

LAQSHYA 2026 Performance in  
UPSC CSE 2026  
SET A

Exam Date – 24<sup>th</sup> May'26

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SANTOSH SIR

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## UPSC QUESTION



13. Which of the following pairs of ancient and modern names of rivers is/are correctly matched ?

1. Vitasta : Chenab
2. Asikni : Jhelum
3. Parushni : Ravi
4. Yavyavati : Beas

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our Ancient History Static Test

Advance Art & Culture (Ancient History)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 54 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
24s	1m 3s	212

Consider the following pairs:

S. No.	Vedic Rivers	Present Names
1.	Vitasta	Jhelum
2.	Vipasha	Sutlej
3.	Parushni	Beas
4.	Asikni	Chenab

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

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

Answer Explanation

S. No.	Vedic Rivers	Present Names
1.	Shutudri	Sutlej
2.	Parushni	Ravi
3.	Asikni	Chenab
4.	Vitasta	Jhelum
5.	Vipasha	Beas
6.	Sindhu	Indus

So, pairs 1 and 4 are correctly matched.

## UPSC QUESTION



88. Which one of the following correctly represents the three key sub-indices of the Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) ?

- (a) Credit access, Insurance depth, and Pension coverage
- (b) Banking access, GDP contribution, and Financial literacy
- (c) Access, Usage, and Quality
- (d) Access, Affordability, and Transparency

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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Sectional Test

Budget Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 9 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	45s	102

With reference to the Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is released annually by the Ministry of Finance.
2. The index is composed of three parameters: Access, Usage, and Quality.
3. The FI-Index has declined from the previous year according to the latest data.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer Explanation

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** The Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) is released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), not the Ministry of Finance.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The index is built upon three broad dimensions: Access (35% weight), Usage (45% weight), and Quality (20% weight).
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** According to the latest Economic Survey and RBI data, the FI-Index has shown a consistent increase. It rose to 67.0 in March 2025 from 64.2 in March 2024, reflecting deepening financial penetration.

## UPSC QUESTION



79. Which of the following statements about DHRUV64 is/are correct ?

1. It is the third chip fabricated under the DIR-V Programme with an overall aim to enable the creation of microprocessors for India.
2. It is India's first homegrown 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor.

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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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Sectional Test

⊗ Prelims Power Play - 19th December 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 2 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	18s	184

SHAKTI, AJIT, VIKRAM, THEJAS and DHRUV6 in news are:

- (A) Indigenous microprocessor development initiatives in India
- (B) Indigenous defence equipment development programmes
- (C) Satellite launch vehicles developed by ISRO
- (D) Secure digital identity and encryption platforms

⊗ Answer Explanation

DHRUV64, AJIT and THEJAS64 are indigenous microprocessors developed by Indian institutions such as C-DAC and IIT-Bombay as part of India's efforts to build a domestic processor ecosystem, including initiatives like the Digital India RISC-V programme.

Why this question?

On December 15, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) announced the launch of DHRUV64, an indigenous microprocessor that it said would strengthen the national indigenous processor pipeline.

### UPSC QUESTION



79. Which of the following statements about DHRUV64 is/are correct ?

1. It is the third chip fabricated under the DIR-V Programme with an overall aim to enable the creation of microprocessors for India.
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- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

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## DHRUV64 Microprocessor

### CONTEXT

- On December 15, the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)** announced the launch of **DHRUV64**, an **indigenous microprocessor** that it said would strengthen the **national indigenous processor pipeline**.

### ABOUT

- India's first homegrown **1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor**
- Developed by **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**
- Supports enhanced **multitasking** and improved system performance
- Enables **seamless integration** with diverse external hardware systems
- Fabricated using **high-performance chip technologies**
- Suitable for 5G infrastructure, automotive, consumer electronics, industrial automation, IoT
- Microprocessors are the brains of modern electronic devices such as mobiles, computers, automobiles, medical equipment, defence systems and satellites.

### KEY FEATURES OF DHRUV64

- 64-bit dual-core processor @ 1.0 GHz**
- Out-of-order processing**
- Superscalar execution**
- Advanced FCBGA package**
- System-ready integration**

### GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

- Chips to Startup Programme:** ₹250 crore over 5 years to build talent & startup capacity
- Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme** Boosts semiconductor & electronics design
- INUP-i2i Initiative:** advanced training
- India Semiconductor Mission:** 10 projects across 6 States

### DHRUV64'S PERFORMANCE

- Modest performance** compared to high-end consumer processors in smartphones/laptops
- Lacks multiple cores**, higher clock speeds, and specialised accelerators (**like GPUs for ML**)
- Prioritises** reliability, predictability, and hardware-software integration over raw speed
- Relevant for** telecom infrastructure, industrial controllers, routers, automotive electronics
- Faces adoption challenges** due to global chipmakers' dominance and mature ecosystems

### INDIA'S INDIGENOUS PROCESSOR ECOSYSTEM

- SHAKTI (IIT-Madras):** Strategic & industrial applications
- AJIT (IIT-Bombay):** Secure & embedded systems
- VIKRAM (ISRO-SCL):** Space & mission-critical systems
- THEJAS64 (C-DAC, 2025):** Advanced 64-bit processor in development

### DIR-V PROGRAMME AND RISC-V ARCHITECTURE

- RISC-V:** Open, license-free instruction set; defines basic processor operations (data, arithmetic, control).
- Modular design:** Allows customization for performance, security, and application-specific needs.
- DIR-V Programme:** India's initiative to build a portfolio of RISC-V-based processors under Digital India.
- THEJAS32:** First DIR-V chip; designed in India, fabricated in Malaysia.
- THEJAS64:** Second DIR-V chip; fabricated at SCL Mohali.
- DHRUV64:** Third DIR-V processor; fabrication location not disclosed by MEITY.

### FUTURE PROCESSOR ROADMAP

- DHANUSH (C-DAC):** 1.2 GHz quad-core, 28 nm (design stage)
- DHANUSH+:** 2 GHz quad-core, 14/16 nm (advanced design stage)

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All 6 Prelims Qualified

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41. Which of the following statements with regard to genetic medicine is/are correct ?

1. Genetic medicines correct/compensate for the faulty genes responsible for disease.
2. Engineered viruses and lipid nanoparticles are used as carriers of the genetic medicine.
3. Genetic medicines alter the entire DNA sequence.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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



Prelims Power Play - 3rd September 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 2 of 10

Consider the following statements regarding genetics:

1. Gene editing can be used to eliminate genetic differences.
2. Casgevy and Lyfgenia are revolutionary gene therapy designed to treat sickle cell anaemia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Answer Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Gene editing is a tool that can be used to modify specific genes in an organism, but it cannot eliminate genetic differences. Every individual has a unique genetic makeup, including variations in their DNA sequence that are responsible for many of the differences between individuals.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Casgevy is a revolutionary gene-editing therapy designed to treat sickle cell anaemia. It utilizes the advanced CRISPR-Cas 9 tool for editing genes. It works by editing the patient's genes to revive fetal haemoglobin, which is normally switched off after birth. This compensates for the defective haemoglobin in sickle cells, reducing the disease's severe symptoms and complications.

## UPSC QUESTION



22. With respect to the Western Hoolock Gibbons, which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. A Sanctuary in North-east India is home to this ape species listed as Endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
2. They have specialized brachiation and can easily swing between trees.
3. They possess a strong and heavy build like gorillas, yet are remarkably agile tree climbers.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Environment Advance Test

Environment Advance Test 3 (Species & Protected Areas)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 3 of 100 Marks : 2.0

Sorry. Your Answer is Incorrect, you scored -0.67

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
2s	1m 32s	13

Consider the following statements regarding Hoolock Gibbons:

1. Hoolock Gibbons are the smallest and fastest of all apes, inhabit tropical and subtropical forests in Southeast Asia.
2. Western Hoolock Gibbon inhabits all the states of the north-east and is considered Endangered under IUCN status.
3. Eastern Hoolock Gibbon inhabits specific pockets of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in India and is considered Vulnerable under IUCN status.
4. Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary housing India's only gibbons is located in Assam.

How many of the above statements are incorrect?

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer Explanation

**Statement 1 is correct:** Hoolock Gibbons are the smallest and fastest of all apes, inhabit tropical and subtropical forests in Southeast Asia.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Western Hoolock Gibbon (Hoolock hoolock) inhabits all the states of the north-east, restricted between the south of the Brahmaputra River and east of the Dibang River. It is considered Endangered under IUCN status.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Eastern Hoolock Gibbon (Hoolock leuconedys) inhabits specific pockets of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in India, and in southern China and north-east Myanmar outside India. It is considered Vulnerable under IUCN status.

**Statement 4 is correct:** Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, formerly known as Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, is located in Assam's Jorhat district, India. It boasts a rich biodiversity, housing India's only gibbons, the western Hoolock hoolock, and the Bengal slow loris, the sole nocturnal primate in Northeastern India.

## UPSC QUESTION



30. Ships from which of the following countries have to cross the Strait of Hormuz to reach out to the Indian Ocean ?

1. Bahrain
2. Syria
3. Qatar
4. Egypt

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Sectional Test

IR + Indices Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 3 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
4s	46s	66

Consider the following:

**Statement I:** The strait of Hormuz is one of the most important arteries for global trade

**Statement II:** The strait of Hormuz IS a vital link on the trade route between the Mediterranean and Asia.

**Statement III:** The Strait serves as the exit route from the Gulf for approximately one-fourth of the global oil supply including from major oil-producing nations Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates alongside Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq and Iran itself.

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

- A Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- B Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- C Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- D Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer Explanation

Statement II is incorrect: Bab el-Mandeb forms a vital link on the trade route between the Mediterranean and Asia.

UPSC QUESTION



22. With respect to the Western Hoolock Gibbons, which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. A Sanctuary in North-east India is home to this ape species listed as Endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
2. They have specialized brachiation and can easily swing between trees.
3. They possess a strong and heavy build like gorillas, yet are remarkably agile tree climbers.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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HOLLONGAPAR GIBBON SANCTUARY

LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

- **Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary** is an isolated evergreen forest protected area located in **Assam**.
- Earlier known as **Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary** or **Hollongapar Reserved Forest**.
- The sanctuary was originally part of a much larger forest that extended up to the foothills of the **Patkai Hills in 1881**.
- Over time, the forest became fragmented and is now surrounded by tea plantations and small villages.

SPECIES SIGNIFICANCE

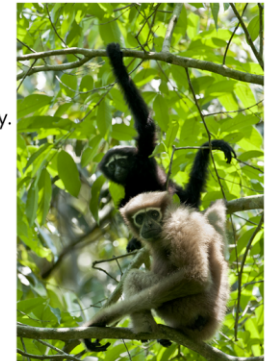
- The sanctuary protects the **Western Hoolock Gibbon, the only ape species found in India**.
- This species is the **flagship species of the sanctuary**.
- The protected area also hosts the **Bengal Slow Loris, the only nocturnal primate found in Northeastern India**.
- In total, **seven primate species** are found here, making it one of the **most primate diverse protected areas in India**.

POPULATIONS STATUS IN THE SANCTUARY

- About **125 Western hoolock gibbons** live in the sanctuary.
- They are organised into **26 family groups** living in the forest canopy.

HABITAT CHARACTERISTICS

- The sanctuary is dominated by **evergreen forest vegetation**.
- The **upper canopy** is mainly composed of the **Hollong tree**.
- The **middle canopy** is dominated by the **Nahar tree**.
- The **lower canopy** consists of **evergreen shrubs and herbs**.
- The forest structure provides ideal canopy connectivity needed for gibbons, which move primarily by swinging through tree branches.



CURRENT CONSERVATION CONCERN (IN THE NEWS)

- **A railway line between Mariani and Dibrugarh** passes through the sanctuary.
- This railway line forms part of the **Lumding–Dibrugarh railway line**.
- The railway track fragments the forest habitat, dividing gibbon groups and affecting their movement.
- The line is currently **not electrified**, but future infrastructure expansion could increase ecological disturbance.

MAJOR THREATS

- Habitat fragmentation caused by infrastructure such as railway tracks.
- Encroachment by human settlements around the forest.
- Illegal logging.
- Isolation of the forest due to surrounding tea plantations.

IMPORTANCE FOR CONSERVATION

- Only protected habitat in India dedicated to gibbons.
- Critical site for conservation of **India's only ape species** and multiple primate species.
- Demonstrates the importance of **maintaining forest canopy connectivity for arboreal primates**.

## UPSC QUESTION



22. With respect to the Western Hoolock Gibbons, which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. A Sanctuary in North-east India is home to this ape species listed as Endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
2. They have specialized brachiation and can easily swing between trees.
3. They possess a strong and heavy build like gorillas, yet are remarkably agile tree climbers.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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Environment Optima Test

SECTION 1

Q. 22 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
8s	34s	166

One of the following species is the only ape found in India. It is a strictly arboreal primate, moves mainly by brachiation, and its conservation is culturally supported as it is considered sacred by certain indigenous communities of Northeast India. Which one of the following species fits this description?

- A Lion-tailed Macaque
- B Western Hoolock Gibbon
- C Phayre's Leaf Monkey
- D Capped Langur

### Answer Explanation

- The Western Hoolock Gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*) is the only ape found in India.
- It is strictly arboreal and uses brachiation (arm-swinging) as its primary mode of locomotion.
- Found in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura.
- It is considered sacred by the Digaru and Miju Mishmi communities, which traditionally avoid hunting it.
- Listed as Endangered by the IUCN and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

UPSC QUESTION



30. Ships from which of the following countries have to cross the Strait of Hormuz to reach out to the Indian Ocean ?

1. Bahrain
2. Syria
3. Qatar
4. Egypt

Select the answer using the code given below :

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



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STRAIT OF HORMUZ

CONTEXT

- The Strait of Hormuz is back in focus after military exercises by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps amid regional tensions.

LOCATION

- Between Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman
- Iran (North) and Oman (South)
- Near United Arab Emirates
- Connects:
  - Persian Gulf → Gulf of Oman → Arabian Sea → Indian Ocean
  - Narrowest width: ~33 km
- Shipping lanes: ~3 km each direction

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

- Saudi Arabia's East-West Pipeline (to Red Sea)
- UAE pipeline to Fujairah
- Alternatives cannot handle total volume - Strait remains strategically irreplaceable in short term

MARITIME LAW (UNCLOS ANGLE)

- Under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea:
  - Coastal states have sovereignty up to 12 nautical miles (Territorial Sea)
  - Strait qualifies as an "International Strait"
  - Ships & aircraft enjoy Right of Transit Passage
  - Coastal states cannot legally block continuous navigation

GLOBAL ENERGY SIGNIFICANCE

- Handles ~20% of global petroleum consumption
- ~25% of global seaborne LNG trade passes through it
- Major exporters using this route: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE
- Considered the world's most critical oil transit chokepoint

IMPORTANCE FOR INDIA

- Over 40% of India's crude oil imports pass through this strait
- Disruption may cause:
  - Spike in global oil prices
  - Rise in India's import bill
  - Widening Current Account Deficit (CAD)
  - Inflationary pressures
- Direct impact on India's energy security & macroeconomic stability



# PRELIMS 2027 MENTORSHIP



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## UPSC QUESTION



23. Which of the following best explain(s) the rationale for protecting mangrove ecosystems in the context of climate resilience ?

1. Mangroves reduce tidal energy and store freshwater, making them ideal sites for paddy cultivation in saline estuarine belts.
2. Their salt-sensitive roots filter seawater, making mangroves key to converting coastal land into freshwater aquaculture zones.
3. By withstanding tidal surges and offering biomass resources, mangroves function both as natural bio-shields and livelihood bases for rural communities.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Full Length Test



Optima Full Length Test 2

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 41 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
3s	30s	224

Consider the following ecosystems:

1. Mangroves
2. Peatlands
3. Savannas
4. Salt marshes

How many of the above are considered Nature's Carbon Vaults?

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

**X** Answer Explanation

The **TN-SHORE project**, approved in September 2025, is an ambitious ₹1,675-crore programme, largely funded by the World Bank, aimed at strengthening Tamil Nadu's coastal economy and ecological resilience. A core component of TN-SHORE is the restoration and plantation of **1,000 hectares of mangroves**. World Bank funds will be channelled directly to **village mangrove councils**, comprising local residents, ensuring community participation in conservation.

Nature's Carbon Vaults refer to ecosystems that store large amounts of carbon for long periods in their biomass and soils, thereby helping mitigate climate change.

All four ecosystems mentioned are important carbon reservoirs:

- **Mangroves** store carbon in both above-ground biomass and deep, waterlogged soils. They are part of blue carbon ecosystems and sequester carbon at rates much higher than many terrestrial forests.
- **Peatlands** are among the largest terrestrial carbon stores. Although they cover only about 3% of the Earth's land surface, they store nearly 30% of global soil carbon.
- **Savannas** (tropical grassland ecosystems) store significant carbon primarily in their deep root systems and soils.
- **Salt marshes** are coastal wetlands that store substantial amounts of carbon in waterlogged sediments and are also classified under blue carbon ecosystems.

**Blue Carbon Ecosystems (Coastal Carbon Vaults)**

- Mangroves
- Seagrasses
- Salt marshes

**Terrestrial Carbon Vaults**

- Forests
- Peatlands
- Grasslands (including savannas)

UPSC QUESTION



23. Which of the following best explain(s) the rationale for protecting mangrove ecosystems in the context of climate resilience ?

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MANGROVES

Why in News

- The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has successfully achieved induced breeding of mangrove clam under captive conditions.
- Mangrove clam, commonly known as Kandal Kakka, is a large mud clam species found in estuarine and mangrove ecosystems

About Mangroves

- Mangroves are plant communities in inter-tidal zones along tropical and subtropical coasts.
- They provide habitat, protect coastlines, and support biodiversity.
- Unique root types:
  - Prop roots – Grow downward into water.
  - Air roots – Grow vertically from mud.
  - Stilt roots – Emerge from the trunk (adventitious roots).
- Types of Mangroves:
  - Red Mangroves – Hardest, grow along coastlines.
  - Black Mangroves – Dark bark, grow at slightly higher elevations.
  - White Mangroves – Highest elevation, sometimes develop peg roots.
- Mangroves are natural bio-shields that protect coastal regions from the devastating impacts of cyclones and storm surges

Mangrove Cover in India

- India has 3% of South Asia's mangrove cover.
- Total cover: 4,975 sq km (0.15% of India's geographical area).
- Top states:
  - West Bengal (42.45%) – Includes Sundarbans.
  - Gujarat (23.66%) – Highest increase (+37 sq km).
  - Andaman & Nicobar Islands (12.39%).
- South 24 Parganas (West Bengal) alone has 41.85% of India's mangrove cover.

Schemes for Mangrove Conservation

- Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs
  - A Central Sector Scheme under the National Coastal Mission Programme (MoEFCC).
- Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)
  - Launched: Union Budget 2023-24.
  - Aim: Promote mangroves as a high-productivity and carbon-sequestration ecosystem.
  - Coverage: 540 km² across 9 states and 3 UTs over 5 years (from 2023-24).
- Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)
  - Launched: At COP27 by UAE & Indonesia.
  - Objective: Establish international research on mangrove ecosystem services like carbon sequestration & ecotourism.
  - Partners: UAE, Indonesia, India, Australia, Japan, Spain, Sri Lanka

Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) - FAO Award

- Community-based aquaculture–mangrove model in Indian Sundarbans
- Mangrove leaf litter = natural feed, reducing input costs and doubling farmers' net profits
- Enhances blue carbon sequestration, coastal protection, and chemical-free, climate-resilient aquaculture
- Led by NEWS, Naturland, Bangladesh Environment & Development Society, Global Nature Fund.

