

Current Affairs Reverse Engineering (CARE)

FEBRUARY - 2026

UPSC & APPSC PRELIMS

MCQs with Explanations

Polity & Governance

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Women Empowerment under DAY–NRLM:

1. DAY–NRLM facilitates large-scale collateral-free credit to women Self-Help Groups through formal banking channels.
2. Krishi Sakhi and Pashu Sakhi provide last-mile support in agriculture and livestock-based livelihoods.
3. DAY–NRLM focuses only on farm-based livelihoods and excludes non-farm enterprises.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct** - DAY–NRLM has

enabled over ₹11 lakh crore in collateral-free institutional credit to women SHGs, supported by Bank Sakhis and Banking Correspondent Sakhis, with repayment rates exceeding 98%, reflecting financial sustainability.

- **Statement 2 – Correct** - Krishi Sakhi (agriculture) and Pashu Sakhi (livestock) act as **Community Resource Persons**, ensuring last-mile extension services, awareness, and income enhancement for **Mahila Kisans**.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect** - DAY–NRLM supports **both farm and non-farm livelihoods**, including **micro-enterprises** in handicrafts, food processing, and services through schemes like **SVEP**.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the National Biopharma Mission (NBM) – Innovate in India (i3):

1. It was launched in 2017 to transform India into a leading global biotech industry.

2. It is co-funded by the World Bank and implemented by BIRAC under the Department of Biotechnology.
3. It focuses on developing vaccines, biotherapeutics, diagnostics and medical devices.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The National Biopharma Mission was launched in **May 2017** with the objective of transforming India into a **leading global biotech industry**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The mission is **co-funded by the World Bank** and implemented by **BIRAC under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The mission focuses on **vaccines, biotherapeutics, diagnostics, and medical devices** to address the disease burden and improve affordability and access.

Additional Information:

- NBM supports **101 projects**, involves **150+ organisations**, **30 MSMEs**, and has generated **1,000+ jobs**, strengthening collaboration between **industry, academia, and government**.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the 16th Finance Commission:

1. States' share in the divisible pool has been increased to 50%.
2. Contribution to GDP has been introduced as a criterion for horizontal devolution.
3. Revenue deficit grants have been continued.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Incorrect (remains 41%). States' share in the divisible pool has been decreased to 41%.
- Statement 2 – Correct. Contribution to GDP has been introduced as a criterion for horizontal devolution.
- Statement 3 – Incorrect (discontinued). Revenue deficit grants have been discontinued.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding PM CARES Fund and related parliamentary rules:

1. PM CARES Fund is financed through the Consolidated Fund of India.
2. Rule 41 of Lok Sabha restricts questions on matters not primarily the concern of the Government of India.
3. The Supreme Court mandated CAG audit of PM CARES Fund.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Incorrect: PM CARES relies on voluntary contributions.
- Statement 2 – Correct: Rule 41 limits admissibility of such questions.
- Statement 3 – Incorrect: CAG audit applies to NDRF, not PM CARES.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding removal of the Lok Sabha Speaker:

1. The Speaker can be removed by a majority of members present and voting.

2. A minimum 14-day notice is required before moving the resolution.
3. At least 50 members must support the motion for it to be admitted.

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: B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect — removal requires an **absolute majority**, not just present and voting.
- Statement 2 is correct - A minimum 14-day notice is required before moving the resolution.
- Statement 3 is correct - At least 50 members must support the motion for it to be admitted.

Q.6) With reference to the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), consider the following statements:

1. It was created by the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014.
2. It was struck down for violating judicial independence under the Basic Structure doctrine.
3. It replaced the collegium system for appointing judges to the higher judiciary.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Statement 1 – Correct

The **99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014** inserted **Articles 124A, 124B, and 124C** into the Constitution.

- These provisions formally created the

National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC).

- It was designed as a six-member constitutional body.
- The NJAC replaced the earlier *collegium system*, which had evolved through judicial interpretation (Second and Third Judges Cases).

Thus, Statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2 – Correct

- In the landmark judgment **Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India (2015)** (also known as the *Fourth Judges Case*), the Supreme Court struck down the NJAC by a 4:1 majority.

