act (RoPA) of 1951** mentions "for the marking with indelible ink of the thumb or any other finger of every elector who seeks to vote".

Aim

- To **prevent a person from casting more than one vote**, the ink has been used in Indian elections for long.

Chemical used

- Indelible ink contains **silver nitrate**.
- It is a **colourless compound** which becomes **visible** when **exposed to ultraviolet light**, including **sunlight**.
- **Mysore Paints & Varnish Ltd.** has been **licensed to manufacture the ink**.
- The indelible ink is **"exported to more than 25 countries"** that include **Canada, Ghana, Nigeria, Mongolia**.



Q1483. With reference to the use of indelible ink in elections, consider the following statements:

1. The legal provision for using indelible ink in elections is mentioned under the Representation of the People Act (RoPA), 1951.
2. The primary purpose of indelible ink is to prevent an elector from voting more than once in an election.
3. The Election Commission of India manufactures and supplies the indelible ink used in elections.

How many of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – Section 61 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, provides for marking electors with indelible ink.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The main purpose of indelible ink is to prevent multiple voting by the same person.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – Mysore Paints & Varnish Ltd. is the licensed manufacturer of indelible ink, not the Election Commission of India.

Thus, the correct answer is (b) Only two.

Q1484. Consider the following statements regarding the chemical composition and properties of indelible ink:

1. The main chemical component of indelible ink is silver nitrate.
2. Silver nitrate is a naturally dark-coloured compound that is immediately visible when applied to the skin.



3. Indelible ink is designed to become visible only when exposed to ultraviolet light, including sunlight.

4. Once applied, the mark made by the ink remains on the skin permanently.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – Silver nitrate is the main chemical used in indelible ink.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – Silver nitrate is initially colorless, but turns visible after exposure to ultraviolet light, including sunlight.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The ink becomes visible only after UV exposure.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – The mark fades over time as the outer skin layer sheds. It is not permanent.

Thus, the correct answer is (a) 1 and 3 only.

Q1485. With reference to the global use of India's indelible ink, consider the following statements:

1. Mysore Paints & Varnish Ltd. exports indelible ink to multiple countries.
2. India exports this ink to more than 25 countries, including Canada, Ghana, and Nigeria.
3. The use of Indian indelible ink in foreign elections is regulated by the United Nations Election Commission (UNEC).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – Mysore Paints & Varnish Ltd. manufactures and exports indelible ink.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – India exports indelible ink to over 25 countries, including Canada, Ghana, and Nigeria.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – There is no such body as the United Nations Election Commission (UNEC) regulating its use. Each country decides independently.

Topic 496

496. World Press Freedom Day

- **World Press Freedom Day** is being observed on May 3 every year.

Significance of 3rd May-

- On this day in 1993 Declaration of Windhoek was accepted worldwide.
- Since 1993 UN proclaimed this day as World Press Freedom Day on recommendations of UNESCO.

Declaration of Windhoek

- The Windhoek Declaration for the Development of a Free, Independent and Pluralistic Press.

World Press Freedom Index

- Annual report released by the global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- It exclusively focuses on press freedom and does not evaluate the quality of journalism.

India's rank in 2024

- 159 among 180 countries in 2024.
- Slight improvement wrt 2023- when India was ranked 161



Windhoek is capital city of Namibia

Q1486. With reference to World Press Freedom Day, consider the following statements:

1. The day is observed every year on May 3rd to mark the acceptance of the Declaration of Windhoek.
2. The United Nations proclaimed World Press Freedom Day in 1993, based on recommendations from UNESCO.



3. The Declaration of Windhoek aims to promote government-controlled media to ensure accurate news dissemination.

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

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – World Press Freedom Day is observed on May 3 to mark the Declaration of Windhoek.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – In 1993, the UN declared May 3 as World Press Freedom Day based on UNESCO's recommendations.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The Declaration of Windhoek promotes a free, independent, and pluralistic press, not government-controlled media.

Thus, the correct answer is B. Only two.

Q1487. Consider the following statements regarding the World Press Freedom Index:

1. It is an annual report released by the global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
2. The index evaluates both press freedom and the quality of journalism in each country.
3. In the 2024 World Press Freedom Index, India is ranked 159th among 180 countries.
4. India's rank has worsened compared to 2023, when it was ranked 157th.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The World Press Freedom Index is released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) annually.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – The index focuses only on press freedom and does not evaluate journalism quality.

- **Statement 3 is correct** – In 2024, India ranked 159th out of 180 countries.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – India's rank improved from 161 in 2023 to 159 in 2024, not worsened.

Thus, the correct answer is (a) 1 and 3 only.

Q1488. With reference to the Declaration of Windhoek, consider the following statements:

1. The Declaration of Windhoek was adopted in 1993 to support press freedom worldwide.
2. The declaration emphasizes the importance of an independent, pluralistic, and free press in a democratic society.
3. The Windhoek Declaration was initiated by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** – The Declaration of Windhoek was adopted in 1991, not 1993. However, World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed in 1993.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The declaration advocates for a free, independent, and pluralistic press, which is crucial for democracy.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The Windhoek Declaration was initiated by UNESCO, not the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Thus, the correct answer is A. 1 and 2 only.

Topic 497

497. International Workers' Day

- **1st May**
- It is done to **commemorate the contributions of workers** in development of the world.

History of International Workers' Day

- In **1889**, the **Marxist International Socialist Congress** (knowns as **Second International**) adopted a resolution **that the workers** should **not be made** to work for **more than 8 hours a day**.
- After this, it became an **annual event** and **May 1 was celebrated as Labour Day**.



