



# Current Affairs Reverse Engineering (CARE)

## CARE - FEBRUARY 2026

### PRELIMS PYQs

**Q.1) Along with the Budget, the Finance Minister also places other documents before the Parliament which include 'The Macro Economic Framework Statement'. The aforesaid document is presented because this is mandated by (2020)**

- A. Long standing parliamentary convention
- B. Article 112 and Article 110(1) of the Constitution of India
- C. Article 113 of the Constitution of India
- D. Provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

**Q.2) What is the difference between "vote-on-account" and "Interim Budget"? (2011)**

1. The provision of a "vote-on-account" is used by a regular Government while an "interim budget" is a provision used by a caretaker Government.
2. A "vote-on-account" only deals with the expenditure in Government's budget,

while an "interim budget" includes both expenditures and receipts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

**Q.3) ISRO, in its studies, has revealed that there is a 178% increase in the size of the Ghepang Ghat Glacial Lake. In which of the following States/UTs is this lake located? (CDS-II/2024)**

- A. Jammu & Kashmir
- B. Ladakh
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Ghepang Ghat Glacial Lake** is located in the **Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh**, at an elevation of around **4,068 metres**.

- **ISRO and NRSC satellite-based studies** show that the lake expanded by **178%**, from **36.49 hectares (1989)** to **101.30 hectares (2022)**.
- The expansion is driven by **glacial retreat and accelerated melting** in the **Indus River Basin**.
- Such rapid growth significantly **increases the risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**, threatening downstream settlements and infrastructure.

**Q.4) Consider the following statements: (2019)**

1. Under Ramsar Convention, it is mandatory on the part of the Government of India to protect and conserve all the wetlands in the territory of India.
2. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were framed by the Government of India based on the recommendations of Ramsar Convention.
3. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 also encompass the drainage area or catchment regions of the wetlands as determined by the authority.

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

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

**Q.5) With reference to a conservation organization called 'Wetlands International', which of the following statements is/are correct? (2014)**

1. It is an intergovernmental organization formed by the countries which are signatories to Ramsar Convention.
2. It works at the field level to develop and mobilize knowledge, and use the

practical experience to advocate for better policies.

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

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

**Q.6) How does the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) seek to improve livelihood options of the rural poor? (UPSC CSE 2012)**

1. By setting up a large number of new manufacturing industries and agribusiness centres in rural areas
2. By strengthening *Self-Help Groups (SHGs)* and providing skill development
3. By supplying seeds, fertilizers, diesel pump-sets and micro-irrigation equipment free of cost to farmers

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

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect** NRLM does **not** focus on directly setting up manufacturing industries or agribusiness centres. Its approach is *community-driven*, not infrastructure-led.
- **Statement 2 – Correct** The **core strategy of NRLM** is mobilising rural poor into **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, building their institutional capacity, enhancing skills, and enabling access to credit, livelihoods, and markets.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect** Supplying farm inputs free of cost is **not** a mandate of NRLM. Such support falls under agriculture input subsidy schemes, not livelihood missions.

**Q.7) Consider the following countries: (2018)**

1. Australia
2. Canada
3. China
4. India
5. Japan
6. deer

**Which of the above are among the 'free-trade partners' of ASEAN?**

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

**Q.8) Biotechnological research is promoted through the development of Biotechnology Parks.**

**Which of the following is/are essential to bring technology to market? (CAPF 2024)**

1. Development of new product
2. Entrepreneurship
3. Technology incubation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 – Correct** - Development of new products is the starting point of technology commercialisation. Without product development, research cannot translate into market outcomes.
- **Statement 2 – Correct** - Entrepreneurship converts technological innovation into viable business ventures. It provides risk-taking ability, business models, and market orientation.
- **Statement 3 – Correct** - Technology incubation bridges the gap between laboratory research and the market by

providing infrastructure, mentorship, regulatory support, and seed funding.

**Q.9) Consider the following:**

1. Demographic performance
2. Forest and ecology
3. Governance reforms
4. Stable government
5. Tax and fiscal efforts

**For the horizontal tax devolution, the Fifteenth Finance Commission used how many of the above as criteria other than population area and income distance (2023)**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

**Q.10) With reference to the Fourteenth Finance Commission, which of the following statements is/ are correct? (2015)**

1. It has increased the share of States in the central divisible pool from 32 percent to 42 percent.
2. It has made recommendations concerning sector-specific grants.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

**Q.11) As per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in India, which one of the following statements is correct? IAS 2019**

- A. Waste generator has to segregate waste into five categories.
- B. The Rules are applicable to notified urban local bodies, notified towns and all industrial townships only

- C. The Rules provide for exact and elaborate criteria for the identification of sites for landfills and waste processing facilities
- D. It is mandatory on the part of waste generator that the waste generated in one district cannot be moved to another district.

