

PRELIMS 2024

How I predicted many Qs in PRELIMS 2024

Santosh Sir
All 6 Prelims Qualified
4 Mains Qualified
State PCS Qualified
Ex Deputy Collector

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MARKSHEET

Civil Services (PRELIMINARY) Examination , 2017	
Roll Number	0390455
Name	SANTOSH PANDEY
Marks Obtained	
Paper I	138.66
Paper II	106.68

REMARKS : QUALIFIED FOR CS(MAIN) EXAMINATION, 2017

Current Time & Date :-09:28:25 AM [Tue,6th Jun, 2017]

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MARKSHEET

Civil Services (PRELIMINARY) Examination , 2016	
Roll Number	0029983
Name	SANTOSH PANDEY
Marks Obtained	
Paper I	144.66
Paper II	107.50

REMARKS : QUALIFIED FOR CS(MAIN) EXAMINATION,2016

DISCLAIMER : The contents of this site is informatory in nature.You are advised to verify the same from Commission's office.

Question No 1

LAQSHYA Test No: 1038 Question No: 90

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

1. How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023 ?

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

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Test 1038- Polity Advance 2

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 90 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
1m 4s	59s	105

Consider the following statements regarding delimitation of Constituencies:

- All the delimitation commission constituted so far had retired SC judge as its chairman.
- The first delimitation exercise was done by the President of India with the help of ECI in 1951.
- So far five delimitation commissions have been formed for the whole of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**? Select the correct answer using the code below:

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

Answer Explanation

- So far **only 4 delimitation** commissions are formed. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- 1952:** based on 1951 census; Headed by Justice N Chandrasekhara Aiyar, a retired justice of the Supreme Court.
- 1963:** based on 1961 census; Headed by Justice K. K. Gupta, a retired justice of the Supreme Court.
- 1973:** based on 1971 census; Headed by Justice J L Kapur, a retired justice of the Supreme Court.
- 2002:** based on 2001 census; Headed by Justice Kuldeep Singh, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court.
- The first delimitation exercise was conducted by the Indian President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.

Hence statements 1 and 2 are correct.

- Option Elimination Technique:** Absolute numbers are generally incorrect. Statement 3 can be eliminated in this manner.

Have asked question on Delimitation Commission 7 times in our various tests viz Static, Monthly Current Affairs, Optima Tests

Delimitation Commission

Purpose

Redraw borders of assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies based on recent census, ensuring near-equal voter representation.

About	Delimitation Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constituted Under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Provisions of the Delimitation Commission Act. • Representation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Seats for SC and ST adjusted based on census, while representation from each state remains constant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves redrawing boundaries of constituencies. • Ensures each constituency has a nearly equal number of voters. • Aims for fair representation and geographical division.
Details	Constitutional Provisions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Delimitation Exercise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Occurred in 1976 based on the 1971 Census. • Freeze on Delimitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Constitutional amendment in 2002 froze delimitation exercise until the first Census after 2026. ◦ Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times – 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lok Sabha: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Article 82 empowers Parliament to enact Delimitation Act after every Census. • State Assemblies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Article 170 divides states into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.

Santosh Sir

All 6 Prelims Qualified

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMS 2024 : LAQSHYA OPTIMA 2024

Question No 2

LAQSHYA Test No: 1041 Question No: 85

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

2. The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 amends the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution to include which of the following languages ?

1. Konkani
2. Manipuri
3. Nepali
4. Maithili

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

← ↻ 🔒 <https://www.optimizeiascourses.com/learn/mock-test/498015/report/solutions?id=498015&mode=1&qld=15138292&resultType=1&lessonId=2859087> 🔔 🔊

⊗ Test 1041 - Polity Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 85 of 100 📌 Marks : 2.0, -0.67 📌

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m	171

⊗ Answer Explanation

Schedule Languages:

- The **Eighth Schedule** to the **Constitution** consists of the following **22 languages**:
 - Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, **Kashmiri**, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, **Marathi**, Nepali, **Oriya**, Punjabi, Sanskrit, **Sindhi**, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri. **So, option C is correct.**
- Of these languages, **14 were initially included in the Constitution.**
- Sindhi language** was added by the **21st Amendment Act of 1967.**
- Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali** were included by the **71st Amendment Act of 1992.**
- Bodo, Dogri, Maithili,** and **Santhali** were added by the **92nd Amendment Act of 2003** which came into force in **2004.**

Which of the following group of languages are listed under the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India:

- A Assamese, Rajasthani, Kannada, Nepali
- B Rajasthani, Gujarati, Bengali, Punjabi
- C Kashmiri, Marathi, Oriya, Sindhi
- D Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Garhwali

Schedules	Provisions
First Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The states and territories of India Change in the territory of a state/UT or formation of a new state/UT or merger of states/UTs 7th Constitutional Amendment 1956 with the formation of Andhra Pradesh state.
Second Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The constitutional office's provisions in relation to allowances, privileges, and emoluments of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President, Speaker of Lok Sabha & Deputy Speaker, Chairman & Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Legislative Assemblies, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Legislative Councils, Supreme Court, Judges High Court, Judges Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG)
Third Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oath and affirmation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Ministers of India, Members of Parliament, Supreme Court Judges, Comptroller and Auditor General, State Ministers, Members High Court Judges
Fourth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The allocation of Rajya Sabha seats to States or Union Territories.
Fifth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes. Scheduled Tribes are groups of indigenous people, identified in the Constitution, struggling socio-economically
Sixth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. To protect the rights of tribal people, the Sixth Schedule allows the formation of Autonomous District Councils Articles 244(2) and 275(1) of the Indian Constitution
Seventh Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defines and specifies the allocation of powers and functions between Union & States. It contains three lists; i.e. 1) Union List, 2) State List and 3) Concurrent List.
Eighth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The official language of the Republic of India. Part XVII—the official languages in Articles 343 to 351. 22 languages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri. 14 were initially included in the Constitution. The Sindhi language was added by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967. Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali were included in the 71st Amendment Act of 1992. Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003 which came into force in 2004.
Ninth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State laws and regulations relating to land reform and the dismantling of the zamindari system.
Tenth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti defection law was introduced by the 52nd constitutional amendment act 1985 To prevent the defections from one political party to another in lieu of certain gains by members of parliament and state legislatures, it led to the introduction of the 10th schedule. 91st constitutional amendment act 2003.
Eleventh Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisions that specify the Panchayats' powers, authority, and responsibilities in order for them to function as local governments. 73rd Amendment Act of 1992 added a schedule. State legislatures are required to enact laws granting Panchayats powers and authority in order for them to perform local government functions.
Twelfth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the Municipalities' powers, authority, and responsibilities in order for them to function as local governments.

Santosh Sir

All 6 Prelims Qualified

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMS 2024 : LAQSHYA OPTIMA 2024

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UPSC PRELIMS 2025

**PRACTICE MOST IMPORTANT
QUESTIONS PREDICTED BY**

Santosh Sir



All Six Prelims Qualified
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REMARKS : QUALIFIED FOR CS(MAIN) EXAMINATION, 2017

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Question No 4

Which of the following statements are correct about the Constitution of India ?

1. Powers of the Municipalities are given in Part IX A of the Constitution.
2. Emergency provisions are given in Part XVIII of the Constitution.
3. Provisions related to the amendment of the Constitution are given in Part XX of the Constitution.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OPTIMA CARDS



59

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

- Enacted in 1992 through Constitution **73rd and 74th Amendment Acts**.
- Expression of **Article 40**, Directive Principle of State Policy, organizing village panchayats.

Historical Background:	Post-Independence Efforts:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient democratic institutions in India. • British efforts in municipal government from 1773. • Lord Ripon's resolution of 1881 emphasized local self-government principles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panchayat Raj not initially in the Constitution. • Article 40 inserted in the Directive Principles by M.K. Gandhi's efforts. • Various committees proposed democratization of local governance.

Constitutional Amendments (1992):

- Added Parts IX and IXA for Panchayats and Municipalities.
- Transferred **29 subjects** to Panchayats and **18 to Municipalities**.
- **Three-tier Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs)** for rural governance.
- Establishment of 'Gram Sabha' at the village level comprising of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of Panchayat (Article 243(b)).
- Establishment of a three-tier system of Panchayat, at the village, intermediate and district levels, in all the States and Union Territories (UTs) except in those having a population of less than twenty lakhs where Panchayats at intermediate level need not be constituted.
- The chairperson of a Panchayat at the intermediate and district level shall be elected from among the directly elected members representing the territorial constituencies.
- **Reservation of seats for SCs/STs in proportion to their population in the Panchayat area** and seats may be allotted by rotation
- **One-third of the total number of seats, both in reserved and unreserved categories shall be set apart for women** in every Panchayat and seats may be allotted by rotation.
- The chairperson of each level of Panchayats shall be reserved for SCs/STs in proportion to their population on rotation basis. Similarly, one-third post of chairpersons of each level of Panchayats shall be reserved for women on rotation basis.
- A fixed tenure of five years for Panchayats from the date appointed for its first meeting and the tenure cannot be extended. However, if a Panchayat is dissolved before the expiry of its term, election is to be conducted within a period of six months of the dissolution to reconstitute the Panchayat for the remainder of the terms of the term provided the remainder of the period is not less than six months. The Panchayats shall be constituted before the expiry of its tenure of five years.

Exemptions and Special Provisions:

- Exemptions for Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, hill areas of Manipur, Darjeeling, and scheduled/tribal areas.
- Article 371A and 371G provide exclusive powers in Nagaland and Mizoram.
- Similar arrangements in Sixth Schedule Areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

Question No 4

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR NOTES

Which of the following statements are correct about the Constitution of India ?

1. Powers of the Municipalities are given in Part IX A of the Constitution.
2. Emergency provisions are given in Part XVIII of the Constitution.
3. Provisions related to the amendment of the Constitution are given in Part XX of the Constitution.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

The National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023

- **Key Highlights of the Ordinance**

- Creation of National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA)
- NCCSA will be headed by the Chief Minister of Delhi, with the Chief Secretary and Principal Home Secretary of Delhi being the other two members.
- The NCCSA will make recommendations to the LG regarding transfer, posting, vigilance and other incidental matters.

- **Role of Lieutenant Governor (L-G)**

- The ordinance stated that the L-G will pass orders to give effect to the recommendations passed by the NCCSA.
- However, L-G can ask for the relevant material about officers belonging to All India Services and DANIC serving the Delhi government.
- In case the L-G differs with the recommendation made, he/she may return the recommendation to the Authority for reconsideration by the Authority.

Article 123 cannot be used as a substitute for Article 368

- Article 239AA(7)(b) stipulates that Parliament's law making under Article 239AA(7)(a) shall not be deemed to be amendment of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368.
- No such clause has been stipulated in Article 239AA(3)(a).
- Therefore, altering the scope of Article 239AA(3)(a) requires constitutional amendment under Article 368.
- Article 123 cannot act as a substitute for Article 368 (Amendment of the Constitution) in Part XX.

Question No.5

5. Which one of the following statements is correct as per the Constitution of India ?
- (a) Inter-State trade and commerce is a State subject under the State List.
 - (b) Inter-State migration is a State subject under the State List.
 - (c) Inter-State quarantine is a Union subject under the Union List.
 - (d) Corporation tax is a State subject under the State List.

LAQSHYA FLT 1 Question No: 22

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

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⊗ Full Length Test 1

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 22 of 100 📌 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Consider the following subjects:

1. Public health and sanitation
2. Inter-state migration
3. Water supplies and drainage

How many of the above are included in the State list of 7th schedule? Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q. 22 of 100 ■ Marks : 2.0, -0.67 📌

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	55s	255

Consider the following subjects:

1. Public health and sanitation
2. Inter-state migration
3. Water supplies and drainage

How many of the above are included in the State list of 7th schedule? Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Public health and sanitation are State subjects. The primary responsibility of strengthening public health and sanitation in all urban areas including slums lies with the respective State/UT Governments.

Development of urban infrastructure is a State subject. It is the responsibility of the States / Union Territories (UTs) to frame policies and implement schemes for improving the quality of life for all including the poor and the disadvantaged people residing in its cities.

Water comprising water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power comes under **state list**.

Interstate migration and interstate quarantine comes under the Union **list of 7th schedule**.

Question No 6

LAQSHYA Test No: 1036 Question No: 82

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

6. Under which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India, has the Supreme Court of India placed the Right to Privacy?

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

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Test 1036- NCERT Polity

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 82 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	37s	229

Which of the following have been declared as inferred fundamental rights under Article 21 by Supreme Court:

1. Right to pollution-free water and air
2. Right to property
3. Right to free legal aid
4. Right to privacy

Select the correct answer using code below

- A Only one
- B Only two
- C Only three

X Answer Explanation

deprivation of life or liberty of a person must not be unfair, u

3. **Francis Coralie Mullin vs. Union Territory of Delhi (1981)**: procedure for the deprivation of life or liberty of a person must not be arbitrary, whimsical or fanciful.
4. **Olga Tellis vs. Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985)**: That any procedure that would deprive a person's fundamental rights is unfair, arbitrary and unjust.

Unni Krishnan vs. State of Andhra Pradesh (1993): In this case of the right to life. The Court gave a list of rights that **Article 21** contains. They are:

1. **Right to privacy**
2. Right to go abroad
3. Right to shelter
4. Right against solitary confinement
5. Right to social justice and economic empowerment
6. Right against handcuffing
7. Right against custodial death
8. Right against delayed execution
9. Doctors' assistance
10. Right against public hanging
11. Protection of cultural heritage
12. **Right to pollution-free water and air**
13. Right of every child to a full development
14. Right to health and medical aid
15. Right to education
16. Protection of under-trials

In the landmark case of *Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar*, the **effective legal aid** is integral to the Right to Life under Article 21. **answer.**

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REMARKS : QUALIFIED FOR CS(MAIN) EXAMINATION, 2016

- NCERT BOOK TEST - 10
- ADVANCE BOOK TEST - 15
- MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS TEST - 15
- ENTIRE YEAR IMP QUESTION TEST (SUBJECT-WISE) - 8
- OPTIMA FULL LENGTH STIMULATED TEST - 7
- CSAT FULL LENGTH TEST - 10
- WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS SESSION - 100 HRS
- STATIC MAP SESSIONS - 50 HRS
- TOTAL NO. OF TEST - 65**



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ONLY (English Medium),
No Test PDF's Will be
Provided.

Question No 7

LAQSHYA Test No: 1044 Question No: 25

In DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

7. What are the duties of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) as Head of the Department of Military Affairs ?

1. Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee
2. Exercise military command over the three Service Chiefs
3. Principal Military Advisor to Defence Minister on all tri-service matters

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

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Test 1044- January 2024 Current Affairs Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 25 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
6s	43s	12

Consider the following statements regarding the Defence Technology council.

1. It is based on the recommendations of Kargil Review Committee.
2. Chief Of Defence Staff (CDS) is the chairman of the council.
3. Its objective is to determine the country's defense technology roadmap.

How many of the above statements are correct? Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A Only one
- B Only two
- C All three

Answer Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect:
Expert committee headed by **VijayRaghavan (former principal scientific advisor)** recommended that **an apex body known as Defence Technology Council chaired by the Prime Minister** should determine the country's defense technology roadmap.

Statement 2 is incorrect:
The Defence Technology Council headed by the Prime Minister would play a pivotal role in identifying the right players for specific defense technologies.

- **The Defence Minister and the National Security Advisor** will act as Vice Presidents.

Statement 3 is correct:
It will **determine the country's defense technology roadmap** and decide on major projects and their execution.

- **The Defence Technology Council is proposed to have an executive committee to be chaired by the Chief of Defence Staff.**
- **The Principal Scientific Advisor, along with the three service chiefs** and their vice chiefs will also be its members.

Question No 8

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

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

IN-DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR OPTIMA CARDS


11

Operations In the News

Operation Name	Year	Reason for Evacuation
Operation Ajay	2023	Israel-Hamas war
Operation Dost	2023	Turkey-Syria earthquake
Operation Kaveri	2023	Evacuation of nationals from Sudan
Operation Ganga	2022	Tensions between Russia and Ukraine
Vande Bharat	2020	Covid-19 pandemic
Operation Samudra Setu	2020	Covid-19 pandemic
Evacuation from Brussels	2016	Terrorist strikes
Operation Raahat	2015	Conflict in Yemen
Operation Maitri	2015	Nepal earthquake
Operation Safe Homecoming	2011	Conflict in Libya
Operation Sukoon	2006	Conflict in Lebanon
1990 Kuwait Airlift	1990	Invasion of Kuwait by Iraq

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Question No 9

The longest border between any two countries in the world is between :

- (a) Canada and the United States of America
- (b) Chile and Argentina
- (c) China and India
- (d) Kazakhstan and Russian Federation

IN-DIRECT QUESTION FROM PPP

7. Consider the following pairs

Border

1. 49th Parallel
2. 22th Parallel
3. 38th Parallel

Countries

- USA -Mexico
- Egypt -Sudan
- North Korea - South Korea

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Question No 10

LAQSHYA Test No: FLT3 Question No: 8

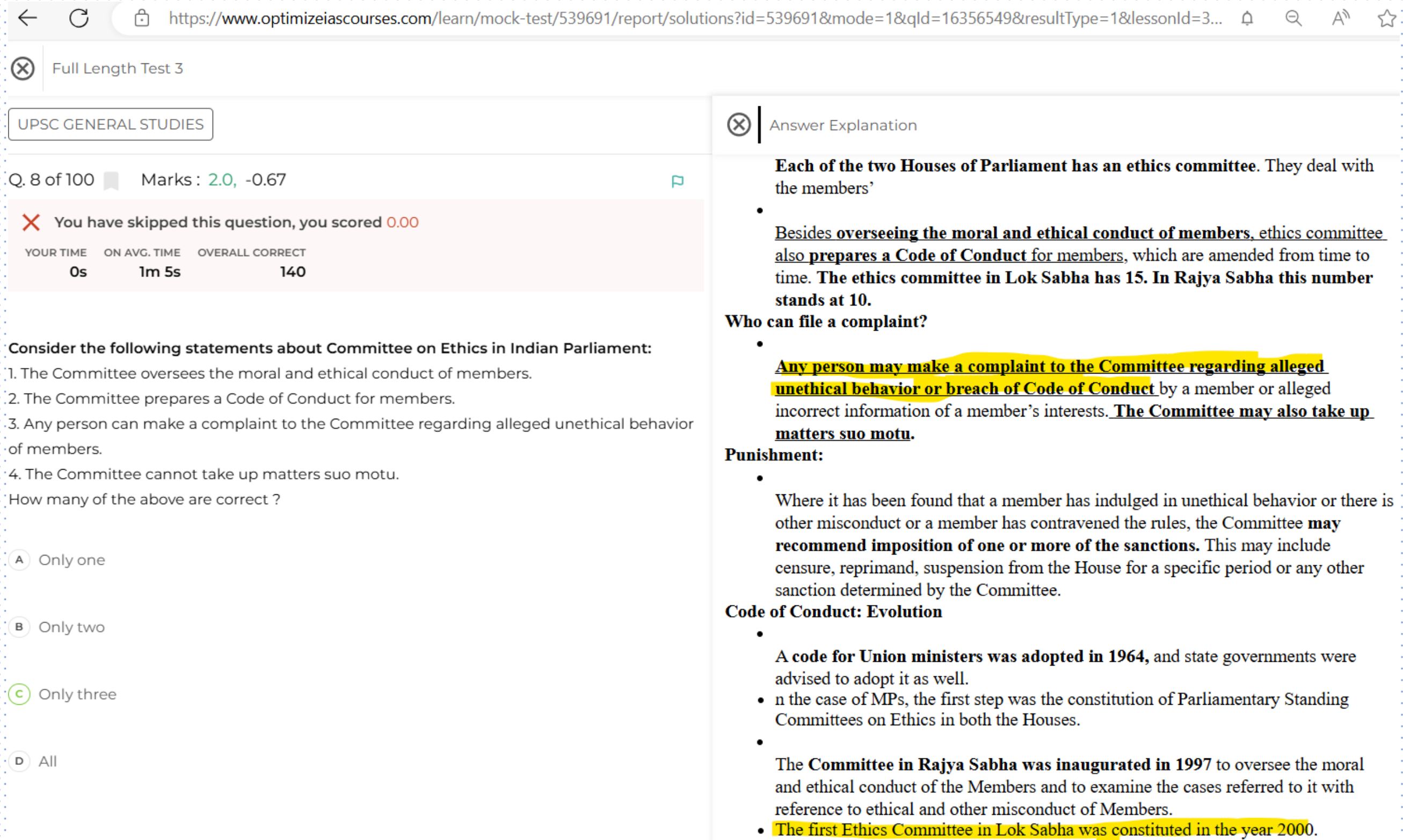
DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

10. Which of the following statements about the Ethics Committee in the Lok Sabha are correct ?

1. Initially it was an *ad-hoc* Committee.
2. Only a Member of the Lok Sabha can make a complaint relating to unethical conduct of a member of the Lok Sabha.
3. This Committee cannot take up any matter which is sub-judice.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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



Full Length Test 3

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 8 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 5s	140

Consider the following statements about Committee on Ethics in Indian Parliament:

1. The Committee oversees the moral and ethical conduct of members.
2. The Committee prepares a Code of Conduct for members.
3. Any person can make a complaint to the Committee regarding alleged unethical behavior of members.
4. The Committee cannot take up matters suo motu.