Socialist International

1. First International, 1864

- an umbrella association for all socialist and communist organisations worldwide.
- dissolved in 1876 over an ideological rift (Some Labour organisations demanded basic reforms like eight hours a day work while others wanted complete revolution).

2. Second International, 1889

- It declared 1st May International Labour Day to demand 8 hours a day work. It was dissolved in 1916 during first world war. (Socialism versus Nationalism).

3. Third International, 1919

- Started by Russian leader Lenin.
- Ended in 1943 during WWII

International Workers' Day in India

- first celebrated in 1923, after the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan initiated the celebrations.
- On this day, communist leader MS Chettiar asked the government that May 1 should be considered as a national holiday



Q1489. With reference to International Workers' Day, consider the following statements:

1. International Workers' Day is celebrated on May 1st every year to recognize the contributions of workers.
 2. The Marxist International Socialist Congress (Second International) played a key role in advocating for an 8-hour workday in 1889.
 3. The resolution for an 8-hour workday was first passed in the First International (1864).
- How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – International Workers' Day is observed on May 1st to honor workers' contributions.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The Second International (1889) declared May 1st as Labour Day and pushed for an 8-hour workday.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The First International (1864) was a global socialist association, but the demand for an 8-hour workday was formalized in the Second International (1889).

Thus, the correct answer is B. Only two.

Q1490. Consider the following statements regarding the Socialist International:

1. The First International (1864) served as a global organization for socialist and communist groups but was dissolved due to ideological differences.
 2. The Second International (1889) was dissolved in 1916 because of a conflict between socialism and nationalism during World War I.
 3. The Third International (1919) was initiated by Karl Marx and ended during World War II.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The First International (1864) was an umbrella organization for socialist and communist groups, but ideological rifts led to its dissolution in 1876.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The Second International (1889) was dissolved in 1916 during World War I due to conflicts between socialist ideals and rising nationalism.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The Third International (1919) was started by Vladimir Lenin, not Karl Marx, and ended in 1943 during World War II.

Thus, the correct answer is A. 1 and 2 only.



Q1491. With reference to International Workers' Day in India, consider the following statements:

1. The first International Workers' Day celebration in India was initiated by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan in 1923.
 2. The demand to declare May 1st a national holiday in India was raised by communist leader M.S. Chettiar.
 3. India was one of the founding members of the Second International (1889).
- How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:-

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The first International Workers' Day in India was celebrated in 1923, initiated by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – M.S. Chettiar, a communist leader, called for May 1st to be declared a national holiday.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – India was not a founding member of the Second International (1889), as it was a socialist movement led by European countries.

Thus, the correct answer is B. Only two.

Topic 498

498. Arab League

- It is an organization of **Arab states in the Middle East** and **parts of Africa**.
- It was formed in **Cairo on 22 March 1945**
- **Headquarters: Cairo, Egypt.**

Members:

- Currently it has **22 members including Palestine**, which the League regards as an independent state.
- There are four nations that were conferred **observer status** by the League: Brazil, Eritrea, **India**, and Venezuela.

Current news?

- The **Arab League** recently called for **UN peacekeeping forces** in the **Palestinian territories** during a summit in Bahrain.



Arab League includes countries from Middle East and parts of Africa.

Q1492. With reference to the Arab League, consider the following statements:

1. The Arab League was formed in Cairo in 1945 and has its headquarters in the same city.
2. All member states of the Arab League are located exclusively in the Middle East.
3. India has been granted observer status in the Arab League.

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

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

Ans: b

Sol:-

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The Arab League was founded in 1945 in Cairo, where its headquarters remain.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – The Arab League includes nations from both the Middle East and Africa, not just the Middle East. Examples include Egypt, Sudan, and Algeria (African nations).
- **Statement 3 is correct** – India has been granted observer status in the Arab League, along with Brazil, Eritrea, and Venezuela.

Thus, the correct answer is b. Only two.

Q1493. Consider the following statements regarding the Arab League:

1. Palestine is recognized as a full-fledged member of the Arab League.
2. The Arab League recently called for UN peacekeeping forces in the Palestinian territories during a summit in Bahrain.
- 3The Arab League has conferred observer status on only three countries.



Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – Palestine is recognized as a full-fledged member of Arab league, which the league regards it as an independent state.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The Arab League recently called for UN peacekeeping forces in the Palestinian territories at a summit in Bahrain.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The Arab League has granted observer status to four countries: India, Brazil, Venezuela, and Eritrea (not just three).

Thus, the correct answer is A. 1 and 2 only.

Q1494. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect regarding the Arab League?

1. The Arab League was established to strengthen ties between Arab nations and coordinate political and economic policies.
2. Egypt was expelled from the Arab League in 1979 after it signed a peace treaty with Israel but was later readmitted.
3. The Arab League currently has 24 member states.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The Arab League was formed in 1945 to strengthen unity and coordination among Arab nations, particularly in political, economic, and cultural affairs.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – Egypt was expelled from the Arab League in 1979 after signing a peace treaty with Israel. However, it was readmitted in 1989.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The Arab League has 22 members, not 24.

Thus, the correct answer is C. 3 only.

Topic 499

499. 'School in a box' initiative

- UNICEF has designed as school box kit which contains notebooks, drawing books, pencils, and other learning materials.
- Children in relief camps flood-affected areas of Assam will get this school box kit under a program named 'school in a box'.
- It is updated for children and teenagers aged six to 18.
- The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) is conducting training for officials and field workers from the Women and Child Development and Education Departments.