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Option (c) – Correct** - The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 lay down **detailed and elaborate criteria** for identification and notification of sites for **solid waste processing, treatment and sanitary landfills**. Authorities are required to ensure scientific site selection to minimise environmental and public health impacts.
- **Option (a) – Incorrect** - The Rules mandate segregation of waste into **three categories** — **wet, dry and domestic hazardous waste**, not five categories.
- **Option (b) – Incorrect** - The Rules have **wide applicability**, covering:
  - Municipal areas
    - Census towns
    - Notified industrial townships
    - Areas under Railways, airports, ports, defence establishments
    - SEZs, pilgrimage places, religious and historical sites
 Hence, they are not limited only to notified urban local bodies and industrial townships.
- **Option (d) – Incorrect** - The Rules do **not prohibit inter-district movement of waste**. There is no mandatory restriction preventing waste generated in one district from being transported to another district for processing or disposal.

**Q.12) In the context of electric vehicle batteries, consider the following elements: (IAS 2025)**

1. Cobalt
2. Graphite

3. Lithium
4. Nickel

**How many of the above usually make up battery cathodes?**

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Cathode materials in Li-ion batteries** are typically **lithium metal oxides**, such as:
    - **LCO** (Lithium Cobalt Oxide)
    - **NMC** (Nickel Manganese Cobalt Oxide)
    - **NCA** (Nickel Cobalt Aluminium Oxide)
  - Hence, **Lithium, Cobalt and Nickel** are **cathode constituents**.
  - **Graphite** is **not** a cathode material; it is used in the **anode**.
- Therefore, **three elements (1, 3, and 4)** usually make up battery **cathodes**.

**Q.13) Recently, India signed a deal known as “Action Plan for Prioritization and Implementation of Cooperation Areas in the Nuclear Field” with which of the following countries?**

- A. Japan
- B. Russia
- C. The United Kingdom
- D. The United States of America

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The **Action Plan for Prioritization and Implementation of Cooperation Areas in the Nuclear Field** was jointly identified and signed by **India and Russia**.
- It was signed by **Alexey Likhachev**, Director General of **Rosatom** (Russia), and **K. N. Vyas**, Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India.
- The agreement strengthens **civil nuclear cooperation**, especially in areas such as reactor construction, fuel supply, safety, and technology collaboration.

- Russia has been a long-standing partner in India's nuclear energy programme, notably through the **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant** in Tamil Nadu.

**Q.14) Consider the following statements about 'Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)' scheme: (NDA-II 2022)**

1. It is an innovative scheme to develop the regional aviation market.
2. It creates affordability yet economically viable and profitable flights on regional routes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 – Correct**

- UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) is a flagship regional connectivity scheme launched in 2016 under the Ministry of Civil Aviation to develop the regional aviation market. It aims to operationalize unserved and underserved airports across India.
- **Statement 2 – Correct** The scheme ensures affordability through airfare caps while maintaining airline viability through **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** and other concessions (e.g., tax benefits, reduced airport charges).
- VGF is funded via the Regional Connectivity Fund (Centre–State sharing).
- This makes even low-demand regional routes economically sustainable for airlines.

**Q.15) With reference to Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, consider the following statements: (2022)**

1. As per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the election of Deputy Speaker shall be held on such date as the Speaker may fix.

2. There is a mandatory provision that the election of a candidate as Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha shall be from either the principal opposition party or the ruling party.
3. The Deputy Speaker has the same power as of the Speaker when presiding over the sitting of the House and no appeal lies against his rulings.
4. The well-established parliamentary practice regarding the appointment of Deputy Speaker is that the motion is moved by the Speaker and duly seconded by the Prime Minister.

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

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

**Q.16) The Indo-Greek kingdom set up in north Afghanistan in the beginning of the second century BC was (IAS 1999)**

- A. Bactria
- B. Scythia
- C. Zedrasia
- D. Aria

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- The Indo-Greek kingdom in north Afghanistan during the early 2nd century BC was established in **Bactria**.
- After the decline of Seleucid control, **Diodotus** declared independence around 250 BC, founding the **Greco-Bactrian Kingdom**.
- Bactria was located in present-day **northern Afghanistan** and parts of Central Asia.
- Later rulers such as **Demetrius** expanded into north-western India, leading to the rise of the **Indo-Greek Kingdom**.

- Bactria served as the base from which Greek rulers entered and established control over parts of the Indian subcontinent.