How many of the above are correct ?

- A Only one
- B Only two
- C Only three
- D All

Answer Explanation

- Each of the two Houses of Parliament has an ethics committee. They deal with the members'
- Besides overseeing the moral and ethical conduct of members, ethics committee also prepares a Code of Conduct for members, which are amended from time to time. The ethics committee in Lok Sabha has 15. In Rajya Sabha this number stands at 10.

Who can file a complaint?

- Any person may make a complaint to the Committee regarding alleged unethical behavior or breach of Code of Conduct by a member or alleged incorrect information of a member's interests. The Committee may also take up matters suo motu.

Punishment:

- Where it has been found that a member has indulged in unethical behavior or there is other misconduct or a member has contravened the rules, the Committee may recommend imposition of one or more of the sanctions. This may include censure, reprimand, suspension from the House for a specific period or any other sanction determined by the Committee.

Code of Conduct: Evolution

- A code for Union ministers was adopted in 1964, and state governments were advised to adopt it as well.
- In the case of MPs, the first step was the constitution of Parliamentary Standing Committees on Ethics in both the Houses.
- The Committee in Rajya Sabha was inaugurated in 1997 to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of the Members and to examine the cases referred to it with reference to ethical and other misconduct of Members.
- The first Ethics Committee in Lok Sabha was constituted in the year 2000.

Have asked question on Ethics Committee 3 times in our various tests viz Static, Monthly Current Affairs, Optima Tests

Cash-For-Query Case

HOW SERIOUS IS NISHIKANT DUBEY'S ACCUSATION:

- An MP asking questions in return for consideration undermines parliamentary integrity.
- The matter, if established, should be referred to the Privileges Committee.
- Privileges Committee may recommend expulsion from the House.
- Relevant to all countries with a parliamentary system.

WAS AN MP PREVIOUSLY ACCUSED OF GRANTING ACCESS TO PARLIAMENT WEBSITE:

- No, the system is recent.
- Lok Sabha rules require a signed question submission.
- Questions can be delivered by someone on the Member's behalf but must be signed.
- **Rule barring Members from sharing login and password:**
 - No specific rule as online submissions are recent.
 - Rule should have been amended with the introduction of online submissions.

COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS:

- Committee will call involved persons, stakeholders, and the accused MP.
- Accused MP has the right to cross-examine the complainant.
- The accused can seek permission to appear through an advocate.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION AND MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED PUNISHMENT:

- Committee's duration depends on the case complexity.
- Normal course is two months, extendable if needed.
- Ethics Committee can recommend suspension but not refer to investigative agencies.

ETHICS COMMITTEE:

- Each House has an ethics committee.
- Deals with moral conduct and prepares a Code of Conduct.
- Lok Sabha's committee has 15 members; Rajya Sabha has 10.
- Members appointed by the Speaker for one year.

HISTORY

- Idea first mooted in 1996.
- Ethics Committee in Rajya Sabha constituted in 1997.
- Rules applicable to Committee of Privileges also apply to the ethics panel.
- Lok Sabha's Ethics Committee formed in 2015 after recommendations in the 13th Lok Sabha.

WHO CAN FILE A COMPLAINT:

- Any person can file a complaint regarding unethical behavior or breach of Code of Conduct.
- The Committee may also take up matters suo moto.

PUNISHMENT BY THE COMMITTEE:

- If found guilty, the Committee may recommend censure, reprimand, suspension, or other sanctions.

Santosh Sir

All 6 Prelims Qualified

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Question No 12

LAQSHYA Test No: 1025 Question No: 94

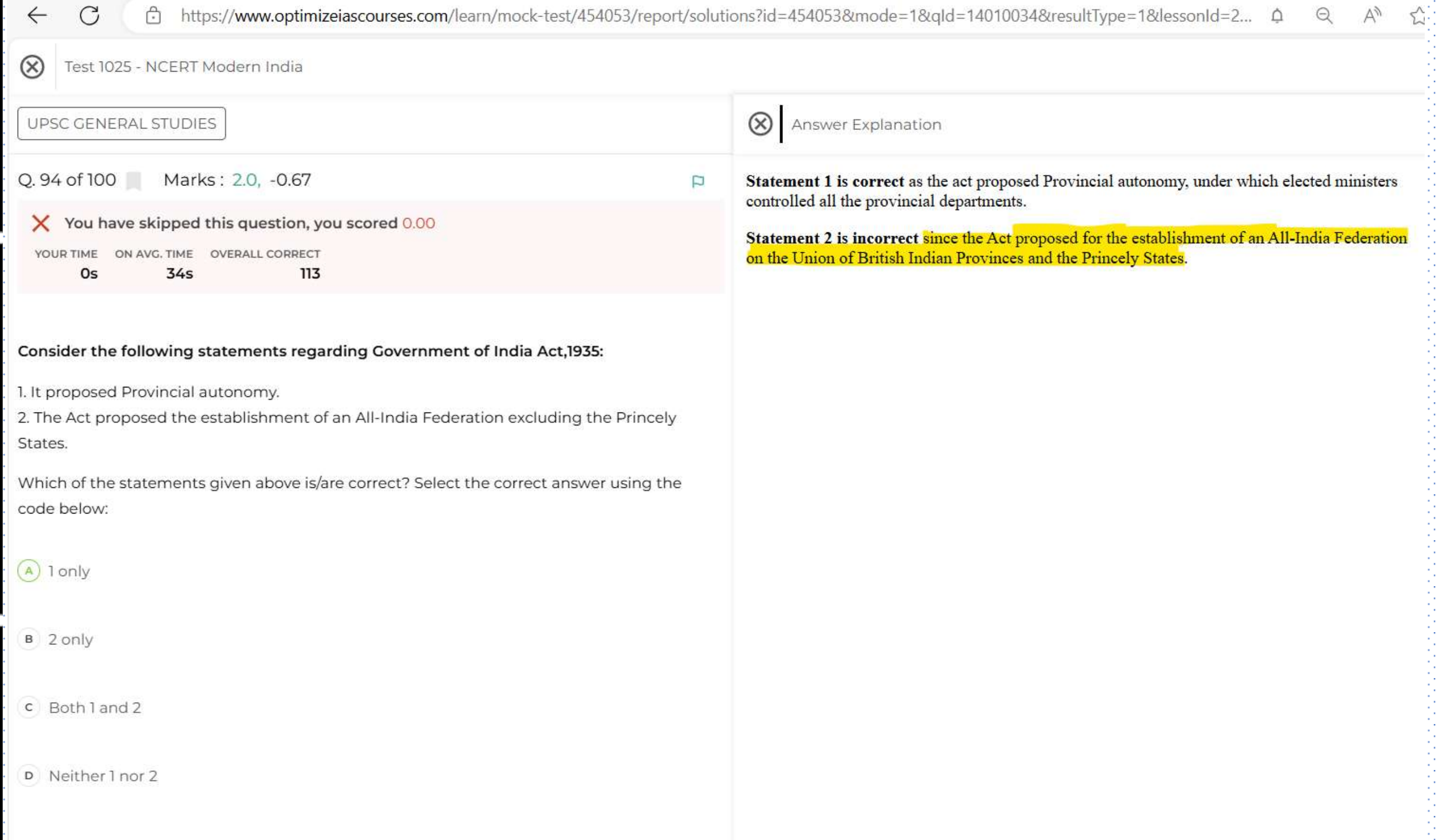
DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

12. With reference to the Government of India Act, 1935, consider the following statements :

1. It provided for the establishment of an All India Federation based on the union of the British Indian Provinces and Princely States.
2. Defence and Foreign Affairs were kept under the control of the federal legislature.

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



Test 1025 - NCERT Modern India

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 94 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	34s	113

Consider the following statements regarding Government of India Act,1935:

1. It proposed Provincial autonomy.
2. The Act proposed the establishment of an All-India Federation excluding the Princely States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer Explanation

Statement 1 is correct as the act proposed Provincial autonomy, under which elected ministers controlled all the provincial departments.

Statement 2 is incorrect since the Act proposed for the establishment of an All-India Federation on the Union of British Indian Provinces and the Princely States.

Question No 15

LAQSHYA Test No: 1042 Question No: 4

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

15. Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List released by UNESCO :

1. Shantiniketan
2. Rani-ki-Vav
3. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas
4. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya

How many of the above properties were included in 2023 ?

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

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Test 1042 - History Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 4 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 7s	123

Answer Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct** as the Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas have been given the UNESCO World Heritage status in **2023**.
- **Statement 2 is correct** as Hoysala temples evolved a distinct style that is ornate with temple architecture following a stellate plan built on a raised platform.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** as Pattadakal, Badami and Aihole are the sites of *Chalukya* temples. *Belur, Somanathapura and Halebid* are the sites of *Hoysala temple complexes*.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** as the majority of the Hoysala temples were built in the *12-13th centuries*.

Consider the following statements:

1. The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas have been given UNESCO World Heritage status .
2. Hoysala temples generally have a stellate plan and multiple shrines.
3. Pattadakal, Badami and Aihole are the sites of Hoysala temple complexes.
4. Majority of the Hoysala temples were built in the 7th century.

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

- A Only one
- B Only two
- C Only three
- D All four

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DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

Test 1042 - History Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 54 of 100 Marks: 2.0, -0.67

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Consider the following statements about Rabindranath Tagore:

1. He was the first Asian to win a Nobel Prize in 1913.
2. He founded Shantiniketan and Visva-Bharati University which was awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 2022.
3. He was a staunch nationalist and advocated for independence from the British Raj.
4. He wrote the national anthems of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A Only one
- B Only two
- C Only three
- D All four

Santiniketan makes it to UNESCO World Heritage list

Context:

- Shanti Niketan, the town in West Bengal, was included in the UNESCO World Heritage list during the 45th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Saudi Arabia.

About Shanti Niketan:

- Established in 1901 by the Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore.
- Location: Birbhum district, West Bengal.
- Current Vice-chancellor of Santiniketan: Bidyut Chakrabarti
- It is the 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and the third in West Bengal, after the Sundarbans National Park and the Darjeeling Mountain Railways.
- Last year (2022), the state's Durga Puja got space in "Intangible Cultural Heritage of humanity" under UNESCO.
- Santiniketan was a residential school and centre for art based on ancient Indian traditions and a vision of the unity of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries.
- A 'world university' – Visva Bharati – was established at Santiniketan in 1921.
- Santiniketan was the pioneer of the Bengal School of Art. It exhibits the crystallisation of their ideas of internationalism, humanism, inclusiveness, environmentalism and a pan Asian modernism.

Global art movements parallel to Santiniketan:

Bauhaus:

- Founded by architect Walter Gropius in Weimar, the Staatliches Bauhaus, or Bauhaus (German for 'building house'), was a German art school operational from 1919 to 1933 that combined crafts and the fine arts.

Question No 15

LAQSHYA Test No: 1042 Question No: 88

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

15. Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List released by UNESCO :

1. Shantiniketan
2. Rani-ki-Vav
3. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas
4. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya

How many of the above properties were included in 2023 ?

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

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ⓧ Test 1042 - History Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 88 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	48s	30

ⓧ Answer Explanation

About Shantiniketan:

- Established in 1901 by the Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore. He got the nobel prize for Geetanjali in 1913. So, statement 2 is incorrect.
- Location: Birbhum district, West Bengal.
- Current Vice-chancellor of Santiniketan: Bidyut Chakrabarti
- It is the 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and the third in West Bengal, after the Sundarbans National Park and the Darjeeling Mountain Railways. So, statement 3 is correct.
 - Last year (2022), the state's Durga Puja got space in "Intangible Cultural Heritage of humanity" under UNESCO.
- Santiniketan was a residential school and center for art based on ancient Indian traditions and a vision of the unity of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries. So, statement 1 is incorrect.
- A 'world university' – Visva Bharati – was established at Santiniketan in 1921.
 - Tagore conceived a new type of university: he sought to "make Santiniketan the connecting thread between India and the world [and] a world center for the study of humanity somewhere beyond the limits of nation and geography.
- Santiniketan was the pioneer of the Bengal School of Art. It exhibits the crystallization of their ideas of internationalism, humanism, inclusiveness, environmentalism and a pan Asian modernism.

Consider the following statements about 'Shantiniketan':

1. It was established to curb the influence of western cultures on Indian culture and protect the sanctity of ancient Indian art and culture.
2. It was established by Rabindra Nath Tagore after winning the nobel prize for his work Geetanjali.
3. It is the third UNESCO World Heritage site in West Bengal.

How many of the above statement/s is/are correct? Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Question No 16

16. As per Article 368 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament may amend any provision of the Constitution by way of :

1. Addition
2. Variation
3. Repeal

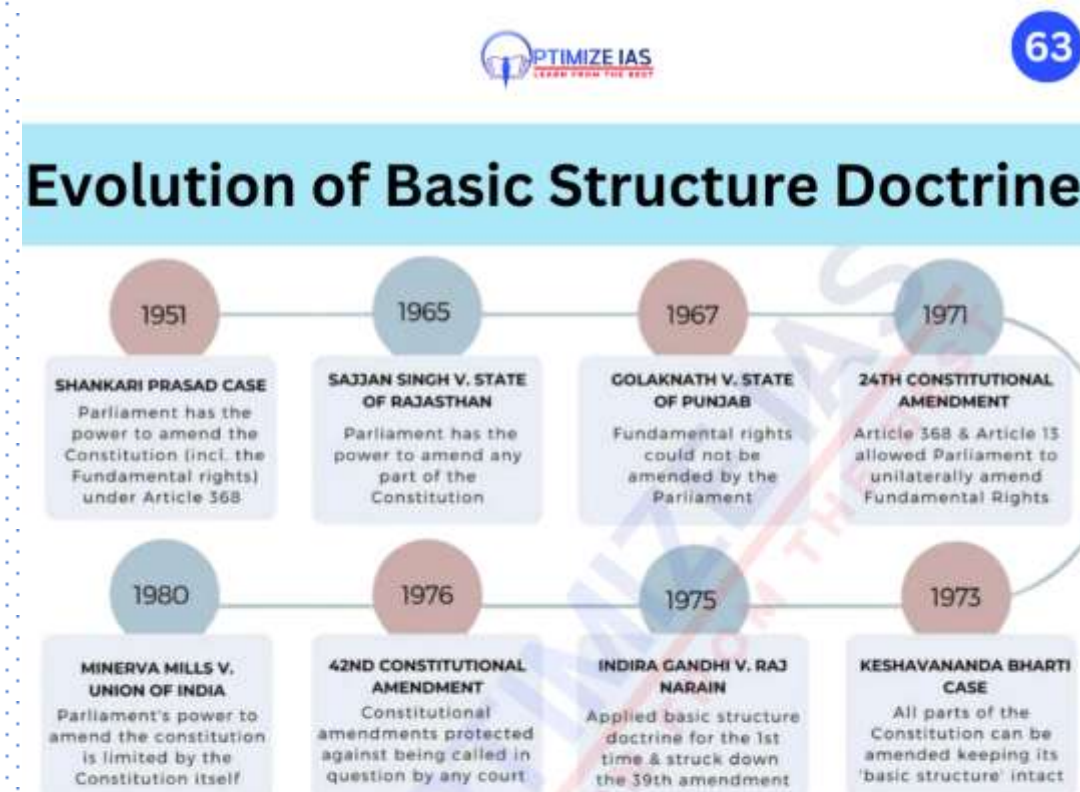
Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

IN-DIRECT QUESTION FROM OPTIMA CARDS

63

Evolution of Basic Structure Doctrine



1951
SHANKARI PRASAD CASE
Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution (incl. the Fundamental rights) under Article 368.

1965
SAJJAN SINGH V. STATE OF RAJASTHAN
Parliament has the power to amend any part of the Constitution.

1967
GOLAKNATH V. STATE OF PUNJAB
Fundamental rights could not be amended by the Parliament.

1971
24TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
Article 368 & Article 13 allowed Parliament to unilaterally amend Fundamental Rights.

1973
KESHAVANANDA BHARTI CASE
All parts of the Constitution can be amended keeping its 'basic structure' intact.

1975
INDIRA GANDHI V. RAJ NARAIN
Applied basic structure doctrine for the 1st time & struck down the 39th amendment.

1976
42ND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
Constitutional amendments protected against being called in question by any court.

1980
MINERVA MILLS V. UNION OF INDIA
Parliament's power to amend the constitution is limited by the Constitution itself.

Imp Constitution Article 13 and 368

- The Supreme Court has ruled that all provisions of the Constitution, including **fundamental rights, can be amended**, but that Parliament cannot alter the basic structure of the constitution.
- This doctrine has served as a check on the power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution and has ensured that the Constitution remains a living document that is responsive to changing times while preserving its fundamental values and principles.
- All laws placed in the **Ninth Schedule** after the date of the Kesavananda Bharati judgement were also open to review in the courts.

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Q. 48 of 100 📄 Marks : 2.0, -0.67 📌

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 6s	214

Consider the following regarding evolution of basic structure doctrine:

1. Shankari Prasad Singh Deo v. Union of India
2. Sajjan Singh v. State of Rajasthan.
3. Golak Nath vs State of Punjab
4. Kesavananda Bharti vs State of Kerala

Which of the below is the correct chronological order?