Q1495. With reference to the ‘School in a Box’ initiative, consider the following statements:

1. The initiative is aimed at providing educational materials to children in flood-affected areas of Assam.
 2. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) is responsible for distributing school box kits to children.
 3. The 'School in a Box' kit is designed for children and teenagers in the age group of 6 to 18 years.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None



Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The initiative provides educational materials to children in relief camps in flood-affected areas of Assam.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – While ASDMA is involved in training officials and field workers, it is not directly responsible for distributing the kits.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The initiative caters to children and teenagers aged 6 to 18 years.

Thus, the correct answer is B. Only two.

Q1496. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the 'School in a Box' initiative?

1. It has been designed by UNICEF to support children in disaster-affected regions.
2. The learning kits contain educational materials such as notebooks, drawing books, and pencils.
3. The initiative is being implemented exclusively by the Women and Child Development Department of Assam.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The initiative has been designed by UNICEF to help children in disaster-affected areas continue their education.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The kits contain essential learning materials such as notebooks, drawing books, and pencils.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – The Women and Child Development Department is involved, but the initiative also includes the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) and Education Department.

Thus, the correct answer is A. 1 and 2 only.

Q1497. Consider the following statements regarding the 'School in a Box' initiative:

1. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) is conducting training for officials and field workers to implement this initiative.

2. The 'School in a Box' initiative was first launched by UNICEF exclusively for Assam.

3. The initiative focuses on providing both educational materials and psychological support to children in disaster-affected areas.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – ASDMA is conducting training for officials and field workers from the Women and Child Development and Education Departments to implement the initiative.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – The 'School in a Box' initiative was not launched exclusively for Assam. It has been implemented in various disaster-affected regions across the world.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The initiative not only provides educational materials but also serves as a psychological aid to help children resume normal learning routines in disaster-affected areas.

Thus, the correct answer is B. Only two.

Topic 500

500. New Caledonia

- New Caledonia is a French overseas territory.
- It is located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.

History

- Originally inhabited by the Kanaks.
- Came under French control in 1853.
- French migration made Kanaks a minority, sparking an independence movement.

Referendums

- Three times referendum has been conducted in Caledonia for determining its independence from France in recent times ie in 2018, 2020, 2021.
- In all the referendums, motion of independence of Caledonia was defeated.





Q1498. With reference to New Caledonia, consider the following statements:

1. New Caledonia is a French overseas territory located in the Southwestern Pacific Ocean.
2. The indigenous people of New Caledonia, known as Kanaks, were originally the majority before French migration.
3. New Caledonia gained independence from France in 2021 following a successful referendum.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – New Caledonia is a French overseas territory in the Southwestern Pacific Ocean.

- **Statement 2 is correct** – The Kanaks were originally the majority, but French migration reduced them to a minority.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – New Caledonia did not gain independence in 2021. The independence motion was defeated in all three referendums (2018, 2020, and 2021).

Thus, the correct answer is A. Only one.

Q1499. Which of the following statements regarding New Caledonia's independence referendums are correct?

1. Three referendums on New Caledonia's independence were held in 2018, 2020, and 2021.
2. The motion for independence was approved in at least one of these referendums.
3. The referendums were conducted as part of an agreement between France and the Kanak independence movement.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The independence referendums were held in 2018, 2020, and 2021.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – The motion for independence was defeated in all three referendums.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The referendums were part of an agreement between France and the Kanak independence movement to decide the future of New Caledonia.

Thus, the correct answer is C. 1 and 3 only.

Q1500. Consider the following statements regarding the history of New Caledonia:

1. The Kanaks are the indigenous people of New Caledonia.
2. New Caledonia was brought under French control in 1853.
3. The independence movement in New Caledonia was primarily triggered by French migration making Kanaks a minority.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two



- (c) All three
(d) None

Ans: c

Sol:-

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The Kanaks are the indigenous people of New Caledonia.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – New Caledonia was brought under French control in 1853.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – The Kanaks became a minority due to French migration, which fuelled the independence movement.

Thus, the correct answer is C. All three.

Day 51

Topic 501

501. UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register

- Initiated in **1992 by UNESCO.**

Parent Organization

- Overseen by **UNESCO**

Objective of the organization

- To safeguard, preserve, facilitate access to, and increase awareness of documentary heritage.
- Focuses specifically on the Asia-Pacific region.

Current news?

- Recently, the Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahridayāloka-Locana have been included in 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'.

'Panchatantra'

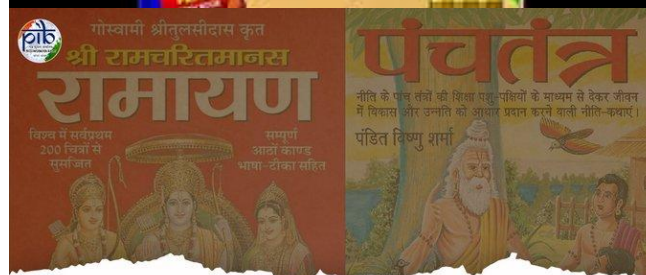
- It is ancient Indian collection of interrelated animal fables in Sanskrit verse and prose.
- Authored by Vishnu Sharma.
- The surviving work is dated to roughly 200 BC-300 BC.

Ramcharitmanas

- The Ramcharitmanas is based on the Ramayana, sage Valmiki's great epic.
- The poem was written in the 16th century in the Awadhi dialect
- Authored by Goswami Tulsidas.

Sahrdayāloka-Locana

- The Sahridayaloka-Locana is a Sanskrit treatise on poetics written by Acharya Anandvardhan in the 17th century.