**Q.17) Basic scientific principle behind a nuclear reactor is: (NDA-I, 2019)**

- A. Nuclear fusion
- B. Controlled nuclear fusion
- C. Uncontrolled nuclear fission
- D. Controlled nuclear fission

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- A nuclear reactor operates on the principle of **controlled nuclear fission**.
- In **nuclear fission**, a heavy nucleus such as Uranium-235 splits into smaller nuclei.
- This process releases:
  - A large amount of **heat energy**
  - Additional **neutrons**
- The released neutrons sustain a **chain reaction**.

In a reactor:

- The chain reaction is **carefully controlled** using **control rods** (made of neutron-absorbing materials like cadmium or boron).
- This ensures **steady heat production**, which is used to generate electricity.
- **Uncontrolled fission** occurs in nuclear bombs.
- **Nuclear fusion** powers the Sun but is not yet commercially viable for electricity generation.

**Q.18) What is/are the advantage/advantages of implementing the 'National Agriculture Market' scheme? (2017)**

1. It is a pan-India electronic trading portal for agricultural commodities.
2. It provides the farmers access to nationwide market, with prices commensurate with the quality of their produce.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

**Q.19) Consider the following statements: (2018)**

1. The Barren Island volcano is an active volcano located in the Indian territory.
2. Barren Island lies about 140 km east of Great Nicobar.
3. The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 1991 and it has remained inactive since then.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 – Correct**

- **Barren Island** is India's only active volcano.
- It is located in the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** in the Bay of Bengal.

**Statement 2 – Incorrect**

- Barren Island is situated about **135 km northeast of Port Blair (Andaman Islands)**.
- It is **not located 140 km east of Great Nicobar** (which lies much further south).

**Statement 3 – Incorrect**

- Although a major eruption occurred in **1991**, the volcano has erupted multiple times afterward (including eruptions in 2005, 2017, 2018, and later phases).
- Hence, it has **not remained inactive since 1991**.

**Q.20) Consider the following statements: (2016)**

1. The International Solar Alliance was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015.
2. The Alliance includes all the member countries of the United Nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

**Q.21) The power to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court of India is vested in: (IAS 2014)**

- A. The President of India
- B. The Parliament
- C. The Chief Justice of India
- D. The Law Commission

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The power to increase or decrease the number of judges in the Supreme Court is vested in **Parliament**.

Under **Article 124(1)** of the Constitution:

- The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice of India and such number of other judges as Parliament may by law prescribe.
- Parliament exercises this power through legislation such as the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**, which has been amended multiple times to increase the sanctioned strength.

Originally:

- Strength was 8 judges (1 CJI + 7 judges).

The number was gradually increased:

- 10 (1956)
- 13 (1960)
- 17 (1977)
- 25 (1986)
- 30 (2008)
- 33 (2019) (excluding CJI)

**Q.22) What is the difference between “vote-on-account” and “Interim Budget”? (2011)**

1. The provision of a “vote-on-account” is used by a regular Government while an

“interim budget” is a provision used by a caretaker Government.

2. A “vote-on-account” only deals with the expenditure in Government’s budget, while an “interim budget” includes both expenditures and receipts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

**Q.23) Along with the Budget, the Finance Minister also places other documents before the Parliament which include ‘The Macro Economic Framework Statement’. The aforesaid document is presented because this is mandated by (2020)**

- A. Long standing parliamentary convention
- B. Article 112 and Article 110(1) of the Constitution of India
- C. Article 113 of the Constitution of India
- D. Provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

**Q.24) With reference to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), consider the following statements: (IAS 2025)**

1. All types of UAVs can do vertical landing.
2. All types of UAVs can do automated hovering.
3. All types of UAVs can use battery only as a source of power supply.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

D. None

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**  
Not all UAVs can perform vertical landing.
- Fixed-wing UAVs require forward motion and usually need runways or landing strips.
- Only rotary-wing UAVs (e.g., quadcopters) and VTOL variants can land vertically.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**  
Automated hovering is mainly a feature of multi-rotor and rotary-wing UAVs.
- Fixed-wing UAVs cannot hover because they must maintain forward airspeed to generate lift.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect**  
UAVs are not powered only by batteries.
- They may use internal combustion engines, fuel cells, hybrid systems, or battery-electric propulsion depending on endurance and payload requirements.

**Q.25) Recently, there has been a concern over the short supply of a group of elements called 'rare earth metals'. Why? (2012)**

1. China, which is the largest producer of these elements, has imposed some restrictions on their export.
2. Other than China, Australia, Canada and Chile, these elements are not found in any country.
3. Rare earth metals are essential for the manufacture of various kinds of electronic items and there is a growing demand for these elements.