- A 1-2-3-4
- B 2-1-3-4
- C 3-1-2-4
- D 2-1-4-3

- Shankari Prasad Singh vs. UOI 1951
- Sajjan Singh vs. State of Rajasthan 1965
- Golak Nath vs. State of Punjab 1967
- Keshavanandbharti vs. State of kerala 1973
- A 13-judge Bench was set up by the Supreme Court, the biggest so far, and the case was heard over 68 working days spread over six months.
- The case was primarily about the extent of Parliament's power to amend the Constitution.
- First, the court was reviewing a 1967 decision in Golaknath v State of Punjab which, had ruled that Parliament cannot amend fundamental rights.
- Second, the court was deciding the constitutional validity of several other amendments.
- The executive vs judiciary manoeuvres displayed in the amendments ended with the KesavanandaBharati case, in which the court had to settle these issues conclusively.
- In its majority ruling, the court held that fundamental rights cannot be taken away by amending them. While the court said that Parliament had vast powers to amend the Constitution, it drew the line by observing that certain parts are so inherent and intrinsic to the Constitution that even Parliament cannot touch it.
- The origins of the basic structure doctrine are found in the German Constitution which, after the Nazi regime, was amended to protect some basic laws. The original Weimar Constitution, which gave Parliament to amend the Constitution with a two-thirds majority, was in fact used by Hitler to his advantage to made radical changes. Learning from that experience, the new German Constitution introduced substantive limits on Parliament's powers to amend certain parts of the Constitution which it considered 'basic law'.
- In India, the basic structure doctrine has formed the bedrock of judicial review of all laws passed by Parliament.
- The present position is that the Parliament under Article 368 can amend any part of the Constitution including the Fundamental Rights but without affecting the basic structure of the Constitution.
- However, the Supreme Court is yet to define or clarify as to what constitutes the basic structure of the Constitution. From the various judgments, the following have emerged as basic features of the Constitution or elements / components / ingredients of the 'basic structure' of the constitution:
 - Supremacy of the Constitution
 - Sovereign, democratic and republican nature of the Indian polity

Question No 18

LAQSHYA Test No: 1037 Question No: 5

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

18. Which of the following statements are correct in respect of a Money Bill in the Parliament ?
- Article 109 mentions special procedure in respect of Money Bills.
 - A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States.
 - The Rajya Sabha can either approve the Bill or suggest changes but cannot reject it.
 - Amendments to a Money Bill suggested by the Rajya Sabha have to be accepted by the Lok Sabha.
- Select the answer using the code given below :
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
 - 1, 3 and 4

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Test 1037- Polity Advance 1

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 5 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 27s	189

Consider the following statements regarding Money Bills:

- Bill cannot be deemed to be money bill if it provides for regulation of any tax by any local authority or body for local purposes.
- A money bill can be introduced in the Lok Sabha only on the recommendation of the President
- Both the houses have equal power with regard to the Money Bill.
- In the case of Money Bill, no Suspensive veto is available with the President.

How many of the statement/s given above is/are correct? Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All of the above

Answer Explanation

- The regulation of the borrowing of money by the Union government;
- The custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the contingency fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of money from any such fund;
- The appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India;
- Declaration of any expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or increasing the amount of any such expenditure;
- The receipt of money on account of the Consolidated Fund of India or the public account of India or the custody or issue of such money, or the audit of the accounts of the Union or of a state; or
- Any matter incidental to any of the matters specified above.

However, a bill is not to be deemed to be a money bill by reason only that it provides for:

- the imposition of fines or other pecuniary penalties, or
- the demand for payment of fees for licenses or fees for services rendered; or
- the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax by any local authority or body for local purposes. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Provisions related to Money Bill:

- It can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha.
- It can be introduced only by a minister.
- It can be introduced only on the recommendation of the President. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It cannot be amended or rejected by the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha should return the bill with or without recommendations, which may be accepted or rejected by the Lok Sabha. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.
- It can be detained by the Rajya Sabha for a maximum period of 14 days only. It requires the certification of the Speaker when transmitted to the Rajya Sabha.
- It is sent for the President's assent even if it is approved by only the Lok Sabha. There is no chance of any disagreement between the two Houses and hence, there is no provision of joint sitting of both the Houses in this regard
- Its defeat in the Lok Sabha leads to the resignation of the government.
- It can be rejected or approved but cannot be returned for reconsideration by the President. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

Have asked question on Money Bill 2 times in our various tests viz Static, Optima Tests

Question No 20

The North Eastern Council (NEC) was established by the North Eastern Council Act, 1971. Subsequent to the amendment of NEC Act in 2002, the Council comprises which of the following members ?

1. Governor of the Constituent State
2. Chief Minister of the Constituent State
3. Three Members to be nominated by the President of India
4. The Home Minister of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

LAQSHYA Test No: 1037 Question No: 47

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

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⊗ Test 1037- Polity Advance 1

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 47 of 100 📄 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Consider the following statements regarding composition of Zonal Councils:

1. Zonal councils are chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
2. Each zonal council includes CMs and Governors of each member state.
3. Administrators of each union territory in the zone are also included in the Council.

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

A Only one

B Only two

C All three

D None

Question No 21

LAQSHYA Test No: 1023 Question No: 29

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

21. Consider the following statements regarding 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' :

1. Provisions will come into effect from the 18th Lok Sabha.
2. This will be in force for 15 years after becoming an Act.
3. There are provisions for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes Women within the quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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

Test 1023 - September 2023 Current Affairs

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 29 of 100 Marks: 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	49s	46

Consider the following statements with respect to the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill.

1. The name of the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill is Nari Shakti Vijay Act.
2. The bill reserves one-fourth of the seats for women belonging to the SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha.
3. The Bill mandates that the reservation will be for a period of 25 years from the date of commencement of the Act.

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

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

Answer Explanation

- The name of the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill is Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- According to the Bill, as nearly as maybe, one-third including the seats reserved for women belonging to the SCs and STs of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election to the House of People i.e Lok Sabha shall be reserved for women. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The Bill proposes a similar provision for Assemblies in the states and Delhi.
- However, the quota will not apply to the Rajya Sabha or state Legislative Councils.
- The Bill proposes to introduce new articles - 330A and 332A - in the Constitution to introduce the changes for Lok Sabha and Assemblies respectively.
- The bill makes the implementation of women's reservation contingent upon the delimitation process and also has a sunset clause, mandating that the reservation will be for a period of 15 years from the date of commencement of the Act. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Have asked question on Women Reservation Bill 2 times in our various tests viz Current test, PPP, also optima cards

Question No 21

21. Consider the following statements regarding 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' :

1. Provisions will come into effect from the 18th Lok Sabha.
2. This will be in force for 15 years after becoming an Act.
3. There are provisions for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes Women within the quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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

DIRECT QUESTION FROM PPP

12. Consider the following

Statement 1: Women's **Reservation** Bill will provide 33 per cent quota for women in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.

Statement 2 The Percentage of women in Lok Sabha have consistently decline in last 70 years

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- a) Both statements I and II are correct, and statement II is the correct explanation for statement I.
- b) Both statements I and II are correct, and statement II is not the correct explanation for statement I.
- c) Statement I is correct, and Statement II is incorrect.
- d) Statement II is correct, and Statement I is incorrect

13. With regards to Parliamentary privileges consider the following statements:

1. There is a bar on Courts to make enquiry into proceedings of the house.

Question No 21

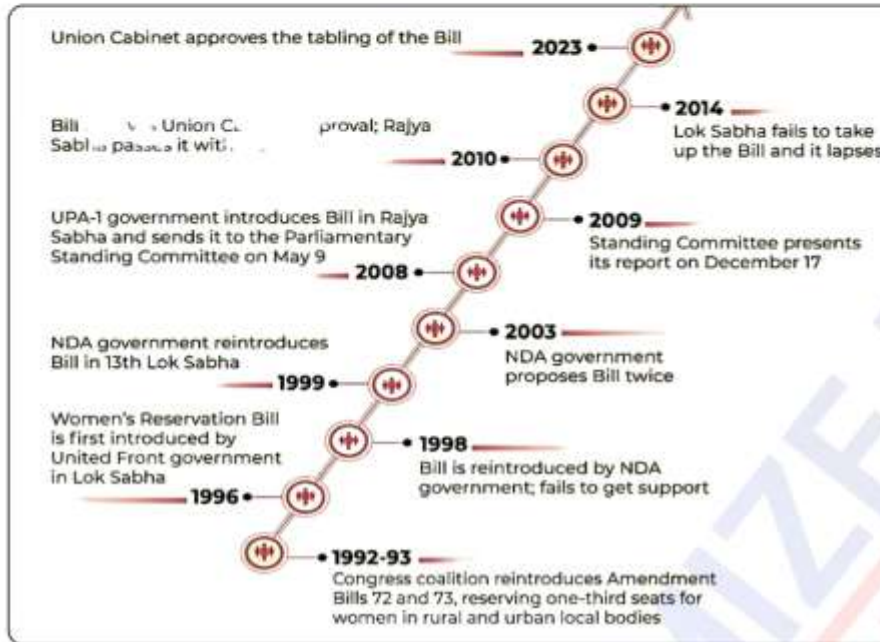
21. Consider the following statements regarding 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' :

1. Provisions will come into effect from the 18th Lok Sabha.
2. This will be in force for 15 years after becoming an Act.
3. There are provisions for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes Women within the quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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

THE 128TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL 2023



The 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill 2023 proposes to reserve one-third of the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women. This includes the seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Identification of Reserved Seats: What Does the Bill Propose?

- The proposed bill does not provide any specific method for identifying the reserved seats. It simply suggests that the reserved seats should be rotated after each delimitation exercise.

Sunset Clause

The bill has a sunset clause, mandating that the reservation will be for a period of 15 years from the date of commencement of the Act.

Status of Reservation for Women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies

Article 243D of the Constitution provides for reservation of seats for SCs, STs, and women in Panchayats. As per the provisions of Article 243D, not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved for SCs and STs shall be reserved for women.

Santosh Sir

All 6 Prelims Qualified

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMS 2024 : LAQSHYA OPTIMA 2024

Question No 24

LAQSHYA Test No: 1039 Question No: 81

IN-DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

24. Consider the following statements :

1. It is the Governor of the State who recognizes and declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe.
2. A community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Browser address bar: <https://www.optimizeiascourses.com/learn/mock-test/491607/report/solutions?id=491607&mode=1&qld=14945838&resultType=1&lessonId=2820071>

Test 1039 - Governance Advance Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 81 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	52s	49

With reference to Scheduled Tribes (STs), consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution defines the criteria for recognition of STs.
2. According to the Constitution, STs are the tribes declared by the President through a public notification.
3. Chandigarh, Delhi, and Pondicherry are the Union Territories (UT) which do not have any STs.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Constitution does not define the criteria for recognition of Scheduled Tribes and hence the definition contained in the 1931 Census was used in the initial years after independence.

However, Article 366(25) of the Constitution only provides a process to define Scheduled Tribes:

“Scheduled Tribes” means such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution.

Statement 2 is correct: According to the article 342(1) of the constitution, the President may with respect to any State or Union Territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within tribes or tribal communities as Scheduled Tribe in relation to that State or Union Territory.

Statement 3 is correct: There are over 700 tribes that have been notified and the largest number of tribal communities (62) are found in Odisha. No Tribe was identified in Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Pondicherry.

Question No 23

A Writ of Prohibition is an order issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts to :

- (a) a government officer prohibiting him from taking a particular action.
- (b) the Parliament/Legislative Assembly to pass a law on Prohibition.
- (c) the lower court prohibiting continuation of proceedings in a case.
- (d) the Government prohibiting it from following an unconstitutional policy.

LAQSHYA Test No: 1036 Question No: 44

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

← → ↻ optimizeiascourses.com/learn/mock-test/479711/report/solutions?id=479711&mode=1&qld=14595924&resultType=1&lessonId=2765229

⊗ Test 1036- NCERT Polity

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 44 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
7s	39s	206

How many of the following right/s is/are the fundamental rights provided by the Constitution?

1. Right to work
2. Right to Constitutional remedy
3. Right to property
4. Right to vote

Select the correct answer using the code below

- A Only one
- B Only two
- C Only three

⊗ Answer Explanation

Right to vote and right to property are constitutional rights under Article 326 and Article 300a. Right to property from Fundamental rights was removed by 44th Constitutional amendment act (article 31).

Right to Work is legal right under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act NREGA.

Right to constitutional remedy is provided under art 32 of the Constitution. Under it the citizens can directly go to the Supreme Court for violations of the fundamental right. The article gives the Supreme Court power to issue following writs:

1. **Habeas corpus:** A writ of habeas corpus means that the court orders that the arrested person should be presented before it. It can also order to set free an arrested person if the manner or grounds of arrest are not lawful or satisfactory.
2. **Mandamus:** This writ is issued when the court finds that a particular office holder is not doing legal duty and thereby is infringing on the right of an individual.
3. **Prohibition:** This writ is issued by a higher court (High Court or Supreme Court) when a lower court has considered a case going beyond its jurisdiction.
4. **Quo Warranto:** If the court finds that a person is holding office but is not entitled to hold that office, it issues the writ of quo warranto and restricts that person from acting as an office holder.
5. **Certiorari:** Under this writ, the court orders a lower court or another authority to transfer a matter pending before it to the higher authority or court.

Hence option A is the correct answer.

Question No 27

LAQSHYA Test No: FLT1 Question No: 34

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

27. Consider the following pairs :

	Country	Reason for being in the news
1.	Argentina	Worst economic crisis
2.	Sudan	War between the country's regular army and paramilitary forces
3.	Turkey	Rescinded its membership of NATO

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched ?

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

⊗ Full Length Test 1

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 34 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

With respect to the possible causes of the Argentina's current economic crisis, consider the following:

1. High inflation
2. Capital controls imposed by the government
3. Political instability
4. Shortage of foreign currency reserves

How many of the above factors are **correct** with respect to the crisis?

- A Only one
- B Only two
- C Only three
- D All four

SUDAN

Why in news: armed clashes erupted between the Sudanese Army Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)

- The armed clashes erupted between the Sudanese Army Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in multiple cities across Sudan, including **Khartoum, Al Fasher, Merowe, Nyala, Ag Geneina, and El Obeid.**
- The states of **Khartoum, Northern, River Nile, Aj Jazirah, North Kordofan, White Nile, Sennar, Blue Nile, North Darfur, South Darfur, West Darfur, Central Darfur, Kassala, Gedaref, and Red Sea** are seeing displacement



Santosh Sir

All 6 Prelims Qualified

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Africa In the News

Place	Why in News
Sudan	Conflict between the SAF and RSF
Ethiopia	Untold thousands died from hunger
Senegal	Presidential election
Guinea, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Sierra Leone	Coup attempted
Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger	Coup attempted, French Troops withdrawn from Burkina Faso
Mali	Islamist groups and ethnic Tuareg separatist fighters.
Zambia, Zimbabwe	Cholera outbreak
Rwanda	Rwanda Bill in UK
DRC	Unrest, tensions between the DR Congo and its neighbouring country, Rwanda (M23 Rebel)
Chad	Thousands of Darfur refugees remain displaced in Chad
Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe	Hunger crisis (El Niño induced drought)

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Question No 29

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR OPTIMA CARDS

Consider the following statements :

1. The Red Sea receives very little precipitation in any form.
2. No water enters the Red Sea from rivers.

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



Red Sea

Location:
Seawater inlet of the Indian Ocean between Africa and Asia

Unique Characteristics:
World's northernmost tropical sea, designated a Global 200 ecoregion.

- South Connection: Links to the Indian Ocean through the Bab el Mandeb strait and the Gulf of Aden.
- Northern Features: Adjacent to the Sinai Peninsula, Gulf of Aqaba, and Gulf of Suez (leading to the Suez Canal).
- Geological Formation: Lies on the Red Sea Rift, part of the Great Rift Valley.
- Unique Characteristics: World's northernmost tropical sea, designated a Global 200 ecoregion.
- Geographic Extent: Elongated and narrow basin between the Mediterranean Sea (northwest) and Indian Ocean (southeast).
- Arid Surroundings: Surrounded by desert or semi-desert areas with no significant freshwater inflow.
- Geological History: Shaped over the past 4 to 5 million years through slow seafloor spreading, making it one of Earth's youngest oceanic zones.

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Question No 30

DIRECT QUESTION FROM PPP & CARDS

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which one of the following is the largest source of sulphur dioxide emissions ?

- (a) Locomotives using fossil fuels
- (b) Ships using fossil fuels
- (c) Extraction of metals from ores
- (d) Power plants using fossil fuels

13. Consider the following regarding model code of conduct

1. Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)
2. Oxides of nitrogen (NO_x)
3. Particulate matter (PM)

How many of the above are main pollutants of coal fired thermal plants?

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

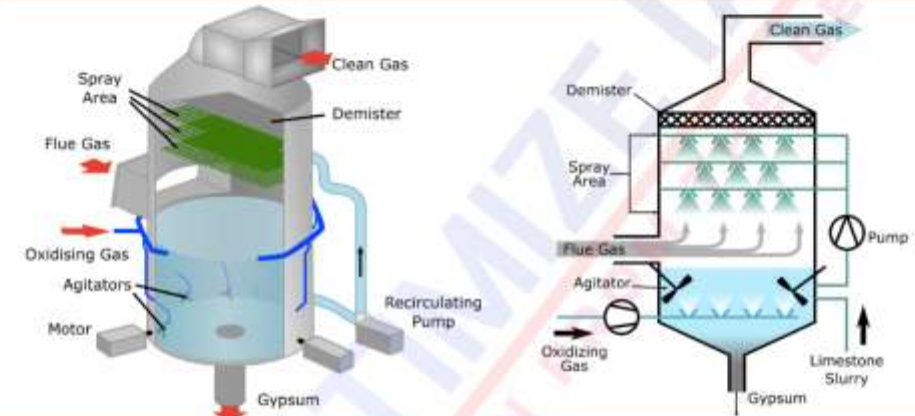
13. Answer: C

Explanation:

Coal thermal power plants contribute to over half sulphur dioxide (SO₂) concentration, 30 per cent oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), 20 per cent particulate matter (PM) in the ambient air.

FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION (FGD)

Purpose	Methods	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) from exhaust flue gases. Targets pollutants from thermal processing, treatment, and combustion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet FGD: Involves contact with absorbent (liquid or solid slurry). Dry FGD: Uses dry pulverized lime or limestone as absorbent, removed by baghouse filters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can remove 50-99.8% of SO_x emissions, depending on power plant vintage. Effective in keeping SO₂ emissions below norms.



Status in India:	22 units (9,280 MW) of 207,045 MW coal-fired power plants equipped with FGD (less than 5%).
Sulfur Dioxide Pollution:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India largest emitter of SO₂ globally, mainly due to coal-based electricity expansion. Sources: Fossil fuel burning, industrial processes, natural sources, vehicles. Impact: Health issues, respiratory problems, environmental damage
Regulation/Implementation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2015: Ministry mandated SO₂ emission norms for coal-based power plants, requiring FGD installation. Phased implementation delayed, extensions granted up to December 2026. Central Electricity Authority (CEA) oversees and advises on power sector development, standards, and cross-border trade.