The Court held that:

- **Judicial independence** is part of the **Basic Structure** of the Constitution.
- Any constitutional amendment that damages or destroys the basic structure is unconstitutional.
- Inclusion of the **Law Minister** and **two eminent persons** in the NJAC diluted judicial primacy in appointments.
- The **two-member veto provision** allowed non-judicial members to block appointments, risking executive interference.
- Hence, NJAC was declared unconstitutional for violating the Basic Structure doctrine.

Statement 2 is correct.

Statement 3 – Correct

The NJAC was explicitly created to **replace the collegium system**, which consisted of:

- Chief Justice of India
- Four senior-most Supreme Court judges

The collegium system was criticised for:

- Lack of transparency
- Absence of formal criteria
- Allegations of nepotism

NJAC aimed to introduce:

- Broader participation (executive + eminent persons)
- Greater transparency
- Institutional accountability

Therefore, Statement 3 is also correct.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the SVAMITVA Scheme:

1. It was launched in 2020 for drone-based mapping of rural abadi areas.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj with State Governments and the Survey of India.
3. It aims to map urban municipal areas for smart city development.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 – Correct:

- The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme was launched in **April 2020**. It uses **drone technology** for mapping rural inhabited (abadi) areas.

Statement 2 – Correct:

- The scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, in collaboration with **State Governments and the Survey of India**.

Statement 3 – Incorrect:

- The scheme focuses on **rural abadi areas**, not urban municipal areas. Its objectives include settling land disputes and improving access to bank credit through property cards.

Additional Information

- Nearly **3.44 lakh villages** are targeted under the scheme.
- Drone surveys have been completed in **3.28 lakh villages (about 95% of the target)**.
- Over **2.76 crore property cards** have been prepared across **31 States and UTs**.
- The scheme aims to enhance **rural governance, financial inclusion, and transparency in land records**.

Q.8) With reference to the Frontier Nagaland

Territorial Authority (FNTA), consider the following districts:

1. Kiphire
2. Longleng
3. Mon
4. Dimapur
5. Tuensang
6. Noklak

How many of the above districts are included in the six “backward” eastern districts granted autonomy under FNTA?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

The six districts under FNTA are:

- Kiphire
- Longleng
- Mon
- Noklak
- Shamator
- Tuensang

Dimapur is **not included**, hence five correct districts from the list.

Q.9) With reference to the Sabarimala Temple case, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court held that devotees of Lord Ayyappa constitute a separate religious denomination.
2. The Essential Religious Practices doctrine allows courts to determine essential religious practices.
3. The Anti-Exclusion Test focuses on dignity and equality rather than religious essentiality.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect** : The Court held that Ayyappa devotees are not a separate religious denomination.
- **Statement 2 is Correct** : ERP doctrine allows courts to determine essential religious practices.
- **Statement 3 is Correct** : Anti-Exclusion Test focuses on dignity and equality.

International Relations

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the India–US Trade Deal 2026:

1. The United States reduced reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods to 18%.
2. The punitive duty imposed due to India’s Russian oil imports has been removed.
3. India has regained benefits under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) as part of the deal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct: Tariffs were reduced to 18%.
- Statement 2 – Correct: Punitive duties were withdrawn.
- Statement 3 – Incorrect: India has **not yet regained GSP benefits**.

Q.11) With reference to India–Russia defence cooperation, consider the following weapon systems:

1. **BrahMos Missile** – jointly developed by India’s DRDO and Russia’s NPO Mashinostroyeniya.
2. **Sukhoi Su-30MKI** – licensed production carried out in India by Hindustan

Aeronautics Limited.

3. **S-400 Triumph** – jointly developed and co-produced in India under the “Make in India” initiative.
4. **AK-203 Assault Rifles** – manufactured in India through an Indo-Russian joint venture.

Which of the above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** BrahMos is a flagship **joint R&D project** between DRDO (India) and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia).
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Sukhoi Su-30MKI is produced in India by **HAL under licence**.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** S-400 Triumph is **procured** from Russia; it is **not jointly produced** in India.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** AK-203 rifles are manufactured in India by **Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt. Ltd.** under *Make in India*.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding India–Malaysia relations:

1. The Malaysia–India Digital Council aims to promote cooperation in fintech, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.
2. Harimau Shakti is a joint naval exercise conducted by India and Malaysia.
3. Both countries encouraged settlement of bilateral trade in local currencies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct. The Malaysia–India Digital Council aims to promote cooperation in

fintech, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.