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All 6 Prelims Qualified

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## UPSC QUESTION



16. Which of the following factors contributed to the formation of the Forward Bloc by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1939 ?

1. Bose failed to win the confidence of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. The Congress Left was disunited and failed to support Bose.
3. The Communists did not support Bose in his endeavours.
4. The supporters of M.N. Roy and socialist leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan preferred Congress unity to supporting Bose.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Modern India Advance Part 2 Static Test

History Modern India Advance Part 2

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 43 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	38s	147

How many among the following were the objectives of Forward Bloc started by Subhas Bose?

1. To work within the Congress
2. Uniting the left groups
3. Creating mutiny in Indian army

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**X** Answer Explanation

3rd May 1939, Bose announced the formation of his Forward Bloc, initially with the idea of working within the Congress and also of uniting the various left groups. For consolidating the left groups, Forward Bloc started a Left Consolidation Committee in June 1939.

⊗ Prelims Power Play - 12th November 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 2 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	17s	157

Which party was founded by Subhas Chandra Bose after he left the Indian National Congress?

- A Revolutionary Party
- B Azad Hind Fauj
- C Republican Party
- D Forward Bloc

⊗ Answer Explanation

Subhas Chandra Bose resigned from the presidency of the **Indian National Congress in 1939**, following ideological differences with Mahatma Gandhi and the more conservative section of the Congress leadership, founded the **Forward Bloc in May 1939** with the aim of consolidating the left-wing forces within the Congress.

**Ideology & Objectives:**

- Promote socialism, anti-imperialism, and complete independence for India.
- Mobilise youth, workers, and peasants to intensify the freedom struggle.
- Strengthen the idea of "Samyavadi Swaraj" (Socialist India).
- During World War II, Bose later went abroad, formed the Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army) and the Provisional Government of Free India — but the Forward Bloc remained a political party in India.

**Why in news?**

A new book titled *The Forgotten Indian Prisoners of World War II* by **Gautam Hazarika** claims that **Subhas Chandra Bose did not establish the Indian National Army (INA)**.

## 1. Refrain from bringing back Netaji's 'ashes': Forward Bloc

**Context:**

- The **All-India Forward Bloc** has urged the Government of India **not to bring back the so-called mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** kept at **Renkoji Temple**. The demand was raised during a gathering in Delhi marking **Netaji's 129th birth anniversary**.

**Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose:**

- Popularly known as **Netaji**, Bose was a **revolutionary nationalist** who believed **armed struggle** was necessary to end British rule. His ideology combined **militant nationalism** with **socialist planning**.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was born on **23 January 1897** in **Cuttack, Odisha**. His birth anniversary on **23 January** is observed as **Parakram Diwas** in India.
- He **qualified the Indian Civil Services (ICS) in 1920** but **resigned in 1921**, choosing to join the freedom struggle.
- Bose joined the **Indian National Congress (INC)** and emerged as a **radical nationalist leader** advocating **Purna Swaraj (complete independence)**.
- He was elected **INC President in 1938 (Haripura Session)** and **1939 (Tripuri Session)**.
- He resigned from the presidency due to ideological differences with **Mahatma Gandhi**, particularly over the strategy of **non-violence vs armed resistance**.
- He later formed the **Forward Bloc (1939)** to consolidate left-wing nationalist forces. The Forward Bloc aimed at **immediate independence through militant action**.
- In **January 1941**, Bose escaped from British surveillance in India and travelled through Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to **Nazi Germany**. In Germany, he sought Axis support for India's independence and established the **Free India Centre**.
- He raised the **Free Indian Legion (Mukti Sena)** from Indian prisoners of war and popularised the slogan "**Jai Hind**."
- During World War II, he sought foreign support and led the **Indian National Army (INA)**, **allied with Japan, to militarily challenge British rule**. Bose proclaimed the **Provisional Government of Free India (Azad Hind)** in **1943** and although the INA was defeated, its impact significantly weakened British authority. The **Indian National Army (INA)** was initially formed by **Mohan Singh in 1942** with Japanese support.
- Netaji is remembered for his **militant nationalism**, leadership, and inspirational slogan "**Give me blood, and I will give you freedom**."
- **Subhash Chandra Bose** authored "**The Indian Struggle (1920–1934)**".

**Death and Controversy:**

- Bose is officially believed to have died in a **plane crash in Taiwan (then Formosa) on 18 August 1945**.
- Multiple inquiries (**Shah Nawaz Committee, Khosla Commission, Mukherjee Commission**) have investigated his death.

## UPSC QUESTION



32. With reference to Madhav National Park, which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. It was declared a Tiger Reserve in India in 2025.
2. Sakhya Sagar, which is designated as a Ramsar Site, is situated within this National Park.
3. Its area is shared between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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Direct Match from our Optima cards



## Madhav National Park

### LOCATION & BACKGROUND

- Located in Shivpuri district, **Madhya Pradesh**, in the Gwalior division.
- Lies in the **Chambal region** and forms part of the upper Vindhyan hills.
- **Established**: 1956 as Shivpuri National Park; renamed Madhav National Park in 1958.
- Named after: **Madhav Rao Scindia, Maharaja of Gwalior**.
- Historically a hunting ground for Mughal emperors and Scindia rulers.

### ECOSYSTEM & HABITAT

- Landscape includes:
  - **Dry deciduous forests**
  - **Dry thorn forests**
- Lakes & wetlands (notably **Sakhya Sagar & Madhav Lake**)
- Represents a transition zone between forested hills and open grasslands.

### CONSERVATION STATUS

- Declared India's **58th Tiger Reserve** and **9th Tiger Reserve** of Madhya Pradesh.
- Currently houses ~5 tigers (as per latest reporting).
- Part of one of India's 32 major tiger corridors, operationalized under the Tiger Conservation Plan (Wildlife Protection Act, 1972).

### FLORA & FAUNA

- **Major Fauna**
  - **Big Cats: Tiger, Leopard**
  - **Ungulates:** Nilgai, Chinkara, Chousingha, Sambar, Spotted Deer
  - Others: Wild Boar, Jackal, Hyena, Crocodiles (in lake areas)
- **Flora**
  - Dominated by Kardhai, Salai, Khair, Dhak, Tendu, Bamboo patches.

# UPSC PRELIMS 2027

I cracked Prelims all 6 times

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Roll Number	0029983
Name	SANTOSH PANDEY
Marks Obtained	
Paper I	144.66
Paper II	107.50

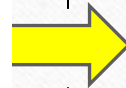
Roll Number	0390455
Name	SANTOSH PANDEY
Marks Obtained	
Paper I	138.66
Paper II	106.68

To get Santosh Sir expert Pre Guidance : 9403892660

## UPSC QUESTION



89. Which one of the following best describes the key objective of India's 'Open Network for Digital Commerce' (ONDC) initiative ?
- (a) To allow government control over all digital commerce transactions
  - (b) To replace private e-commerce players
  - (c) To break the dominance of large e-commerce platforms by enabling interoperability across networks
  - (d) To mandate UPI-based payments for all online transactions



## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Sectional Test

Economy Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 2 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 9s	161

Consider the following statements about 'Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)':

- ONDC is a freely accessible government-backed platform that aims to democratise e-commerce.
- Implementation of ONDC is expected to be on the lines of Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- ONDC is being regulated by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ONDC is to be based on closed network protocols integrated with specific platforms.

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

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

Answer Explanation

- ONDC is a **freely accessible government-backed platform** that aims to **democratise e-commerce** by moving it from a platform-centric model to an open network for buying and selling of goods and services. So, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Implementation of ONDC, which is expected to be on the lines of **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** could bring various operational aspects put in place by **e-commerce platforms** to the same level. So, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Recently, the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** went live with a test run of ONDC in cities like **Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Bhopal, and Shillong** where it plans to onboard 150 sellers. So, **Statement 3 is incorrect.**
- On September 30, the services **launched across 16 pin codes in Bengaluru.**
- ONDC is to be based on **open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols** independent of any specific platform. So, **statement 4 is incorrect.**

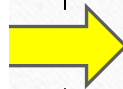
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## UPSC QUESTION



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## Direct Match from our Optima Cards



### Open Network for Digital Commerce

#### Objective:

- Private non-profit (Section-8) company
- Establish the public digital infrastructure needed to expand access to India's e-commerce ecosystem
- Incubated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) at the Quality Council of India.

#### Concept

- Based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform
- The platform will allow buyers and sellers to connect and transact with each other online, no matter what other application they use

#### What are the potential benefits of ONDC?

##### For sellers:

- Access to more buyers
- Better discoverability of products and cost
- Autonomy in terms because of multiple choices for being digitally visible
- Lower cost of doing business
- More options for value chain services like logistics and fulfillment

##### For Buyers:

- Access to more sellers and therefore more choices
- Better service and faster deliveries due to access to hyper-local retailers
- Better customer experience

##### What is ONDC not?

- A government regulatory body
- A super aggregator application or a platform
- A central intermediary
- A medium to help digitize business



#### • What does 'open source' mean?

- To make a process or a software 'open source' implies that the technology or code deployed for the process is freely made available for everyone to use, redistribute, and modify.

Santosh Sir

## UPSC QUESTION



75. Which of the following countries are members of the European Union ?

1. Belarus
2. Poland
3. Germany
4. Switzerland

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

Prelims Power Play - 13th December 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 10 of 10 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	30s	28

Consider the following countries:

1. Hungary
2. Slovakia
3. Ukraine
4. Norway
5. Switzerland

How many of the above countries are members of the European Union (EU)?

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

Answer Explanation

Only **Hungary and Slovakia** are members of the European Union, while **Ukraine** is a candidate country and **Norway and Switzerland** are not EU members.

Why this Question?

**Hungary and Slovakia** have opposed the EU's move to use **frozen Russian assets** to support **Ukraine**.

### UPSC QUESTION

76. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists :

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>List I</i>            | <i>List II</i>  |
| <i>(INTERPOL Notice)</i> | <i>(Description)</i>  |
| A. Silver Notice         | 1. To seek information on unidentified bodies   |
| B. Blue Notice           | 2. To collect additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities in relation to a criminal investigation     |
| C. Black Notice          | 3. To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety |
| D. Green Notice          | 4. To identify and trace criminal assets  |

Code :

- |     |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
|     | A | B | C | D |
| (a) | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| (b) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| (c) | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| (d) | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |



### INTERPOL

What Is Interpol?

- Interpol is an international organization headquartered in **Lyon, France**.
- It acts as the **world's largest international police organization, with regional bureaux across the globe and National Central Bureaus in all 195 member states**.
- Originally **formed in 1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission**,
- **CBI** is designated as the National Central Bureau for Interpol in India and coordinates all international police cooperation requirements .
- **India joined Interpol in 1949** and has been an active member of the organisation.

What Are Interpol Notices?

Interpol Notices are alerts that allow police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.

- There are eight types of notices, each serving a specific purpose:

<b>Red Notice</b>	Issued to locate and arrest wanted persons for prosecution or sentencing.
<b>Yellow Notice</b>	Aids in finding missing persons or identifying those unable to identify themselves.
<b>Blue Notice</b>	Collects additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities related to a crime.
<b>Black Notice</b>	Seeks information on unidentified bodies.
<b>Green Notice</b>	Warns about a person's criminal activities if they pose a threat to public safety.
<b>Orange Notice</b>	Alerts about imminent threats to public safety (events, persons, objects, or processes).
<b>Purple Notice</b>	Gathers information on criminals' modus operandi, objects, devices, and concealment methods.
<b>INTERPOL–United Nations Security Council Special Notice</b>	Issued for groups and individuals targeted by UN Security Council Sanctions Committees.

Language and Issuance:

- Notices can be issued in any of the four official languages of Interpol: English, French, Spanish, and Arabic.
- The Special Notice is issued at the request of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

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**IMPORTANT QUESTIONS**

(PYQ linked Current Affairs Questions)

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## UPSC QUESTION

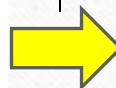


66. Which of the following connectivity projects is/are a part of cooperation between India and the ASEAN member countries ?

1. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project
2. IMT Trilateral Highway
3. Agartala-Akhaura Rail Line

Select the answer using the code given below :

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



## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Sectional Test

Prelims Power Play - 4th August 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 6 of 10 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	3m 17s	98

With reference to India's Act East Policy, consider the following international connectivity projects:

1. Zangezur Corridor
2. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project
3. Asian Highway 1
4. India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway
5. International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)

How many of these projects are directly linked to enhancing connectivity between India and Southeast Asia under the Act East Policy?

A Only two

B Only three

C Only four

D All five

Answer Explanation

**Why this Question?**

Indian Railways has commissioned a new 51.38 km line to Sairang, 18 km from Mizoram's capital, Aizawl. Part of the Act East Policy, the project aims to boost connectivity between Northeast India and Southeast Asia.

- **Zangezur Corridor** – Connects Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan via Armenia; unrelated to India or Southeast Asia.
- **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** – Enhances India's connectivity to Southeast Asia via Myanmar through sea, river, and road links.
- **Asian Highway 1 (AH1)** – Facilitates overland connectivity from India to Southeast Asia through Myanmar and beyond.
- **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway** – Direct road link from India to Thailand via Myanmar, central to Act East Policy.
- **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** – Connects India to Central Asia and Europe via Iran and Russia, not linked to Southeast Asia.

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## UPSC QUESTION



66. Which of the following connectivity projects is/are a part of cooperation between India and the ASEAN member countries ?

1. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project
2. IMT Trilateral Highway
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Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our Optima Cards



### Important Development Projects in North East India and Southeast Asia

Project Name	Initiated By	Objectives	Significance
<b>Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project</b>	India	Connect <b>Kolkata to Mizoram via Myanmar</b> (sea, river, road)	<b>Alternative route to Northeast;</b> boosts trade with Myanmar & ASEAN <b>Sittwe Port → Kaladan River → Paletwa → Mizoram road link</b>
<b>Sittwe Port Project (Myanmar)</b>	India	Develop <b>Sittwe Port</b> on Myanmar's coast	<b>Strategic access to Bay of Bengal;</b> maritime trade route to Northeast
<b>India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway</b>	India	Road connectivity from <b>Manipur to Thailand via Myanmar</b>	<b>Gateway for Indian goods/people to Southeast Asia</b>
<b>Agartala - Akhaura Rail Link</b>	India & Bangladesh	Rail link between <b>Tripura and Bangladesh</b>	<b>Reduces travel time to Kolkata;</b> enhances regional trade
<b>Maitri Setu (Feni Bridge)</b>	India	Bridge over <b>Feni River</b> connecting <b>Tripura to Chittagong port</b>	Opens <b>direct access to seaports for NE India</b>
<b>SARDP-NE (Special Accelerated Road Development)</b>	Govt. of India	Improve road infrastructure in NE region	<b>Links remote areas to growth centers;</b> strategic movement near borders
<b>Digital Connectivity to ASEAN via NE</b>	India	Optical fiber connectivity to Southeast Asia	<b>Digital integration with ASEAN;</b> improves services and economy
<b>Border Haats</b>	India & Bangladesh	Promote local trade at border points	Strengthens <b>people-to-people ties;</b> supports local economies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meghalaya at Kalaichar</b> (India)-<b>Kurigram</b> (Bangladesh) and <b>Balat</b> (India)-<b>Dolora</b> (Bangladesh)</li> <li>• <b>Tripura at Srinagar</b> (India)-<b>Chhagalnaiya</b> (Bangladesh), and <b>Kamalasagar</b> (India)-<b>Kasba</b> (Bangladesh).</li> </ul>

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UPSC QUESTION



33. With reference to the climate of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. The climate can be defined as a humid, tropical coastal climate.
2. It receives rainfall from both South-west monsoon and North-east monsoon.
3. Maximum precipitation is between December and May.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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Andaman Island

- The extension of the submerged Arakan Yoma Tertiary Mountain range of Myanmar and the Nicobars is the continuation of the Mentawai Islands to the south and southeast of Sumatra.
- The Andaman and Nicobar archipelago shares an international marine border with Myanmar on the North-East (about 280 km), Thailand on the South- East (650 km) and Indonesia on the South (about 165 km).
- Situated in the Bay of Bengal span 6°45' N to 13°41' N (740 km) and 92°12' E to 93°57' E (190 km)
- The Andaman group mainly consists of: North Andaman, Middle Andaman, South Andaman. These three together are collectively called Great Andaman.
- Other important islands in the Andaman group include: Landfall Island, Interview Island
- North Sentinel Island and South Sentinel Island, Ritchie's Archipelago
- Rutland Island, Little Andaman lies to the south of Great Andaman.
- Andamans are separated from Nicobar by a 10-degree channel
- South Andaman and Little Andaman are separated by Duncan Passage.
- The Grand Channel is between the Great Nicobar islands and the Sumatra islands of Indonesia.
- The Coco Strait is between the North Andaman islands and the Coco Islands of Myanmar.
- The highest peak of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is Saddle Peak, located in the North Andaman.
- A tropical marine climate influenced by the seasonal flow of monsoon winds.
- The South Andaman forests have a profuse growth of epiphytic vegetation, mostly ferns and orchids. The Mid-Andamans harbours mostly moist deciduous forests. North Andamans is characterised by the wet evergreen type, with plenty of woody climbers.

Nicobar Island

- Important islands of the Nicobar Islands include: Car Nicobar – in the north, Camorta, Katchal (Katchall), and Nancowry – in the central Nicobar group
- Great Nicobar – the southernmost and largest island of the Nicobar group
- To the south-west of Great Nicobar lies Indonesia, particularly the Aceh region of Sumatra.
- Indira Point on Great Nicobar is India's southernmost point.
- Great Channel separates Great Nicobar from Indonesia's Sumatra island.
- The island is home to one of the most primitive tribes of India – the Shompens.
- The island includes the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve (GNBR) comprising the Galathea National Park and the Campbell Bay National Park.
- Home to many unique and endemic species of plants and animals including the Nicobar scrubfowl (Megapodius nicobariensis, a megapode bird), the edible-nest swiftlet, the Nicobar long-tailed macaque, saltwater crocodile, giant leatherback sea turtle, Malayan box turtle, Nicobar tree shrew, reticulated python, and the giant robber crab
- The north Nicobar Islands (including Car Nicobar and Battimaliv) are marked by the complete absence of evergreen forests, while such forests form the dominant vegetation in the central and southern islands of the Nicobar group.
- Grasslands occur only in the Nicobars, and while deciduous forests are common in the Andamans, they are almost absent in the Nicobars
- The southernmost point of India is The Indira Point, (formerly known as Pygmalion Point and Parsons Point) which is the southern point of the Great Nicobar Islands.

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## UPSC QUESTION



84. Which of the following statements with regard to India's indigenous new high resolution weather model, the 'Bharat Forecast System,' is/are correct ?