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR PRELIMS 2024 : LAQSHYA OPTIMA 2024

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DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

LAQSHYA Test No: FLT4 Question No: 58

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⊗ Full Length Test 4

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 58 of 100

What is the primary purpose of Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) in industrial processes?

- A To increase the efficiency of fuel combustion in furnaces and boilers.
- B To reduce the temperature of flue gases before they are released into the atmosphere.
- C To capture and recycle carbon dioxide emissions for industrial use.
- D To remove sulfur dioxide (SO₂) from exhaust flue gases generated in furnaces, boilers, and other industrial processes.

Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FED):

- **Removal of Sulfur Dioxide** is called as Flue-gas Desulphurization (FGD).
- It seeks to remove gaseous pollutants viz. SO₂ from exhaust flue gases generated in furnaces, boilers, and other industrial processes due to thermal processing, treatment, and combustion. So, Option D is the correct answer.
- FGD systems may involve **wet scrubbing or dry scrubbing.**
 - **In wet FGD systems**, flue gases are brought in contact with an absorbent, which can be either a liquid or a slurry of solid material. The sulfur dioxide dissolves in or reacts with the absorbent and becomes trapped in it.
 - **In dry FGD systems**, the absorbent is dry pulverized lime or limestone; once absorption occurs, the solid particles are removed by means of baghouse filters.

Benefits of Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FED):

- According to the **Centre for Atmospheric Science, IIT Delhi**, an FGD unit can remove anywhere between 50 and 99.8 per cent of SO_x emissions, depending on the power plant's vintage.
- CEA data shows that most of the plants with FGD have been able to keep SO₂ emissions below the norm – only NTPC's Dadri units 1, 3 and 4 – each of 210 MW capacity – are wayward.

Question No 31

Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

If the United States of America (USA) were to default on its debt, holders of US Treasury Bonds will not be able to exercise their claims to receive payment.

Statement-II :

The USA Government debt is not backed by any hard assets, but only by the faith of the Government.

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

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



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UNITED STATES DEBT CEILING CRISIS

🕒 May 18, 2023 👤 Posted by: OptimizelAS Team 🏷️ Category: DPN Topics 🗨️ No Comments

[United States Debt Ceiling Crisis](#)

Subject : Economy

Section: Fiscal Policy

Concept :

- With the ongoing U.S. debt ceiling crisis, finance leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) nations warned for further global economic uncertainty

Background

- On January 19, 2023, the **United States hit its debt ceiling limit of \$31.4 trillion**, leading to a debt-ceiling crisis.
- Recently, the U. **Treasury Secretary has notified the U.S. Congress that the country could default on its debt as early as June 1, 2023 if the White House does not reach a consensus to raise or suspend the debt ceiling.**

What is the 'US Debt Ceiling'?

- It refers to the **maximum amount of money that the United States government is authorized to borrow** to fund its operations and meet its financial obligations.
- It is a **legal limit set by Congress** on the total amount of outstanding debt that the government can accumulate.
- The debt ceiling was **established by the US Congress in 1917 during World War I** to make the federal government fiscally responsible.

What happens when the Government reaches Debt Ceiling?

- When the government reaches the debt ceiling, it cannot legally borrow any more funds to cover its expenses.
- At that point, the **Treasury Department must employ various measures, known as "extraordinary measures,"** to continue financing the government's operations without surpassing the debt limit.

Consequences:

- **India** has **no monitoring, surveillance or mechanism** to ensure that genetically modified crops are not imported into the country. It even does not have adequate infrastructure to test for GMOs and **only 2 per cent of food-testing laboratories in India** can check for the presence of GM products.
- There has been a **significant increase in India's fruit and vegetable imports**, especially from nations that produce **GMO varieties**.
- The **US, Brazil and Argentina** are the **top three countries** in terms of **land under GMO cultivation**. They are also **major exporters of foods to India**.
 - In **2018-2022**, the **US exported apples** worth over **Rs 1,811 crore to India**. This is **17 per cent** of the total apples imported by India in the period.
 - **Argentina and Brazil** are **India's top two sources of degummed soyabean oil in 2022-23**. Overall, the **import of fresh fruit and vegetables in India** has **increased by 25 per cent** in the past decade.

Coalition for a GM-Free India:

- Established in **2006**
- The **Coalition for a GM-Free India** is a loose, informal network of scores of organizations and individuals from across India, campaigning and advocating to **keep India GM-Free** and to shift our farming towards a sustainable path.
- Consisting of farmers', consumers', environmental, women's and other organizations, this network is opposed to the environmental release of **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)** given the potential adverse health and environmental impacts, in addition to the fact that **GMOs** also are taking away valuable research and other resources from more lasting solutions.

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ISHITA KISHORE

AIR - 01, CSE 2022

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MAINS MASTER NOTES STUDENT

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Question No 33

Consider the following statements in respect of the digital rupee :

1. It is a sovereign currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in alignment with its monetary policy.
2. It appears as a liability on the RBI's balance sheet.
3. It is insured against inflation by its very design.
4. It is freely convertible against commercial bank money and cash.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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

Fiat , Crypto vs CBDC

Why in the news?

Deputy Governor of the RBI called cryptos worse than a Ponzi scheme and argued against "legitimizing" them. Yet, the RBI announced that it will float a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

Basis	Cryptocurrency	Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)
Meaning	Digital token issued by a private institution or firm.	Digital tokens issued by a central bank.
Legality	Not a fiat currency as not backed by the government.	Digital form of a country's fiat currency.
Technology	Based on cryptography and blockchain technology.	Designed to be similar to cryptocurrencies but may not require blockchain or consensus mechanisms.
Intrinsic Value	No intrinsic value but used for transactions due to acceptability, scarcity, and anonymity.	Pegged to the value of the country's fiat currency.
Regulation	Unregulated and decentralized, often involving anonymous transactions.	Centralized and may not anonymize transactions as some cryptocurrencies do.
Effect on Monetary Policy	Complicates monetary policy transmission as it operates as a parallel unregulated currency.	Promotes financial inclusion and simplifies the implementation of monetary and fiscal policy.
Value	Highly volatile, with constant fluctuations in value.	Provides stability, backed by the government and controlled by a central bank.
Acceptability	Value dictated by investor sentiments, usage, and user interest.	Has legal backing and government support.
Spending	Double spending possible as the same digital token can be used repeatedly.	Fiat currency prevents double spending through forgery, as it's no longer with the spender once spent.

Fiat Currency-Fiat money is a government-issued currency that is not backed by a physical commodity like gold or silver. It is considered a form of legal tender that can be used to exchange goods and services.

2. Consider the following:

1. Financial inclusion
2. Formalisation of economy
3. Strengthen banking sector
4. Digitalisation

How many of the above are impact of CBDC? Select the correct answer

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All of the above

3. Consider the following

1. It is the legal tender
2. It is issued and governed by the central bank
3. It is in digital form
4. It is same as a fiat currency
5. It will be based on blockchain technology

How many of the above is /are true about CBDC?

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

Question No 33

LAQSHYA Test No: 1015 Question No: 74

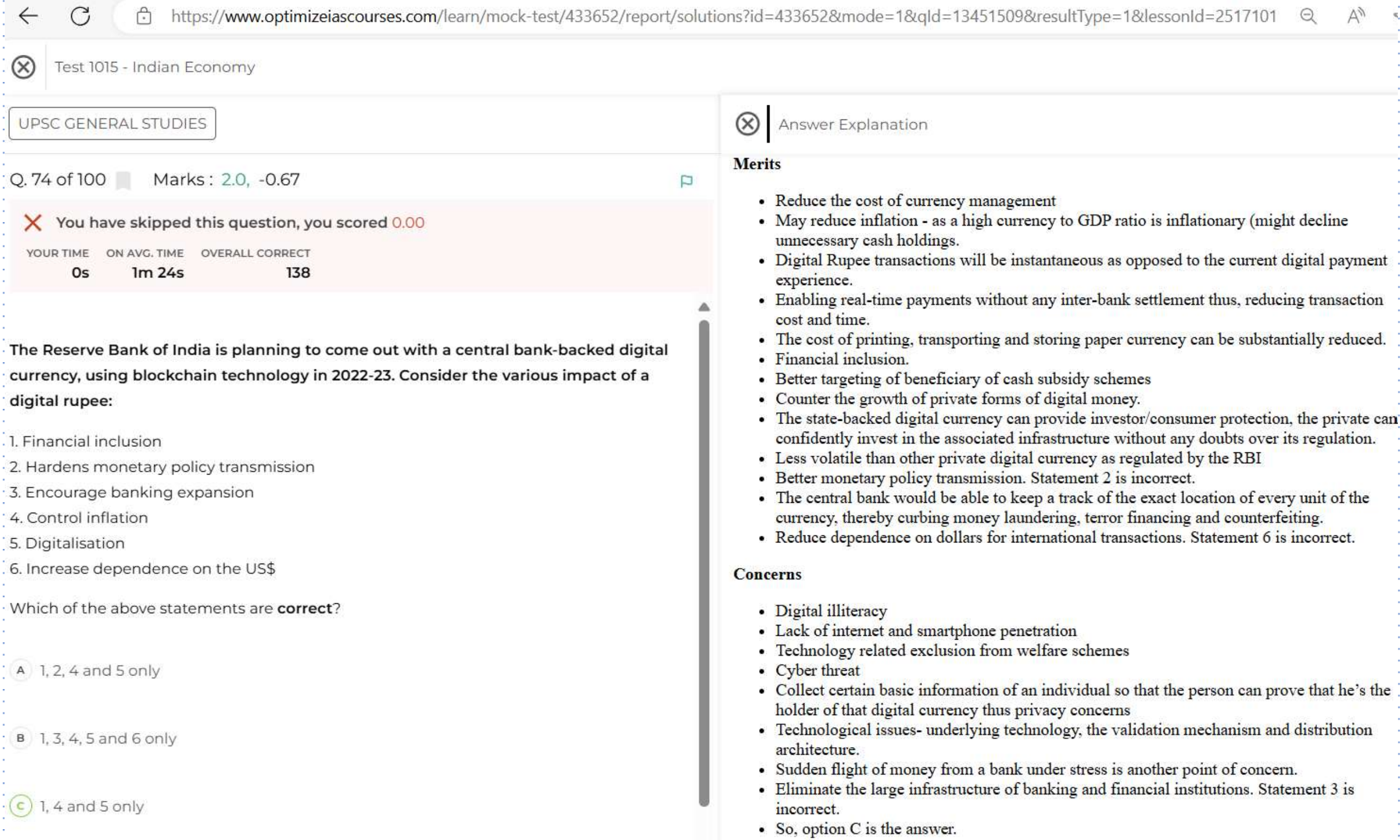
IN-DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

Consider the following statements in respect of the digital rupee :

1. It is a sovereign currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in alignment with its monetary policy.
2. It appears as a liability on the RBI's balance sheet.
3. It is insured against inflation by its very design.
4. It is freely convertible against commercial bank money and cash.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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



Test 1015 - Indian Economy

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 74 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 24s	138

The Reserve Bank of India is planning to come out with a central bank-backed digital currency, using blockchain technology in 2022-23. Consider the various impact of a digital rupee:

1. Financial inclusion
2. Hardens monetary policy transmission
3. Encourage banking expansion
4. Control inflation
5. Digitalisation
6. Increase dependence on the US\$

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- C 1, 4 and 5 only

Answer Explanation

Merits

- Reduce the cost of currency management
- May reduce inflation - as a high currency to GDP ratio is inflationary (might decline unnecessary cash holdings).
- Digital Rupee transactions will be instantaneous as opposed to the current digital payment experience.
- Enabling real-time payments without any inter-bank settlement thus, reducing transaction cost and time.
- The cost of printing, transporting and storing paper currency can be substantially reduced.
- Financial inclusion.
- Better targeting of beneficiary of cash subsidy schemes
- Counter the growth of private forms of digital money.
- The state-backed digital currency can provide investor/consumer protection, the private can confidently invest in the associated infrastructure without any doubts over its regulation.
- Less volatile than other private digital currency as regulated by the RBI
- Better monetary policy transmission. Statement 2 is incorrect.
- The central bank would be able to keep a track of the exact location of every unit of the currency, thereby curbing money laundering, terror financing and counterfeiting.
- Reduce dependence on dollars for international transactions. Statement 6 is incorrect.

Concerns

- Digital illiteracy
- Lack of internet and smartphone penetration
- Technology related exclusion from welfare schemes
- Cyber threat
- Collect certain basic information of an individual so that the person can prove that he's the holder of that digital currency thus privacy concerns
- Technological issues- underlying technology, the validation mechanism and distribution architecture.
- Sudden flight of money from a bank under stress is another point of concern.
- Eliminate the large infrastructure of banking and financial institutions. Statement 3 is incorrect.
- So, option C is the answer.

Question No 36

LAQSHYA Test No: FLT4 Question No: 80

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

36. Who of the following rulers of medieval India gave permission to the Portuguese to build a fort at Bhatkal ?

- (a) Krishnadevaraya
- (b) Narasimha Saluva
- (c) Muhammad Shah III
- (d) Yusuf Adil Shah

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⊗ Full Length Test 4

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 80 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	50s	99

Consider the following statements.

Statement 1- The Indian rulers of Deccan and South India generally maintained cordial relationships with the Portuguese during the 16th Century.

Statement 2- The Portuguese broke the Arab Monopoly over horse trade, which was one of the main items of import.

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

- A Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- D Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

⊗ Answer Explanation

During the medieval period the **Bahmani and Vijayanagar empire** were at **constant war with each other**. For military purposes horses were an important item. Since good quality horses were not bred in India, thus most of them had to be imported from Arabia. **Thus both of the kingdoms had to maintain cordial relations with those powers which supplied and traded in horses, arms and ammunition**. Earlier this was the monopoly of the Arab merchants. However after the establishment of the Portuguese on the west coast in India, they broke the monopoly and thus took control of the important profitable trade.

Sri Krishnadevaraya concluded a treaty with the Portuguese in 1510. It allowed them to build forts in Bhatka and to trade in Goa. In return, the Portuguese agreed to supply the best quality of war horses to the king. **Thus both statements are correct and statement 2 is the correct explanation of statement of 1.**

Question No 37

LAQSHYA Test No: 1026 Question No: 20

IN-DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

37. With reference to revenue collection by Cornwallis, consider the following statements :

1. Under the Ryotwari Settlement of revenue collection, the peasants were exempted from revenue payment in case of bad harvests or natural calamities.
2. Under the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, if the Zamindar failed to pay his revenues to the state, on or before the fixed date, he would be removed from his Zamindari.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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Test 1026 - History Modern India Advance Part 1

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 20 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	56s	105

Consider the following pairs:

Governor General	Step taken
1. Cornwallis	Permanent settlement system
2. Warren Hastings	Third Anglo Mysore war
3. Wellesley	Fort William College

How many of the above pair/s is/are correctly matched?

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

X Answer Explanation

The first pair is correctly matched. A policy shift can be noticed from the time of Cornwallis who had an Anglican approach towards Indian administration. He introduced the permanent settlement system in India which was based on private property of land.

The second pair is not correctly matched. Though the period of Cornwallis saw a policy of non expansion, Third Anglo Mysore took place in 1790 as Tipu attacked Travancore, an ally of the British East India company.

The third pair is correctly matched. While Wellesley is more known for his policies like subsidiary alliance system and outright wars, he also established the Fort William college in India in 1800 as a centre of oriental studies as a part of training of civil servants.

Question No 40

40. Which one of the following was the latest inclusion in the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO ?

- (a) Chhau dance
- (b) Durga puja
- (c) Garba dance
- (d) Kumbh mela

LAQSHYA Test No: 1042 Question No: 64

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

← ↻ 🔒 <https://www.optimizeiascourses.com/learn/mock-test/500277/report/solutions?id=500277&mode=1&qld=15215958&resultType=1&lessonId=2876265> 🔍 🗨️ ⭐

ⓧ Test 1042 - History Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

ⓧ Answer Explanation

Q. 64 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	44s	171

Recently, UNESCO added Gujarat's Garba dance to its Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Consider the following statements regarding the Garba dance:

1. This folk dance is performed during the nine-day Hindu festival of Navratri, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil.
2. It is a celebration of fertility, an homage to womanhood, and a tribute to various mother goddesses.
3. It includes singing but not musical instruments.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Garba is a type of Gujarati folk dance that is performed during Navratri, a nine-day Hindu festival that celebrates the triumph of good over evil. Garba is derived from the Sanskrit word for womb, suggesting life and creation.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Garba dances celebrate fertility, honour womanhood, and pay homage to a variety of mother goddesses. The dance also traditionally celebrates a girl's first menstrual cycle and, later, her upcoming marriage.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Garba performances frequently involve singing and musical accompaniment given by the dhol (double-headed drum) and the comparable but smaller dholak; hand clapping; and various metallic idiophones such as cymbals.

Garba in UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List

- Traditional dance from Gujarat, India, **added to UNESCO list.**
- 15th cultural element from India to receive this recognition.

About Garba

ORIGINS	NATURE OF DANCE:	MUSIC AND INSTRUMENTS:	TRADITIONAL ATTIRE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term comes from "Garbha" (womb) and "Deep" (lamp). • Performed during Navratri to worship Hindu goddess Durga. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energetic, circular movements, clapping hands, intricate footwork. • Symbolizes life, death, and rebirth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accompanied by rhythmic music, traditional instruments like dhol, harmonium, flute. • Modern adaptations include electronic instruments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women wear chaniya choli, men wear kediya, dhoti or pajama. • Embellished with mirrors and embroidery

Dance form:

- **Inclusivity and Community Aspect:**
 - Inclusive dance for all ages and backgrounds.
 - Emphasizes community participation.
- **Dandiya Raas Association:**
 - Often followed by **Dandiya Raas**, a dance with sticks (dandiyas).
 - Especially after the **Aarti** (worship ritual).



India's ICH on UNESCO List

- **Nodal Organization:**
 - **Sangeet Natak Akademi** manages nominations for India's intangible cultural entities.
- **ICH from India:**
 - Durga Puja (2021), Kumbh Mela (2017), Navroz (2016), Yoga (2016), Punjab's brass and copper craft (2014), Manipur's Sankirtana (2013), Ladakh's Buddhist chanting (2012).
 - **Previous inclusions:** Chhau dance, Kalbelia folk songs and dance (2010), Mudi yettu from Kerala (2010), Ramman festival of Garhwal (2009), Kutiyattam or Sanskrit theatre, Vedic chanting (2008), Ramlila (2008).

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH):

- Practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills, instruments, objects, artifacts, and associated cultural spaces.
- **Importance:**
 - Wealth of knowledge, know-how, and skills transmitted across generations.
- **Convention Adoption:**
 - UNESCO adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH in 2003.
- **List Establishment:**
 - UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity started in 2008.

Santosh Sir

All 6 Prelims Qualified

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Question No 41

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR OPTIMA CARDS

Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

There is instability and worsening security situation in the Sahel region.

Statement-II :

There have been military takeovers/coups d'état in several countries of the Sahel region in the recent past.

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

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

7. Sahel region recently in news is in

- a) Asia
- b) Africa
- c) Europe
- d) Russia

8. In recent years Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger and Mali have caught international attention for which of the following reasons

- a) Discovery of Lithium
- b) Discovery of strategic minerals
- c) Discovery of oil
- d) Coups

Place In News

Sahel Region

WHY IN NEWS?