- Statement 2 – Incorrect (Harimau Shakti is a **joint Army exercise**, not naval).
- Statement 3 – Correct. Both countries encouraged settlement of bilateral trade in local currencies.

Q.13) With reference to the India–U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement, consider the following statements:

1. Section 232 allows the U.S. to impose trade restrictions on national security grounds.
2. Tariff Rate Quotas allow unlimited imports at concessional tariffs.
3. Highly sensitive agricultural sectors such as dairy remain protected under the agreement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct. Section 232 allows the U.S. to impose trade restrictions on national security grounds.
- Statement 2 – Incorrect (TRQs are quantity-limited)
- Statement 3 – Correct. Highly sensitive agricultural sectors such as dairy remain protected under the agreement.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding India–Greece relations:

1. The Mauryan dynasty was contemporary to Alexander.
2. The Gandhara school of art reflects Indo-Greek cultural influence.
3. India and Greece elevated their ties to a Strategic Partnership in 2023.

Which of the statements given above are

correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Alexander invaded north-western India in 326 BC. The **Mauryan dynasty**, particularly under Chandragupta Maurya, was broadly contemporary to the period following Alexander’s campaigns. Greek ambassador **Megasthenes** visited Chandragupta Maurya’s court, as referenced in ancient texts.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The **Gandhara school of art** emerged as a fusion of Indian and Greek artistic traditions. It developed in the north-western region of the Indian subcontinent and is a classic example of Indo-Greek cultural synthesis.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** India and Greece elevated their bilateral relations to the level of a **Strategic Partnership in August 2023**, marking a significant strengthening of diplomatic and strategic cooperation.

Q.15) The H125 helicopter project is significant because it:

- A. Is imported fully from France
- B. Represents joint manufacturing under Make in India
- C. Is only for civilian tourism
- D. Is a space exploration vehicle

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **H125 helicopter project** is a **joint India–France manufacturing initiative** between **Tata and Airbus**, with a final assembly line established in India. It supports the **Make in India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives by promoting domestic manufacturing, technology transfer, skill development, and export capability.

Q.16) With reference to Pax Silica, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to build an end-to-end secure supply chain for semiconductors and AI infrastructure.
2. It was launched in December 2025 in Washington D.C.
3. India was an original founding member.
4. It emerged partly in response to China's export restrictions on rare earth elements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is Correct.

- Pax Silica aims to create an **end-to-end secure supply chain** covering critical minerals, semiconductor manufacturing, AI infrastructure, and logistics. The initiative seeks to build a trusted ecosystem from raw material extraction to advanced AI systems.

Statement 2 is Correct.

- The initiative was launched at its **inaugural summit in December 2025 in Washington, D.C.** This marked the formal beginning of the U.S.-led coalition.

Statement 3 is Incorrect.

- India was **not an original founding member**. It was not invited to the initial summit and formally joined later in **February 2026**.

Statement 4 is Correct.

- Pax Silica emerged partly in response to **China's dominance in rare earth processing and its export restrictions**, which exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains and raised concerns about "weaponised dependency."

Q.17) In which one of the following groups are all the countries members of the G7 Summit?

- A. Canada, France, Germany and Italy
- B. India, Japan, United Kingdom and United States
- C. China, France, Germany and Japan
- D. Russia, Italy, United Kingdom and United States

Answer: A

Explanation:

The G7 countries are:

- Canada
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- United Kingdom
- United States

These are the seven major developed economies that form the G7 group.

Economy

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding Biopharma Shakti announced in the Union Budget 2026–27:

1. It aims to promote domestic production of biologics and biosimilars.
2. It includes the establishment of new and upgradation of existing NIPERs.
3. It focuses exclusively on vaccine manufacturing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct, it aims to promote domestic production of biologics and biosimilars.
- Statement 2 – Correct, it includes the establishment of new and upgradation of existing NIPERs.