1. Its objective is to generate forecasts at the Panchayats cluster level.
2. It was developed by IIT Delhi.

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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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Sectional Test

Geography Optima Test

SECTION 1

Q. 91 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	49s	82

With reference to the Bharat Forecast System (BFS), consider the following statements:

1. It has been developed jointly by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
2. The Arka supercomputer is used to enable real-time processing of vast meteorological data.
3. It aims to enhance short and medium range weather forecasts.
4. It uses a Triangular-Cubic Octahedral (TCO) grid structure.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer Explanation

- **Statement 1 Incorrect:** The Bharat Forecast System (BFS) was developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, and operationalised by IMD. It was not jointly developed by IMD and ISRO.
- **UPSC Elimination Tip:** UPSC often tests conceptual clarity by interchanging organisations.
- **Statement 2 Correct:** The 'Arka' supercomputer supports real-time processing of large volumes of meteorological data, improving forecast accuracy.
- **Statement 3 Correct:** BFS enhances short- and medium-range weather forecasts, particularly up to seven days in advance.
- **Statement 4 Correct:** The system uses a Triangular-Cubic Octahedral (TCO) grid structure, which increases grid density over tropical regions and improves spatial resolution.

## UPSC QUESTION



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

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## Direct Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

⊗ Prelims Power Play - 27th May 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 4 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	36s	43

Consider the following statements regarding the Bharat Forecast System:

1. It has been developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.
2. India is the only country currently providing operational weather forecasts at 6 km × 6 km grid resolution.
3. It enables the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue weather forecasts at the panchayat level.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

⊗ Answer Explanation

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Bharat Forecast System has been developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, as part of India's initiative to enhance its weather forecasting capabilities.

**Statement 2 is correct:** India is currently the only country providing operational weather forecasts at a high-resolution grid of 6 km × 6 km, placing it ahead of many advanced economies in localized forecasting.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The Bharat Forecast System has made it possible for the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue weather forecasts at the panchayat level, enhancing precision in advisories for agriculture, disaster management, and rural development planning.

## UPSC QUESTION



84. Which of the following statements with regard to India's indigenous new high resolution weather model, the 'Bharat Forecast System,' is/are correct ?

1. Its objective is to generate forecasts at the Panchayats cluster level.
2. It was developed by IIT Delhi.

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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## Direct Match from our Optima cards

### BHARAT FORECAST SYSTEM

**CONTEXT**

- IMD predicts above-normal SW Monsoon (~5% higher rainfall)
- Challenges include India exploring AI/ML in climate modelling.
- IMD officially adopted Bharat Forecast System (BFS) — major tech upgrade.

**Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP)**

- Physics based (fluid dynamics + thermodynamics).
- Uses satellite, radar and ground data.
- Needs heavy supercomputing power.

**AI/ML Forecast Models**

- Data-driven pattern recognition.
- Finds hidden climate relationships.
- Useful where physical theories are limited.
- Analyses variables like temperature, pressure, humidity, ocean currents.

**BHARAT FORECAST SYSTEM (BFS)**

**FEATURES**

- Developed by **IITM Pune**, adopted by **IMD** in **2025**.
- Forecast range: **Short and Medium (up to 7 days)**.
- Grid resolution improved:**
  - Earlier: 12 km × 12 km
  - Now: 6 km × 6 km (4x improvement)
  - India → **only country with such high operational resolution.**
  - Enables **panchayat level weather forecasts.**

**TECHNOLOGY**

- Uses **Triangular Cubic Octahedral (TCO)** grids: More grids in tropical regions → better accuracy for India.
- Powered by **HPC supercomputers:**
  - Arka** (IITM Pune)
  - Arunika** (NCMRWF Delhi)

**IMPACT**

- Better agriculture planning.
- Improved disaster preparedness.
- Long-range forecasts mostly unchanged (for now).

**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)**

- UN specialized agency for meteorology.
- HQ: Geneva, Switzerland.
- 193 Members (187 States + 6 Territories).
- Promotes global cooperation in weather and climate science.

**INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD)**

- Established 1875, HQ: **New Delhi**.
- Under **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.
- Head: Director General of Meteorology.**
- One of 6 **Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMCs)** globally.
- Regional Centres: Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Nagpur, Guwahati.**

**K-SCALE CLIMATE MODELLING**

- Ultra high resolution (~1 km grids). Captures:
  - Thunderstorms
  - Urban heat islands
  - Microclimates.
- Helps localized climate prediction.

**TYPES OF GRID SCALES**

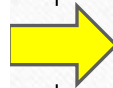
- Coarse Resolution** → large cells, global climate patterns.
- High Resolution** → detailed regional simulations.
- Gaussian Grids** → uneven spacing, used by ECMWF.
- Variable Resolution Grids** → finer focus in key regions.



## UPSC QUESTION



90. Which one of the following statements about Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Central Bank Digital Currency (Digital Rupee) is **not** correct ?
- (a) UPI is a real-time payment system but Digital Rupee is akin to sovereign paper currency.
  - (b) In case of UPI, settlement for end users happens instantly as the money gets immediately debited or credited but in case of Digital Rupee, there is no settlement as the wallet balance gets transferred to another wallet.
  - (c) UPI transactions are recorded by banks and reflected in bank statements but in case of Digital Rupee, no data is captured in bank statements as transactions are from one wallet to another.
  - (d) In both the cases (UPI and Digital Rupee), the liability lies with the users and their respective banks.



## Partial Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

⊗ Prelims Power Play - 25th January 2026

SECTION 1

Q. 5 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	29s	167

Consider the following statements regarding central bank digital currencies (CBDCs)

- 1.CBDCs are legal tender issued by a central bank entirely in digital form.
- 2.CBDC is held in a wallet that is separate from your bank account.
- 3.CBDCs are decentralised by design.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

⊗ Answer Explanation

Statement 3 is incorrect: CBDCs are centralised sovereign money, unlike cryptocurrencies.

Why this question?

Media houses have reported that the Reserve Bank of India is making suggestions to the Indian government and encouraging it to push other BRICS countries to work together on using digital currencies for cross-border payments. This has several advantages, but could also face some near-term risks that will have to be considered

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## UPSC QUESTION



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## Partial Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

Prelims Power Play - 12th April 2026

SECTION 1

Q. 5 of 10 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	48s	41

Consider the following statements regarding Unified Payments Interface (UPI):

1. It is a real-time digital payment system that allows users to send money, pay bills, and manage accounts through one app.
2. UPI is one of the only payment systems that allows you or online merchants to request money by sending a message, requesting payment via the bank, a facility that is not available in old systems like NEFT and IMPS.
3. UPI payments by individuals for peer-to-peer transactions are completely free.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer Explanation

**Why this question?**

A decade after its launch, India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has evolved from a simple money transfer system into the backbone of the country's digital economy, clocking exponential growth in both scale and scope. From just 17.86 million transactions worth ₹6,952 crore in FY17, UPI has surged to 218.98 billion transactions totalling nearly ₹285 lakh crore in FY26, according to Tracxn data.

## UPSC QUESTION



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## Direct Match from our Optima cards

### Digital Payments in India — RBI Report

**Context:** RBI report highlights digital payment boom, UPI leads India's cashless transformation

#### About UPI:

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a real-time digital payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It enables instant transfer of funds between bank accounts using a mobile device.
- UPI was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and is controlled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and IBA (Indian Bank Association).
- UPI enables immediate fund transfers, making it faster than National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT).
- It is available 24 hours a day and throughout the year, including public holidays.
- Banks provide UPI services through mobile applications compatible with platforms such as Android and iOS.

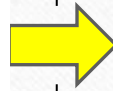
#### How UPI Works:

- UPI payments are built on the architecture of the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS).
- To use UPI, a bank must join the UPI network and allow users to link their bank accounts through a registered mobile number on a Payment Service Provider (PSP) application such as PhonePe or Google Pay.
- UPI is designed as an interoperable system, which means customers of any bank can use any UPI application and even multiple applications simultaneously.
- Although UPI appears to be a peer-to-peer payment system, almost every transaction is routed through the NPCI's central switching infrastructure.
- To reduce system congestion, the NPCI introduced UPI Lite. UPI Lite allows users to store up to ₹2,000 in a digital wallet within the UPI application and make small-value payments without entering a PIN.

## UPSC QUESTION



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## Partial Match from our Optima cards

**CBDC FOR CROSS-BORDER TRANSACTIONS**

**OVERVIEW CBDC**

- A **digital form of a country's fiat currency**, issued by the central bank.
- It has the **potential to revolutionize cross-border transactions** by reducing time, cost, and settlement risk.

**BENEFITS**

- **Instantaneous Settlement:** CBDC transactions enable real-time settlement without inter-bank delays, enhancing the speed of cross-border transactions significantly.
- **Lower Cost:** CBDC transactions are more cost-effective than traditional methods like wire transfers, as they bypass intermediaries, reducing overall transaction expenses.
- **Reduced Settlement Risk:** CBDC transactions, once settled, are final and irreversible, eliminating the risk of settlement failure present in traditional cross-border payments.

**CHALLENGES**

- **Technological Challenges:**
  - Early Development: CBDC technology is in nascent stages
  - Interoperability: ensuring seamless cross-border transactions.
  - Security: to prevent cyber threats and ensure data integrity.
- **Regulatory Challenges:**
  - Standardization: Establishing universal standards
  - Legal Framework: international agreements for regulatory policies.
  - Compliance: diverse national financial regulations.
- **Financial Stability Risks:**
  - Capital Flight: Concerns about sudden and massive capital outflows
  - Market Confidence: undermine public confidence in existing financial systems.
  - Monetary Policy: Balancing CBDC implementation with existing monetary policies to avoid conflicts.

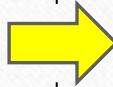
**Diagram:** A circular diagram with 'CBDC' in the center. Surrounding it are icons and text boxes: 'Supporting competition, efficiency and innovation in payments', 'Avoiding the risks of new forms of private money creation', 'Supporting a resilient payments landscape', 'Fostering future payment needs in a digital economy', 'Improving the availability and usability of central bank money', 'Addressing the consequences of a decline in cash', 'As a building block for better cross-border payments'.

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## UPSC QUESTION



97. Which of the following statements about Crowdfunding is/are correct ?
1. Crowdfunding is solicitation of funds (small amount) from multiple investors through a web-based platform or social networking site for a specific project.
  2. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are able to raise funds at lower cost of capital without undergoing rigorous procedures.
- Select the answer using the code given below :
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2



## Partial Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Economy Static Test

Economy Advance Test 2

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 80 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
7s	1m 55s	213

The founder of Softbank Masayoshi Son has told his top executives to slow down investments, according to a report by Financial Times. With reference to this match the various methods of financing startups to their terminology:

Method	Explanation
1. Bootstrapping	a. Investment by strangers
2. Equity Financing	b. Self investment
3. Angel Funding	c. investors share capital, risk and profit
4. Venture capitalist	d. One time investment by the high network individuals
5. Crowd funding	e. investment plus business development ideas

Select the correct option below:

A 1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d, 5-e

B 1-a, 2-c, 3-d, 4-e, 5-b

C 1-b, 2-c, 3-d, 4-e, 5-a

D 1-b, 2-e, 3-c, 4-d, 5-a

Answer Explanation

- **Self-funding, also known as bootstrapping**, is an effective way of startup financing, especially when you are just starting your business. First-time entrepreneurs often have trouble getting funding without first showing some traction and a plan for potential success. Thus, they invest from their own savings or can get their family and friends to contribute.
- **Equity Financing-Raising funds equity means board with you as co-owner.** This person shall contribute to business capital, share risk and participate in profit sharing.
- **Angel Investors- These are the High Networth Individuals (HNIs)** who, if they have conviction in your product, will be willing to fund your venture in return for ownership equity or convertible debt. The capital angel may provide a **one-time investment** to help propel the business, or inject funds on an ongoing basis to support and carry the company through its difficult early stages. SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012, as amended in 2013, regulates angel funds investing in an Indian company.
- **Venture Capitalist/Private Equity- Venture Capitalists** are companies/funds that raise funds from various sources and use the corpus to further fund startups. They are ready to invest in **small businesses, funding young, unproven companies that appear to have a great idea and a great management team.**
- **Debt Financing-Loan from Banks & NBFCs-Banks and Non-Banking Financing Companies(NBFCs)** grant loans and become business leaders and not owners, unlike VCs and angels.
- **External Commercial Borrowings-Funds** can also be obtained from non-resident lenders commonly called External Commercial Borrowings (ECB). The various forms in which ECSs can be procured are: These ECBs can be accessed under two routes, viz.,
  - (i) Automatic Route; and
  - (ii) Approval Route depending upon the category of the eligible borrower and recognized lender, the amount of ECB availed, average maturity period and other applicable factors.
- **CGTMSE Loans-The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India** launched Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) scheme to encourage entrepreneurs. Under the scheme, one can get loans of up to 1 crore without collateral or surety. Any new and existing micro and small enterprise can take the loan from all scheduled commercial banks and specified Regional Rural Banks, NSIC, NEDFI, and SIDBI, which have signed an agreement with the Credit Guarantee Trust.
- **Venture Debt-**It is a type of debt financing provided to venture-backed companies by specialized banks or non-bank lenders to fund working capital or capital expenses, such as purchasing equipment. Venture debt can complement venture capital and provide value to fast-growing companies and their investors. Unlike traditional bank lending, venture debt is available to startups and growth companies that do not have positive cash flows or significant assets to use as collateral.
- **Business incubators (or "accelerators")**- generally focus on the high-tech sector by providing support for new businesses in various stages of development. However, there are also local economic development incubators, which are focused on areas such as job creation, revitalization and hosting and sharing services. Commonly, incubators will invite future businesses and other fledgling companies to share their premises, as well as their administrative, logistical and technical resources. For example, an incubator might share the use of its laboratories so that a new business can develop and test its products more cheaply before beginning production.
- **Government grants and loans**
- **Crowdfunding-**is one of the newer ways of funding a startup that has been gaining a lot of popularity lately. It's like taking a loan, pre-order, contribution or investments from **more than one person at the same time.** This is how crowdfunding works -An entrepreneur will put up a detailed description of his business on a crowdfunding platform. He will mention the goals of his business, plans for making a profit, how much funding he needs and for what reasons, etc. and then consumers can read about the business and give money if they like the idea. Those giving money will make online pledges with the promise of pre-buying the product or giving a donation. So,

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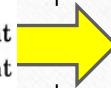
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## UPSC QUESTION



94. Which one of the following best describes the 'Crowding Out Effect' in the context of fiscal policy ?

- (a) A situation where private investment increases due to increased Government spending
- (b) A situation where Government borrowing leads to higher interest rates, which reduces private investment
- (c) A situation where an increase in taxes leads to increased private sector investment
- (d) A situation where Government spending has no impact on aggregate demand



## Direct Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

⊗ Prelims Power Play - 9th February 2026

SECTION 1

Q. 4 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
4s	59s	141

With respect to the Crowding Out Effect, consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** Crowding out effect theory says that rising public sector spending drives down or even eliminates private sector spending

**Statement-II:** Increase in government spending increases the interest rates which impacts investment decisions of the private sector

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

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

⊗ Answer Explanation

Why this question?

Despite RBI cutting the repo rate from 6.5% to 5.25%, Centre and State governments are borrowing at higher yields due to rising public debt and massive market borrowings, which crowd out private credit.

The problem is worsened by tight liquidity, as foreign capital inflows have slowed and RBI's forex sales have drained rupee liquidity, leading to limited transmission of rate cuts and higher long-term bond yields.

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## Direct Match from our Optima cards



### CROWING OUT VS CROWING IN

#### Crowing Out of Investment

- When increased interest rates lead to a reduction in private investment
- Substantially affects
- Factors:
  - Expansionary fiscal policy
  - Higher government borrowing
  - Increased interest rates
  - Low investment opportunities

#### Crowing In of Investment

- When higher government spending leads to an increase in private sector investment
- Temporary effect.
- Expect rising demand
- Factors:
  - Recession
  - Induced saving
  - High multiplier effect
  - Deflation / liquidity

### MONEY MULTIPLIER AND TYPES OF MONEY

- A role in credit creation in the economy
- Money multiplier =  $1/r$  (r = Required reserve ratio or CRR)
- The maximum limit to which money supply can be affected by bringing changes in the amount of money deposits

#### TYPES:

$$M1 = CU + DD$$

$$M2 = M1 + SAVINGS DEPOSITS WITH POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS$$

$$M3 = M1 + NET TIME DEPOSITS OF COMMERCIAL BANKS$$

$$M4 = M3 + TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH POST OFFICE SAVINGS ORGANISATIONS$$

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UPSC QUESTION

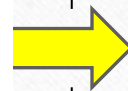


91. Which of the following statements about Real-World Assets (RWA) Tokenization are correct ?

1. Tokenization is the process of turning real world assets into digital tokens using blockchain technology.
2. Tokenization of real world assets offers 24 x 7 access, promoting financial inclusion.
3. Tokenization of real world assets will allow the access to high growth investment opportunities for individuals in India.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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



⊗ Prelims Power Play - 9th October 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 1 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
4s	31s	183

In the context of finance and technology, "tokenisation" refers to:

- A Converting a cryptocurrency into fiat currency
- B Converting sensitive data or real-world assets into digital tokens for secure transactions
- C Creating unique encryption codes for online payments
- D Replacing passwords with biometric verification

⊗ Answer Explanation

Why this question?

In October 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched a pilot project on deposit tokenisation primarily for Bank-to-bank settlements using CBDC (wholesale)

Tokenisation means creating a digital representation ("token") of an asset, deposit, or data on a secure digital ledger. It enhances efficiency, transparency, and security.

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Tokenisation



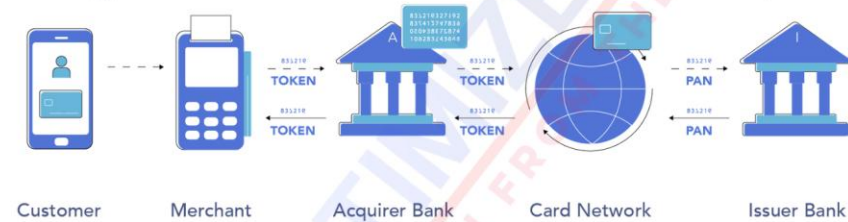
Concept

- A replacement of actual credit and debit card details with an alternate code called the “token”, which will be unique for a combination of card, token requestor and device.

Three steps have

- Token provisioning
- Token processing
- Scale-up for multiple use cases

How does payment tokenization work?



Is it mandatory?

- It is not mandatory.
- A merchant cannot force the user to create a token.
- It needs explicit consent and an additional factor of authentication like an OTP or PIN to generate a token.
- One can set limits for each token, including daily transaction limits
- Tokens can be generated for both credit and debit cards.

Impact

- Merchants and payment gateways cannot store details of their users’ credit or debit cards.
- A tokenised card transaction is considered safer as the actual card details are not shared with the merchant during transaction processing.

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UPSC QUESTION



65. Consider the following statements with respect to the AI Impact Summit, 2026 held in New Delhi :

1. The Summit's intellectual framework was based on three foundational Sutras : People, Planning, and Progress.
2. The Preamble of the Summit stresses Democratising AI Resources, which acknowledges the Charter for Democratic Diffusion of AI as a binding framework to support locally relevant innovation and strengthen resilient AI ecosystems while respecting national laws.
3. The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact was structured around seven Chakras (Pillars), which included Access for Social Empowerment, AI for Science, and Secure and Trusted AI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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



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AI Impact Summit 2026

WHY IN NEWS?

- India hosted the 4th AI Impact Summit (Feb 16–20, 2026) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- The summit concluded with the New Delhi Declaration on AI (Feb 21, 2026) signed by 88 countries and international organisations.

INDIGENOUS AI PUSH

- Launch of domestic multi-billion parameter LLMs by Sarvam AI.
- Focus on Indian languages & cost-efficient compute.
- Dedicated All-Women Hackathon for inclusive tech development.