Congratulations
INDIA

***The Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and
Sahṛdayāloka-Locana*** included in
UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific
Regional Register

Q1501. With reference to UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, consider the following statements:

1. The initiative was launched in 1992 by UNESCO to safeguard and preserve documentary heritage.
 2. The register exclusively includes manuscripts from South Asian countries.
 3. It aims to facilitate access to historical texts and increase awareness about their significance.
- How many of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b



Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** UNESCO launched the initiative in 1992 to preserve documentary heritage.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The register focuses on the Asia-Pacific region, not just South Asia.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** One of the objectives is to facilitate access to these historical texts and increase awareness.

Q1502. With reference to the texts recently included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, consider the following statements:

1. Panchatantra is an ancient collection of fables in Sanskrit, traditionally attributed to Vishnu Sharma.
2. Ramcharitmanas, authored by Tulsidas, is a 16th-century retelling of the Ramayana written in Braj Bhasha.
3. Sahrdayaloka-Locana is a 20th-century treatise on poetics written by Acharya Anandavardhan.

How many of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Panchatantra is an ancient Indian fable collection attributed to Vishnu Sharma.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Ramcharitmanas was written in the Awadhi dialect, not Braj Bhasha.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Sahrdayaloka-Locana was written in the 17th century, not the 20th century.

Q1503. Which of the following statements regarding the inclusion of Indian texts in the UNESCO Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register are correct?

1. Panchatantra, Ramcharitmanas, and Sahrdayaloka-Locana were included in the register recently.
2. Ramcharitmanas was originally written in Sanskrit by Sage Valmiki.

3. The surviving version of Panchatantra is dated to approximately 200 BC - 300 BC.

How many of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** These texts were recently added to UNESCO's regional register.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Ramcharitmanas was written by Tulsidas, not Valmiki. Valmiki's version is Ramayana, written in Sanskrit.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The surviving work of Panchatantra is dated approximately between 200 BC - 300 BC.

Topic 502

502. Nalanda University

- It is a **central research university** located at Rajgir in **Nalanda district of Bihar**.
- Designated as an **Institute of National Importance** (INI) and excellence.
- The **idea of Nalanda university**, where once **Nalanda Mahavihara** (monastery) existed was **first** proposed by former President of India **Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam** and Nobel Laureate **Amartya Sen**.
- The university was subsequently established by an **Act of the Indian Parliament in 2010**.

History of Nalanda Mahavihara

- Nalanda Mahavihara, the **5th-12th Century AD** (in ancient and medieval Magadha) university is considered to be **one of the greatest centres of learning** in ancient India.
- As per Chinese traveller **Huang Tsang** there were **10,000 monks** and 2000 teachers at Nalanda at one time.
- **Professors** were known as or Upajjhaya (Upadhaya).

Founder of Nalanda Monastery

- **Kumargupta I** of Gupta dynasty was the founder patron of Nalanda.

Curriculum and associated scholars

- Both **secular** and **religious**
- Both **theoretical** and the **practical**



- Subjects like the Vedas, Sanskrit grammar, medicine, logic, mathematics, astronomy, arts, medicine and even metal casting technique.

Decline

- **Destroyed in 1193**, by Turkish ruler Qutb Ud Din Aibak's general **Bakhtiyar Khilji**.



NEW NALANDA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the ruins of the ancient university of Nalanda in Bihar

Wednesday, inaugurating the new Nalanda University campus, he said it should be the

center of India's identity with universal flow of knowledge. (PTI)

REPORTERS: ANAND K. S.



New campus of Nalanda University

The **ruins of ancient Nalanda University** in Bihar was declared as the **World Cultural Heritage** by **UNESCO** in 2016.

PM inaugurated the **new campus** of Nalanda University in Bihar.



- **Huang Tsang**
- Huang Tsang, a Chinese traveller, visited India during the reign of King Harshavardhana in 630 AD.

Q1504. With reference to Nalanda University, consider the following statements:

1. Nalanda University is recognized as an Institute of National Importance (INI) by the Government of India.
2. The idea of reviving Nalanda Mahavihara as a university was first proposed by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Amartya Sen.
3. The university was established through an Executive Order in 2010.

How many of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nalanda University has been designated as an Institute of National Importance (INI).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen played a key role in proposing the idea of reviving Nalanda University.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The university was established through an Act of Parliament in 2010, not an executive order.

Q1505. Consider the following statements regarding the history of Nalanda Mahavihara:

1. Nalanda Mahavihara was founded during the reign of Chandragupta I, the founder of the Gupta dynasty.
2. The institution served as a center for both theoretical and practical education.
3. As per the records of the Chinese traveler Xuanzang (Huang Tsang), there were around 10,000 monks and 2,000 teachers at Nalanda at one time.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Nalanda Mahavihara was founded during the reign of Kumaragupta I (not Chandragupta I) of the Gupta dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nalanda offered education in both secular and religious subjects, covering theoretical and practical aspects.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Xuanzang's records mention that the institution had around 10,000 monks and 2,000 teachers.

Q1506. Which of the following statements about the decline of Nalanda Mahavihara are correct?

1. The university was destroyed in 1193 AD by Bakhtiyar Khilji, a general of Qutb-ud-din Aibak.



2. The attack led to the burning of its vast library, which allegedly took several months to be completely destroyed.

3. The decline of Nalanda began primarily due to lack of patronage from Indian rulers before the Turkish invasion.

How many of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nalanda was destroyed in 1193 AD by Bakhtiyar Khilji, a general under Qutb-ud-din Aibak.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The university's library was vast, and some historical accounts suggest that its manuscripts burned for months.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While patronage did decline, Nalanda remained a thriving center until the Turkish invasion, which directly led to its destruction.