- Statement 3 – Incorrect (scope includes biologics, biosimilars, clinical trials, CDSCO strengthening)

Q.19) With reference to the AYUSH system in India, consider the following systems of medicine:

1. Allopathy
2. Yoga and Naturopathy
3. Unani
4. Siddha
5. Homoeopathy

Which of the above are included under the AYUSH framework of India?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **AYUSH** stands for **Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy**.
- **Allopathy** refers to modern Western medicine and is **not part of AYUSH**.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik) :

1. Launched in October 2016.
2. First flight: Shimla–Delhi.
3. Boosted tourism, healthcare and trade in Tier-2 & Tier-3 cities.

Which of the statements are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Statement 1 – Correct:

- The UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme was launched on **21st October 2016** to enhance regional air connectivity and make flying affordable for common citizens.

Statement 2 – Correct:

- The **first UDAN flight** operated between

Shimla and Delhi on 27th April 2017, marking the operational rollout of the scheme.

Statement 3 – Correct:

- UDAN improved connectivity to underserved and remote regions, thereby strengthening **regional tourism, healthcare access, and trade**, and catalysing economic growth in **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**.

Q.21) Which sector witnessed the largest increase in budget share after the pandemic?

- A. Health
- B. Infrastructure (Roads & Railways)
- C. Skill Development
- D. Tourism

Answer: B

Explanation:

- After the pandemic, the government increased spending mainly on **infrastructure sectors like Roads and Railways** to boost economic recovery, create jobs, and improve connectivity. Their share in total budget expenditure rose significantly compared to other sectors.

Environment & Ecology – Disaster Management

Q.22) With reference to Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) and Lake Outburst Floods (LOFs), consider the following factors:

1. Large volume of water stored in moraine-dammed glacial lakes.
2. Narrow and high moraine dams with limited freeboard.
3. Presence of stagnant glacier ice within the moraine dam.
4. Avalanche displacement waves caused by calving glaciers, rockfalls and hanging glaciers.
5. Catastrophic drainage of water into the lake from sub-glacial, englacial or supraglacial channels.

Which of the above contribute to the occurrence of glacial lake outburst hazards?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Larger lake volume increases hydrostatic pressure on the moraine dam, raising failure risk.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Narrow, steep moraine dams with **low freeboard** are structurally unstable and prone to overtopping.
- **Statement 3 – Correct: Stagnant ice within moraine dams** can melt internally, weakening dam integrity.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** Avalanches, glacier calving, and rockfalls generate **displacement waves** that can overtop or breach the dam.
- **Statement 5 – Correct:** Sudden inflow from **sub-glacial, englacial or supraglacial channels** can rapidly raise lake levels, triggering outbursts.

Q.23) Which of the following factors most directly disrupt the hydrological functioning of wetlands?

- 1. Channelisation of rivers
- 2. Groundwater over-extraction
- 3. Sand mining
- 4. Construction of embankments

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- All listed activities alter natural flow regimes, sediment transport, and water availability, leading to degradation of wetland ecosystems.

Q.24) With reference to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Rules mandate segregation of solid waste at source into wet, dry, sanitary and special care waste.
- 2. Dry waste is required to be transported to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for sorting and recycling.

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:** The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 make **four-stream segregation at source mandatory**—wet, dry, sanitary and special care waste.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** **Dry waste** such as plastic, paper, metal and glass is to be transported to **Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)** for sorting and recycling.

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding the NDMA's Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Guidelines:

- 1. The guidelines recommend establishing a National Dental Data Registry for victim identification.
- 2. They mandate mass autopsies for all victims in large-scale disasters.
- 3. The identification process includes reconciliation of ante-mortem and post-mortem data.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct: Dental records are proposed as a durable identification tool.
- Statement 2 – Incorrect: The guidelines advise against mass autopsies.
- Statement 3 – Correct: Scientific reconciliation is a core step in the four-stage process.