ABOUT THE AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026

- **Edition:** 4th (First time hosted in a Global South country)
- **Venue:** Bharat Mandapam (also hosted G20 Leaders' Summit 2023)
- **Theme Framework:** Three Chakras – People, Planet, Progress
- **Part of:** India AI Impact Expo 2026

EVOLUTION OF GLOBAL AI SUMMITS

Year	Location	Focus
2023	Bletchley Park	AI Safety & Frontier Risks
2024	Seoul	Governance & Coordination
2025	Paris	Innovation & Commercialisation
2026	New Delhi	Democratisation & Global Equity

MAJOR OUTCOMES

NEW DELHI DECLARATION ON AI

- Signed by 88 countries & 3 international organisations.
  - Voluntary, non-binding commitments.
  - Emphasises "Democratic Diffusion of AI."
- Proposes:**
- Global AI Impact Commons
  - Trusted AI Commons
  - International AI-for-Science Network

INDIA'S GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Three Sutras

- **People** – Citizen empowerment, digital inclusion
- **Planet** – Climate resilience & sustainable AI
- **Progress** – Inclusive economic growth

Seven Chakras (Working Groups)

Health | Agriculture | Safe & Trusted AI | Science | Inclusion | Democratising AI Resources | Economic Development

Santosh Sir

All 6 Prelims Qualified

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## UPSC QUESTION



65. Consider the following statements with respect to the AI Impact Summit, 2026 held in New Delhi :

1. The Summit's intellectual framework was based on three foundational Sutras : People, Planning, and Progress.
2. The Preamble of the Summit stresses Democratising AI Resources, which acknowledges the Charter for Democratic Diffusion of AI as a binding framework to support locally relevant innovation and strengthen resilient AI ecosystems while respecting national laws.
3. The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact was structured around seven Chakras (Pillars), which included Access for Social Empowerment, AI for Science, and Secure and Trusted AI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Direct Match from Daily Prelims Notes

### 1. What are the key takeaways from the AI summit?

Sub: Science and Tech

Sec: Awareness in It and computer

Context:

- The **AI Impact Summit** from February 16-20 attracted lakhs of visitors, with **high-profile AI executives** and heads of state visiting New Delhi.
- On February 21, 2026, **88 countries and international organisations signed the New Delhi Declaration on AI**, which stresses that the technology must be democratised to make a difference.

Goals of the AI Impact Summit 2026:

- India **emphasised democratisation of AI**, ensuring **wider access to its capabilities**, especially for the Global South, and **improving representation of under-represented languages** in large language models.
- The summit **promoted development of safe, secure and trusted AI systems** through **voluntary global cooperation** and best-practice frameworks.
- The government **aimed to position India as a major AI hub** by attracting large investments in **infrastructure and research**.
- The vision was **framed through the Three Sutras — People, Planet and Progress** — focusing on citizen empowerment, climate resilience and inclusive economic growth.
- These priorities were **implemented through Seven Chakras** (working groups) on **Health, Agriculture, Safe and Trusted AI, Science, Inclusion, Democratising AI Resources, and Economic Development**.

Major outcome of the summit:

- **Eighty-eight countries and international organisations endorsed the New Delhi Declaration on AI**, stressing voluntary and democratic diffusion of artificial intelligence.

## UPSC QUESTION



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1. The Summit's intellectual framework was based on three foundational Sutras : People, Planning, and Progress.
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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Full Length Test

Optima Full Length Test 6

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 93 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME ON AVG. TIME OVERALL CORRECT  
5s 1m 20s 11

Consider the following pairs:

Summit	Venue/Host	Theme
1. 17th BRICS Summit 2025	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	"Strengthening Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance"
2. SCO Summit 2025	Tianjin, China	"Upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move"
3. G20 Summit 2025	St. Petersburg, Russia	"Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability"
4. AI Impact Summit 2026	New Delhi, India	"Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya"

How many of the pairs given above are incorrectly matched?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

Answer Explanation

The 17th BRICS Summit 2025 was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, under the theme "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance," reflecting BRICS' focus on reforming global governance institutions and strengthening cooperation among emerging economies.

China's 2025 Presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) carried the theme "Upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move," highlighting cooperation in regional security, connectivity, economic integration, and multilateral coordination among Eurasian countries.

The G20 Summit 2025, hosted by South Africa (not Russia), was based on the theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability," emphasizing inclusive growth, climate resilience, reform of global financial institutions, and development priorities of the Global South.

The India AI Impact Summit 2026, hosted by India, was centred on the theme "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" (Welfare for All, Happiness of All). The summit promoted inclusive, safe, ethical, and development-oriented Artificial Intelligence, particularly for the benefit of the Global South, with emphasis on social welfare, sustainability, and equitable technological access.

## UPSC QUESTION



65. Consider the following statements with respect to the AI Impact Summit, 2026 held in New Delhi :

1. The Summit's intellectual framework was based on three foundational Sutras : People, Planning, and Progress.
2. The Preamble of the Summit stresses Democratising AI Resources, which acknowledges the Charter for Democratic Diffusion of AI as a binding framework to support locally relevant innovation and strengthen resilient AI ecosystems while respecting national laws.
3. The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact was structured around seven Chakras (Pillars), which included Access for Social Empowerment, AI for Science, and Secure and Trusted AI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Partial Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

⊗ Prelims Power Play - 4th March 2026

SECTION 1

Q. 6 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	22s	171

Consider the following:

1. Casebook on Real-World Impact of AI in Health
2. Casebook on Real-World Impact of AI in Energy
3. Casebook on Real-World Impact of AI in Gender Empowerment
4. Casebook on Real-World Impact of AI in Education
5. Casebook on Real-World Impact of AI in Agriculture
6. Casebook on Real-World Impact of AI in Accessibility

How many of the above casebooks were released at the India AI Action Summit?

- (A) Only three
- (B) Only four
- (C) Only five
- (D) All six

⊗ Answer Explanation

**Impact Casebooks (India AI Impact Summit 2026) document real-world AI applications benefiting citizens in the Global South.**

**Focus areas:** accessibility, agriculture, women empowerment, healthcare, and education.

**The AI Impact Casebooks released at INDIA AI Action Summit are**

1. Casebook on Real-World Impact of AI in Health
2. Casebook on Real-World Impact of AI in Energy
3. Casebook on Real-World Impact of AI in Gender Empowerment
4. Casebook on Real-World Impact of AI in Education
5. Casebook on Real-World Impact of AI in Agriculture
6. Casebook on Real-World Impact of AI in Accessibility

## UPSC QUESTION



95. Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct ?

1. Modern technological innovations including Artificial Intelligence, robotics and space exploration extensively utilise Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
2. China has the highest share in mining of REEs followed by India.
3. The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.
4. Rare Earth Elements are a set of 13 metallic elements.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Geography Static Test

⊗ Eco & Human Geography (World)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 6 of 100 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
4s	38s	172

Consider the following statements with regard to Rare Earth metals:

1. They are a set of seventeen metallic elements.
  2. India has 16% of the world's rare earth reserves.
  3. They are called 'rare earth' because they are very rarely found on the Earth.
  4. They were included in the list of 30 critical minerals for India released by the government.
- How many of these statements is/are correct?

- A One only
- B Only two
- C Only three
- D All four

⊗ Answer Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: Rare Earth Metals are a set of seventeen metallic elements. The 17 Rare Earths are cerium (Ce), dysprosium (Dy), erbium (Er), europium (Eu), gadolinium (Gd), holmium (Ho), lanthanum (La), lutetium (Lu), neodymium (Nd), praseodymium (Pr), promethium (Pm), samarium (Sm), scandium (Sc), terbium (Tb), thulium (Tm), ytterbium (Yb), and yttrium (Y).

• Statement 2 is incorrect: India has only 6% of the world's rare earth reserves.

• Statement 3 is incorrect: They are called 'rare earth' not because they are very rarely found on the Earth. Because of their geochemical properties, rare earth elements are typically dispersed. This means they are not often found in concentrated enough clusters to make them viable to mine. It was the scarcity of these minerals that led to them being called rare earths.

• Statement 4 is correct: Government has released a list of 30 critical minerals for India. These minerals are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium

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## UPSC QUESTION



95. Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct ?

1. Modern technological innovations including Artificial Intelligence, robotics and space exploration extensively utilise Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
2. China has the highest share in mining of REEs followed by India.
3. The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.
4. Rare Earth Elements are a set of 13 metallic elements.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from LAQSHYA 2026 Full Length test

Optima Full Length Test 7

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 51 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
37s	40s	116

With reference to critical minerals, consider the following statements:

1. China is the largest producer of Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
2. India has the second-largest reserves of lithium in the world.
3. India has begun commercial mining of lithium in Tamil Nadu.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer Explanation

Why in news?

India's ambition to be a global leader in clean energy and sustainable growth depends on securing critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt and Rare Earth Elements (REEs).

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** China controls around 60% of global REE production and 85% of processing capacity.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** India contributes less than 1% of global REE production and imports nearly 100% of lithium, cobalt, and nickel. Countries like Bolivia, Argentina have largest and second largest reserves of lithium.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect.** India has identified lithium resources in Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan, but large-scale commercial mining has not yet begun.

## UPSC QUESTION



95. Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct ?

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- (d) 1, 2 and 4

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## China's Export Ban on Rare Earth Technology

**Action:** Banned export of technology for extracting and separating rare earth metals.

- Additional Restrictions: Prohibited export of production technology for rare earth metals and alloys, and technology for preparing some rare earth magnets.
- Reason: Part of an overhaul of technologies deemed crucial to national security

### Background on Rare Earth Elements (REE):

- **Definition:** Group of 17 chemical elements in the periodic table, including 15 lanthanides, scandium, and yttrium.
- **Lanthanide Series:** Consists of 15 metallic elements with atomic numbers 57 to 71.
- **Abundance:** Cerium (Atomic Number 58) is the most abundant rare earth metal.
- **Characteristics:** Varied colors from shiny silver to iron gray, soft, malleable, ductile, and often reactive.
- **Applications:** Utilized in civilian technologies (smartphones, laptops, petroleum refining catalysts) and military applications, including nuclear technology.
- **Reserves:** China possesses the largest reserves (37%), followed by Brazil, Vietnam, Russia, and other countries.
- **Challenges in Extraction:** Extraction is challenging due to high skill requirements, capital intensity, and environmental concerns.



### Why "Rare" Earth Elements?

- Explanation: Term doesn't denote scarcity but refers to the difficulty in extraction rather than their abundance.
- Extraction Challenges: Extraction processes are technically demanding and capital-intensive, leading to the perception of rarity despite adequate reserves.
- India is planning **Dedicated Rare Earth Corridors** to build secure supply chains for critical minerals needed in EVs, renewable energy and high-tech manufacturing.

Santosh Sir

All 6 Prelims Qualified

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## UPSC QUESTION



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## Direct Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

⊗ Prelims Power Play - 14th June 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 1 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
4s	20s	219

Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** India depends on China for its Rare Earth Elements requirements

**Statement-II:** India has no deposits of Rare Earth Elements

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

- A Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- B Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
- C Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- D Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

⊗ Answer Explanation

**Why this Question?**

Recent China ban on REE exports.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** India has the 5<sup>th</sup> Largest REE reserves.

## UPSC QUESTION



95. Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct ?

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3. The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.
4. Rare Earth Elements are a set of 13 metallic elements.

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

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## Direct Match from our Optima Test

Budget Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 24 of 100 Marks: 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	38s	65

The Union Budget 2026-27 to establish dedicated Rare Earth Corridors to promote mining, processing, research and manufacturing. These Rare Earth Corridors will pass through how many of the following states?

1. Kerala
2. TN
3. Karnataka
4. Andhra Pradesh
5. Odisha
6. Gujarat

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer Explanation

- Sitharaman proposed that the Centre will support the mineral-rich states of Odisha, Kerala, Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to establish dedicated Rare Earth Corridors to promote mining, processing and manufacturing.

Rare Earth Corridors – Budget 2026

- Policy Announcement: Govt will develop Rare Earth Corridors in Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu to promote mining, processing, research & manufacturing of critical minerals.

India's Dependence & Trends

- Imports rising: \$14.1 million (2014) → \$17.5 million (2024)
- >45% imports from China → high strategic vulnerability

China's Dominance

- ~50% global reserves
- >60% global production
- ~92% refining capacity (key control point)
- ~30% global exports
- Dominance due to processing + technology, not just resources

What are Rare Earths?

- 17 elements (as per IEA)
  - LREEs: Lanthanum, Cerium, Neodymium etc.
  - HREEs: Dysprosium, Terbium, Yttrium etc.
- Promethium excluded (radioactive, not mineable)

Strategic Importance

- Critical for:
  - EVs & wind turbines (clean energy)

## UPSC QUESTION



46. Consider the following statements with regard to involvement of private entities in India's space programme :

1. The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) is an autonomous agency formed to facilitate participation of private entities.
2. Agnikul Cosmos launched the world's first flight using 3D-printed rocket engine.
3. Skyroot Aerospace has developed liquid fuel for GSLV.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Partial Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

Prelims Power Play - 29th August 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 8 of 10 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	31s	97

With reference to IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre), consider the following statements:

1. It functions under the Department of Space.
2. It is the commercial arm of ISRO handling satellite launches.
3. It is headquartered in Bengaluru.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Answer Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** IN-SPACe functions under the **Department of Space (DoS)**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The **commercial arm** of ISRO is **NSIL**, not IN-SPACe. IN-SPACe is a **regulator & promoter** for private space sector participation.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** IN-SPACe HQ is in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, not Bengaluru (Bengaluru is HQ of NSIL).  
Hence, **only 1 statement is correct.**

## UPSC QUESTION



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Direct Match from our Static Test

Science and Technology Advance Test 1

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 48 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	57s	144

With reference to IN-SPACe, consider the following statements:

1. IN-SPACe will be a single window nodal agency to permit and oversee the space activities.
2. Indian National Space Promotion Board will be set for the promotion of the private space entrepreneurs.
3. ISRO will control and monitor the working of IN-SPACe.

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

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

Answer Explanation

- Statement 1 is correct: IN-SPACe is to be established as a single window nodal agency, with its own cadre, which will permit and oversee the following activities of NGPEs (non- government private entities).
  - Space activities including building of launch vehicles and satellites and providing space-based services as per the definition of space activities.
  - Sharing of space infrastructure and premises under the control of ISRO with due considerations to on-going activities.
  - Establishment of temporary facilities within premises under ISRO control based on safety norms and feasibility assessment.
  - Establishment of new space infrastructure and facilities, by NGPEs, in pursuance of space activities based on safety norms and other statutory guidelines and necessary clearances.
  - Initiation of launch campaign and launch based on readiness of launch vehicle and spacecraft systems, ground and user segment.
  - Building, operation and control of spacecraft for registration as Indian Satellite by NGPEs and the entire associated infrastructure for the same.
  - Usage of spacecraft data and rolling out of space-based services and the entire associated infrastructure for the same.
- IN-SPACe will draw up an integrated launch manifesto considering the requirements for ISRO, NSIL and NGPEs based on priorities and readiness level.
- IN-SPACe will work out a suitable mechanism for promotion & handholding, sharing of technology and expertise to encourage participation of NGPEs in space activities.
- In order to carry out the space activities, capital-intensive, high technology facilities will be required by NGPEs. These facilities, spread across various ISRO Centres, shall be permitted for use by NGPEs.
- IN-SPACe will work out a suitable mechanism to offer sharing of technology, expertise and facilities on free of cost wherever feasible or at reasonable cost basis to promote NGPEs.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Indian National Space Promotion Board will be set up to strengthen the Department of Space and for the promotion of the private space entrepreneurs or non-government space entrepreneurs. The architecture of IN-SPACe will be multi-disciplinary review and assessment mechanism comprising of four Directorates for Technical, Legal, Safety & Security, Monitoring and Promotion and will assist IN-SPACe in carrying out its functions.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** IN-SPACe will act as an autonomous body, under DOS, as a single window nodal agency for enabling and regulating space activities and usage of ISRO facilities by NGPEs. The overall idea is to let ISRO concentrate on essential activities like research and development, planetary exploration, and strategic use of space, while freeing itself from ancillary or routine work, which could easily be done by private industry.
- IN-SPACe will also permit establishment of facilities, within ISRO premises, based on safety norms and feasibility assessment. The decision of IN-SPACe shall be final and binding on all stakeholders including ISRO. NGPEs will not be required to seek separate permission from ISRO.
- **Santosh Sir's Option Elimination Technique:** Generally, the authority responsible given in the statement tends to be incorrect. Statement 3 can be eliminated.

## UPSC QUESTION



46. Consider the following statements with regard to involvement of private entities in India's space programme :

1. The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) is an autonomous agency formed to facilitate participation of private entities.
2. Agnikul Cosmos launched the world's first flight using 3D-printed rocket engine.
3. Skyroot Aerospace has developed liquid fuel for GSLV.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Direct Match from our Static Test

Science and Technology Advance Test 1

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 71 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 15s	157

Consider the following statements about 'Vikram-S' launch vehicle-

1. It is India's first privately developed launch vehicle.
2. It offers many services like multi-orbit insertion, and interplanetary missions.
3. Current version of this launch vehicle is not able to carry satellites in a sub-orbital flight.
4. It can be assembled and launched within 2 days from any launch site.

Choose the correct statement/s-

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

**Answer Explanation**

**Context-**  
India's first privately developed launch vehicle is set to make its maiden flight from Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) launchpad at Sriharikota. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

**Mission Prarambh-**  
Under this mission, Vikram-S will carry 3 customer satellites in a sub-orbital flight. **So, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Sub-orbital flights travel slower than orbital velocity — they are fast enough to reach outer space but not fast enough to stay in orbit around the Earth.

Also, Spacekidz, a Chennai-based aerospace startup, will fly 'Fun-Sat', a 2.5 kg payload developed by students from India, the US, Singapore and Indonesia, on Vikram-S.

**Features of Vikram-S launch vehicle-**  
Skyroot was the first startup to sign a memorandum of understanding with ISRO for launching its rockets. Its launch vehicles have been crafted especially for the small satellite market. They come in three forms, Vikram I, II, and III. More than 20,000 small satellites are estimated to be launched in the coming decade, and the Vikram series is designed to enable this through unprecedented mass production and affordability.

Vikram-S offers many services like multi-orbit insertion, and interplanetary missions; while providing customised, dedicated and ride-share options covering a wide spectrum of small satellite customer needs. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

Skyroot claims a Vikam rocket can be assembled and launched within 24 hours from any launch site and has the "lowest cost in the payload segment". **So, statement 4 is incorrect.**

## UPSC QUESTION



48. Which of the following statements with regard to GenomeIndia Project is/are correct ?

1. It is a part of the Human Genome Project.
2. The project is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India.
3. Its primary aim is to build a catalogue of genetic diversity of the Indian population.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our Optima Sectional Test

Science Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 24 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	52s	74

Consider the following statements regarding the Genome India Project:

1. It aims to build a catalogue of genetic variations that reflect the unique diversity of the Indian population.
2. Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC), Mumbai is India's first national life science data repository.
3. The Genome India Project is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Genome India Project seeks to map the genetic diversity of India by creating a database of genetic variations among the Indian population.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) is located in **Faridabad**, not Mumbai.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The project is funded by the **Department of Biotechnology** under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**.