Topic 503

503. Julian Assange

- an Australian citizen, founder of Wikileaks (a media organization).
- In 2010, it released a video from a US military helicopter which showed civilians being killed in the Iraqi capital Baghdad.
- Released thousands of confidential documents supplied by former US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning.
- Mr Assange was accused by the US of conspiring to break into its military databases to acquire sensitive information.

How arrest was avoided by Assange for years?

- Assange entered the Embassy of Ecuador in the UK in 2012 to seek asylum, which was granted.
- Over time, he began having run-ins with the Ecuador government, leading to his expulsion from the embassy and revocation of his asylum in 2019.
- He was sent to prison in Britain.

- The US again applied for extradition of Assange in a UK court.

Current news?

- Assange has agreed to plead guilty to illegally obtaining and disclosing national security material in exchange for his release from a British prison.
- Assange will be tried in a US court on the island of Saipan.



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on Tuesday. Reuters



Saipan

- Saipan is located in the western Pacific Ocean and is part of US commonwealth.
- Assange has opposed extradition to the US mainland.

Q1507. With respect to Saipan Island, recently seen in news, which of the options is correct regarding its exact location?

- (a) Eastern Pacific Ocean
- (b) Western Pacific Ocean
- (c) Northern Pacific Ocean



(d) Southern Pacific Ocean

Ans: b

Sol: Saipan is located in the western Pacific Ocean and is part of US commonwealth.

Q1508. Which of the following countries are members of the Five Eyes Alliance?

1. America
2. Britain
3. New Zealand
4. Australia
5. France
6. Germany

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: a

Sol: The Five Eyes Alliance is an intelligence-sharing alliance between five English-speaking countries:

- o United States of America
- o United Kingdom (Britain)
- o New Zealand
- o Australia
- o Canada (not mentioned in the question but is a part of the alliance)

Q1509. Citizenship of Julian Assange is:

- (a) British
- (b) American
- (c) French
- (d) Australian

Ans: d

Sol: Julian Assange is an Australian citizen, founder of Wikileaks (a media organization).

Topic 504

504. QS World University Rankings

- QS World University Rankings is an annual publication of university rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).
- Quacquarelli Symonds is an **education network company**.

Key findings QS World University Ranking 2025

- Best performing Institute from India is IIT Bombay ranked 118
- All top Indian institutes have shown improvement in their rank.
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retained the '**best institute in the world**' position for the 13th time.



Name of Institute	2025 Rank	2024 Rank	Change
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IITB)	118	149	↑ 31
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)	150	197	↑ 47
Indian Institute of Science (IISc)	211	225	↑ 14
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT-KGP)	222	271	↑ 49
Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)	227	285	↑ 58
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)	263	278	↑ 15
University of Delhi (DU)	328	407	↑ 79
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)	335	369	↑ 34
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG)	344	364	↑ 20
Anna University	383	427	↑ 44
Indian Institute of Technology Indore (IIT Indore)	477	454	↑ 23

Q1510. Consider the following statements regarding the QS World University Rankings:

1. The QS World University Rankings are published annually by Quacquarelli Symonds.
2. Quacquarelli Symonds is a global ranking agency operated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
3. The rankings evaluate universities based on multiple parameters, including academic reputation and employer reputation.



How many of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** QS World University Rankings are published annually by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Quacquarelli Symonds is an independent education network company, not operated by UNESCO.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The QS rankings use multiple criteria, including academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, citations per faculty, and international diversity.

Q1511. Which of the following statements regarding the QS World University Rankings 2025 are correct?

1. The highest-ranked Indian institute is IIT Bombay at Rank 118.
2. All top Indian institutes have improved their ranking compared to the previous year.
3. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore is ranked among the top 50 universities worldwide in 2025.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans: a

Sol:-

- **Statement 1 is correct:** IIT Bombay is ranked 118th in QS World University Rankings 2025, making it the best-performing Indian institute.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** All top Indian institutes have shown improvement in their rankings.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** There is no mention of IISc Bangalore being ranked among the top 50 universities worldwide in 2025.

Q1512. Consider the following statements about the global rankings in the QS World University Rankings 2025:

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has retained the position of the best institute in the world.
2. MIT has been ranked as the world's best institute for the 13th consecutive time.
3. Stanford University and Harvard University have jointly secured the second position in the 2025 rankings.

Which statements are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

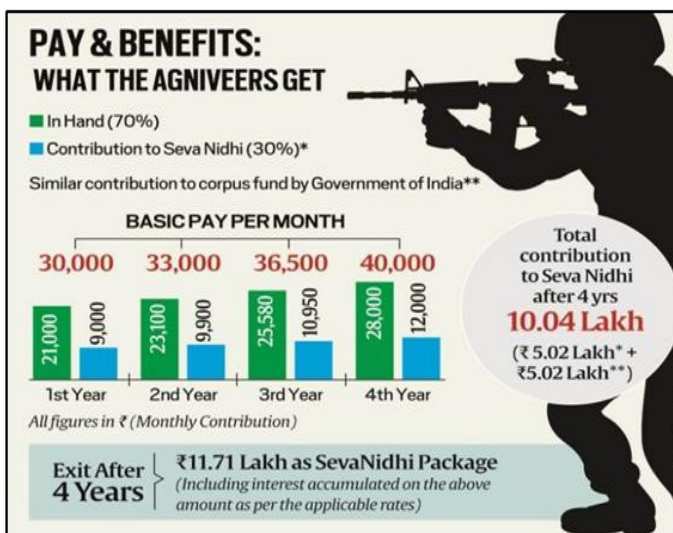
- **Statement 1 is correct:** MIT is the top-ranked university in the world for the year 2025.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** MIT has retained its number one ranking for the 13th time.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Harvard was ranked fourth and Stanford was ranked sixth in the 2025 QS World University Rankings.