Q.26) Match the following Nuclear Power Plants with their respective Locations:

Nuclear Power Plant	Location
1. Tarapur Atomic Power Station	A. Rajasthan
2. Rajasthan Atomic Power Station	B. Tamil Nadu
3. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station	C. Maharashtra
4. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant	D. Gujarat

Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- A. 1–C, 2–A, 3–D, 4–B
- B. 1–A, 2–C, 3–D, 4–B
- C. 1–C, 2–D, 3–A, 4–B
- D. 1–D, 2–A, 3–C, 4–B

Answer: A

Explanation:

1. Tarapur Atomic Power Station – Maharashtra

- Located in **Maharashtra**.
- One of India’s oldest nuclear power plants.

2. Rajasthan Atomic Power Station – Rajasthan

- Located at Rawatbhata in **Rajasthan**.

3. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station – Gujarat

- Located in **Gujarat**.

4. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant – Tamil Nadu

- Located in **Tamil Nadu**.
- Uses Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) technology.

Q.27) Which among the following island pairs are separated by the Ten Degree Channel?

- A. Andaman and Nicobar
- B. Nicobar and Sumatra
- C. Maldives and Lakshadweep

- D. Sumatra and Java

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Eight Degree Channel:** This channel forms the maritime boundary between India and the Maldives. It lies between Minicoy Island (India) and the Maldives.
- **Nine Degree Channel:** It separates Minicoy Island from the rest of the Lakshadweep group of islands.
- **Ten Degree Channel:** It divides the Andaman Islands from the Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal.

Q.28) The nationwide DNA-based synchronous population estimation of elephants in India was conducted by which of the following organisations under Project Elephant?

- A. Zoological Survey of India
- B. Wildlife Institute of India
- C. Forest Survey of India
- D. National Biodiversity Authority

Answer: B

Explanation:

The exercise was conducted by the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** under **Project Elephant (1992)**. WII prepared the report titled: **“Status of Elephants in India: DNA-based Synchronous All-India Population Estimation of Elephants (SAIEE 2021–25)”**.

Additional information:

- **Estimated population: 22,446 elephants**, compared to **29,964 in 2017**, indicating a decline (about **25%** as per the news summary).
- **Major methodological shift:** From older **visual counts / dung-based counts** to a **DNA mark-recapture technique**, which is scientifically more reliable.
- **Why DNA method matters:** Elephants often **lack distinctive physical features**, so **genetic markers** help identify **individual elephants**, similar to methods used in tiger estimation.
- **Scale of field work:**
 - **188,030 trails** walked, covering **6.66 lakh km**
 - **3.19 lakh dung plots** examined

- **21,056 dung samples** collected
- DNA profiles generated for **4,065 individual elephants**
- **Estimation model used: Spatially Explicit Capture–Recapture (SECR)** model integrating **genetic + habitat data** for better accuracy.
- **State-wise highest counts:**
 - **Karnataka (6,013)**
 - **Assam (4,159)**
 - **Tamil Nadu (3,136)**
 - **Kerala (2,785)**
 - **Uttarakhand (1,792)**
- **Regional trend:** Declines reported in major landscapes like the **Western Ghats** and **Northeastern Hills & Brahmaputra Plains**, while **Shivalik–Gangetic Plains** remained nearly **unchanged**.

Science & Technology

Q.29) With reference to the applications of Lithium-ion batteries, consider the following:

1. Portable electronic devices
2. Aerospace systems
3. Hybrid and electric vehicles
4. Medical implantable devices

Which of the above are applications of Lithium-ion batteries?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Portable electronic devices** such as smartphones and laptops extensively use Lithium-ion batteries due to high energy density and lightweight design.
- **Aerospace systems** prefer Lithium-ion batteries where weight reduction and efficiency are critical (e.g., aircraft electrical systems).
- **Hybrid and electric vehicles** rely on Lithium-ion batteries for higher driving range and

reduced fossil-fuel dependence.

- **Medical implantable devices**, including cardiac pacemakers, use Lithium-ion batteries for reliability and long operational life.

Q.30) With reference to AgriStack, consider the following statements:

1. AgriStack is a Digital Public Infrastructure aimed at integrating farmer-related data on a single platform.
2. Each farmer is assigned a unique digital identity similar to Aadhaar.
3. Bharat-VISTAAR is a blockchain-based platform for agricultural exports.
4. AgriStack is expected to support DBT and MSP procurement systems.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statements 1 and 2 are core features of AgriStack.
- Statement 3 is incorrect — Bharat-VISTAAR is an **AI-enabled multilingual integration tool**, not blockchain-based.
- Statement 4 is correct since scheme convergence is a major objective.