- On November 9, French President Emmanuel Macron announced the end of the decade long **Operation Barkhane in Africa**

Geography of Sahel Region:

- The Sahel is the ecoclimatic and biogeographic realm of transition in Africa between the Sahara to the north and the Sudanian savanna to the south.
- Having a semi-arid climate, it stretches across the south-central latitudes of Northern Africa between the Atlantic Ocean and the Red Sea. The name is derived from the Arabic term for "coast, shore"; this is explained as being used in a figurative sense in reference to the southern edge of the vast Sahara. The Sahel part includes from west to east parts of northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, central Mali, northern Burkina Faso, the extreme south of Algeria, Niger, the extreme north of Nigeria, the extreme north of Cameroon and the Central African Republic, central Chad, central and southern Sudan, the extreme north of South Sudan, Eritrea and the extreme north of Ethiopia.

Sahel region, Africa

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Africa In the News

Place	Why in News
Sudan	Conflict between the SAF and RSF
Ethiopia	Untold thousands died from hunger
Senegal	Presidential election
Guinea, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Sierra Leone	Coup attempted
Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger	Coup attempted, French Troops withdrawn from Burkina Faso
Mali	Islamist groups and ethnic Tuareg separatist fighters.
Zambia, Zimbabwe	Cholera outbreak
Rwanda	Rwanda Bill in UK
DRC	unrest, tensions between the DR Congo and its neighbouring country, Rwanda (M23 Rebel)
Chad	Thousands of Darfur refugees remain displaced in Chad
Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe	Hunger crisis Elnino induced drought

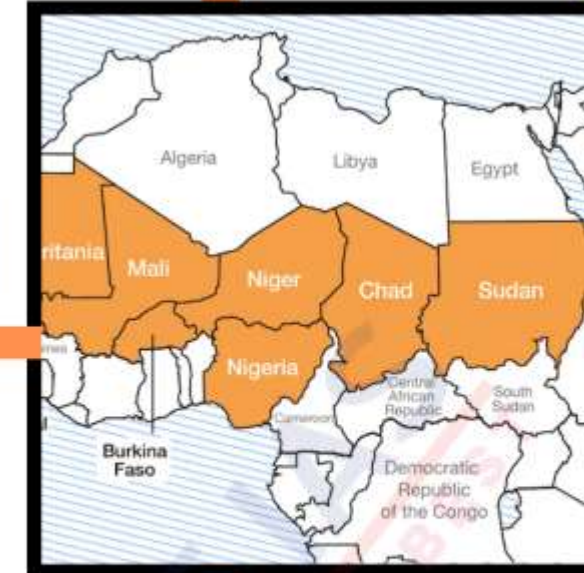
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SAHEL REGION



- The region of ecoclimatic and biogeographic transition between the Sudanese savanna to the south and the Sahara to the north.
- It covers the southern central latitudes of Northern Africa, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Red Sea, and has a semi-arid climate.
- The name is derived from the Arabic word for "coast, shore," which is used metaphorically to allude to the southernmost tip of the huge Sahara, it is said.
- **The Sahel part includes** from west to east parts of northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, central Mali, extreme north of Burkina Faso, the extreme south of Algeria, Niger, the extreme north of Nigeria, the extreme north of Cameroon and the Central African Republic, central Chad, central and southern Sudan, the extreme north of South Sudan, Eritrea and the extreme north of Ethiopia.

Great Green Wall (GGW) Programme

- Launched in 2007 by the African Union.
- A band of trees about 8,000 kilometers long and 8 kilometers wide, stretching across Africa from east to west.
- To restore 100 million hectares of degraded ecosystems across 11 countries in the region.
- To promote sustainable development and climate change mitigation.
- By 2030, the GGW aims to sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon, restore 100 million hectares of currently degraded land and create 10 million jobs for the world's poorest people.

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Question No 42

Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

India does not import apples from the United States of America.

Statement-II :

In India, the law prohibits the import of Genetically Modified food without the approval of the competent authority.

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

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



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INDIA'S APEX FOOD REGULATOR HAS NO DATA ON THE PRESENCE OF GMOS IN FRESH PRODUCE IMPORTED OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS

November 15, 2023 Posted by: OptimizeIAS Team Category: DPN Topics No Comments

[India's apex food regulator has no data on the presence of GMOs in fresh produce imported over the past 5 years](#)

Subject : Polity

Section: National body

In the news:

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, the country's **nodal food regulatory body**, does not know if the fresh food produce **imported** in the past five years included **genetically modified (GM)** varieties. Neither does **FSSAI** have information on tests undertaken to check for the presence of such varieties.
- These are the findings of a **Right To Information (RTI)** investigation by Down To Earth (DTE).
- This raises questions about whether the fruit and vegetables sold currently in the country are **free of GM varieties or not**.

Genetically Modified Organism (GMO):

- When a **new variety of plant** is created by inserting in it the **genes** of another plant, organism or bacteria, the variety becomes a **genetically modified organism (GMO)**.
- Since there is **not enough data or research** on the **long-term impacts of GMO** on human health, there is **no unanimity** in the scientific community on their regular consumption.
- **Countries that has allowed the production of GM Crops:**
 - Some **28 countries** allow large-scale farming of these **GMO crops**.
 - In India, the **Food Safety and Standards Act, of 2006**, prohibits the import, manufacture, use or sale of GM food without FSSAI's approval.

UPSC PRELIMS 2025

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Roll Number	0029983
Name	SANTOSH PANDEY
Marks Obtained	
Paper I	144.66
Paper II	107.50
REMARKS : QUALIFIED FOR CS(MAIN) EXAMINATION, 2016	

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MARKSHEET	
Civil Services (PRELIMINARY) Examination , 2017	
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Paper II	106.68
REMARKS : QUALIFIED FOR CS(MAIN) EXAMINATION, 2017	

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Question No 43

LAQSHYA Test No: 1037 Question No: 28

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

43. With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements :
While any resolution for the removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is under consideration
1. He/She shall not preside.
 2. He/She shall not have the right to speak.
 3. He/She shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

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Test 1037- Polity Advance 1

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 28 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	44s	346

Answer Explanation

Statement 1 is correct. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the power to cast a vote in the case of a tie. The casting vote is used to resolve a deadlock when the votes in favor and against a particular motion or decision are equal. The Speaker's vote, in such cases, becomes decisive in determining the outcome.

Statement 2 is correct. The decision of the Speaker on the disqualification of a member of the Lok Sabha under the Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law) can be subject to judicial review. In 1992, the Supreme Court of India ruled that the Speaker's decision on disqualification is amenable to judicial scrutiny and can be challenged in the court of law. This ensures that the Speaker's decision is not arbitrary and is in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Statement 3 is also correct. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the authority to determine whether a bill is a money bill or not. As per Article 110 of the Constitution of India, the Speaker's decision on whether a bill is a money bill is final and cannot be questioned. A money bill is a type of legislation that deals with matters related to taxation, borrowing, expenditure, etc., and the Speaker's certification is required for a bill to be treated as a money bill.

With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker can exercise a casting vote in the case of a tie during voting in the Lok Sabha.
2. The Speaker's decision on the disqualification of a member of the Lok Sabha is subject to judicial review.
3. The Speaker has the authority to determine whether a bill is a money bill or not, and this decision is final.

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

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

Question No 44

44. With reference to the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements :

1. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its dissolution.
2. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha and pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
3. A bill in regard to which the President of India notified his/her intention to summon the Houses to a joint sitting lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

LAQSHYA Test No: 1041 Question No: 93

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

Test 1041 - Polity Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 93 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

With the dissolution of Lok Sabha under how many of the following conditions Bills lapses?

1. A bill originated in the Lok Sabha but pending in the Lok Sabha.
2. A bill that originated in the Rajya Sabha and was passed there but is still pending in the Lok Sabha.
3. A bill originated and passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha.
4. A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A Only one
- B Only two
- C Only three
- D All

DIRECT QUESTION FROM PPP

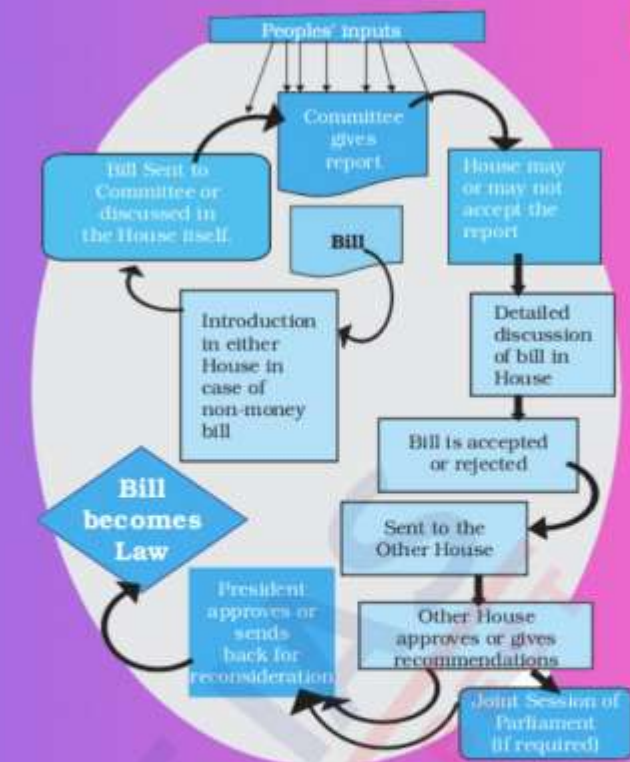
23. Consider the following statements

1. A Bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its prorogation.
2. A Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha, which has not been passed by the Lok Sabha, shall not lapse on dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Lapsing of Bills in Parliament



1

Bills Lapsing upon Dissolution of Lok Sabha:

- Bill originating in Lok Sabha and pending in Lok Sabha
- Bill originating in Rajya Sabha, passed by Rajya Sabha, and pending in Lok Sabha
- Bill originating and passed in Lok Sabha, pending in Rajya Sabha

2

Bills Lapsing upon Rajya Sabha's Non-Agreement with Lok Sabha Amendments:

- Bill originating and passed in Rajya Sabha, returned with amendments by Lok Sabha, and not cleared by Rajya Sabha

3

Bills Not Lapsing:

- Bill pending in Rajya Sabha but not passed by Lok Sabha
- Bill passed by both Houses pending President's assent
- Bill passed by both Houses and returned by President for reconsideration by Rajya Sabha
- Pending bills and pending assurances to be examined by Committee on Government Assurances

Question No 45

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

73



Sessions of Parliament

Summoning

- The President summons each House of the Parliament from time to time.
- The gap between two sessions of the Parliament **cannot exceed 6 months**, which means the Parliament meets **at least two times in one year**.

Adjournment

- Adjournment **terminates** the sitting of the House which meets again at the time appointed for the next sitting.
- The postponement may be for a specified time such as hours, days or weeks.
- **Adjournment sine die** is the termination of the sitting of the House without any definite time/ date fixed for the next meeting.

Prorogation

- Prorogation is the **end of a session**.
- It puts an end to a session.
- The time between the Prorogation and reassembly is called **Recess**.
- Prorogation is the end of session and not the dissolution of the house (in **case of Lok Sabha, as Rajya Sabha does not dissolve**).

Quorum

- Quorum refers to the **minimum number of the members required to be present for conducting a meeting of the house**.
- The Constitution has fixed **one-tenth strength** as quorum for both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- Thus, to conduct a sitting of Lok Sabha, there should be at least **55** members present while to conduct a sitting of Rajya Sabha, there should be at least **25** members present.

Legislative Motion:

- **Closure Motion:**
 - It is a motion moved by a member to cut short the debate on a matter before the House.
- **Privilege Motion:**
 - It is concerned with the breach of parliamentary privileges by a minister.
 - It is moved by a member when he feels that a minister has committed a breach of privilege of the House.
- **Calling Attention Motion:**
 - It is introduced in the Parliament by a member to call the attention of a minister to a matter of urgent public importance, and to seek an authoritative statement from him on that matter.
- **No-Confidence Motion:**
 - Article 75 of the Constitution says that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
 - The Lok Sabha can remove the ministry from office by passing a no-confidence motion

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Question No 46

Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

The European Parliament approved The Net-Zero Industry Act recently.

Statement-II :

The European Union intends to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and therefore aims to develop all of its own clean technology by that time.

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

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

LAQSHYA Test No: FLT2 Question No: 89

IN-DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

⊗ Full Length Test 2

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 89 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

What is the objective of the European Union's "Fit for 55" plan?

- A To reduce the obesity among the population of EU nations by 55% by 2030
- B To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels
- C To reduce 55% of food emissions in all EU industries by 2030
- D To plant 55 million trees across Europe by 2030

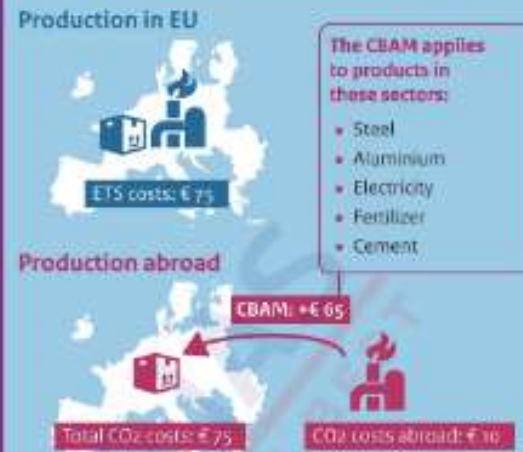
DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

India is planning to establish a framework for a carbon border tax in response to the European Union's carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM). India aims to develop its own carbon pricing system to avoid potential default values on its exports.



Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

125



6. Green Deal Industrial Plan recently launched by

- e) QUAD
- f) ASEAN
- g) GS20
- h) EU

7. Biogas is a renewable energy source composed majorly of?

- a) Hydrogen and Oxygen
- b) Methane and carbon dioxide
- c) Propane and carbon dioxide
- d) Methane and Carbon monoxide

8. SATAT is an initiative aimed at

- a) setting up of green hydrogen production plants
- b) setting up of Compressed Bio-Gas production plants
- c) setting up of Compressed Bio-Gas production plants
- d) setting up Electric Vehicle manufacturing plants

Green Deal

Aspect	Details
System Overview	Based on domestic emission standards with a penalty for exceeding them.
Transition Phase	Global transition starts in October, fully effective from January 2026.
Initial Applicability	Initially applies to industries like cement, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilizers, electricity, hydrogen, and their precursors.
Potential Expansion	Concerns raised about the list expanding in the future, possibly affecting developing countries like India.
Importer Requirements	Importers into the EU must report annual imports and associated greenhouse gas emissions.
Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)	Importers need to surrender CBAM certificates, purchasable at a determined price based on weekly EU emission allowance auction price.
EU's Emission Trading System	Emission allowances express the right to emit a specific amount of carbon, measured in euros per tonne of carbon.
India's Request	India seeks exemption for its small businesses from the EU's carbon tax.

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GREEN DEAL INDUSTRIAL PLAN

February 6, 2023 Posted by: OptimizeIAS Team Category: DPN Topics No Comments

[Green Deal Industrial Plan](#)

Subject : Environment

Section: Climate Change

Context: In a bid to support and expand its green industry, the European Union on February 1 revealed the "Green Deal Industrial Plan" that aims to cut red tape and provide massive subsidies.

Concept:

'Green Deal Industrial Plan' oversees trade policy of the EU, the proposal involves building a simpler regulatory framework, providing faster access to funds, enhancing skills and improving the EU's trade network.

Features

1. Simpler regulatory framework:

- A "Net-Zero Industry Act", which will not only simplify rules but also speed up the issuance of permits for green projects, such as renewable energy generation arrays, carbon capture and renewable hydrogen production facilities.
- A "Critical Raw Materials Act", which will provide access to materials like rare earths that are crucial for developing net-zero technology.

2. Providing faster access to funds:

- The state aid rules will be loosened in order to help EU's 27 governments with investing in the clean energy projects.
- The plan allows countries to take money from existing EU funds. It seeks to direct €250 billion to serve the green industry from the existing EU money, which is around €800 billion.
- "European Sovereignty Fund" in the future to "give a structural answer to the investment needs"

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	48s	175

What is the objective of the European Union's "Fit for 55" plan?

- A To reduce the obesity among the population of EU nations by 55% by 2030
- B To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels
- C To reduce 55% of food emissions in all EU industries by 2030
- D To plant 55 million trees across Europe by 2030

Fit for 55 Plan of European Union:

- The "Fit for 55" plan is a crucial part of the European Union's strategy to combat climate change and achieve carbon neutrality. **The name "Fit for 55" reflects the plan's primary goal: to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by the year 2030, using 1990 levels as the baseline.** This ambitious plan is a step towards the EU's broader goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050. The other options, while related to environmental and sustainability efforts, do not accurately represent the specific objectives of the "Fit for 55" plan. **So, Option B is the correct answer.**

Question No 47

Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

Recently, Venezuela has achieved a rapid recovery from its economic crisis and succeeded in preventing its people from fleeing/emigrating to other countries.

Statement-II :

Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves.

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

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

Essequibo Region

- Venezuela has claimed the Essequibo region of Guyana since its independence in 1811, disputing the 1899 international border decision.
- The region, larger than Greece, is rich in oil and minerals.
- ExxonMobil discovered oil off the Essequibo coast in 2015.
- The Essequibo River, the largest in Guyana, flows from the Acarai Mountains near the Brazil–Guyana border.



Guyana

- World's fastest-growing economy (62.3% GDP growth in 2022), driven by oil profits, with a projected 100% growth by 2028.
- Located on the northern mainland of South America.
- Meaning "Land of Many Waters" in indigenous language.
- Capital: Georgetown.
- Third-smallest sovereign state in mainland South America.

Venezuela

- Home to the world's largest known oil reserves.
- Capital: Caracas.
- Colonized by Spain in 1522, became a full sovereign country in 1830 after separating from the Republic of Colombia.

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Question No 51

Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

The atmosphere is heated more by incoming solar radiation than by terrestrial radiation.

Statement-II :

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are good absorbers of long wave radiation.

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

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

LAQSHYA Test No: 1001 Question No: 95

IN-DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

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⊗ Test 1001 NCERT - Physical Geography (World)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 95 of 100 📄 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

The temperature of air at any place is influenced by ?

1. The latitude of the place
2. The altitude of the place
3. The distance from the sea
4. The air-mass circulation
5. The presence of ocean currents

Select the correct factors using the code given below:

A 1, 2, 3 and 4

B 1 and 4

C 1, 3, 4 and 5

IN-DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

Test 1001 NCERT - Physical Geography (World)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 95 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	31s	266

The temperature of air at any place is influenced by ?