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

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

**Q.26) The hill range that separates the State of**

**Manipur from the State of Nagaland is known as: (CDS-II, 2009)**

- A. Arakan Hills
- B. Patkai Hills
- C. Barail Hills
- D. Manipur Hills

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

**1. Barail Hills – Correct Answer**

- The **Barail Range (Barail Hills)** is part of the **Purvanchal (Eastern Hills)** system of Northeast India.
- It extends across **Assam, Nagaland and Manipur**.
- The Barail Range forms a **natural geographical barrier** between **Manipur and Nagaland**.
- It is regarded as one of the highest hill ranges in Assam.
- It separates:
  - Manipur from Nagaland
  - Also parts of Manipur from Assam
- Geographically, the Barail Hills lie **south of the Brahmaputra valley** and are structurally part of the folded mountain system that continues from the eastern Himalayas.

**Q.27) The Nagara, the Dravida and the Vesara are the: (IAS 2012)**

- A. three main racial groups of the Indian subcontinent
- B. three main linguistic divisions into which the languages of India can be classified
- C. three main styles of Indian temple architecture
- D. three main musical Gharanas prevalent in India

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

**Nagara Style**

- Northern Indian temple architecture
- Region: Between Himalayas and Vindhyas
- Features:
  - Curvilinear **Shikhara**
  - Square sanctum

- No elaborate boundary walls
- Absence of large gopurams

#### Dravida Style

- Southern Indian temple architecture
- Features:
  - Pyramid-shaped **Vimana**
  - Large gateway towers (**Gopurams**)
  - Enclosed temple complex
  - Water tanks within premises

#### Vesara Style

- Hybrid style
- Developed mainly in **Deccan region**
- Fusion of:
  - Nagara elements
  - Dravida elements
- Example: **Hoysala Architecture**

**Q.28) Which of the following diseases can be transmitted from one person to another through tattooing?**

1. Chikungunya
2. Hepatitis B
3. HIV-AIDS

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1: Chikungunya**

**Incorrect**

- Chikungunya is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by **Aedes mosquitoes**.
- It is **not a blood-borne infection** transmitted through contaminated needles.
- There is no standard evidence that it spreads through tattooing.

**Statement 2: Hepatitis B**

**Correct**

- Hepatitis B is a **blood-borne viral infection (HBV)**.
- It can spread through:
  - Contaminated needles

- Blood-to-blood contact
- Tattooing involves repeated skin piercing, creating a pathway for infected blood if equipment is not sterilised.
- HBV has a **high transmission rate** via needle exposure.

**Statement 3: HIV-AIDS**

**Correct**

- HIV is also a **blood-borne virus**.
- It spreads through:
  - Infected blood
  - Contaminated needles
- Unsafe tattooing practices can transmit HIV if sterilisation is inadequate.

**Q.29) With reference to India's HPV vaccination programme, consider the following statements:**

1. Gardasil used in the programme protects against HPV 16 and 18 as well as HPV 6 and 11.
2. HPV vaccination eliminates the need for future cervical cancer screening.
3. Vaccination will be provided only through designated government health facilities and monitored for rare adverse events.

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

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Gardasil is quadrivalent (16/18 + 6/11).
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Vaccine does **not** replace screening; Pap smears/HPV tests still matter.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Govt facilities + trained staff + observation/AEFI preparedness + 24x7 linkage are part of the plan.

**Q.30) With reference to Indian elephants, consider**

**the following statements: (IAS 2020)**

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

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

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

**Answer: A.**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1: The leader of an elephant group is a female.**

**Correct**

- Elephant herds follow a **matriarchal social structure**.
- The group is led by the **oldest and most experienced female**, called the *matriarch*.
- She guides the herd in:
  - Finding food and water
  - Migration routes
  - Protection from threats
- This is an important behavioural feature of **Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*)**.

**Statement 2: The maximum gestation period can be 22 months.**

**Correct**

- Elephants have the **longest gestation period among all mammals**.
- Gestation period ranges between **18 to 22 months**.
- This long period allows for advanced brain development of calves at birth.

**Statement 3: An elephant can normally go on calving till the age of 40 years only.**

**Incorrect**

- Elephants can reproduce well beyond 40 years.

- Female elephants can give birth even up to **50–60 years of age**, although fertility declines with age.
- Therefore, limiting calving to 40 years is incorrect.

**Statement 4: Among the States in India, the highest elephant population is in Kerala.**

**Incorrect**

- According to the **Elephant Census (2017)**:
  - **Karnataka** has the highest elephant population in India.
  - Followed by **Assam** and **Kerala**.
- Hence Kerala is not the highest.

**Q.31) Consider the following statements with regard to the G7:**

1. The G7 is a formal grouping of leading industrialised nations.
2. The European Union has been part of all working sessions of the G7 since the 1981 Ottawa Summit.
3. The Group of Eight was constituted in 1998 as Russia became a member of the grouping.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**