## UPSC QUESTION



48. Which of the following statements with regard to GenomeIndia Project is/are correct ?

1. It is a part of the Human Genome Project.
2. The project is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India.
3. Its primary aim is to build a catalogue of genetic diversity of the Indian population.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

Prelims Power Play - 13th April 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 10 of 10 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	26s	220

Consider the following information:

Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** The Genome India project will open up the possibility of personalised medicine, and faster and efficient diagnostics

**Statement-II:** The primary objective of Genome India is to build a comprehensive catalogue of genetic variations that reflect the unique diversity of the Indian population

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 correct, but Statement-II is incorrect

Answer Explanation

**The genome database will open up the possibility of personalised medicine, and faster and efficient diagnostics.**

**What is GenomeIndia?**

GenomeIndia is a pioneering scientific project funded by the **Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India**. The project marks a landmark collaboration of 20 academic and research institutions to drive a genomics-based health revolution for India.

The primary objective of GenomeIndia is to build a comprehensive catalogue of genetic variations that reflect the unique diversity of the Indian population.

The GenomeIndia project has accomplished the following goals with which it was started.

A total of 20,000 samples have been collected from 83 diverse populations, cutting across the length and breadth of India, leading to the establishment of a robust biobank for future research purposes.

Whole genome sequencing has been completed for 10,000 samples towards creating a comprehensive catalog of India's unique genetic diversity. This will lead to a representative reference genome for the Indian population,

Whole genome sequencing data for 10,000 individuals have been archived at the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC). Access to this data will be available through the FeED protocol and governed by the **BIOTECH-PRIDE guidelines**.

The analysis of the sequencing data will provide a pathway towards affordable genomics-based diagnostic tools and precision medicine tailored to Indian population. **GenomeIndia** data will serve as a critical national resource for advancing public health in India and marks a significant stride toward building a healthier nation.

## UPSC QUESTION



48. Which of the following statements with regard to GenomeIndia Project is/are correct ?

1. It is a part of the Human Genome Project.
2. The project is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India.
3. Its primary aim is to build a catalogue of genetic diversity of the Indian population.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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Direct Match from our OPTIMA card

The infographic is titled 'OPTIMIZE IAS GENOME INDIA PROJECT'. It features a central map of India with various regions highlighted in different colors. Surrounding the map are several text boxes and icons. At the top, it says 'GENOME INDIA PROJECT' and 'Cataloguing the Genetic Variation in Indians'. Below this, there are four main sections: 'Reference Genome for India', 'Disease gene identification', 'Capacity building & networking', and 'Genetic basis for adverse effects and response to drugs'. Each section contains a brief description of its goals. At the bottom, it mentions 'LAQSHYA OPTIMA 2026' and 'IMPORTANT EXPECTED QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMS 2026'. The infographic also includes logos of various partner institutions and the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

## UPSC QUESTION



49. Which of the following statements with regard to the National Quantum Mission (NQM) is/are correct ?

1. It aims at developing intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50 – 1000 physical qubits.
2. Its implementation includes setting up of four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) in academic and national R&D institutes across India.

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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## Direct Match from our Static test

Science and Technology Advance Test 1

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 80 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Consider the following statements regarding the National Quantum Mission.

1. India is the third country to have a dedicated quantum mission after the US and China.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Communications
3. The scheme aims to create an inclusive ecosystem in the field of Quantum Technology (QT).

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

## UPSC QUESTION



49. Which of the following statements with regard to the National Quantum Mission (NQM) is/are correct ?

1. It aims at developing intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50 – 1000 physical qubits.
2. Its implementation includes setting up of four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) in academic and national R&D institutes across India.

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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## Direct Match from Optima cards



### QUANTUM SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES AND SECURITY



#### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF QUANTUM SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (2025)

- **UN Initiative:** Declared to commemorate 100 years of Werner Heisenberg's quantum mechanics paper.
- **Global Collaboration:** Supported by over 70 nations, highlighting global interest in quantum advancements.
- **Focus Areas:** Public awareness, education, and policy-making to enhance understanding of quantum technologies.

#### NATIONAL QUANTUM MISSION INDIA

- Aim is to build a strong ecosystem in quantum technology (QT) and make India a global leader. Timeline: 2023–2031 under the Department of Science & Technology.
- **Focus Areas:**
  - **Quantum Computing:** Develop systems with up to 1,000 qubits.
  - **Quantum Communication:** Establish secure 2,000 km quantum networks using QKD and satellite-based communication and Global quantum links
  - **Quantum Materials:** Research superconductors and semiconductor structures.
  - **Quantum sensing & metrology:** Atomic Clock
  - **T-Hubs:** Develop hubs for computation, sensing, and quantum devices.

#### GOOGLE'S WILLOW CHIP

- **Features:**
  - **105 qubits, significantly enhanced error reduction.**
  - Outperforms classical systems by performing decade-scale tasks in minutes.
- **Impact:** Lays groundwork for real-world quantum computing.

#### KEYWORDS

- **Superposition:** Qubits exist in multiple states simultaneously.
- **Entanglement:** Correlation between qubits regardless of distance.
- **Interference:** Enables precise quantum state control.

#### BLOCKCHAIN AND HOLOGRAMS FOR DRUG AUTHENTICATION

- **Holograms:** Enable tamper-proof packaging and enhanced traceability.
- **Blockchain:** Tracks shipments securely, deters counterfeiting.
- **Urgency:** India, the world's "pharmacy," faces rising counterfeit drug concerns, requiring regulatory reforms and secure technologies.
- **Basic Blockchain Security**
  - **Core Principles:**
    - **Cryptographic Integrity:** Blocks linked securely via cryptography.
    - **Decentralization:** Eliminates single failure points.
    - **Consensus Mechanisms:** Ensure authenticity of transactions.
  - **Applications:** Used for drug traceability, cybersecurity, and secure financial operations.

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FOR SANTOSH SIR'S 2027 PRELIMS MENTORSHIP

## UPSC QUESTION



60. Consider the following statements about Mission Sudarshan Chakra of India :

1. It aims to enhance India's air defence, ballistic missile defence and aerial offensive capabilities.
2. This Mission is being designed to enhance rapid, precise, and powerful defence responses, reinforcing India's strategic autonomy.
3. One of the aims of this Mission is to cover all public places of India by an expanded nationwide security shield by 2035.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Direct Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

⊗ Prelims Power Play - 16th August 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 10 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
3s	24s	184

Mission Sudarshan Chakra recently in news is:

- A India's first indigenous laser-guided bomb
- B India's multi-layered air defence system akin to Israel's Iron Dome
- C National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) unit for counter-terrorism
- D Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System

⊗ Answer Explanation

**Why this Question?**

In his Independence Day address on 15 August 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the **Sudarshan Chakra Mission**, an ambitious project to develop a fully **indigenous air defence system** by 2035. The Prime Minister stressed that **national security cannot rest on foreign dependence**. Self-reliance (Aatmanirbharta) is seen as the **bedrock of strength, dignity, and the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047**.

## UPSC QUESTION



60. Consider the following statements about Mission Sudarshan Chakra of India :

1. It aims to enhance India's air defence, ballistic missile defence and aerial offensive capabilities.
2. This Mission is being designed to enhance rapid, precise, and powerful defence responses, reinforcing India's strategic autonomy.
3. One of the aims of this Mission is to cover all public places of India by an expanded nationwide security shield by 2035.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Full Length Test

Optima Full Length Test 3

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 71 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	36s	117

Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Mission Sudarshan Chakra aims to establish an indigenous air defence shield for India by 2030.

Statement II:

Modern warfare has shifted from conventional battlefield engagements to multi-domain conflicts involving air, space, cyber, and unmanned systems.

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

- (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (B) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer Explanation

Context:

In his Independence Day address on 15 August 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the **Sudarshan Chakra Mission**, an ambitious project to develop a fully **indigenous air defence system** by 2035.

Mission **Sudarshan Chakra** aims to develop a comprehensive **indigenous, multi-layered air defence shield for India by 2035**, not by 2030. Its purpose is to secure both **strategic assets** (military bases, command centres) and **civilian infrastructure** (railways, hospitals, faith centres) from aerial and missile threats.

At the same time, **modern warfare has evolved** beyond conventional battles into **multi-domain conflicts**, where threats arise simultaneously from **air, space, cyber networks, drones, and missile systems**. This shift underscores the need for a robust and technologically superior indigenous air defence capability.

## UPSC QUESTION



60. Consider the following statements about Mission Sudarshan Chakra of India :

1. It aims to enhance India's air defence, ballistic missile defence and aerial offensive capabilities.
2. This Mission is being designed to enhance rapid, precise, and powerful defence responses, reinforcing India's strategic autonomy.
3. One of the aims of this Mission is to cover all public places of India by an expanded nationwide security shield by 2035.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Sectional Test

Science Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 100 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	44s	126

Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Mission Sudarshan Chakra aims to strengthen India's deterrent and offensive capabilities.

Statement II:

Mission Sudarshan Chakra forms part of India's multi-layered missile defence architecture.

Statement III:

Mission Sudarshan Chakra is restricted to protecting military installations alone.

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

- A Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, and both explain Statement I
- B Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement I
- C Only one of the Statements II and III is correct, and that explains Statement I
- D Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer Explanation

- **Statement I is correct.** Mission Sudarshan Chakra is aimed at enhancing India's deterrent and offensive capabilities through the development of an indigenous air and missile defence system.
- **Statement II is correct and explains Statement I.** By forming part of India's multi-layered missile defence architecture and integrating long-range air defence initiatives such as Project Kushi, the mission directly contributes to strengthening national deterrence.
- **Statement III is incorrect.** Mission Sudarshan Chakra is not limited to military installations; it also covers civilian, strategic and public infrastructure under an expanded nationwide security shield.

UPSC QUESTION



60. Consider the following statements about Mission Sudarshan Chakra of India :

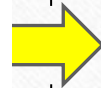
1. It aims to enhance India's air defence, ballistic missile defence and aerial offensive capabilities.
2. This Mission is being designed to enhance rapid, precise, and powerful defence responses, reinforcing India's strategic autonomy.
3. One of the aims of this Mission is to cover all public places of India by an expanded nationwide security shield by 2035.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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**INDIA'S INDIGENOUS AIR DEFENCE MISSION: SUDARSHAN CHAKRA (2035)**

**MISSION SUDARSHAN CHAKRA**

- Launched: 15 Aug 2025 – India's 79th Independence Day
- Aim: **Indigenous, multi-layered National Security Shield by 2035**
- Symbolism: **Inspired by Lord Krishna's Sudarshan Chakra**
- Aatmanirbharta in Defence = National Dignity
- Robust Deterrence = Secured Borders & Assets
- Path to Viksit Bharat @ 2047

**MISSION SUDARSHAN CHAKRA**

- A national security mission to build an advanced, multi-layered shield around strategic, civilian, and religious sites.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Defence.**
- **Objectives:**
  - **Neutralise threats from air, land, sea, and cyber domains.**
  - Ensure indigenous R&D-led development of defence technology.
  - Provide integrated protection for vital infrastructure, cities, and sacred places.

**FEATURES**

- **Multi-layered defence:** Combines surveillance, interception, and counter-attack.
- **Comprehensive coverage:** Strategic assets + civilian hubs + religious sites.
- **Advanced technology:** AI-enabled tracking, radar, cyber defence, and kinetic + non-kinetic systems.
- **Indigenous development:** Designed, developed, and produced in India.
- **Long-term vision:** Expansion, modernisation, and strengthening till 2035.

**CURRENT DEFENCE PREPAREDNESS**

- **S-400 Triumf (Russia): Long-range SAM (400 km, 30 km altitude), tracks 300 targets;** neutralises aircraft, drones, cruise & ballistic missiles. India procured 5 (2018); 3 operational → proven in Operation Sindoor (2025).
- **IACCS (IAF):** Real-time, automated, network-centric air defence network integrating radars, satellites & AD systems; enabled real-time interception in Operation Sindoor.

**INDIGENOUS SYSTEMS (DRDO-LED)**

- **Akash SAM:** Medium-range, 30 km; operational with Army/IAF.
- **QRSAM:** 30 km; mobile, rapid deployment for moving formations.
- **XRSAM (dev.):** ~350 km; bridges Akash & S-400 gap.
- **VSHORADS:** 6 km MANPADS; counters UAVs, helicopters, low-flying aircraft.
- **Prithvi Air Defence (PAD):** 50–80 km; exo-atmospheric interceptor, BMD system.
- **Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs):** Laser-based; counter drones & hypersonics (future).

**SIGNIFICANCE**

- Strategic Deterrence: India's "Iron Dome" equivalent, adapted to its threat matrix.
- National Sovereignty: Cuts foreign dependence.
- Comprehensive Security: Covers conventional, hybrid & cyber threats.
- Layered Protection: Safeguards strategic, civilian & religious sites.
- Defence Modernisation: Strengthens Aatmanirbhar Bharat & boosts exports.

# PRELIMS 2027 MENTORSHIP



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UPSC QUESTION



50. Which of the following statements with regard to India's Deep Ocean Mission is/are correct ?

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India.
2. Matsya-6000 has been designed to carry 3 people for deep sea exploration.
3. Samudrayaan is a project under this mission.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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# Samudrayaan Mission

Samudrayaan is India's first manned ocean mission aimed at exploring the deep sea using a specialized submersible, Matsya-6000, to reach depths of 6,000 meters.

- A mission launched in 2021 to unlock the mysteries of the deep ocean for mineral resources and develop deep sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.
- Aimed at supporting the Blue Economy initiatives of the Indian government by developing niche technology, vehicles to carry out subsea activities.
- The MoES is the nodal ministry to implement this multi-institutional ambitious mission.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (Pune) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will actively participate in this mission.

## DEEP OCEAN MISSION

▶ Deep Sea Mining through 'Underwater Vehicles' and 'Underwater Robotics'

▶ Asserting exclusive rights to explore polymetallic nodules from seabed over 75,000 sq km of areas in international water

▶ Estimated polymetallic nodules resource potential: 380 million tonnes (MT)

▶ Development of ocean climate change advisory services

▶ Technology for sustainable utilisation of marine bio-resources

### THESE POLYMETALLIC NODULES CONTAIN

Manganese 92.6 MT

Nickel 4.7

Copper 4.3

Cobalt 1

(\*figures are rounded off)

▶ Deep ocean survey and exploration

▶ Energy from the ocean and offshore-based desalination

▶ Krill fishery from southern ocean

- MATSYA 6000
  - A manned submersible vehicle developed by NIOT under the Samudrayaan mission to facilitate humans in the deep ocean in exploring mineral resources like Nickel, Cobalt, Rare Earths, Manganese, etc.
  - A spherical, titanium hull equipped with life-support, capable of floating under water and collecting soil, rock samples from seabed with attached robotic arms.

- National Institute of Ocean Technology
  - Established in 1993 as an autonomous society under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), NIOT is based in Chennai.
  - The major aim of starting NIOT was to develop reliable indigenous technologies to solve various engineering problems associated with harvesting of non-living and living resources in India's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
  - Significance
    - India's seabed and the relevant zones with economic potential are not deeper than 6,000 metres.

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## UPSC QUESTION



99. Consider the following statements about the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India :

1. NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.
2. All the NBFCs operating in India have to be registered with the RBI.
3. NBFCs form part of the payment and settlement system and can issue cheque drawn on itself.
4. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to the depositors of deposit taking NBFCs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Direct Match from our Optima cards

### Non-Banking Financial Company

**Proposed NBFC categories**

- **Features of NBFCs:**
  - NBFC cannot accept demand deposits.
  - NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself.
  - The deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is not available to depositors of NBFCs.
- **What are the requirements for registration with RBI?**
  - Should be a company registered under Section 3 of the companies Act, 1956
  - Should have a minimum net owned fund of ₹ 200 lakh
- **Concept-**
  - A company registered under the Companies Act, 1956
  - The business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by Government or local authority or other marketable securities

### NBFC vs BANK

Point in difference	NBFCs	Banks
Demand Deposits	Cannot Accept	Can Accept
Drawing Checks	Cannot issue or draw a cheques on its own	Can issue cheques freely
Deposit Insurance facility	Not available for NBFC depositors	Is available for banker
Act for Regulation	They are covered under Companies Act, 1956	They are covered under Banking regulation Act, 1949
payment and settlement system	No	Yes
Public Sector Lending	No	Yes
Cash Reserve	No	Yes
Regulators	Insurance Companies- IRDA, Merchant Banks- SEBI, Micro Finance Institutions- State Government, RBI and NABARD	By the RBI

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## UPSC QUESTION



99. Consider the following statements about the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India :

1. NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.
2. All the NBFCs operating in India have to be registered with the RBI.
3. NBFCs form part of the payment and settlement system and can issue cheque drawn on itself.
4. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to the depositors of deposit taking NBFCs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Direct Match from our Daily Quiz

⊗ Prelims Power Play - 7th June 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 5 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	31s	91

Consider the following statements about Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC):

1. It cannot accept demand deposits.
2. It is not required to maintain SLR or CRR.

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

NBFCs lend and make investments but it cannot accept demand deposits. NBFCs do not need to maintain SLR and CRR.

## UPSC QUESTION



99. Consider the following statements about the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India :

1. NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.
2. All the NBFCs operating in India have to be registered with the RBI.
3. NBFCs form part of the payment and settlement system and can issue cheque drawn on itself.
4. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to the depositors of deposit taking NBFCs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Direct Match from our Daily Quiz

Prelims Power Play - 11th April 2026

SECTION 1

Q. 10 of 10 Marks : 2.0

✗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	48s	61

With reference to the Non-banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. They cannot engage in the acquisition of securities issued by the government.
2. They cannot accept demand deposits like Savings Account.
3. Public deposits with NBFCs are not insured under the deposit insurance scheme

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A 1 and 2 only
- B 2 and 3 only
- C 1, 2 and 3
- D None

Answer Explanation

NBFCs in India are regulated by RBI under the RBI Act, 1934. Statement 1 is incorrect as NBFCs can invest in government securities as part of their investment activities. Statement 2 is correct; NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits (e.g., savings accounts) like banks, only term deposits with maturity  $\geq 12$  months, to prevent bank-like risks without banking license. This distinction ensures financial stability, as per RBI guidelines and Section 45(f) of RBI Act.

**Why this question?**  
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed draft guidelines for Non-Banking Financial Company Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) entities, which mark a significant shift in the regulatory framework. The RBI plans to move away from a complex parametric scoring system that considered factors such as size, leverage, interconnectedness, and complexity. Under the new proposal, any NBFC with assets of ₹1 lakh crore or more will automatically be classified as an NBFC in the Upper Layer. This change is intended to make the classification process more transparent, simple, and objective, while reducing regulatory ambiguity and discretion. The revised framework has important implications for large financial entities such as Tata Sons. With an asset base of around ₹1.75 lakh crore, Tata Sons clearly meets the new threshold and will continue to be classified under the Upper Layer.

However, there is still uncertainty regarding whether Core Investment Companies (CICs) that fall under the NBFC-UL category will be required to list on stock exchanges. The RBI has not yet provided final clarity on this issue, and its final decision will be crucial.

Overall, the new approach signals a shift towards rule-based regulation, with asset size becoming the primary determinant for classification. If implemented, it may lead large NBFCs to reconsider their strategies in response to stricter regulatory requirements.