1. The latitude of the place
2. The altitude of the place
3. The distance from the sea
4. The air-mass circulation
5. The presence of ocean currents

Select the correct factors using the code given below:

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

Answer Explanation

Factors Controlling Temperature Distribution :The temperature of air at any place is influenced by:

- **The latitude** : The temperature of a place depends on the insolation received. The insolation varies according to the latitude hence the temperature also varies accordingly.
- **The altitude** :The atmosphere is indirectly heated by terrestrial radiation from below. Therefore, the places near the sea-level record higher temperature than the places situated at higher elevations. In other words, the temperature generally decreases with increasing height. The rate of decrease of temperature with height is termed as the normal lapse rate. It is 6.5°C per 1,000 m.
- **Distance from the sea** : Another factor that influences the temperature is the location of a place with respect to the sea. Compared to land, the sea gets heated slowly and loses heat slowly. Land heats up and cools down quickly. Therefore, the variation in temperature over the sea is less compared to land. The places situated near the sea come under the moderating influence of the sea and land breezes which moderate the temperature.
- **Air-mass and Ocean currents** : Like the land and sea breezes, the passage of air masses also affects the temperature. The places, which come under the influence of warm airmasses experience higher temperature and the places that come under the influence of cold air-masses experience low temperature. Similarly, the **places located on the coast where the warm ocean currents flow record higher temperature** than the places located on the coast where the cold currents flow.

Question No 52

Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

Thickness of the troposphere at the equator is much greater as compared to poles.

Statement-II :

At the equator, heat is transported to great heights by strong convectional currents.

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

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

LAQSHYA Test No: 1001 , Question No: 41

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

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⊗ Test 1001 NCERT - Physical Geography (World)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 41 of 100 📄 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Consider following statements:

1. Statement 1: Thickness of troposphere is higher at equator than at poles.
2. Statement 2: It is due to high convective activity of winds over the equator.

Which of the following is correct with respect to given statements?

- A Both statement I and statement II is correct and statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
- B Both statement I and statement II are correct and statement II is not the correct explanation of statement I
- C Statement I is correct but statement II is not correct
- D Statement II is correct but statement I is not correct

Question No 53

Consider the following :

1. Pyroclastic debris
2. Ash and dust
3. Nitrogen compounds
4. Sulphur compounds

How many of the above are products of volcanic eruptions ?

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

LAQSHYA Test No: 1005 Question No: 24

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

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⊗ Test 1005 - Geography Advance Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 24 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	35s	127

Which of the following gases are released during Volcanic eruptions?

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Sulphur dioxide
3. Hydrogen Sulfide
4. Hydrogen Halides
5. Water Vapour

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q. 24 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	35s	127

Which of the following gases are released during Volcanic eruptions?

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Sulphur dioxide
3. Hydrogen Sulfide
4. Hydrogen Halides
5. Water Vapour

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

All the above gases are released during volcanic eruptions.

• 99 % of gases released by the volcanic eruption are comprised of three gases:

- ✓ Water Vapor
- ✓ Carbon Dioxide
- ✓ Sulfur dioxide

• Other Minor gases that are released during volcanic eruption are:

- ✓ Carbon Monoxide [CO]
- ✓ Methane [CH₄]
- ✓ Ammonia [NH₃]
- ✓ Hydrogen Gas[H₂]
- ✓ Hydrochloric Acid [HCL]
- ✓ Hydrogen Fluoride [HF]
- ✓ Hydrogen Sulfide[H₂S]
- ✓ Silicon Tetrafluoride [SiF₄]

When magma ascends close to the surface, volcanoes can emit the halogens fluorine, chlorine and bromine in the form of hydrogen halides (HF, HCl and HBr). So option D is the answer.

Question No 54

Which of the following is/are correct inference/inferences from isothermal maps in the month of January ?

1. The isotherms deviate to the north over the ocean and to the south over the continent.
2. The presence of cold ocean currents, Gulf Stream and North Atlantic Drift make the North Atlantic Ocean colder and the isotherms bend towards the north.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

LAQSHYA Test No: 1001 Question No: 67

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

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⊗ Test 1001 NCERT - Physical Geography (World)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 67 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	52s	63

Consider the following statements with regards to distribution of temperature globally

Statement I: July isotherms are much more deviated than January Isotherms in the Northern hemisphere.

Statement II: Northern hemisphere has more land surface area than Southern hemisphere.

Which of the following is correct with respect to given statements?

- A Both statement I and statement II are correct and statement II is the correct explanation of statement I.
- B Both statement I and statement II are correct and statement II is not the correct explanation of statement I.
- C Statement I is correct but statement II is not correct.
- D Statement I is not correct but statement II is correct.

Q. 67 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

X You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	52s	63

Consider the following statements with regards to distribution of temperature globally

Statement I: July isotherms are much more deviated than January Isotherms in the Northern hemisphere.

Statement II: Northern hemisphere has more land surface area than Southern hemisphere.

Which of the following is correct with respect to given statements?

- A Both statement I and statement II are correct and statement II is the correct explanation of statement I.
- B Both statement I and statement II are correct and statement II is not the correct explanation of statement I.
- C Statement I is correct but statement II is not correct.
- D Statement I is not correct but statement II is correct.

In general, the effect of the latitude on temperature is well pronounced on the map, as the isotherms are generally parallel to the latitude. The deviation from this general trend is more pronounced in January than in July, especially in the northern hemisphere. In the northern hemisphere the land surface area is much larger than in the southern hemisphere. Hence, the effects of land mass and the ocean currents are well pronounced. In January the isotherms deviate to the north over the ocean and to the south over the continent. This can be seen on the North Atlantic Ocean. The presence of warm ocean currents, Gulf Stream and North Atlantic drift, make the Northern Atlantic Ocean warmer and the isotherms bend towards the north. Over the land the temperature decreases sharply and the isotherms bend towards south in Europe.
Hence D is correct option

Question No 55

Which of the following countries are well known as the two largest cocoa producers in the world ?

- (a) Algeria and Morocco
- (b) Botswana and Namibia
- (c) Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana
- (d) Madagascar and Mozambique

DIRECT QUESTION FROM DPN

optimizeias.com/the-big-chocolate-meltdown-why-2024-cocoa-prices-are-driving-people-nuts/



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[people nuts](#)

Sub: Geography

Sec: Eco geo

Impact of Soaring Cocoa Prices on Indian Pâtisseries and Bakers

1. Rising Cocoa Prices:

- Global cocoa prices have increased by 110% to 200%.
- Cacao bean prices reached a record \$12,000 per tonne in April.
- A combination of El Niño, black pod disease, ageing cacao trees, and inequitable market practices in Ghana and Ivory Coast has contributed to the price hike.
- Predictions indicate cocoa futures could climb to \$20,000 per tonne.

2. Operational Challenges:

- Importers face increased cargo prices due to the West Asia crisis and a weakened rupee (down 10%-12%).
- Prices of imported chocolate brands like Valrhona, Callebaut, and Van Houten have surged by 50%, with potential increases up to 100% by October.
- Supply chain adjustments take 5-6 months to reflect price changes in India.

About Cocoa Bean:

- Also known as cacao, it is the dried, fermented seed of Theobroma cacao, the cacao tree.
- Native to the Amazon rainforest, first domesticated 5,300 years ago by the Mayo-Chinchipeculture in South America, later introduced to Mesoamerica.
- Tree Lifecycle
 - Growth: Takes five years to mature.

Question No 57

Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

Rainfall is one of the reasons for weathering of rocks.

Statement-II :

Rain water contains carbon dioxide in solution.

Statement-III :

Rain water contains atmospheric oxygen.

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

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

LAQSHYA Test No: 1001 Question No: 18

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

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⊗ Test 1001 NCERT - Physical Geography (World)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 18 of 100 ■ Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	38s	69

Which of the following is the most dominant weathering process on Earth?

- A Mechanical weathering
- B Chemical weathering
- C Biotic weathering
- D Anthropogenic weathering

LAQSHYA Test No: 1001 Question No: 18

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

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⊗ Test 1001 NCERT - Physical Geography (World)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 18 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	38s	69

Which of the following is the most dominant weathering process on Earth?

- A Mechanical weathering
- B Chemical weathering
- C Biotic weathering
- D Anthropogenic weathering

⊗ Answer Explanation

Mechanical weathering involves moisture and water, freeze and thaw (frost shattering), insolation (very high diurnal range of temperature, also called Onion weathering) and wind, but mechanical weathering is most dominant in arid hot, arid cold desert which occupy roughly one-third of earth and its effect is very time taking. **Hence A is not correct.**

Chemical weathering involves oxidation by atmospheric oxygen of metallic ions in rocks, rainwater absorbs carbon dioxide and becomes carbonic acid and this weak acid attacks the rocks especially Limestone topography resulting in Karst landscape, but most dominant role is of hydrolysis when carbonic acid dissociates in hydrogen ions H^+ , These H^+ ions readily dissolve many rock layers into it, since non arid areas occupy maximum of earth, Chemical weathering is the most dominant process. **Hence B is the correct answer.**

Biotic weathering involves plant roots and animal effluents, excreta, burrowing, reworking of soil, this effect is also slow and very miniscule compared to natural forces. **Hence C is not the correct answer.**

Anthropogenic activities of mining, blasting, and quarrying cause huge weathering, but it still has reached the scale of Global chemical weathering. **Hence D is not the correct answer.**

Question No 58

Consider the following countries :

1. Finland
2. Germany
3. Norway
4. Russia

How many of the above countries have a border with the North Sea ?

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

LAQSHYA Test No: 1043 Question No: 13

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

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⊗ Test 1043 - Geography Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 13 of 100

Consider the following countries:

1. United Kingdom
2. Russia
3. Norway
4. Poland
5. Germany

How many of the above countries share boundaries with the North Sea?

- A Only two
- B Only three
- C Only four
- D All five

NORTH SEA

Why in news?

- The British government is expected to announce dozens of new North Sea oil and gas exploration licences

About North Sea

- Geographically, the North Sea lies between **England and Scotland on its west, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France on its south, and Norway, Denmark, and Germany on its east**
- The North Sea connects to the **Atlantic Ocean via the English Channel** in the southwest and the **Baltic Sea in the east via the Kattegat and Skagerrak straits**.
- The **Kiel Canal, one of the world's busiest artificial waterways, connects the North Sea with the Baltic**.
- It hosts **key north European shipping lanes** and is a **major fishery**. The coast is a popular destination for recreation and tourism in bordering countries, and a rich source of energy resources, including wind and wave power.
- **Rivers:** Major rivers that drain into the North Sea include the **Forth, Elbe, the Weser, the Ems, the Rhine and Meuse, the Scheldt, the Thames, and the Humber**.
- **Ports:** It has several major ports located along its coasts, such as Rotterdam, the busiest port in Europe, **Antwerp, Hamburg, Bremerhaven and Felixstowe, Port of Bruges-Zeebrugge**.



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OPTIMIZE IAS Offshore Drilling and the North Sea

- **Energy Independence:** The move toward offshore drilling in the North Sea aims to make Britain more energy independent.
- **Regulation:** The North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) is responsible for regulating the oil, gas, and carbon storage industries and is currently conducting its 33rd offshore oil and gas licensing round.
- **Net Zero Goal:** The U.K. has set a goal to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050, highlighting its commitment to combating climate change.



- **Challenges of Offshore Drilling:**
 - Offshore drilling poses risks to workers, marine environments, and contributes to climate change.
 - It warms oceans, raises sea levels, threatens biodiversity, and contributes to ocean acidification and carbon pollution.
- **About the North Sea:**
 - The North Sea lies between England and Scotland to the west, and borders the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Norway, Denmark, and Germany.
 - It connects to the Atlantic Ocean through the English Channel and the Norwegian Sea.
 - It serves as a vital shipping lane, a significant fishery, a source of energy resources including wind and wave power, and a popular destination for recreation and tourism in neighboring countries.
- **U.K.'s Climate Commitments::**
 - According to the 2023 Progress Report, the U.K. has not adequately prepared for climate change under the second National Adaptation Programme.
 - The U.K.'s climate actions are not consistent with the Paris Agreement, as per Climate Action Tracker.

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Climate change

United Nations • Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

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Question No 59

LAQSHYA Test No: FLT2 Question No: 42

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

59. Consider the following information :

	Waterfall	Region	River
1.	Dhuandhar	Malwa	Narmada
2.	Hundru	Chota Nagpur	Subarnarekha
3.	Gersoppa	Western Ghats	Netravati

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

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

 Full Length Test 2

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 42 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Consider the given pairs:

Famous waterfalls	State
1. Dhuandhar falls	Madhya Pradesh
2. Rainbow falls	Meghalaya
3. Sandhan valley falls	Telangana

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Question No 60

LAQSHYA Test No: 1001 Question No: 82

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

Consider the following information :

	Region	Name of the mountain range	Type of mountain
1.	Central Asia	Vosges	Fold mountain
2.	Europe	Alps	Block mountain
3.	North America	Appalachians	Fold mountain
4.	South America	Andes	Fold mountain

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

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

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⊗ Test 1001 NCERT - Physical Geography (World)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 82 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Consider the following pairs:

- | mountains | types |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Mt. Kilimanjaro | Block mountain |
| 2. Atlas | Fold mountain |
| 3. Urals | Block mountain |


How many of the above pairs is/are correctly matched? Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A Only one
- B Only two
- C Only three
- D None of the above

Question No 61

61. The organisms "Cicada, Froghopper and Pond skater" are :
- (a) Birds
 - (b) Fish
 - (c) Insects
 - (d) Reptiles


DIRECT QUESTION FROM OPTIMA CARDS


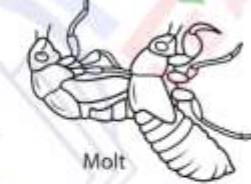

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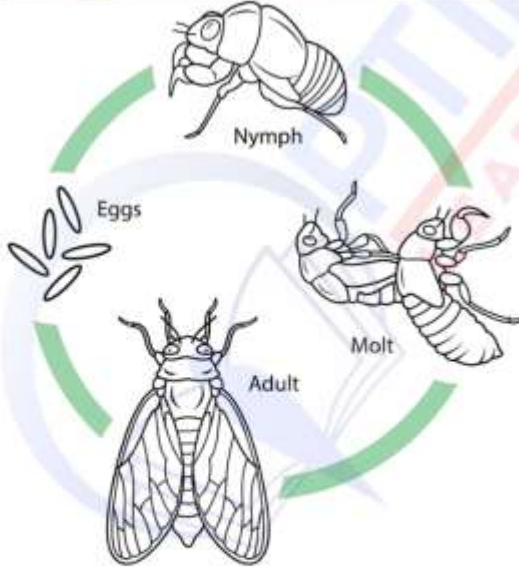
CICADAS

SUPERFAMILY
CICADOIDEA, IN ORDER
HEMIPTERA (TRUE BUGS).

INSECT SPECIES





- **Divided into two families:** Tettigarctidae and Cicadidae.
- Cicadidae has 3,000+ described species worldwide.
- Prominent eyes, short antennae, membranous front wings.
- Known for exceptionally loud songs using tymbals.
- **Habitats:** trees, feed on watery sap from xylem tissue.
- Lay eggs in bark slits.
- Most cicadas are **cryptic**.
- Majority are active during the day, some at dawn/dusk.
- Few species are known to be **nocturnal**.

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Question No 65

LAQSHYA Test No: FLT6 Question No: 5

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

65. Consider the following statements :
1. Lions do not have a particular breeding season.
 2. Unlike most other big cats, cheetahs do not roar.
 3. Unlike male lions, male leopards do not proclaim their territory by scent marking.
- Which of the statements given above are correct ?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

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⊗ Full Length Test 6

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 5 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Consider the following statements:

Statement-1: Unlike other large cats, snow leopards cannot roar.

Statement-2: Snow leopards cannot roar due to the physiology of their throat, and instead make a non-aggressive puffing sound called a 'chuff'.

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

- A Both Statement-I and Statement II are correct and Statement- II is the correct explanation for Statement- I
- B Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- C Statement- I is Correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- D Statement-I incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

Behavior

- Snow leopards are shy elusive cats known for their solitary nature.
- These cats are most active at dawn and dusk, which is called a "crepuscular activity pattern" by scientists.
- Snow leopards regularly patrol home ranges that can cover hundreds of square kilometers.
- Sometimes a male and female might be seen together during mating season, or we might see a mother with her young cubs.

- Once the cubs are about 2 years old, they begin to disperse from their mother and set out on their own.
- In order to communicate snow leopards leave markings on the landscape that other cats will find. They scrape the ground with their hind legs and spray urine against rocks to mark their territory or locate mates.
- Snow leopards make sounds similar to those made by other large cats, including a purr, mew, hiss, growl, moan, and yowl. However, snow leopards cannot roar due to the physiology of their throat, and instead make a non-aggressive puffing sound called a 'chuff'.
- Snow leopards are not aggressive towards humans. There has never been a verified snow leopard on a human being. Even if disturbed while feeding, a snow leopard is more likely to run away than defend the site.

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Question No 68

68. Which one of the following shows a unique relationship with an insect that has coevolved with it and that is the only insect that can pollinate this tree?

- (a) Fig
- (b) Mahua
- (c) Sandalwood
- (d) Silk cotton

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OPTIMA NOTES

indigenous communities.

Properties of Living Roots Bridge:

- They have **three** main properties:
 1. They are elastic,
 2. The roots easily combine, and
 3. The plants grow in rough and rocky soils.

Process of constructing a living root bridge:

- The **structure of the bridge** is entirely made from **tree branches, trunks, and roots**.
- The process begins with **placing young pliable aerial roots Ficus Elastica trees** in hollowed-out trunks of the **Areca Catechu**

Ficus Trees

- **Keystone** role in nature.
- They hold the ecosystem together and promote biodiversity around them.
- They are hospitable to birds and bats (seed-dispersing animals) that feed on their fruits.
- They stabilise the soil with their root system and prevent landslides.
- **Meghalaya government Draft Guidelines for Protection of Living Root Bridge:**
- Underpinned by science-based approaches and community participation.
- **Zone-based conservation** and a responsible development approach for regulating activities, including tourism. For example, the **proposed Zone I** suggest declaring at least approximately 30 meters from the core LRB structure as a protected area.
- Determine the **gene pool** of both the trees and of the pollinators (eg. fig wasp pollinator).
- Raise awareness levels among tourists and students about the root bridges.
- The guidelines also emphasise forming Village Cooperative

Question No 72

72. With reference to "water vapour", which of the following statements is/are correct ?
1. It is a gas, the amount of which decreases with altitude.
 2. Its percentage is maximum at the poles.
- Select the answer using the code given below :
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

LAQSHYA Test No: 1001 Question No: 28

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

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Test 1001 NCERT - Physical Geography (World)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 28 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Which of the following statement is incorrect with respect to water vapour?

- A Water vapour decreases from the equator towards the poles.
- B It absorbs parts of the insolation from the sun and preserves the earth's radiated heat.
- C Water vapour contributes to the stability and instability in the air.
- D The amount of water vapour is fixed in the atmosphere.

Question No 73

73. Consider the following description :

1. Annual and daily range of temperatures is low.
2. Precipitation occurs throughout the year.
3. Precipitation varies between 50 cm – 250 cm.

What is this type of climate ?