Topic 505

505. Agnipath Scheme

- In 2022 government unveiled its **new Agnipath scheme** for recruiting soldiers across the three services.
- It is a **recruitment process** for individuals below the rank of officer.
- Under the new scheme, around **45,000 to 50,000 soldiers** will be **recruited annually,** and most will **leave the service** in just **four years.**
- Of the total annual recruits, **only 25 per cent** will be allowed to **continue for another 15 years under permanent commission.**
- **Aim**-goal of deploying **fitter, younger troops** on the front lines





Q1513. Regarding the Agnipath Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It recruits soldiers yearly, with most serving for four years, and only 25% continuing for 15 years, aiming to trim the permanent force levels and cut down on the significant defense pension expenses.
2. The new arrangement applies exclusively to non-commissioned personnel, excluding those who join the forces as officers.

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

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

Ans: d

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Agnipath Scheme is a recruitment policy introduced by the Government of India for soldiers across the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. Under this scheme:
 - Soldiers (Agniveers) are recruited for four years.
 - After completion, only 25% of them are retained for a full 15-year tenure.
 - This initiative is aimed at reducing the financial burden of defense pensions and maintaining a leaner, younger, and more technology-driven armed forces.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Agnipath scheme applies only to non-commissioned personnel (soldiers, sailors, and airmen).

- It does not include officers, who are recruited through existing entry routes like NDA, CDS, and other service academies.

Q1514. With respect to the Agnipath scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It allows youths to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of two years.
 2. Under this scheme, aspirants between the ages of 17.5 years and 21 years will be eligible to apply.
- 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

Ans: b

Sol: It allows youths to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years.

Q1515. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Gurkha Soldiers':

1. The recruitment of Gurkha soldiers into the Indian Army's Gurkha regiments dates to 1816, during the time of the British Indian Army.
2. This practice continued under a 1947 treaty that emphasized "equal treatment" between the Gurkha soldiers and their Indian counterparts.

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:**
 - The recruitment of Gurkha soldiers into the Indian Army dates back to 1816, when they were first inducted into the British Indian Army following the Anglo-Nepalese War (1814–1816).
 - The war concluded with the Treaty of Sugauli (1815–16), after which the British recognized the martial abilities of the Gurkhas and began recruiting them.
- **Statement 2 is correct:**
 - After India's independence in 1947, the Tripartite Agreement (India, Nepal, and the



UK) allowed for the continued recruitment of Gurkha soldiers into the armies of India and the UK.

- The agreement emphasized "equal treatment" for Gurkha soldiers in the Indian Army, ensuring similar pay, pensions, and benefits as their Indian counterparts.

Topic 506

506. UNESCO Creative Cities Network

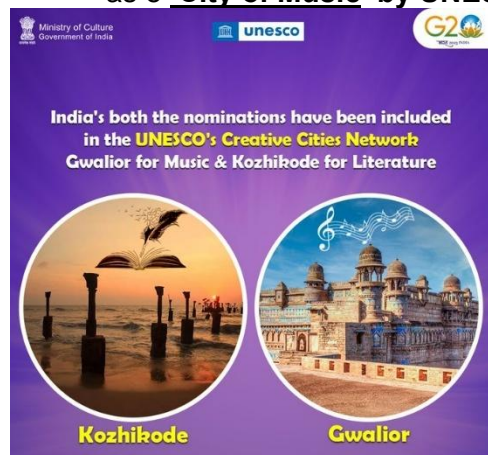
- It was created in 2004.
- The UNESCO Creative Cities aims to achieve Sustainable Development Goals through innovative thinking and action.
- Sustainable Development Goal Number 11 aims for Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- The network covers seven creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.

Till now there are five Indian cities in UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) as follows:

- Jaipur-Crafts and Folk Arts (2015).
- Varanasi-Creative city of Music (2015).
- Chennai-Creative city of Music (2017).
- Mumbai – Film (2019).
- Hyderabad – Gastronomy (2019)
- Srinagar: Crafts and Folk Art (2021)

Current news?

- **Kozhikode**, a city in Kerala celebrated for its rich cultural heritage, has been officially **declared as India's first UNESCO City of Literature** under the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.
- Apart from this **Gwalior** has been included as e '**City of Music**' by **UNESCO**.



Q1516. Consider the following:

- ### 1. Kozhikode

2. Jaipur
3. Mumbai
4. Hyderabad

Which of the above-mentioned cities is/are recognized as UNESCO City of Literature under the UNESCO Creative Cities Network?

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

Ans: c

Sol: Kozhikode, a city in Kerala celebrated for its rich cultural heritage, has been officially declared as India's first UNESCO City of Literature under the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Q1517. Consider the following statements:

1. Kozhikode has been included in UNESCO's creative cities network as the 'City of Music'
 2. Garba of Gujarat has been declared by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage
 3. Gwalior has been included in UNESCO's creative cities network as the 'City of Literature'
- How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol: Kozhikode city of literature Gwalior city of music.

Q1518. Which of the following Indian cities have been recognized as World Craft Cities by the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)?