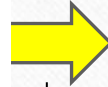
### UPSC QUESTION



9. Which one of the following statements about the Eka Movement and Bardoli Satyagraha is correct ?
- (a) The Eka Movement was throughout supported and organized by the Congress while Bardoli Satyagraha was initially independent of Congress influence and was only in the last stages supported by the Congress.
- (b) The Eka Movement was provided leadership by the *taluqdars* of Awadh, whereas the Bardoli Satyagraha was a movement of the landless labourers.
- (c) The Bardoli Satyagraha was a campaign against the enhancement of land revenue, while the Eka Movement was a protest against excessive extraction of rents.
- (d) The Eka Movement was located in the Varanasi and Mirzapur districts of the present-day U.P., while the Bardoli Satyagraha took place in Saurashtra.

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History Modern India Advance Part 2

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 42 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 21s	147

Consider the following statements regarding the Eka Movement:

1. The grassroot leadership of Eka Movement came from low-caste leaders and many small zamindars.
2. Eka movement sparked off towards the end of 1921 in some northern districts of West Bengal.
3. The main reasons for the movement were oppression of thikadars in charge of revenue collection and practice of share-rents.

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

A 1 and 3 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 2 only

D 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer Explanation

#### Eka Movement

- Towards the end of 1921, peasant discontent resurfaced in some northern districts of the United Provinces—Hardoi, Bahraich, Sitapur. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.** (100 years in 2021)
- The issues involved were:
  - (i) high rents—50 per cent higher than the recorded rates;
  - (ii) oppression of thikadars in charge of revenue collection; and
  - (iii) practice of share-rents. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The meetings of the Eka or the Unity Movement involved a symbolic religious ritual in which the assembled peasants vowed that they would
  - pay only the recorded rent but would pay it on time;
  - not leave when evicted;
  - refuse to do forced labour;
  - give no help to criminals;
  - abide by panchayat decisions.
- The grassroot leadership of the Eka Movement came from Madari Pasi and other low-caste leaders, and many small zamindars. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.** By March 1922, severe repression by authorities brought the movement to an end.
- Balance-Sheet of Peasant Movements: These movements created an atmosphere for post-independence agrarian reforms, for instance, abolition of zamindari.
- They eroded the power of the landed class, thus adding to the transformation of the agrarian structure. These movements were based on the ideology of nationalism. The nature of these movements was similar in diverse areas.

**LAQSHYA 2027**

CSE 2027 PRELIMS MENTORSHIP BY SANTOSH SIR

**10 DAILY MOST**

**IMPORTANT QUESTIONS**

(PYQ linked Current Affairs Questions)

*Daily Practice = Daily Progress = Daily Confidence*

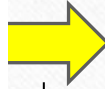


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### UPSC QUESTION



9. Which one of the following statements about the Eka Movement and Bardoli Satyagraha is correct ?
- (a) The Eka Movement was throughout supported and organized by the Congress while Bardoli Satyagraha was initially independent of Congress influence and was only in the last stages supported by the Congress.
  - (b) The Eka Movement was provided leadership by the *taluqdars* of Awadh, whereas the Bardoli Satyagraha was a movement of the landless labourers.
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History Modern India Advance Part 2

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 27 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	53s	128

How many among the following were associated with Sardar Vallabhai Patel?

1. Kheda peasant movement
2. Nagpur flag Satyagraha
3. Borsad punitive tax satyagraha
4. Bardoli Satyagraha

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer Explanation

Sardar Vallabhai Patel was invoked in all the four movements.

- At Kheda, Patel acted as a collaborator of Gandhi at local levels to resolve the rental issues of peasants.
- The Nagpur flag Satyagraha aimed at freedom to hoist the national flag. It happened in 1923 under the leadership of Patel.
- The Borsad tax Satyagraha was launched by Patel in 1923 against the imposition of new tax which would help in preventing local dacoities.
- The Bardoli movement of 1928 is often considered as the first successful Satyagraha of India. It was organised by Patel to revamp the existing agrarian political order. **So, option D is the answer.**

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## UPSC QUESTION



44. Which of the following statements with regard to Black Boxes used in modern aircrafts is/are correct ?

1. They carry a beacon emitting red light pulses to facilitate underwater detection.
2. They record both the cockpit voice and flight data.
3. Their memory units are made using either stainless steel or titanium.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

⊗ Prelims Power Play - 1st March 2026

SECTION 1

Q. 4 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Consider the following regarding black box:

1. It stores data (aircraft parameters) and sound (pilot, copilot, radio communications and the cockpit ambient noise).
2. It is crash-protected up to a certain level.
3. It is resistant to fire, explosion, impact and water immersion.
4. It is black in colour

How many of the above is /are is correct?

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

## Partial Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Sectional Test (Physical Geography (India))

### UPSC QUESTION



34. Which of the following geographical features or phenomena is/are associated with the Peninsular Block of India ?

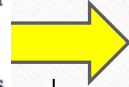
1. Submergence of parts of the western coast due to tectonic activity
2. Presence of residual mountain ranges such as the Veliconda hills and Mahendragiri hills
3. Deep, V-shaped river valleys formed by fast-flowing rivers

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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Physical Geography (India)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 72 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 46s	133

Which of the following geological events in the distant past have shaped the present drainage systems of Peninsular India?

1. Subsidence of the eastern flank of the Peninsula leading to its submergence below the sea during the early tertiary period.
2. Upheaval of the Himalayas when the northern flank of the Peninsular block was subjected to subsidence and the consequent trough faulting.
3. Slight tilting of the Peninsular block from northeast to the southwest direction gave orientation to the entire drainage system towards the Arabian sea.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer Explanation

- Subsidence of the western flank of the Peninsula leading to its submergence below the sea during the early tertiary period.
- Upheaval of the Himalayas when the northern flank of the Peninsular block was subjected to subsidence and the consequent trough faulting.
- Slight tilting of the Peninsular block from northwest to the southeast direction gave orientation to the entire drainage system towards the Bay of Bengal.

## Partial Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Sectional Test (Physical Geography (India))

### UPSC QUESTION



34. Which of the following geographical features or phenomena is/are associated with the Peninsular Block of India ?

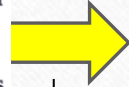
1. Submergence of parts of the western coast due to tectonic activity
2. Presence of residual mountain ranges such as the Veliconda hills and Mahendragiri hills
3. Deep, V-shaped river valleys formed by fast-flowing rivers

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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Physical Geography (India)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 84 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	45s	171

Which of the following physiographic features:

1. Tors
2. Rift Valley
3. Hummocky hills
4. Block mountains

How many of the above are physiographic features of Peninsular Plateau? Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer Explanation

Some of the important physiographic features of Peninsular plateau region are tors, block mountains, rift valleys, spurs, bare rocky structures, series of hummocky hills and wall-like quartzite dykes offering natural sites for water storage. The western and northwestern part of the plateau has an empatich presence of black soil.

# UPSC PRELIMS 2027

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Paper I	144.66
Paper II	107.50

Roll Number	0390455
Name	SANTOSH PANDEY
Marks Obtained	
Paper I	138.66
Paper II	106.68

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## UPSC QUESTION



24. In what way(s) does the Vizhinjam International Seaport represent a structural shift in India's maritime trade and logistics policy ?

1. By functioning exclusively as a domestic cargo hub to reduce reliance on coastal shipping and eliminate the need for foreign collaborations.
2. By focusing primarily on passenger cruise tourism and heritage shipping to increase Kerala's profile as a maritime heritage destination.
3. By leveraging its natural deep draft and strategic location to reduce dependence on foreign trans-shipment ports, enhance revenue retention, and reposition India in regional maritime trade.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Sectional Test

Economy Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 3 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
4s	42s	72

Consider the following statements regarding the Vizhinjam Seaport:

1. It is India's first deep-water transshipment hub.
2. It was developed as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project.
3. It is the first all-weather, greenfield port in India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**X** Answer Explanation

- **India's first deep-water transshipment hub:** Vizhinjam International Seaport, located in Kerala, is designed as India's first deep-water transshipment hub capable of handling large container ships directly without the need for feeder vessels.
- **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project:** The port has been developed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model between the Government of Kerala and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ).
- **First all-weather, greenfield port in India:** Vizhinjam is India's first all-weather, greenfield seaport project — a completely new port constructed from scratch rather than upgrading an existing facility. Its natural depth and proximity to international shipping routes make it strategically significant.

### UPSC QUESTION



26. Which of the following with reference to Indian States is/are **not** correct ?

1. Uttar Pradesh shares its boundary with the highest number of other Indian States.
2. Rajasthan shares the longest international border among all Indian States.
3. Sikkim is the only State that shares its boundary with just one other Indian State.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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Physical Geography (India)

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 91 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 24s	113

States in India share borders with multiple states. But how many state/states in India share borders with only one state?

- A One state
- B Two states
- C Three states
- D No states

Answer Explanation

Sikkim (with West Bengal) and Meghalaya (with Assam) share boundaries with only one state. All other states share boundaries with more than one state.

## UPSC QUESTION



96. Which of the following statements about insurance in aviation sector is/are correct ?

1. 'Aviation Hull Insurance' covers the physical aircraft, including the body, engine, and on-board equipment.
2. Under the Montreal Convention, adopted in 1999 by over 130 countries, including India, airlines are strictly liable to pay compensation to the family/nominee of every deceased passenger without requiring the family to prove fault.

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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### 4. Air India Crash: What the Montreal Convention means for grieving families and victims

#### Context:

- On 12 June 2025, an Air India Boeing 787-8 (AI171) crashed in Ahmedabad, killing 241 of 242 onboard, mostly Indian and British nationals. In the aftermath, families of the victims are seeking legal remedies and compensation for their loss.

#### Montreal Convention:

- Officially called the **Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air**.
- The **Montreal Convention** is an international treaty adopted in 1999 by the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**.
- India ratified the treaty in 2009 and has incorporated it into domestic law under the **Carriage by Air Act, 1972**.

#### Applicability:

- Applies to **international flights between countries that are parties to the treaty**.
- It standardizes airline liability in case of:
  - Passenger **injury or death**
  - Loss or damage** to baggage
  - Delays** in flights

#### Key Provisions Relevant to Victims:

- Strict Liability (Article 21):** Airlines are liable for up to **128,821 Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)** (~₹1.4 crore) per **passenger** regardless of fault.
- Unlimited Liability:** If the claimant proves that the airline was **at fault**, there is **no upper cap** on the compensation.
- Advance Payment Requirement (Article 28):** In case of death or injury, airlines must make **prompt advance payments** to help families with immediate expenses.
- Jurisdiction (Article 33):** Legal claims can be filed in the **country of destination, the country of departure and the passenger's permanent residence**, if the airline operates there.

#### Application in the Air India Crash Case:

- The Montreal Convention will guide the **compensation framework** for families of victims.
- Families do **not need to prove fault** for minimum compensation under strict liability.
- Additional compensation may be sought if **negligence or fault** (e.g., aircraft malfunction or pilot error) is proven.
- Affected families can **sue Air India** in Indian courts under the jurisdiction provisions of the Convention.

UPSC QUESTION

58. Consider the following statements in respect of questions asked by the Members in the Parliament of India :

1. Unstarred questions are those to which a Member desires an oral answer in the House.
2. Starred questions are those to which a Member desires a written answer.
3. No supplementary question can be asked on an unstarred question.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct ?

- (a) All the three statements are correct.
- (b) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2.
- (c) There is only one correct statement.
- (d) There is no correct statement.

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Polity Advance Test 1

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 87 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
9s	3m 46s	153

Consider the following statements regarding Question Hour.

1. Constitution provide guidelines on the kind of questions that
2. Questions have to be limited to 150 words.
3. The presiding officers of the two Houses decide whether a question answering by the government.
4. Information regarding matters which are sub-judice cannot

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

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

Answer Explanation

**Question Hour:**

The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for the Question Hour. However, in 2014 the Question Hour was shifted in the Rajya Sabha from 11 am to 12 noon.

During this one hour, Members of Parliament (MPs) ask questions to ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries.

The questions can also be asked to the private members (MPs who are not ministers).

**Regulation:** It is regulated according to parliamentary rules. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**

The presiding officers of the both Houses (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) are the final authority with respect to the conduct of Question Hour.

**Kinds of Questions:** There are three types of questions asked.

Starred question (distinguished by an asterisk)- this requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.

Unstarred question- this requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.

Short notice question is one that is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days. It is answered orally.

**Frequency:** Question Hour in both Houses is held on all days of the session. But there are two days when an exception is made.

When the President addresses MPs from both Houses.

The President's speech takes place at the beginning of a new Lok Sabha and on the first day of a new Parliament year.

On the day the Finance Minister presents the Budget.

Questions have to be limited to 150 words. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

The presiding officers of the two Houses decide whether a question raised by an MP will be admitted for answering by the government. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Information regarding matters which are sub-judice cannot be sought through question. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

## UPSC QUESTION



39. Which of the following statements with reference to Lake Turkana is/are correct ?

1. It is the largest desert lake in the world.
2. The lake is situated in South Sudan along the eastern fringe of the Sahara desert.
3. The lake is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is also referred to as the 'Jade Sea'.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Partial Match from our Optima cards

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### World Lakes In the News

Lakes	Details
Lake Baikal	Russia, Lake Baikal is the <b>deepest lake in the world</b> . It is also the largest freshwater lake in the world by volume.
Lake Albert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between <b>Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo</b></li> <li>The Lake is part of Africa's Rift valley lakes. It is Africa's seventh largest lake.</li> </ul>
Lake Kariba	Central Africa, between <b>Zambia and Zimbabwe</b> . Lake Kariba is the <b>world's largest artificial lake</b> and reservoir by volume. Situated on the south bank of the Zambezi River.
Lake Victoria	Largest lake in Africa and the world's second-largest freshwater lake. The <b>source of the White Nile</b> . Faces environmental challenges such as pollution and overfishing. Borders three countries: <b>Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda</b> .
Lake Tana	The largest lake in Ethiopia. <b>Source of the Blue Nile River</b> . Important for biodiversity and local agriculture.
Tiberias	City in Northern Israel. Tiberias is an Israeli city on the western <b>shore of the Sea of Galilee</b> . Sea of Galilee is a freshwater lake in Israel, which is also known as Lake Tiberias or Lake Kinneret.
Lake Hamun	Lake on the <b>Iran-Afghanistan border</b>
Lake Natron	On the border of <b>Tanzania and Kenya</b>
Lake Kariba	Lake Kariba borders <b>Zambia and Zimbabwe</b>
Lake Prespa	Great Prespa Lake is located on the border of <b>Albania, Greece, and North Macedonia</b> . Small Prespa Lake borders <b>Greece and Albania</b> .
Lake Turkana	Lake Turkana is a saline lake in the <b>Kenyan Rift Valley, in northern Kenya, with its far northern end crossing into Ethiopia</b> .
Lake Chad	At the conjunction of <b>Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Niger</b> . Conflict prone

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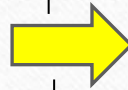
UPSC QUESTION

98. With reference to different Committees in India, consider the following details :

Sl. No.	Committee	Objective	Organization under which it was formed
1.	R.N. Malhotra Committee	Comprehensive reforms of Insurance sector in India	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
2.	L.C. Gupta Committee	Preparing a roadmap for the introduction of derivatives trading in India	Securities and Exchange Board of India
3.	Urjit R. Patel Committee	Preparing a roadmap for reforming bank lending to the Housing sector	Reserve Bank of India
4.	Y.H. Malegam Committee	Preparing a roadmap for reforms in Microfinance sector in India	Reserve Bank of India

In which of the above rows are all the details correctly matched ?

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



⊗ Prelims Power Play - 14th January 2026

SECTION 1

Q. 8 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

Consider the following pairs:

Committee	Topics
1.Narasimham Committee	Banking
2.Malhotra Committee	Insurance
3.Kelkar Committee	PPP
4.Urjit R. Patel Committee	Monetary Policy Framework

How many of the above is /are correct?

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

## UPSC QUESTION

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In which of the above rows are all the details correctly matched ?

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

## Partial Match from our Daily Prelims Notes

### Retail Investor Vulnerability:

- New investors lack understanding
- Influenced by “quick profit” narratives

### Structural Issues:

- Explosion of derivatives trading
- Focus shifted from **investment to speculation**

**SEBI's study:** 9 out of 10 retail traders incur losses in options trading

### Historical Evolution of Derivatives in India

- **L.C. Gupta Committee, 1998:** It recommended introduction of **futures & options**
- **J.R. Varma Committee, 2002:** Focus on strengthening market structure and risk management mechanisms.

How I Predicted UPSC CSE 2026

UPSC QUESTION

21. Consider the following statements with reference to India's response to climate change :

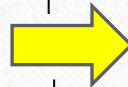
- I. India's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) is a crucial tool for achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
- II. India's 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) submitted in December, 2024 recorded around 8% decrease in Greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 over 2019.
- III. Climate-resilient development necessarily depends on quick and short-term achievement of emission reduction targets.

Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct ?

- 1. Statement I is empirically supported by statement II.
- 2. Statement III contradicts the approach implicit in statement I.
- 3. Statement I and statement III together establish the premise of long-term sustainability.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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



INDIA'S UPCOMING GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY SUBMISSION TO THE UN

WHY IN NEWS?

- India is in the final stages of preparing its **first-ever Biennial Transparency Report (BTR)** as part of its **commitment under the 2015 Paris Agreement** on climate change.

BIENNIAL TRANSPARENCY REPORT (BTR)

- **Biennial Transparency Report (BTR)** is submitted by all Parties under the **Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework**, detailing **GHG inventories and mitigation progress**.
- It follows a **standard UNFCCC format** and is **externally reviewed by independent experts**, ensuring higher transparency than BURS.
- **Mandatory for all:** National GHG inventory and progress on **NDC implementation; developed countries must also report finance/tech support provided**.
- **Optional for developing countries:** Adaptation actions and finance, technology, and capacity-building needs.
- Countries were to submit their **first BTR by Dec 2024**, with implementation gaining momentum at **COP29 in Baku**.
- **India's BTR** will include emissions up to 2022; despite rising totals post-COVID recovery, **per capita emissions remain < one-third of global average**.

BIENNIAL UPDATE REPORTS (BURS)

- **Biennial Update Reports (BURs)** are submitted by developing countries to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** under the **Paris and Cancún frameworks**.
- They provide **GHG inventories, mitigation actions, and progress updates** on climate efforts.
- Also outline **financial, technological, and capacity-building** needs for implementation.
- Submitted **every two years** and reviewed through **International Consultation and Analysis (ICA)** for transparency.

INDIA'S BIENNIAL UPDATE REPORT (BUR-4)

- India submitted **Biennial Update Report-4 (BUR-4)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**.
- **Emissions intensity of GDP fell 36% (2005-2020)**, showing cleaner growth per unit of economic output.
- Total emissions (2020): **2,959 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e, with net emissions 2,437 Mt** after forest and land absorption.
- Despite a **7.93% drop from 2019**, overall emissions have **nearly doubled since 1994**.
- **Gas-wise share:** CO<sub>2</sub> **80.5%**, methane **13.3%**, nitrous oxide **5.1%**.
- **Sector-wise share:** Energy **75.7%** (electricity **39%**), agriculture **13.7%**, industrial processes **8.1%**.