- (a) Equatorial climate
- (b) China type climate
- (c) Humid subtropical climate
- (d) Marine West coast climate

Climate Types- G C LEONG

Climate Type	Temperature and Precipitation	Vegetation	Occupation	Region	Special Features
Equatorial Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Temperature • High Rainfall • Low Diurnal and Annual Range of Temperature • Rainfall Throughout the year (Convictional Rainfall) • No winter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Tropical Rainforest, •Trees - ebony, mahogany, cocoa, palm oil,hardwood •soil is not fertile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Shifting cultivation, •Hunting and gathering, •plantation agriculture in southeast asia - Colonial legacy •Lumbering is not very profitable 	Amazon, Congo, Sumatra, Java, Singapore, Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Layered •Undergrowth is not dense •Multiple species
Tropical monsoon (India)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Three distinct seasons •seasonal reversal of trade winds. •Rainfall concentrated in summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deciduous (most abandoned in india - Moist deciduous forest), •forests yield timber, and are prized for their durable hardwood. •sal, teak, bamboo, acacia, eucalyptus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Agriculture , Lumbering, Jute, Sugarcane, plantation •timber that it is extensively used for ship building, furniture and other constructional purposes. • Rice , cotton and plantation • Tribal shifting cultivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Indian sub-continent, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, •East Africa, Madagascar, the Guinea Coast • Australia •Central America and Brazil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Retreating Monsoon--The amount and frequency of rain decreases towards the end of the rainy season • south west monsoon replaced by North east winds
Savanna/Sudan Type climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainfall less than monsoon climate and more than deserts • Alternate hot, rainy reason season and cool , dry season. • Transitional Type between equatorial and desert climate • Droughts are long • Unreliable Rainfall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tall grass , short trees, desert plants like acacia are also found, trees have long roots, grass not nutritious • Laterite Soil - Leaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pastoralists •Irrigation is needed for crop cultivation 	•Sudan, Africa, South America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme diurnal temperature • Big Game Country
Mediterranean climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Warm summer, •Rainfall normally 25 inches •Winter rainfall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Citrus Trees, Oaks, pines, firs, shrubs and bushes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •viticulture, orchard farming, olive oil 	•countries around mediterranean sea, california	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Onshore westerlies and offshore trade winds •shifting of the wind belts •absence of shade - though there are many branches but the trees carry few leaves
Siberian Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Snowfall, bitter cold, brief summer, frost •High Annual range of temperature and low diurnal range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evergreen coniferous trees - taiga, softwood •Vegetation merge with tundra vegetation towards north 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Paper and pulp industry, furniture making, lumbering, fur farms 	•Northern Europe, Russia - near the arctic circle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •pure stands of only a few species - Unlike equatorial climate
Tundra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very low temperature throughout the year, Very few ice free months, fog, blizzards, convectional rainfall is absent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lichens, mosses, sedges - No trees found in tundra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Semi-Nomadic Life, large farms in russia , discovery of minerals (in arctic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ice caps in--- Antarctic region, Arctic region , greenland and high altitude region •Tundra region-- Plain region north or arctic which remain ice free for few months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sunlight only for 6 months, 6 months no sunlight •Freeze and thaw mechanism
Steppes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Extreme climate - Continentality •Summers are warm and winter can be snow covered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Grasslands, trees are very scarce •The steppe grass can lie dormant throughout the prolonged drought 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ranching, pastoral farming (Beef export), nomadic herding, wheat cultivation •They are granaries of the world and extensive farming regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Central asia, north america, argentina, australia, south africa •Continental region east of mediterranean climate region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Temperate grasslands •Prairies, Pustaz, Steppes, pampas, pretoria,veid, downs and canterbury are famous grasslands in the zone
Hot Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High Annual and Diurnal range of temperature • Rainfall scanty - less than 10 inches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cacti, Xerphytic acacia, babool, succulent stems, waxy leaves, long roots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomadic Herdsmen, Mining (Africa, Australia, Chile),Livestock, caravan traders 	Sahara, Mohave, Namib, Australia desert Atacama, australian, kalahari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Desert could be sure to continentality, offshore trade winds, or rain shadow zone of mountains Major desert located on the western coasts of continent between 15-30 N
China Type/ Gulf type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Warm temperate eastern margin •more rainfall than the Mediterranean climate •warm moist summer and a cool dry winter •fairly uniform distribution of rainfall throughout the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Temperate evergreen broad-leaved forests and deciduous trees •Hardwood trees (conifers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cotton, maize, rice are main crops • good agricultural regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Gulf region • Beijing region south of laurentian type • in New South Wales--Australia; in Natal--Africa ; and Paraguay-- Uruguay basin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Offshore westerlies and onshore easterlies •Warm ocean currents •warm temperate monsoon •various winds includes pampero (Argentina), Berg(Africa), and southerly busters (Australia)
British Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The cool temperate western margins • annual temperature range of only 24°F. •Well distributed rainfall • winters very mild and the summers are cool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Temperate deciduous forest •Hardwood trees •greater lumbering value •Sparse undergrowth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Huge industrial growth due to fav. climate • Forests are largely cleared • mixed farming , sheep rearing and Marketing gardening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western margins of siberian type climate • British Islands and norway •coastlands of British Columbia (Rockies prevent onshore winds) •southern Chile, Tasmania and most parts of New Zealand, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Onshore westerlies •warm ocean currents
Laurentian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cool Temperate Eastern margin •Between British and siberian •climate has cold, dry winters and warm, wet summers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •cool temperate forest. •North of 50 degree-- coniferous and softwood • South -deciduous hardwood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Lumbering and its associated timber, paper and pulp industries •Fishing--since cold current and warm current meet off the coast of these regions •Summer crops in Agriculture--Soya, oats and barley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •north-eastern North America, including eastern Canada, north-east U.S.A •North China, Manchuria, Korea and northern Japan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Both maritime and continental • Offshore westerlies region and impact of ocean winds causing rainfall in summer •The Laurentian type of climate is often described as the Cool Temperate Monsoon Climate

Question No 74

DIRECT QUESTION FROM DPN

74. With reference to “Coriolis force”, which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. It increases with increase in wind velocity.
2. It is maximum at the poles and is absent at the equator.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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



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May 4, 2024 Posted by: OptimizeIAS Team Category: DPN No Comments

Daily Prelims Notes

4 May 2024

1. Cyclone Hidaya to slam into Tanzania south of Dar es Salaam; Ruto puts Kenya on alert

Subject: Geography

Sec: Climatology

Context:

- Cyclone Hidaya ('Guidance' in Arabic and 'Gift' in Swahili) is expected to hit the Tanzanian coast near Dar es Salaam from the Indian Ocean on May 4, 2024.
- Places affected: The coast of Mtwara, Lindi, Pwani, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Morogoro, and the islands of Unguja and Pemba. All are part of Tanzania.

Details:

- The cyclone developed over the South Indian Ocean and has been named by the French meteorological service, Meteo France's centre in the Indian Ocean French Overseas Department of La Reunion.
- East Africa, including Kenya, Tanzania, and Burundi, has already experienced significant flooding since March, resulting in 350 deaths and widespread property damage.

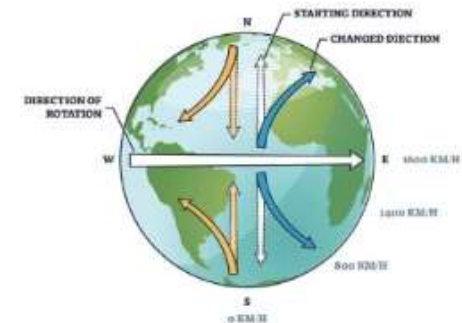
Why tropical cyclones don't form near or cross Equator?

- This is because of the lack of the Coriolis force. What is that? It is an apparent force caused by the rotation of the Earth. It is named after French mathematician Gaspard Gustave de Coriolis who investigated energy in rotating systems

Coriolis Effect:

- Earth's circumference is largest at the equator. This means anything standing on the equator is moving faster eastward than anything lying away from the equator — anything on the equator is traveling a greater distance than anything north or south on Earth's surface in the same amount of time.
- If air moves north from the equator, it will also still flow quickly eastward compared with its new surroundings. This means air traveling north from the equator will appear to veer right. In contrast, air flowing south from the equator will appear to stray left.
- This phenomenon, known as the Coriolis effect, helps control the direction in which tropical cyclones spin. In the Northern Hemisphere, rightward-turning air will create a counterclockwise spinning motion, and the opposite will occur in the Southern Hemisphere.

CORIOLIS EFFECT



1. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Tropical cyclone does not form over the equator

Statement-II: The temperature over equator is relatively higher

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

- a Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct



Optimize IAS (@asksantoshsir) 2:09 / 9:33 www.optimizeiascourses.com/learn Opti CC Settings Full Screen

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Question No 75

75. On June 21 every year, which of the following latitude(s) experience(s) a sunlight of more than 12 hours ?

1. Equator
2. Tropic of Cancer
3. Tropic of Capricorn
4. Arctic Circle

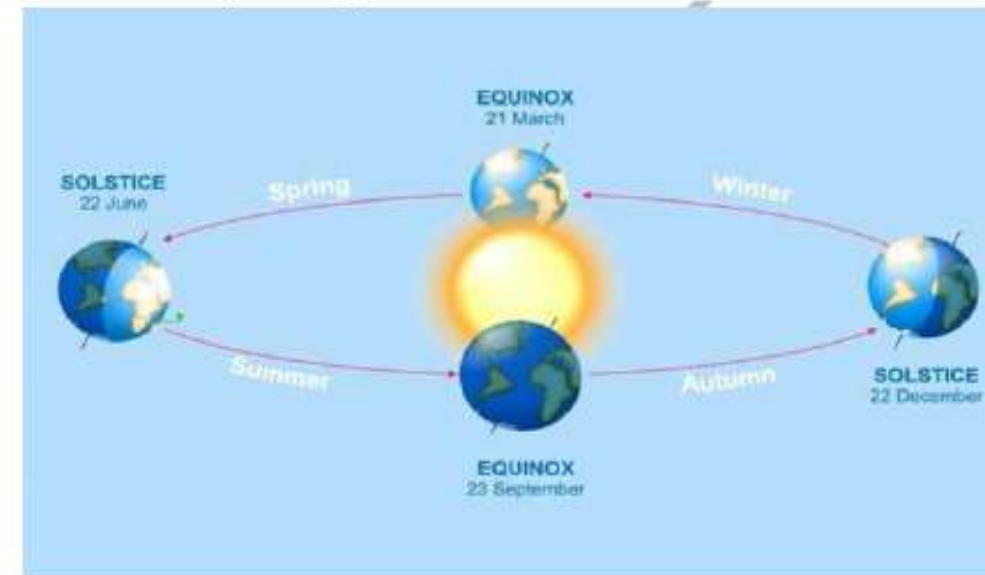
Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR NOTES

- **Implications:**

- The days become a little longer at the higher latitudes (those at a distance from the equator) because it takes the sun longer to rise and set.
- The **solstices**, together with the equinoxes, are connected with seasons, harvests and livelihood.
- Therefore, many cultures celebrate various combinations of the **solstices**, the equinoxes, and the midpoints between them, leading to various holidays arising around these events.



Solstices (Summer & Winter)

- The two **solstices** happen in June (20 or 21) and December (21 or 22). These are the days when the Sun's path in the sky is the farthest north or south from the Equator.
- In the Northern Hemisphere, the June solstice marks the start of summer, this is when the North Pole is tilted closest to the Sun, and the Sun's rays are directly overhead at the Tropic of Cancer.
- The summer solstice occurs when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer which is located at 23.5° latitude North and for every place north of the Tropic of Cancer, the sun is at its highest point in the sky and this is the longest day of the year.
- The winter solstice marks the shortest day and longest night of the year, it occurs when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Capricorn, which is located at 23.5° south of the equator.

Question No 76

One of the following regions has the world's largest tropical peatland, which holds about three years worth of global carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and the possible destruction of which can exert detrimental effect on the global climate. Which one of the following denotes that region ?

- (a) Amazon Basin
- (b) Congo Basin
- (c) Kikori Basin
- (d) Rio de la Plata Basin

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OPTIMA CARS

Environment



Brazzaville Declaration

Signed jointly by:

- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo, and Indonesia

Objective:

- Promote better management and conservation of the world's largest tropical Peatlands-Cuvette Centrale region in the Congo Basin

Location:

- Global Peatlands Initiative held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
- **Peatlands** are wetlands that contain a mixture of decomposed organic material, partially submerged in a layer of water, lacking oxygen
- The Cuvette Centrale region in Congo Basin is world's largest natural tropical peatlands



SANTOSH SIR
(ALL 6 PRELIMS QUALIFIED)

IMPORTANT EXPECTED QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMS 2024

Question No 77

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR ENV OPTIMA

77. With reference to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are used in making many consumer products, consider the following statements :

1. PFAS are found to be widespread in drinking water, food and food packaging materials.
2. PFAS are not easily degraded in the environment.
3. Persistent exposure to PFAS can lead to bioaccumulation in animal bodies.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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

In the news: An entire street in Abohar city of Fazilka district is colloquially known as “cancer street”, as a large number of cancer cases are reported among the residents.

Cause: Water contaminated with high levels of arsenic

POLLUTANTS	RISK ASSOCIATED
Arsenic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingestion of high levels of arsenic is an accepted cause of bladder cancer.
Disinfection Byproducts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chlorine interacts with organic materials in water to form a mixture of DBPs. • Some chemicals in the mixture may increase cancer risk.
Nitrate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contamination of drinking water by nitrate is a growing problem in many agricultural areas of the country. Ingested nitrate can lead to the endogenous formation of N-nitroso compounds (NOC), which are potent animal carcinogens.
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) or Forever chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), the most well-studied per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), is a possible human carcinogen.

2022 WINTER AIR IN DELHI NCR ‘CLEANEST’ IN FIVE YEARS BUT ‘TOXIC’

Context: There was heavy and extended rainfall in the early phases of the season that prevented smog episodes from building up, says CSE report.

Question No 80

80. Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

The Indian Flying Fox is placed under the "vermin" category in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Statement-II :

The Indian Flying Fox feeds on the blood of other animals.

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

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



FLYING FOX BATS FOR VIGILANCE WHILE DAY-ROOSTING, FINDS STUDY

August 13, 2023

Posted by: OptimizeIAS Team

Category: DPN Topics

No Comments

[Flying fox bats for vigilance while day-roosting, finds study](#)

Subject : Environment

Section: Species in news

Context:

- India's largest species of bats, named after a canine fabled to be sly, spends 7% of its day-roosting time being environmentally vigilant, a new study has said.

Flying fox bats:

- **Pteropus** (suborder Yinpterochiroptera) is a genus of **megabats** which are among the **largest bats in the world**.
- They are commonly known as **fruit bats** or **flying foxes**, among other colloquial names.
- They live in **South Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, East Africa**, and some **oceanic islands** in the **Indian and Pacific Oceans**.
- **Flying foxes** eat fruit and other plant matter, and occasionally consume insects as well.
- They locate resources with their keen sense of smell. **Most, but not all, are nocturnal**. They navigate with keen eyesight, as **they cannot echolocate**.
- There are at least 60 extant species in the genus.
- They are generally considered a **vermin** as they raid orchards.
- It had a similar official status under the **Schedule V** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972** until it was put on the **Schedule II list**, entailing a higher degree of protection.
- **Ecological role:**
 - It is a **keystone species**.
 - A **keystone species** is one that has a disproportionately large effect on its natural environment relative to its abundance, impacting many other organisms in an ecosystem and helping to determine the types and numbers of other species in an ecological community.

Question No 81

81. The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as :
- (a) the number of children born per 1000 people in the population in a year.
 - (b) the number of children born to a couple in their lifetime in a given population.
 - (c) the birth rate minus death rate.
 - (d) the average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.

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INDIA'S BIRTH CRISIS: WHAT THE LANCET FORECAST OF FERTILITY RATE DIP TO 1.29 BY 2050 MEANS

🕒 March 25, 2024

👤 Posted by: OptimizelAS Team

🏷️ Category: DPN Topics

💬 No Comments

[India's birth crisis: What the Lancet forecast of fertility rate dip to 1.29 by 2050 means](#)

Subject: Geography**Section:** Human Geo**Context:**

– A recent study published in The Lancet warns that India's total fertility rate (TFR), or births per woman, will fall to 1.29 by 2050.

More on news:

- By 2050, one in five Indians will be a senior citizen while there will be fewer younger people to take care of them.
- **India's total fertility rate (TFR)** — the average number of children born per woman — is dipping irreversibly to 1.29, far lower than the replacement rate of 2.1.
- This means a **rapidly depleting working age population**.

Question No 83

83. In India, which of the following can trade in Corporate Bonds and Government Securities ?

1. Insurance Companies
2. Pension Funds
3. Retail Investors

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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



SEBI LOOKING AT STANDARDISATION IN THE CORPORATE BOND MARKET

🕒 August 4, 2025

👤 Posted by: OptimizeIAS Team

🏷️ Category: DPN Topics

🗨️ No Comments

[SEBI looking at standardisation in the corporate bond market](#)

Subject : Economy

Section: Capital Market

In News: SEBI is looking at **standardisation in the corporate bond market** in a big way on the lines of the G-Secs market.

Key Points:

- G-Sec market is very liquid because the **coupon payments, the day count**, among others, are standardised. In the case of G-Sec, the coupon payment dates are half yearly (July 8 and January 8).
- A standardised corporate bond issue would have a minimum notional size, pay interest semi-annually and mature on one of four fixed quarterly redemption dates
- **Beyond AAA rated bonds:**
 - SEBI is set to emphasise on the need to go down the rating scale as about **97 per cent of the bond issuances** are from the **top three rating categories — AAA, AA+ and AA**.
 - Compared to this the US only has 5 per cent of corporates are in the AAA and AA bucket, and about 75 per cent of the trading happens in the A, BBB, BB rating categories
- **Bank dependence for credit:**
 - Although banks are in good state it actually doesn't help the bond markets because the banking system's credit keeps on growing.
 - At present most of the bond issuances are in the NBFC segment. So, we hardly get any issuances from manufacturing and other segments.

Question No 86

86. Consider the following materials :

1. Agricultural residues
2. Corn grain
3. Wastewater treatment sludge
4. Wood mill waste

Which of the above can be used as feedstock for producing Sustainable Aviation Fuel ?

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

Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA)

CORSIA» IMPLEMENTATION

- Assembly Resolution A41-22
 - EN FR SP RU AR ZH
- Reservation to Resolution A41-22
- SARPs - Annex 16 Volume IV
- Environmental Technical Manual - Volume IV
 - » Templates
- ICAO CORSIA Implementation Elements
 - » CORSIA States for Chapter 3 State Pairs
 - » ICAO CORSIA CO₂ Estimation and Reporting Tool (CERT)
 - » CORSIA Eligible Fuels
 - » CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units
 - » CORSIA Central Registry (CCR)

Additional Material for CORSIA Implementation
Status of CORSIA Implementation



ACT» CORSIA

- CORSIA Buddy Partnerships
- Examples of Good Practice
 - » Model regulations
 - » CO₂ Aggregation
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Brochure and Leaflets
- Videos (Navigating CORSIA)
- Seminars
- Background Information



Global Measure	CORSIA is a global market-based measure developed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to offset international aviation CO ₂ emissions.
Emission Stabilization	The scheme aims to stabilize CO ₂ emissions at 2020 levels by requiring airlines to offset the growth of their emissions after 2020.
Offsetting Mechanism	Airlines can offset their emissions by purchasing carbon credits from projects that reduce, avoid, or remove greenhouse gas emissions.
Sustainable Aviation Fuels	Airlines can also use CORSIA-eligible fuels, which are sustainable aviation fuels that generate fewer emissions over their life cycle than conventional jet fuels.
Complementary Approach	CORSIA complements other measures the aviation industry is taking to reduce its carbon footprint, including improvements in technology and operations, and the use of sustainable aviation fuels.
Phased Implementation	CORSIA will be implemented in phases, starting with voluntary participation from 2021 to 2026, followed by mandatory participation for most States from 2027.