1. Jaipur
2. Malappuram
3. Mysore
4. Srinagar
(a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 1, 2, and 3
(c) Only 1, 3, and 4
(d) All 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: d

Sol:



- Jaipur, Malappuram, and Mysore were the first three Indian cities recognized as World Craft Cities by UCCN.
- Srinagar was recently added as the fourth Indian city to receive this recognition.
- This designation highlights these cities' rich craft heritage, artisanal traditions, and cultural significance.

Topic 507

507. MAITRI mission

- Space MAITRI (Mission for Australia-India's Technology, Research and Innovation), represents is strategic partnership between the India and Australia in the space domain.

What is the news?

- Recently, the Australian government entered into an \$18 million memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) under space MAITRI mission.
- According to the agreement NSIL will launch Australia's Optimus spacecraft in 2026.
- Australia's Optimus spacecraft be launched on ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).
- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), ISRO's commercial arm, and India's private space industry can now produce SSLVs for commercial missions.



Q1519. Consider the following statements regarding the Space MAITRI Mission:

1. It is a strategic partnership between India and Australia in the space domain.
2. Under this mission, ISRO has signed a \$20 million agreement with the Australian government for launching Australia's Optimus spacecraft.
3. New Space India Limited (NSIL) is ISRO's commercial arm involved in this mission.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Space MAITRI is indeed a strategic partnership between India and Australia in the space domain.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The agreement is worth \$18 million, not \$20 million.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** NSIL, ISRO's commercial arm, is involved in launching the Optimus spacecraft.

Q1520. Which of the following statements regarding the launch of Australia's Optimus spacecraft under the MAITRI Mission is/are correct?

1. Australia's Optimus spacecraft will be launched using ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in 2026.
2. India's private space industry is permitted to produce Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) for commercial missions.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Optimus spacecraft will be launched using ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), not PSLV.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under the agreement, India's private space industry can now produce SSLVs for commercial missions.

Q1521. Consider the following statements regarding NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) and its role in the MAITRI Mission:

1. NSIL is ISRO's commercial arm responsible for launching Australia's Optimus spacecraft.
2. NSIL will use India's first human-rated launch vehicle for the Optimus spacecraft mission.
3. The Optimus spacecraft launch is scheduled for 2026.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?



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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** NSIL is ISRO's commercial arm and will launch Australia's Optimus spacecraft.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** NSIL will not use a human-rated launch vehicle; instead, it will use SSLV.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The launch is scheduled for 2026.

Topic 508

508. National Statistics Day

- Every year, **National Statistics Day** is celebrated on **June 29** in India.
- The celebration **aims to create public awareness** among people **about the importance of statistics** in daily life and in **process of planning and development**.
- It is also the **birth anniversary of Prof PC Mahalanobis**, the founder of the **Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)**.
- The day is organised by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)**.
- The **theme** of National Statistics Day 2024 is **"Use of data for decision-making"**.



Q1522. Consider the following statements about Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis:

1. National Statistics Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.
 2. He was a member of India's inaugural Planning Commission and was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan for his contributions to science.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2

- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: d

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** National Statistics Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (June 29th). So, this statement is correct.
- **Statement 2:** He was a member of the first Planning Commission in India. He was also awarded the Padma Vibhushan for his contributions to science. So, this statement is also correct.

Q1523. With reference to the Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, consider the following statements:

1. In 1930 he proposed the Mahalanobis Distance for the first time, which is a measure of comparison between two data sets.
2. 'Sankhya: The Indian Journal of Statistics' was started by Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.
3. He was instrumental in formulating India's second five-year-plan (1956-1961), which laid the blueprint for industrialization and development in India.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Mahalanobis Distance:** He did indeed propose the Mahalanobis Distance in 1930. It's a crucial measure used to compare datasets, taking into account the correlations between variables.
- **Sankhya Journal:** Mahalanobis founded 'Sankhya: The Indian Journal of Statistics'. It's a highly respected journal in the field of statistics.
- **Second Five-Year Plan:** He played a significant role in formulating India's Second Five-Year Plan. This plan focused on industrialization and laid the foundation for India's economic development strategy.



Q1524. Who among the following is known as the Architect of Indian Planning?

- V.K.R.V Rao
- Sukhamoy Chakravarty
- John Mathai
- P.C. Mahalanobis

Ans: d

Sol: P.C. Mahalanobis is known as the Architect of Indian Planning.

Topic 509

509. Oil import for India

India's primary suppliers of crude oil are

- Russia(largest)**-36% of India's crude oil imports in 2024
- Iraq- second-largest exporter** of crude oil to India
- India import **Ural grade oil** from **Russia**.

Import of Russian oil

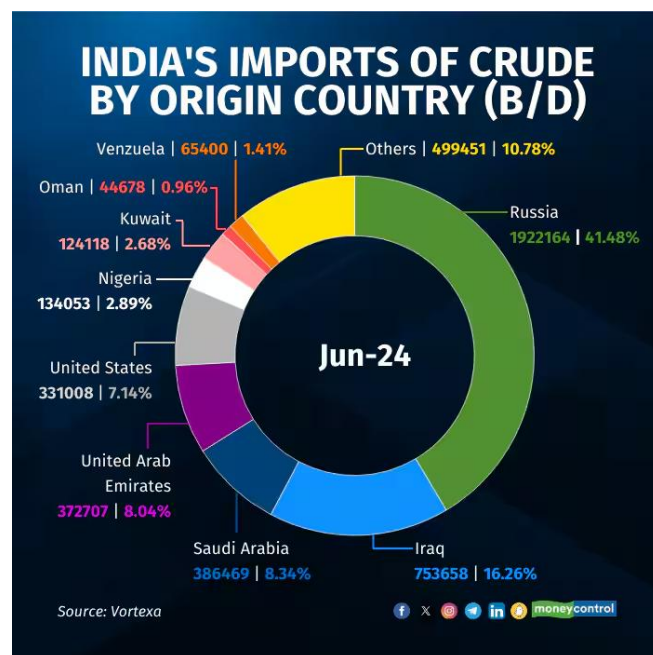
- Urals, a **medium-sour crude**, is seen as Russia's **flagship crude grade**, and is the mainstay of India's Russian oil imports.