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## UPSC QUESTION



14. Which of the following statements on the Amaravati Stupa and its relief sculpture is/are correct ?

1. It was located in the lower Krishna valley.
2. In India, it was next only to the Sanchi Stupa in size.
3. The Amaravati school of sculpture made a lasting impact on the later South Indian sculpture, and its products were carried to Sri Lanka and South-east Asia.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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### Significance of Amaravati:

- Located on the **banks of the Krishna River** in present-day Andhra Pradesh.
- One of the **most important ancient urban and religious centres** in South India.
- Reached its peak during the **Satavahana period** (2nd century BCE – 3rd century CE). During this time, it emerged as a major centre of **Buddhism** and witnessed the construction of the famous **Mahachaitya (Great Stupa)**.
- The prosperity of **Amaravati** was supported by extensive **trade networks**, including links with **Roman trade**, which contributed to its **economic growth**.
- The **Satavahana rulers** provided significant **patronage to Buddhism**, which further enhanced the **religious importance** of the region. This period also saw the development of the renowned **Amaravati School of Art**.
- The **Amaravati School of Art** was one of the **three major schools of ancient Indian art**, along with the Gandhara School of Art and the Mathura School of Art.
- This school is characterized by the use of **white limestone** as the primary material for **sculpture**. The sculptures often depict **narrative panels** illustrating **Jataka stories**, which recount the **previous lives of the Buddha**.
- Another important feature of this school is the **early symbolic representation of the Buddha**, where he is depicted through **symbols** such as the **Bodhi tree**, **footprints**, or an **empty throne**, rather than in **human form**.
- It played a significant role in the spread of **Buddhism** beyond the Indian subcontinent, particularly to regions such as Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

## UPSC QUESTION



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⊗ Prelims Power Play - 5th April 2026

SECTION 1

Q. 3 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	23s	108

On April 2, Parliament passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to recognise Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh. Historically Amaravati was capital of:

A Kakatiya dynasty

B Satavahana dynasty

C Vijayanagar dynasty

D Chola dynasty

⊗ Answer Explanation

**Why this Question?**  
On April 2, Parliament passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to recognise Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh. Amaravati is an ancient city with history dating back to 3rd century BCE, linked to the Satavahana Dynasty. It is a major Buddhist centre, famous for the Amaravati Stupa (one of the oldest in India). Associated with teachings of Gautam Buddha (Kalachakra tradition). Also has temples, ruins, and sculptures, showing rich cultural heritage. Located on the banks of the Krishna River with nearby sites like Kondapalli Fort and Undavalli Caves.

UPSC QUESTION



42. Which of the following statements with regard to Large Language Models (LLMs) used in machine learning is/are correct ?

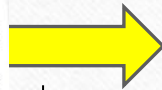
1. LLMs assign probabilities to the next possible words and then pick the one with the highest probability.
2. LLMs process data through mathematical optimization to minimise prediction errors.
3. LLMs produce unbiased outputs.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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Google's new AI for drug discovery is a win for scientific discovery

WHY IN NEWS?

- Google's C2S-Scale 27B, a Gemma-based AI, decoded cell language and identified Sildenafil as a potential cancer therapy, later experimentally confirmed – a leap in AI-driven biomedicine.

Sildenafil

- A CK2 inhibitor drug, granted FDA orphan drug status (2017) for cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer), already in clinical trials for multiple cancers.
- Significance of C2S-Scale:
  - Learns biological mechanisms via reinforcement learning (trial, reward, punishment).
  - Demonstrates how LLMs can generate and test real scientific hypotheses, not just language.
  - Marks a shift from data interpretation → data-driven discovery in life sciences.

About Large Language Models (LLMs)

- Definition: AI systems trained to recognize and generate human-like language or data patterns.
- Foundation: Built on Deep Learning and Transformer architecture.
- Training: Learn through probabilistic prediction and pattern recognition over massive datasets.
- Foundation Models: Base models (e.g., Google's Gemma) fine-tuned for specific domains.

Applications of Large Language Models (LLMs)

- Generative AI: Create human-like text, code, or content.
- Translation & Summarization: Convert and condense text.
- Scientific Discovery: Generate hypotheses (e.g., C2S-Scale for drug prediction).
- Education & Research: Explain, analyze, and assist learning.
- Programming & Data: Automate coding and data processing.



The transformer backbone of modern LLMs like Gemma and C2S-Scale

General LLM vs. C2S-Scale

Feature	General LLM (e.g. ChatGPT)	C2S-Scale
Domain	Language & Text	Cellular Biology
Data	Text corpora	Cellular datasets
Goal	Generate text	Predict drug efficacy

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# How I Predicted UPSC CSE 2026

## UPSC QUESTION

63. With reference to the organisations under the Government of India, consider the following details :

Sl. No.	Organisation	Function	Controlling Union Ministry
1.	Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB)	To coordinate between various law enforcement agencies	Ministry of Home Affairs
2.	Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)	To investigate complex corporate frauds	Ministry of Finance
3.	Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	To preserve values in public life and ensure the health of the national economy	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension

In how many of the above rows are the given details correctly matched ?

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

## Partial Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Prelims Power Play (Daily Current Affairs Quiz)

Government Schemes Optima Tests

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 87 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME ON AVG. TIME OVERALL CORRECT  
0s 1m 2s 24

With reference to the Government of India, consider the following information:

Organization	Some of its functions	It works under
I. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)	Lays down science-based standards for articles of food and regulates their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
II. Financial Intelligence Unit	Enforces the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002	Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance
III. Central Economic Intelligence Bureau	Prescribes broad parameters of banking operations within which the country's banking and financial system functions	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

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

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

Answer Explanation

- **Statement I – FSSAI**  
Correct: FSSAI is a statutory body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Its functions include setting standards for food safety and regulation.
- **Statement II – FIU-IND**  
Incorrect: FIU-IND functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, (not expenditure) and deals with financial intelligence under PMLA, 2002.
- **Statement III – CEIB**  
Incorrect: CEIB functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, but it Coordinates and strengthens intelligence gathering related to economic offences, not prescribe broad parameters of banking operations within which the country's banking and financial system functions (RBI does this).

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# How I Predicted UPSC CSE 2026

## UPSC QUESTION



64. Which of the following international conventions have **not** been ratified by India ?
1. Employment Policy Convention
  2. Abolition of Forced Labour Convention
  3. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
  4. Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War
  5. Convention on Reduction of Statelessness
- Select the answer using the code given below :
- (a) 2 and 4
  - (b) 1 and 2
  - (c) 3 and 4 only
  - (d) 3, 4 and 5



## Partial Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Full Length Test

Optima Full Length Test 3

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 87 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 39s	16

Consider the following pairs of International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions:

Conventions - Added/Amended	Year
1. Biological Hazards Convention	2025
2. Safe and Healthy Working Environment Convention	2023
3. Forced Labour Convention	2024

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer Explanation

- **Pair 1 is correct:** The **Biological Hazards in the Working Environment Convention** was adopted by the ILO in **2025**.
- **Pair 2 is correct:** In **2023**, the ILO adopted a **Consequential Amendments Convention** related to recognising a safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle; it was **not a standalone convention newly created in 2023**.
- **Pair 3 is incorrect:** The **Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)** was adopted in **1930**, not in 2024.
- **Prelims Elimination Tip:** Issues like **forced labour, slavery, and bonded labour** were addressed by the ILO in the **early 20th century**. If such conventions are paired with **recent years**, they can be eliminated immediately using **common-sense chronology**.

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UPSC QUESTION



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



CORE CONVENTIONS OF THE ILO

ILO Convention Name	No.	Area	Ratified by India
Forced Labour Convention	No. 29	Prohibition of forced or compulsory labour	✓ Yes
Abolition of Forced Labour Convention	No. 105	Elimination of forced labour	✓ Yes
Equal Remuneration Convention	No. 100	Equal pay for work of equal value	✓ Yes
Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention	No. 111	Elimination of discrimination in employment	✓ Yes
Minimum Age Convention	No. 138	Minimum age for employment	✓ Yes
Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention	No. 182	Prohibition of worst forms of child labour	✓ Yes
Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organise Convention	No. 87	Right to form trade unions and association	✗ No
Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention	No. 98	Right to organize and collective bargaining	✗ No
Occupational Safety and Health Convention	No. 155	Framework on occupational safety and health	✗ No
Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention	No. 187	Promoting a preventive safety and health culture	✗ No

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UPSC QUESTION



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INDIA'S ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL: LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONCERNS

Context

- The Supreme Court of India refused to halt arms sales to Israel amid the Gaza conflict, stating that it falls under the government's foreign policy domain.
- The decision faced criticism for not upholding international humanitarian laws.

Violation of International Humanitarian Law:

- The UN (Feb 2024) stated that transferring weapons to Israel for use in Gaza may violate international humanitarian law and should stop immediately.
- Arms transfers are prohibited if they risk violating international law, even if the exporting country does not intend their misuse.

International Obligations:

Geneva Convention:

- Common Article 1 (CA1): Prohibits supplying arms likely to violate international humanitarian or human rights law.
- Article 16 (2001): Holds states responsible for aiding wrongful acts.
- India: Signed the Geneva Conventions (1949), ratified in 1959, making it legally bound.
- Article 51 of the Indian Constitution urges adherence to international obligations.

Genocide Convention (1948):

- First UN human rights treaty, ratified by India in 1950.
- Obliges all states to prevent genocide, regardless of ratification

Arms Trade Treaty (2014):

- Establishes global legal rules for arms exports.
- Article 6: Prohibits arms sales that:
  - Violate UN Security Council measures (e.g., embargoes).
  - Contravene international agreements.
  - Enable war crimes or Geneva Convention breaches.
- India has not signed the treaty.



Wassenaar Arrangement (1996)

- A voluntary export control regime ensuring responsible arms and dual-use technology transfers.
- India is a member, but commitments are not legally binding.



**GENEVA CONVENTIONS: A COMMITMENT TO A COMMON HUMANITY**

12 AUGUST 1949

429

The Swiss citizen Henry Dunant first came up with the idea of creating an international committee to protect victims of war.

The Swiss city of Geneva offers its name with the Convention and has become the global hub of humanitarian efforts.

With 100 state parties, the 4 Geneva Conventions have been universally ratified.

12 AUGUST 1949

adoption of the 4 Geneva Conventions, which protect wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of the armed forces of A, D, and members of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion of Saint Mark.

MILLIONS

of lives have been saved in hundreds of armed conflicts by the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion of Saint Mark.

The red cross is one of the distinctive emblems recognised by the First Geneva Convention and is formed by reversing the colour of the Swiss flag.

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UPSC QUESTION



8. Consider the following statements about the archaeological findings in Harappan towns :
- I. There is wide occurrence of spindle-whorls in the houses but absence of spinning wheels.
  - II. Weights and measurement scales, complete with graduations have been discovered.
  - III. There are houses built in large part with baked bricks, around relatively spacious courtyards, with their own wells, bathing platforms, and large rooms.
- Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the above statements ?
1. Statement I suggests that spinning was a laborious activity done at home.
  2. Statement II suggests the extent of the scientific knowledge that the Harappans possessed.
  3. Statement III suggests the emergence of a common property system.
- 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



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Excavation Rakhigarhi site

An archaeological site located in the state of Haryana in northern India. It is one of the largest and most important sites of the Indus Valley Civilization, which flourished in the region between 2600 BCE and 1900 BCE.

About Rakhigarhi

- Situated around 150 km from the national capital, **Rakhigarhi** is among the five iconic sites announced during Budget Speech.
- The other sites are Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh, Sivasagar in Assam, Dholavira in Gujarat and Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu
- **Time period: subdivided into three periods** – early (3300 BC to 2600 BC), mature (2600 BC to 1900 BC), and late (1900 BC to 1700 BC),
- **Size The largest settlements**
- **Location:** Ghaggar–Hakra River plain, some 27 km from the seasonal Ghaggar river.
- **Excavated by Amarendra Nath of ASI.**
- **Starting in 1998**, there have been three rounds of archaeological excavations at this site. Firstly, ASI carried out excavations at this site from 1998 to 2001. The second round of excavations was conducted by Deccan College, Pune, from 2013–2016.
- ASI and the Haryana government collaborated on recent excavations .
- **Five major urban sites – Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, Ganweriwala, all three sites now in Pakistan, and Rakhigarhi and Dholavira in India** – have been identified as regional centres of the Harappan Civilisation.

Archeological Findings:

- Haryana's Hisar district have revealed the structure of some **houses, lanes, drainage system, and jewelry-making unit**
- Revealed pieces of **copper and gold jewellery, terracotta toys, besides thousands of earthen pots and seals.**
- Huge quantity of debris/ waste of **semi-precious stones** such as agate and carnelian
- Evidence of **street planning with a general width of 2.6m**
- **Burnt-brick wall** has been traced, conveying the possibility of a walled settlement.
- The note-worthy antiquity found at both the mounds includes steatite seals, terracotta unbaked sealing with relief of elephants, and Harappan script.
- Skeletons of two women were found believed to be nearly 5,000 years old
- Pots and other artifacts were also found buried next to them in a pit, part of the funerary rituals

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HARAPPAN SITES

Site	Location	Discoverer	Key points
Harappa	Montgomery district, Punjab, Pakistan	Dayaram Sahni (1921)	• Red pottery with black designs, seals out of stones, divided into Citadel (west) and Lower Town (east), Citadel on the banks of River Ravi
Mohenjo-daro	Larkana district, Sind, Pakistan	R. D. Banerji (1992)	• Great Bath, Great Granary, Dancing Girl, Man with Beard, Cotton, Assembly Hall, Bank of River Indus, "Mount of the Dead," Destruction by flood or invasion
Chanhudaro	Bank of Indus River	Gopal Majumdar and Mackey (1931)	• Pre-Harappan culture (Jhangar and Jhukar Cultures), only site without a citadel
Kalibangan	Rajasthan, on the banks of River Ghaggar	A. Ghosh (1953)	• Fire altars, bones of camels, evidence of furrows, horse remains, third capital of the Indus Empire
Lothal	Gujarat, near Bhogava River	S. R. Rao (1957)	• Fire altars, dockyard and earliest port, storehouse, double burial, rice husk, front entrance houses (exception)
Ropar	Punjab, on the banks of River Sutlej	Y. D. Sharma (1955)	• Dog buried with humans
Banawali	Haryana, on the banks of the lost River Saraswathi	-	• Barley cultivation
Dholavira	Khadir Beyt, Rann of Kutch, Gujarat	J. P. Joshi / Rabindra Singh (1990)	• Largest site in India (until Rakhigarhi), 3 parts, large open area for ceremonies, large letters of Harappan script (signboards)

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## UPSC QUESTION



100. Consider the following statements about Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) :

1. MPI is calculated using Alkire-Foster methodology.
2. MPI calculated by NITI Aayog has a total of twelve indicators.
3. Maternal Health and Bank Account are common indicators in the MPI of NITI Aayog and MPI of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Full Length Test

Optima Full Length Test 4

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 92 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 7s	81

Consider the following:

1. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was first developed by OPHI and UNDP and introduced in the UNDP's Human Development Report in 2010.
2. The UNDP has one methodology for all countries.
3. NITI Aayog brings out the National multidimensional poverty index.
4. UNDP's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has 10 indicators and India's NITI Aayog index has 15.

How many of the above statements is /are correct?

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

### **X** Answer Explanation

#### Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- Released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**. So, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The MPI monitors deprivations in **10 indicators** spanning health, education and standard of living and includes both **incidences as well as the intensity of poverty**. So, **statement 2 is correct**.

#### MPI Indicators and Dimensions:

- A person is **multidimensionally poor** if she/he is deprived in **one-third or more (means 33% or more)** of the weighted indicators (out of the ten indicators). So, **statement 3 is incorrect**.
- Those who are deprived in **one-half or more** of the weighted indicators are considered living in **extreme multidimensional poverty**.

**LAQSHYA 2027**

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**10 DAILY MOST**

**IMPORTANT QUESTIONS**

(PYQ linked Current Affairs Questions)

*Daily Practice = Daily Progress = Daily Confidence*



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## UPSC QUESTION



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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Full Length Test

Optima Full Length Test 4

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q 92 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 7s	81

Consider the following:

1. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was first developed by OPHI and UNDP and introduced in the UNDP's Human Development Report in 2010.
2. The UNDP has one methodology for all countries.
3. NITI Aayog brings out the National multidimensional poverty index.
4. UNDP's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has 10 indicators and India's NITI Aayog index has 15.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

Answer Explanation

**Statement 1 is correct:** The United Nations Development Programme and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative jointly developed the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which was introduced in the UNDP Human Development Report in 2010.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The UNDP does not follow one uniform methodology for all countries; nations can develop their own national MPI frameworks based on country-specific indicators and priorities.

**Statement 3 is correct:** NITI Aayog publishes India's National Multidimensional Poverty Index.

**Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Global MPI has 10 indicators, whereas India's National MPI uses 12 indicators, not 15.

UPSC QUESTION



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Multidimensional Poverty Index

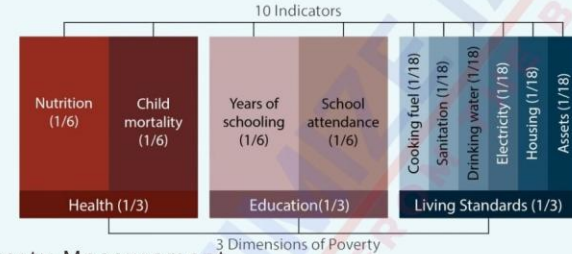
Released By

- United Nations Development Programme
- Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative



Concept

- Encompasses the various deprivations experienced by poor people in daily lives
- **Poverty** - A condition in which an individual or household lacks the financial resources to afford a basic minimum standard of living



Poverty Measurement

- The official poverty line is the expenditure incurred to obtain the goods in a "poverty line basket"
- The number of people living below this line
- **Official committees:**
  - The working group of 1962
  - V N Dandekar and N Rath in 1971
  - Y K Alagh in 1979; D T Lakdawala in 1993
  - Suresh Tendulkar in 2009
  - C Rangarajan in 2014
- Tendulkar poverty line - **21.9%** of people in India live below the poverty line.

Tendulkar Committee:

- A shift from calorie consumption-based poverty estimation to Nutritional outcomes
- A uniform poverty line basket (PLB) across rural and urban India
- Incorporation of private expenditure on health and education
- A change in the price adjustment procedure

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## UPSC QUESTION



86. Which of the following statements regarding the features of blockchain technology are correct ?

1. Records stored in the database may be made visible to relevant stakeholders without risk of alteration.
2. Copies of the entire database are stored on multiple computers on a network, syncing within seconds.
3. Consortium blockchain is a blend of public and private blockchains allowing selective data access.
4. Mathematical algorithms make it impossible to change or delete any data once recorded and accepted.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Direct Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Sci Advance Test

Science and Technology Advance Test 1

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 59 of 100 Marks : 2.0

**X** You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 4s	152

Consider the following statements with respect to Blockchain Technology:

1. A blockchain is a digital ledger of transactions that is duplicated and distributed across the entire network of computer systems on the blockchain.
2. Transactions are secure, private, and efficient.
3. Transactions are blocked together in a reversible chain.

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

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

Answer Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A blockchain is a distributed database that is shared among the nodes of a computer network. As a database, a blockchain stores information electronically in digital format. Blockchains are best known for their crucial role in cryptocurrency systems, such as Bitcoin, for maintaining a secure and decentralized record of transactions. The innovation with a blockchain is that it guarantees the fidelity and security of a record of data and generates trust without the need for a trusted third party.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Blockchain technology achieves decentralized security and trust in several ways. To begin with, new blocks are always stored linearly and chronologically. That is, they are always added to the "end" of the blockchain. After a block has been added to the end of the blockchain, it is extremely difficult to go back and alter the contents of the block unless a majority (51 %) of the network has reached a consensus to do so. That's because each block contains its own hash, along with the hash of the block before it, as well as the previously mentioned time stamp. Hash codes are created by a mathematical function that turns digital information into a string of numbers and letters. If that information is edited in any way, then the hash code changes as well.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Transactions are blocked together in an irreversible chain. Each additional block strengthens the verification of the previous block and hence the entire blockchain. This renders the blockchain tamper-evident, delivering the key strength of immutability. This removes the possibility of tampering by a malicious actor — and builds a ledger of transactions you and other network members can trust.