Santosh Sir

All 6 Prelims Qualified

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMS 2024 : LAQSHYA OPTIMA 2024

COUNTRIES MUST BE ALLOWED TO PREPARE OWN PLANS FOR SAF: INDIA

🕒 June 1, 2023 👤 Posted by: OptimizeIAS Team 🏷️ Category: DPN Topics 💬 No Comments

[Countries must be allowed to prepare own plans for SAF: India](#)

Subject : Economy

Section : Msc

Concept :

- India on Wednesday asserted that global mandates for Sustainable Aviation Fuel with 2050 as the target year was “too early” and that each State must be allowed to develop its strategy as per its national plans.
- It also sought support from the **UN Aviation watchdog ICAO** to **achieve carbon net zero goals alongside other priorities in the aviation sector** such as growing aspirations of passengers.
- The **41st International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Assembly** adopted a long-term global aspirational goal (LTAG) for international aviation of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 in support of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement’s goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degree celsius and reach net zero by 2050.
- This was preceded by a resolution at the 77th IATA Annual General Meeting in Boston, USA, on October 4, 2021, where a resolution was passed by member airlines committing them to achieving net-zero carbon emissions from their operations by 2050.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**, also referred to as **bio-jet fuel**, is created using domestically developed methods using cooking oil and oil-rich seeds from plants.
- The SAF samples produced by the institutes are undergoing strict testing at the US Federal Aviation Administration Clearinghouse to meet the standards required for the ASTM D4054 certification from ASTM International.
- **Sources of Production:**
 - The CSIR-IIP has created fuel using different materials, such as non-edible and edible oils, as well as used cooking oil.
 - They used various sources, including palm stearin, sapium oil, palm fatty acid distillates, algae oil, karanja, and jatropa.

Question No 87

87. With reference to physical capital in Indian economy, consider the following pairs :

	Items	Category
1.	Farmer's plough	Working capital
2.	Computer	Fixed capital
3.	Yarn used by the weaver	Fixed capital
4.	Petrol	Working capital

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched ?

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

LAQSHYA Test No: 1014 Question No: 71

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

⊗ Test 1014 - NCERT Micro & Macro Economics

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 71 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Which of the following best describes working capital?

- A Capital assets minus capital liabilities
- B Capital assets minus current liabilities
- C Current assets minus capital liabilities
- D Current assets minus current liabilities

LAQSHYA Test No: 1014 Question No: 40

← → ↻ optimizeiascourses.com/learn/mock-test/432594/report/solutions?id=432594&mode=1&qId=13396947&resultType=1&lessonId=2509155

⊗ Test 1014 - NCERT Micro & Macro Economics

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 40 of 100  Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERAL
0s	1m 12s	

Physical capital, one of the most important factors of production generally classified into fixed capital and working capital. How many of the following will likely increase fixed capital?

1. Computer
2. Generator
3. Bank credit
4. Raw material like yarn
5. Buildings

Choose the correct option from below -

- A Only two
- B Only three
- C Only four
- D All of the above

Question No 88

88. Which one of the following words/phrases is most appropriately used to denote “an interoperable network of 3D virtual worlds that can be accessed simultaneously by millions of users, who can exert property rights over virtual items”?

- (a) Big data analytics
- (b) Cryptography
- (c) Metaverse
- (d) Virtual matrix

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR HITLIST

Information and Communication

- BharOS
- MayaOS
- Net neutrality
- VPN
- Facial Recognition Tool
- SaMD and SiMD Technology
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Digital public good
- India Stack and digital adoption
- Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA)
- Agri stack
- Space-Based Internet
- Cookies
- Digital Consent Acquisition (DCA)
- QR Codes
- End-to-end encryption
- Metaverse
- Digital Marketing Act (DM), Digital Services Act

Question No 89

With reference to the rule/rules imposed by the Reserve Bank of India while treating foreign banks, consider the following statements :

1. There is no minimum capital requirement for wholly owned banking subsidiaries in India.
2. For wholly owned banking subsidiaries in India, at least 50% of the board members should be Indian nationals.

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

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR ECO OPTIMA

Foreign Banks in India

Context: The proposed takeover of Swiss bank Credit Suisse by its bigger rival UBS

What are foreign Banks?

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- Financial institutions that serve customers outside of their own country are referred to as “Foreign Banks.” A Foreign Bank branch operates as a kind of international bank, subject to the regulations of both its home country and the country in which it has a physical presence. As of the year 2022, 46 international banks have established operations in India, as reported by the country’s central bank. A total of 45 international banks operate in India, with most of their roughly 300 branches concentrated in the country’s largest cities.

Why are they important?

Foreign companies operating in a country may have a positive impact in two ways: they can raise the volume of the country’s exports and imports, and they can provide more job possibilities for the country’s skilled workers.

Functioning of foreign Banks :

Foreign banks in India account for only 1% of the country’s branch network, but they contribute 11% of the country’s banking sector profits.

Foreign Banks in India

Subject : Economy

Section: Monetary Policy

Context: The proposed takeover of Swiss bank Credit Suisse by its bigger rival UBS

What are foreign Banks?

- Financial institutions that serve customers outside of their own country are referred to as “Foreign Banks.” A Foreign Bank branch operates as a kind of international bank, subject to the regulations of both its home country and the country in which it has a physical presence. As of the year 2022, 46 international banks have established operations in India, as reported by the country’s central bank. A total of 45 international banks operate in India, with most of their roughly 300 branches concentrated in the country’s largest cities.
- Their presence but their presence is relatively small—with a 6 per cent share in total assets, 4 per cent in loans, and 5 per cent in deposits. They are more active in the derivative markets (forex and interest rates), where they have a 50 per cent share. Most are there as branches of the parent bank, with only a few present as a wholly owned subsidiary. But they retain capital, liquidity, and make annual report disclosures similar to Indian banks. The five biggest foreign banks in India by assets are **HSBC, Citibank** (which has sold its consumer business to Axis), **Standard Chartered, Deutsche Bank**, and **JP Morgan Chase** (the largest US bank)

Why are they important?

Foreign companies operating in a country may have a positive impact in two ways: they can raise the volume of the country’s exports and imports, and they can provide more job possibilities for the country’s skilled workers.

Functioning of foreign Banks :

Foreign banks in India account for only 1% of the country’s branch network, but they contribute 11% of the country’s banking sector profits. This is because these banks are specialised in areas like trade finance, wholesale lending, external commercial borrowing, treasury service, and investment banking rather than general retail banking.

Question No 91

With reference to radioisotope thermoelectric generators (RTGs), consider the following statements :

1. RTGs are miniature fission reactors.
2. RTGs are used for powering the onboard systems of spacecrafts.
3. RTGs can use Plutonium-238, which is a by-product of weapons development.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR SCI OPTIMA

The Legacy of the Voyager Mission

Context: NASA detected a "heartbeat" signal from Voyager 2 more than a week after losing communication with the spacecraft.

What is the Voyager mission?

- The Voyager mission was launched in 1977, with Voyager 2 launched on August 20, followed by Voyager 1 on September 5.
- The Voyager spacecraft were designed to take advantage of a rare planetary alignment that occurs approximately every 175 years, allowing for efficient trajectories between planets.
- Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 were originally planned to explore only Jupiter and Saturn, but their success led to extended missions to Uranus, Neptune, and beyond.

Why were the Voyager spacecraft sent into space?

- The original Grand Tour mission, which aimed to explore all five outer planets, was canceled due to budget constraints and technical challenges.
- Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 were smaller, lighter, and less costly, making them a more feasible option for planetary exploration.

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- The gravitational assists from Jupiter and Saturn allowed the spacecraft to continue their missions to Uranus, Neptune, and interstellar space.

What is the radioisotope thermoelectric generator (RTG)?

- Spacecraft power source using heat from radioactive decay.
- Utilizes isotopes of plutonium, like plutonium-238.
- Converts heat into electricity through thermoelectric conversion.

What are the golden phonograph records on Voyager spacecraft?

- The idea for the golden records came from a committee chaired by astronomer Carl Sagan and was intended to showcase the best of humanity.
- The records include greetings in 55 languages, music from different cultures and eras, and natural sounds from Earth.

What are the notable achievements of the Voyager spacecraft?

- Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 reached Jupiter in 1979, where Voyager 1 found active volcanoes on Jupiter's moon Io, including the iconic Jupiter's Great Red Spot.
- Both spacecraft discovered three new moons of Jupiter: Thebe, Metis, and Adrastea.
- Voyager 1 revealed that Saturn's moon Titan was not the largest moon in the solar system and had a nitrogen-rich atmosphere with methane clouds and rain.

Question No 93

Which one of the following is synthesised in human body that dilates blood vessels and increases blood flow ?

- (a) Nitric oxide
- (b) Nitrous oxide
- (c) Nitrogen dioxide
- (d) Nitrogen pentoxide

optimizeias.com/single-pill-strategy-to-beat-cardiovascular-diseases/



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Subject : Science and technology

Section: Health

Context:

World Health Organization (WHO) added three fixed-dose combinations of **cardiovascular medicines** or **polypills** to its revised Model Lists of Essential Medicines 2023.

What is Cardiovascular disease (CVD)?

A group of disorders that affect the **heart and blood vessels**. It includes various conditions that can lead to impaired blood flow, damage to the heart muscle, or other abnormalities in the cardiovascular system.

What are common types of CVD?

1. **Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)** – Narrowing or blockage of coronary arteries.
2. **Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)** – Consistently elevated blood pressure levels.
3. **Stroke** – Sudden interruption of blood flow to the brain.
4. **Heart Failure** – Inability of the heart to pump blood effectively.
5. **Arrhythmias** – Abnormal heart rhythms (fast, slow, irregular).
6. **Valvular Heart Disease** – Problems with heart valves.
7. **Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)** – Narrowing or blockage of leg arteries.
8. **Aortic Aneurysm** – Abnormal widening of the aorta.
9. **Congenital Heart Defects** – Structural heart abnormalities from birth.
10. **Cardiomyopathy** – Weak or thickened heart muscle.

What are the common medications used for CVD?

1. **Statins:** Lower cholesterol levels to reduce heart attack and stroke risk.
2. **Beta-Blockers:** Lower blood pressure and reduce heart workload.
3. **ACE Inhibitors:** Relax blood vessels and lower blood pressure.
4. **ARBs (Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers):** Lower blood pressure by blocking angiotensin II.
5. **Calcium Channel Blockers:** Relax blood vessels and reduce heart workload.
6. **Diuretics:** Eliminate excess sodium and water to reduce fluid buildup and blood pressure.
7. **Antiplatelet Agents:** Prevent blood clot formation, used in heart attack and stroke prevention.
8. **Anticoagulants:** Prevent blood clot formation, used in atrial fibrillation and thrombosis management.
9. **Nitrates:** Relax blood vessels, relieve angina, and improve blood flow to the heart.
10. **Digoxin:** Strengthen heart contractions and control heart rate in certain conditions.

Question No 95

95. Consider the following aircraft :

1. Rafael
2. MiG-29
3. Tejas MK-1

How many of the above are considered fifth generation fighter aircraft ?

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

(4)

LAQSHYA Test No: 1057 Question No: 24

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

⊗ Test 1057 March 2024 Current Affairs

UPSC APTITUDE

Q. 24 of 100

Consider the following statements regarding Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)

1. The AMCA Mk1 variant will have indigenous Kaveri engine.
2. It will be manufactured by state-owned The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).
3. The engines, fuel tanks of fifth-generation fighter jets are located in the plane's body to hide heat signatures.

How many of the above statements are correct? Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

⊗ Answer Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect: AMCA is India's fifth-generation multirole fighter jet. The AMCA Mk1 variant will have the US-built GE414 engine of the 90 kilonewton (kN) class.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under the DRDO will be the nodal agency for executing the programme and designing the aircraft. It will be manufactured by state-owned **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.

Statement 3 is correct: The engines, fuel tanks of fifth-generation fighter jets are located in the plane's body to hide heat signatures..

ALL ABOUT INDIA'S INDIGENOUS FIFTH-GEN FIGHTER JET ADVANCED MEDIUM COMBAT AIRCRAFT (AMCA), AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

🕒 March 12, 2024 👤 Posted by: OptimizeIAS Team 📁 Category: DPN Topics 🗨️ No Comments

[All about India's indigenous fifth-gen fighter jet Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft \(AMCA\), and why it is important](#)

Subject: Science and tech

Section: defence

Context:

- The **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** this week cleared a Rs 15,000 crore project to design and develop the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**, India's **fifth-generation fighter multirole fighter jet**.

More on news:

- The **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** under the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** will be the nodal agency for executing the programme and designing the aircraft.
- It will be manufactured by **state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- The aircraft will put India in a select group of nations that have their own **fifth-generation fighter aircraft**.

Question No 97

LAQSHYA Test No: 1050 Question No: 1

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

Which one of the following is the exhaust pipe emission from Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles, powered by hydrogen ?

- (a) Hydrogen peroxide
- (b) Hydronium
- (c) Oxygen
- (d) Water vapour

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⊗ Test 1050 - Feb 2024 Current Affairs

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 1 of 100 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Consider the following statements:

1. India's first indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat is constructed at the Cochin Shipyard.
2. Hydrogen fuel cells only emit water.
3. Unlike traditional combustion-based technologies, fuel cells provide greater efficiencies and lower emissions.

How many of the above statement/s is/are correct? Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Question No 98

Recently, the term “pumped-storage hydropower” is actually and appropriately discussed in the context of which one of the following?

- Irrigation of terraced crop fields
- Lift irrigation of cereal crops
- Long duration energy storage
- Rainwater harvesting system

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR GEO OPTIMA

India’s norms for pumped storage hydro projects aim to facilitate energy storage

Context: The Ministry of Power recently issued draft guidelines to promote pumped storage projects (PSPs) in India.

Pumped storage hydro (PSH) plants

- Pumped storage hydro (PSH) plants are storage systems based on hydropower operations between two or more reservoirs (upper and lower) with an elevation difference.
- At the time of demand, downward water flow generates electricity with a hydraulic turbine, and water is pumped back to the upper reservoir using power from grid or RE sources, with an overall efficiency of 75-80%.

PSP Potential in India

- The country has 5,745 large dams, which provide an excellent opportunity for developing PSP plants by placing them in between two large dams or by using one dam and a second reservoir on a hill-top in a manner.
- In India, as per government estimates, has the potential of 103 gigawatt (GW) of PSP. Currently, India has around 4.7 gigawatt (GW) of installed capacity of PSPs, of which 3.3 GW is operational.

Significance:

- It is conventionally used to stabilise the grid and maintain peak power. With the seasonal variability of renewable energy production, the importance of energy storage systems like battery storage and PSPs has assumed significance.
- Operational cost per kWh is lower than that of battery storage systems.
- PSP plants are highly useful options for the integration of Renewable Energy power with the power system.
- The PSP plants will have a very low impact on biodiversity and involve very few resettlements and rehabilitation (R&R) challenges.

Issues:

- Several issues have halted the growth of PSPs in India.
 - Higher upfront cost
 - High tariff of power used to pump water uphill,
 - long gestation period

Question No 99

99. "Membrane Bioreactors" are often discussed in the context of :
- (a) Assisted reproductive technologies
 - (b) Drug delivery nanotechnologies
 - (c) Vaccine production technologies
 - (d) Wastewater treatment technologies

LAQSHYA Test No: FLT6 Question No: 20

DIRECT QUESTION FROM OUR TESTS

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⊗ Full Length Test 6

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 20 of 100 📄 Marks : 2.0, -0.67

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

'Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor', and 'Sequencing Batch Reactors' are related to which of the following?

- A Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR)
- B Sewage Treatment Plants (STP)
- C CANDU reactor
- D Thermal Power Plants (TPP)

INDIA IS ADOPTING ADVANCED SEWAGE WASTEWATER TREATMENT TECH, BUT MUST CHOOSE THOSE THAT BEST MEET LOCAL NEEDS

🕒 November 20, 2023

👤 Posted by: OptimizelIAS Team

🏷️ Category: DPN Topics

🗨️ No Comments

[India is adopting advanced sewage wastewater treatment tech, but must choose those that best meet local needs](#)

Subject : Environment

Section: Pollution

Context:

- **Indian cities** currently treat **only 28 per cent** of the **72,368 million litres of sewage** they generate every day, as per the latest data released by the **Central Pollution Control Board** in **December 2022**.

Details:

- Most sewage treatment plants in the country rely on **outdated technologies** such as the **activated sludge process, planted drying beds, soil biotechnology** and **upflow anaerobic sludge blanket reactors** that have a treatment efficiency of around **65 per cent** and are cumbersome to set up and manage.
- In recent years, several states have adopted some newer technologies that have **treatment efficiency** of around **80 to 90 per cent**.
- **Andhra Pradesh** and **Telangana** have opted for **sequencing batch reactors (SBRs)** and **moving bed biofilm reactors (MBBRs)**.
- The sewage treatment plant (STP) at **Durgam Cheruvu Lake, Hyderabad** and most of the **STPs** of **Bihar, Maharashtra, Goa, Haryana, West Bengal and Uttarakhand** have opted for **SBRs**.
- When compared to traditional treatment techniques, these technologies have **higher treatment and nutrient removal capacity**, are **better at handling shock loads** (spikes in pollution concentration in wastewater), are more **resource-efficient** and **generate high-quality effluent with greater reuse potential**.

Membrane bioreactors:

- It has the highest rate of filtration which is achieved by combining biological processes with a membrane.
- **Working:**
 - Sewage is first treated inside a bioreactor where microorganisms break down **organic matter** and **eliminate pollutants** by converting them into **carbon dioxide, water** and **biomass**.
 - After this, the **wastewater** is pressured through a **fine-pore membrane** to segregate treated effluent from **micro-organisms and suspended solids** and ensure the production of high-quality, clarified effluent that can be reused without further treatment.
 - It also has a **small footprint**, making it ideal for areas with **land scarcity**.
 - It offers a **high level of automation** and **process control** through sensors for real-time control over filtration.
- **Advantages:**
 - Highly efficient, and crucial for food processing industries.
- **Disadvantages:**
 - Energy-intensive, expensive to set up and operate, requires regular maintenance, skilled human intervention and frequent system downtime to replace the membrane.

Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor (MBBR):

- Extensively used for handling municipal sewage.
- The process takes place in a bioreactor with plastic carriers on which microorganisms can attach and thrive.
- As wastewater flows through the bioreactor, the **microorganisms** in the biofilm **metabolise organic matter and pollutants** in the sewage. The **biofilm** is designed to **freely float within the bioreactor**, facilitating the distribution of wastewater and oxygen.
- **Advantages:**
 - High treatment efficiency, can handle wastewater with different pollutant compositions, produces limited sludge, requires less energy to operate and has negligible downtime.
- **Disadvantages:**
 - Limited removal of solids and nutrients, the biofilm carriers within MBBRs can clog up the system if not effectively managed, regular maintenance, and it relies less on automation and focuses on manual adjustments to control parameters like aeration and effluent quality.

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