Sour crude

- Sulphur content** in crude makes it sour.
- Crude oil is defined as "**sour**" if its sulfur content **exceeds 0.5%**.
- Sulfur is undesirable** in crude oils because it **lowers the yield** of **high-value refined products**.

LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) import by India

- India's **import dependency** in **natural gas** is **around 50%**.
- Overall India is **4th largest importer** of LNG.
- Qatar** is **India's largest LNG supplier** for last **five years**.
- Recently the **US emerged** as **India's second largest supplier** of LNG surpassing UAE.



Q1525. Consider the following statements regarding India's crude oil imports:

- Russia is the largest supplier of crude oil to India, contributing to 36% of India's crude oil imports in 2024.
- Iraq is the third-largest exporter of crude oil to India after Russia and Saudi Arabia.
- The Ural grade crude oil imported from Russia is classified as a sweet crude due to its low sulfur content.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct:** Russia is the largest supplier of crude oil to India, accounting for 36% of India's imports in 2024.
- Statement 2 is incorrect:** Iraq is India's second-largest crude oil supplier, not third.
- Statement 3 is incorrect:** Urals crude is a sour crude, meaning it has high sulfur content, making it not a sweet crude.

Q1526. Which of the following statements regarding sour crude oil are correct?



1. Crude oil is classified as "sour" if its sulfur content exceeds 0.5%.
2. The presence of sulfur in crude oil is desirable because it increases the yield of high-value refined products.
3. Urals crude oil, the mainstay of India's Russian oil imports, is a medium-sour crude.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2 and 3
- (c) Only 1 and 3
- (d) All three

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Crude oil is considered sour if its sulfur content exceeds 0.5%.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sulfur is undesirable in crude oil because it lowers the yield of high-value refined products.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Urals crude oil is a medium-sour crude and is the main type of Russian oil imported by India.

Q1527. Consider the following statements regarding India's LNG imports:

1. India's natural gas import dependency is around 50%.
2. India is the third-largest LNG importer globally.
3. Qatar has been India's largest LNG supplier for the past five years.
4. The U.S. has recently surpassed the UAE to become India's second-largest LNG supplier.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** India's natural gas import dependency is around 50%.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** India is the fourth-largest LNG importer globally, not third.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Qatar has been India's largest LNG supplier for the last five years.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The U.S. has recently surpassed the UAE to become India's second-largest LNG supplier.

Topic 510

510. Rath yatra at Jagannath Puri

- In **Puri** called the "**White Pagoda**".
- Also called '**Yamanika Tirtha**' (belief- the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified)
- Part of **Char Dham (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram)**
- By King **Anantavarman Deva** of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty (12th AD)

Rath yatra

- **Idol made of wood** -three principal deities (**Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra**)
- Belief- Lord Jagannath's visit along with **his siblings** to the their aunt **Queen Gundicha** for 9 days



Wooden idols of Jagannath Temple



Puri Jagannath Temple Rath Yatra



Jagannath Temple, Puri-White Pagoda



Sun Temple, Konark -Black Pagoda

Q1528. With reference to the Jagannath Puri Temple, consider the following statements:

1. This temple is known as the "White Pagoda" and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages.
 2. It is a splendid example of Kalinga architecture, which is characterised by curvilinear towers, intricate carvings and ornate sculptures.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2



(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c

Q1529. With reference to the Jagannath Puri Temple and its Rath Yatra, consider the following statements:

1. The Jagannath Temple in Puri is also known as 'Yamanika Tirtha' due to the belief that Lord Jagannath nullified the power of Yama, the god of death.
2. The Rath Yatra symbolizes Lord Jagannath's journey with his siblings, Balabhadra and Subhadra, to their uncle's palace for nine days.
3. The temple was built by King Anantavarman Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty in the 12th century AD.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha', based on the belief that Lord Jagannath nullified Yama's power here.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Rath Yatra represents Lord Jagannath's visit to his aunt's palace (Queen Gundicha), not his uncle's palace.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The temple was indeed constructed by King Anantavarman Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty in the 12th century AD.

Since only statements 1 and 3 are correct, the correct answer is (b) Only two.

Q1530. Consider the following statements regarding the Jagannath Rath Yatra:

1. The idols of the three principal deities—Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra—are made of metal and are placed on three massive chariots during the festival.
2. The Jagannath Temple is popularly known as the "White Pagoda," while the Sun Temple at Konark is called the "Black Pagoda."
3. The Rath Yatra is held annually in Puri and marks Lord Jagannath's visit to the Gundicha Temple for a period of 9 days.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The idols are made of wood, not metal. The wooden idols are ritually replaced in a process called Nabakalebara every 12 to 19 years.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Jagannath Temple is indeed known as the "White Pagoda", while the Sun Temple at Konark is called the "Black Pagoda" due to its dark stone structure.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Rath Yatra is an annual event, symbolizing Lord Jagannath's visit to the Gundicha Temple, where he stays for 9 days before returning.