## UPSC QUESTION



68. Which of the following items of defence hardware is/are manufactured in India ?

1. Su-30 MKI Fighter Jets
2. T-90 MK-III Tanks
3. Akula Class Submarine

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Partial Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

⊗ Prelims Power Play - 5th August 2025

SECTION 1

Q. 5 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	27s	154

Consider the following pairs:

Defence Item in India	Procured From
1. MiG-21	Russia
2. Sukhoi Su-30MKI	Japan
3. Rafale	France
4. Jaguar	USA

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

⊗ Answer Explanation

**Context:**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to retire its iconic MiG-21 fighter jets in September 2025, ending over six decades of service. The retirement comes at a time when the IAF is facing an acute shortage in squadron strength and is awaiting the induction of the LCA-Mk1A, LCA-Mk2, and the upcoming fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

**Pair 1 – MiG-21 | Russia: Correct.** The MiG-21 is of Soviet (now Russian) origin and was India's first supersonic fighter jet, inducted in 1963.

**Pair 2 – Sukhoi Su-30MKI | Japan: Incorrect.** The Su-30MKI is a Russian-origin twin-engine multirole fighter, customized for India by Sukhoi and HAL.

**Pair 3 – Rafale | France: Correct.** The Rafale is a French-made 4.5-generation multirole fighter aircraft manufactured by Dassault Aviation.

**Pair 4 – Jaguar | USA: Incorrect.** The Jaguar is of Anglo-French origin, jointly developed by Britain and France (SEPECAT). India license-produced them through HAL.

## UPSC QUESTION



61. Consider the following statements about river bridges connecting India with neighbouring countries :

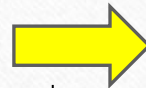
1. 'Maitri Setu', built over Feni river, connects Ramgarh in India with Sabroom in Bangladesh.
2. Jhulaghat suspension bridge connects India with Myanmar.
3. Mechi bridge and its approaches connect Panitanki Bypass in India with Kakarvitta in Nepal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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## Important Development Projects in North East India and Southeast Asia

Project Name	Initiated By	Objectives	Significance
Kaladan Multimodal Transport Project	India	Connect <b>Kolkata to Mizoram via Myanmar</b> (sea, river, road)	<b>Alternative route to Northeast;</b> boosts trade with Myanmar & ASEAN <b>Sittwe Port → Kaladan River → Paletwa → Mizoram road link</b>
Sittwe Port Project (Myanmar)	India	Develop <b>Sittwe Port</b> on Myanmar's coast	<b>Strategic access to Bay of Bengal;</b> maritime trade route to Northeast
India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway	India	Road connectivity from <b>Manipur to Thailand via Myanmar</b>	<b>Gateway for Indian goods/people to Southeast Asia</b>
Agartala - Akhaura Rail Link	India & Bangladesh	Rail link between <b>Tripura and Bangladesh</b>	<b>Reduces travel time to Kolkata;</b> enhances regional trade
Maitri Setu (Feni Bridge)	India	Bridge over <b>Feni River</b> connecting <b>Tripura to Chittagong port</b>	Opens <b>direct access to seaports for NE India</b>
SARDP-NE (Special Accelerated Road Development)	Govt. of India	Improve road infrastructure in NE region	<b>Links remote areas to growth centers;</b> strategic movement near borders
Digital Connectivity to ASEAN via NE	India	Optical fiber connectivity to Southeast Asia	<b>Digital integration with ASEAN;</b> improves services and economy
Border Haats	India & Bangladesh	Promote local trade at border points	Strengthens <b>people-to-people ties;</b> supports local economies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meghalaya at Kalaichar</b> (India)-<b>Kurigram</b> (Bangladesh) and <b>Balat</b> (India)-<b>Dolora</b> (Bangladesh)</li> <li>• <b>Tripura at Srinagar</b> (India)-<b>Chhagalnaiya</b> (Bangladesh), and <b>Kamalasagar</b> (India)-<b>Kasba</b> (Bangladesh).</li> </ul>

SANTOSH SIR

ALL 6 PRELIMS QUALIFIED

SECURED ONE OF THE HIGHEST MARKS

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### UPSC QUESTION



61. Consider the following statements about river bridges connecting India with neighbouring countries :

1. 'Maitri Setu', built over Feni river, connects Ramgarh in India with Sabroom in Bangladesh.
2. Jhulaghat suspension bridge connects India with Myanmar.
3. Mechi bridge and its approaches connect Panitanki Bypass in India with Kakarvitta in Nepal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

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### Direct Match from our PIB Compilation

- **Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link Project:** diversion of surplus waters of the **Kosi River** to the **Mechi River** to provide **irrigation benefits** to flood-prone yet water-scarce districts of **North Bihar**.

## UPSC QUESTION



62. Which of the following statements about a Zero First Information Report (Zero FIR) under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 is/are correct ?
1. A Zero FIR can be lodged at a police station, even though the place of commission of a cognizable/non-cognizable offence is outside the territorial jurisdiction of that police station.
  2. The Officer-in-Charge of the police station where a Zero FIR has been lodged may, with the permission of the competent authority, initiate a preliminary enquiry.
  3. Under Zero FIR, it is obligatory for the informant to furnish information electronically.
- Select the answer using the code given below :
- (a) 1, 2 and 3
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 only
  - (d) 2 only

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## Partial Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Optima Full Length Test

Optima Full Length Test 2

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 9 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	46s	266

With reference to the "e-Zero FIR" initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It allows citizens to lodge a First Information Report (FIR) online without visiting a police station.
2. The FIR can be registered in any state, irrespective of the jurisdiction of the crime.
3. e-Zero FIRs are accepted only for cybercrime and economic offences.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The e-Zero FIR initiative enables online FIR registration, eliminating the need to physically visit a police station.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The core idea of a Zero FIR is that it can be filed in any police station, regardless of where the incident occurred.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** e-Zero FIR is not restricted only to cybercrime and economic offences; it can also be used for other cognizable offences, especially those requiring urgent action (e.g., sexual assault, missing persons, etc.).

### UPSC QUESTION



71. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists :

<i>List I</i> (UN Peacekeeping Operation)	<i>List II</i> (Period of Operation)
A. UNMIL	1. 2007 – 2010
B. MINURCAT	2. 2002 – 2005
C. MINUSTAH	3. 2003 – 2018
D. UNMISSET	4. 2004 – 2017

Code :

	A	B	C	D
(a)	3	4	1	2
(b)	3	1	4	2
(c)	2	1	4	3
(d)	2	4	1	3

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### UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)	Western Sahara
United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)	Golan Heights (Syria-Israel)
United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)	Abyei (Sudan-South Sudan)
United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)	India and Pakistan
United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)	Central African Republic
United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Cyprus
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)	Kosovo
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)	Middle East
United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)	Democratic Republic of the Congo
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)	Lebanon
United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)	South Sudan

## UPSC QUESTION



57. Consider the following statements about the provisions pertaining to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in India :

1. Provisions regarding the administration of the Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are given in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2. Some tribes of India are entitled to exemption from paying Income Tax on certain incomes.
3. The Constitution of India provides for reservation of seats in Panchayats for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct ?

- (a) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2.
- (b) There are two correct statements, that are statements 1 and 3.
- (c) There is only one correct statement.
- (d) All three statements are correct.

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## Partial Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

### SECTION 1

Q. 6 of 10

Currently, The Sixth Schedule primarily deals with the administration of tribal areas in:

1. Ladakh
2. Assam
3. Meghalaya
4. Tripura
5. Arunachal Pradesh
6. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A Only three
- B Only four
- C Only five

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Marks Obtained	
Paper I	138.66
Paper II	106.68

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## UPSC QUESTION



47. Which of the following statements with regard to drone swarms is/are correct ?

1. They use Terahertz band of frequency to communicate with the command centre.
2. Individual drones in the swarm can communicate with other drones in the swarm.
3. GPS Spoofing is a commonly used technique to counter drone swarm attack.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Partial Match from our Daily Prelims Quiz

⊗ Prelims Power Play - 23rd April 2026

SECTION 1

Q. 9 of 10 Marks : 2.0

⊗ You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	17s	28

Atlas drone swarm system that enables one operator to control up to 96 drones has been produced by:

- A USA
- B Iran
- C China
- D Israel

⊗ Answer Explanation

In late March, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) unveiled its new **Atlas drone swarm system (atelas)**. The one-of-a-kind system combines features like simultaneous mass launch, control of nearly 100 drones, and a single human touchpoint to control them all.

The system is like a mini-battlefield network on wheels, where drones are truck-launched, remotely navigated by a single operator, and capable of scouting, communicating, confusing, and attacking defence across a large perimeter. More importantly, it is a very small, independent unit that is easy to hide, camouflage, and operate from remote corners.

### UPSC QUESTION



81. 'X', born in the UK, was conferred the Nobel Prize in 2025. He was a professor in an American university when this prize was announced. Identify 'X' :



- (a) Michel H. Devoret
- (b) Richard Robson
- (c) John Clarke
- (d) Joel Mokyr

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### Trio win Physics Nobel 2025 for demonstrating Quantum Tunnelling

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- John Clarke (U.K.), Michel H. Devoret (France), and John M. Martinis (U.S.) jointly won the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics.
- They experimentally demonstrated quantum tunnelling in macroscopic systems, bridging the gap between the quantum and classical worlds.

#### Josephson Junction & Superconducting Circuits

- Two superconductors separated by a thin insulator.
- At near absolute zero, Cooper pairs tunnel across → form one quantum system.
- Showed discrete energy absorption/emission → proof of quantisation.
- Demonstrated macroscopic quantum tunnelling between energy states.

#### Quantum Tunnelling Phenomenon

- **Definition:** A quantum effect where particles penetrate energy barriers that they classically cannot surmount.
- **Analogy:** Like a cricket ball sometimes burrowing into the pitch instead of bouncing off.
- **Significance:** Reveals non-classical behaviour at the subatomic scale; verified through engineered superconducting circuits.

#### Basics of Quantum Physics

- **Quantum effects:** tunnelling, superposition, entanglement.
- Energy exists in **discrete quanta, not continuous.**
- **Atoms jump between energy levels when absorbing/emitting energy.**
- Their experiments showed quantum laws apply to larger, engineered systems.

#### Related Quantum Phenomena

Phenomenon	Description	Application
Entanglement	Particles share instant correlations regardless of distance	Quantum communication, quantum teleportation
Superposition	A system exists in multiple states until measured	Foundation of quantum computing
Interference	Overlapping quantum paths affect outcomes	Essential for quantum algorithms

#### Applications

- **Superconducting qubits** – foundation of quantum computers.
- Enabled **circuit quantum electrodynamics (cQED)** for precise quantum measurements.
- **Inspired Google's Sycamore (2019)** – achieved quantum advantage.

#### Key Innovations

- **Superconducting Qubits** – used by Google, IBM.
- **Quantum Amplifiers** – detect ultra-weak signals.
- **Quantum Sensors** – used in brain mapping, gravity, geophysics.
- **Metrology** – Josephson junctions define quantum-accurate volt & ampere standards.

#### Technological & Policy Relevance

- **India's National Quantum Mission (2023–31):** Targets indigenous quantum computers by 2031.
- Nobel work strengthened foundations for quantum computing, sensing, metrology, and secure communication technologies.

## UPSC QUESTION



45. Which of the following statements with regard to Green Hydrogen is/are correct ?
1. It is decarbonized hydrogen obtained from natural gas reforming combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS).
  2. It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.
  3. National Green Hydrogen Mission of India aims for abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
- Select the answer using the code given below :
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 2 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3

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## Partial Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Static Test

Science Optima Test

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 32 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	1m 2s	78

Consider the following statements regarding Hydrogen:

1. Natural hydrogen refers to hydrogen gas that occurs freely in geological formations within the Earth's crust.
2. Green hydrogen is produced through the electrolysis of water using renewable energy sources.
3. Blue hydrogen is produced through steam methane reforming (SMR) of natural gas.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer Explanation

All three statements are correct.

- **Natural hydrogen** (also called native or white hydrogen) exists naturally in the Earth's crust in free form, often found in geological formations.
- **Green hydrogen** is generated by splitting water using electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources like solar, wind, or hydropower, emitting no greenhouse gases in the process.
- **Blue hydrogen** is produced via **steam methane reforming (SMR)** of natural gas, where the resulting carbon emissions are captured and stored using carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, reducing its environmental impact compared to grey hydrogen.

## UPSC QUESTION



45. Which of the following statements with regard to Green Hydrogen is/are correct ?

1. It is decarbonized hydrogen obtained from natural gas reforming combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS).
2. It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.
3. National Green Hydrogen Mission of India aims for abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## Partial Match from our LAQSHYA 2026 Static Test

Government Schemes Optima Tests

UPSC GENERAL STUDIES

Q. 6 of 100 Marks : 2.0

You have skipped this question, you scored 0.00

YOUR TIME	ON AVG. TIME	OVERALL CORRECT
0s	53s	46

Consider the following statements regarding the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM):

1. Green Hydrogen is certified as 'green' only if its total emissions are less than 4 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per 1 kg of Hydrogen produced.
2. The NITI Aayog is the nodal authority for accrediting agencies under the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI).
3. The Mission aims to achieve an annual production capacity of 10 million metric tonnes (MMT) of Green Hydrogen by 2030.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer Explanation

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The limit is 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, not 4 kg. (Option Elimination - Facts/figures when given are generally wrong)
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The nodal authority is the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), not NITI Aayog. (Option Elimination - Org/Min when given are generally wrong)
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** The production target is 5 MMT, not 10 MMT, by 2030.

### UPSC QUESTION



74. Which of the following statements with respect to the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) is/are correct ?

1. The period of its implementation is 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026.
2. The key objective of the Revamped RGSA is to develop the governance capabilities of the Panchayati Raj Institutions to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. The share of the Central funding for the Revamped RGSA is 100% for all States and Union Territories.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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### Partial Match from our PIB compilation

#### Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA):

- The Ministry implemented the revamped **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**, a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** aimed at strengthening PRIs.
- The scheme focuses on **capacity building of Elected Representatives and Panchayat functionaries**, institutional strengthening, construction of **Gram Panchayat Bhawans**, and promotion of **digital governance platforms** such as eGramSwaraj and AuditOnline.

## UPSC QUESTION



62. Which of the following statements about a Zero First Information Report (Zero FIR) under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 is/are correct ?
1. A Zero FIR can be lodged at a police station, even though the place of commission of a cognizable/non-cognizable offence is outside the territorial jurisdiction of that police station.
  2. The Officer-in-Charge of the police station where a Zero FIR has been lodged may, with the permission of the competent authority, initiate a preliminary enquiry.
  3. Under Zero FIR, it is obligatory for the informant to furnish information electronically.



Select the answer using the code given below :

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

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## e-Zero FIR initiative

## CONTEXT

- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has introduced a new system that automatically converts financial cybercrime complaints into **First Information Reports (FIRs)** when the fraud amount is above ₹10 lakh.
- This system applies to complaints registered through the **1930 helpline** or the [cybercrime.gov.in](https://www.cybercrime.gov.in) portal.

## Objective and Significance:

- The initiative aims to streamline and accelerate cybercrime investigations, ensuring quicker response and action against cybercriminals.
- It also addresses the difficulties faced by victims in recovering money lost in financial cybercrimes, as identified in a recent review meeting of I4C chaired by the Home Minister.

## Key terms:

- **I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre):** Launched under the Ministry of Home Affairs to combat cybercrime in a coordinated manner across states and UTs.
- **CCTNS:** Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems is a project of the NCRB that connects all police stations digitally for tracking and investigation of crimes.
- **Zero FIR:** An FIR that can be filed at any police station irrespective of jurisdiction and later transferred to the appropriate police station.

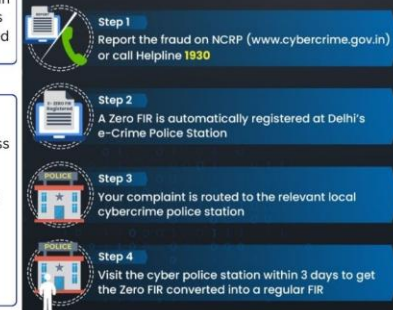
## Right to Repair – Global &amp; Indian Policy Initiatives

- **Global Initiatives**
  - **Worldwide momentum:** Right to Repair movement expanding across major economies.
  - **European Union:** Mandates manufacturers to provide spare parts, repair manuals, and diagnostic tools to consumers and independent repairers.
  - **UN SDG 12:** Encourages repair, reuse, and circular economy as part of responsible consumption.
- **Indian Initiatives**
  - **2022:** Department of Consumer Affairs launched India's Right to Repair Framework.
  - **2023:** National Right to Repair Portal launched; covers electronics, automobiles, farm equipment, and consumer appliances.
  - India can position repair as knowledge work, leveraging its strong informal repair ecosystem.

## Integration of Cybercrime Platforms:

- The new process integrates three major systems:
  - National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (under I4C),
  - Delhi Police's e-FIR system, and
  - Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) under the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB).

### How does e-Zero FIR convert to regular FIR?



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All 6 Prelims Qualified

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## UPSC QUESTION



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1. A Zero FIR can be lodged at a police station, even though the place of commission of a cognizable/non-cognizable offence is outside the territorial jurisdiction of that police station.
2. The Officer-in-Charge of the police station where a Zero FIR has been lodged may, with the permission of the competent authority, initiate a preliminary enquiry.
3. Under Zero FIR, it is obligatory for the informant to furnish information electronically.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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



## Cyber Security: Towards a Cyber Secure Bharat

- A four-pronged strategy—Convergence, Coordination, Communication, and Capacity (4Cs)— was adopted to combat cybercrime.
- Public awareness was promoted through the mantra “Stop–Think–Take Action” to prevent cyber fraud.
- Strengthening forensic infrastructure, new campuses of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) and Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) were inaugurated to build an evidence-based criminal justice system and improve conviction rates.
- The implementation of the New Criminal Laws marked a shift toward a victim-centric, time-bound, transparent justice system.
- The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) launched the e-Zero FIR initiative to automatically convert major cyber financial complaints into FIRs for swift action.

## Key terms:

- **Zero FIR:** Allows an FIR to be registered at any police station regardless of jurisdiction.
- **e-Zero FIR:** An I4C initiative that automatically converts serious cyber financial fraud complaints (above a set threshold) filed on NCRP/1930 into formal FIRs for swift investigation.
- **CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems):** A nationwide IT-enabled police network that creates a centralized crime and criminal database for real-time information sharing and investigation support.
- **I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre):** An MHA body that coordinates nationwide action against cybercrime, manages the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) and helpline 1930, and strengthens cyber forensics and capacity building.

<https://t.me/asksantoshsir>

<https://www.optimizeiascourses.com/learn>

**LAQSHYA 2027**

CSE 2027 PRELIMS MENTORSHIP BY SANTOSH SIR

**10 DAILY MOST**

**IMPORTANT QUESTIONS**

(PYQ linked Current Affairs Questions)

*Daily Practice = Daily Progress = Daily Confidence*



**I CRACKED ALL 6 PRELIMS , I CAN HELP YOU CRACK PRELIMS 2027**