Q.31) The proposed Indian Scientific Service (ISS) primarily aims to:

- A. Replace the Indian Administrative Service with technical experts
- B. Increase the number of research institutions in India
- C. Integrate scientific expertise directly into policymaking and governance
- D. Centralise all scientific research under one ministry

Answer: C

Explanation:

The **Indian Scientific Service (ISS)** is proposed to **bring scientists directly into government decision-making** so that policies are based on scientific evidence.

- It will **not replace IAS officers**.
- It will **not create new research institutions**.
- It will **not centralise research under one ministry**.

Its main goal is to **use scientific knowledge while making government policies**.

Q.32) Nonsense mutations primarily result in:

- Increased protein production
- Premature termination of protein synthesis
- Duplication of chromosomes
- Activation of silent genes

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Nonsense mutations introduce premature stop codons, halting protein formation early.

Q.33) India–AI Impact Summit 2026 is significant because:

1. It is the first global AI summit hosted in the Global South
2. It focuses only on private-sector AI innovation
3. It promotes responsible and inclusive AI adoption

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct - It is the first global AI summit hosted in the Global South
- Statement 2 is incorrect — summit includes governance and public-sector focus.
- Statement 3 is correct - It promotes responsible and inclusive AI adoption

Internal Security

Q.34) With reference to PRAHAAR, consider the following statements:

1. It recognises cyber-attacks by nation-states as part of the terrorism spectrum.
2. It associates terrorism with specific religions for identification purposes.
3. It emphasises denial of funds, weapons and safe havens to terrorists.
4. It includes measures to counter misuse of CBRNED materials.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** The policy explicitly includes cyber-attacks by nation-states as a threat.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** It clearly states that India does not link terrorism to any religion, ethnicity, or civilisation.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** A core aim is to deny terrorists access to funds, weapons and safe havens.
- **Statement 4 is Correct.** The policy flags challenges in preventing access to CBRNED materials.

Art & Culture

Q.35) With reference to the Hoysala Dynasty, consider the following statements:

1. Belur served as the initial capital of the Hoysalas before the capital was shifted to Dwarasamudra.
2. The Hoysala kingdom was confined only to present-day Karnataka and did not

extend into Tamil Nadu.

3. Veera Ballala II was one of the prominent rulers under whom the Hoysala kingdom expanded significantly.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 – Correct

- Belur (also known as Velapuri) was the early capital of the Hoysalas in the 11th century. Later, the capital was shifted to **Dwarasamudra (modern Halebidu)**, which became the political and cultural centre of the empire.
- Dwarasamudra developed into a major temple-building centre and is home to the famous **Hoysaleswara Temple**.

Statement 2 – Incorrect

The Hoysala kingdom was not confined to Karnataka.
Additional Fact:

- Their territory extended into parts of **Tamil Nadu**.
- The dynasty ruled for over **three centuries (11th–14th century CE)**.
- They emerged from being feudatories of the **Western Chalukyas of Kalyana** to independent rulers.

Statement 3 – Correct

Veera Ballala II was a powerful and expansionist ruler.

- Under him, the Hoysala kingdom reached its political peak.
- He strengthened administrative control and patronised temple architecture.
- His reign saw consolidation of power in southern India.

Public Health

Q.36) With reference to adolescent mental health in India, consider the following statements:

1. Excessive screen use can exacerbate symptoms of existing neurodevelopmental disorders.
2. The National Mental Health Survey suggests that over 20% of Indian adolescents have diagnosable mental health conditions.
3. India faces a shortage of trained child and adolescent mental health professionals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** Screen overuse can worsen symptoms though it does not cause conditions like ADHD.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** Survey estimates are around 7–10%, not 20%.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** India has a severe shortage of child mental health professionals.

Q.37) With reference to Lenacapavir and HIV prevention, consider the following statements:

1. Lenacapavir is the first twice-yearly injectable PrEP for HIV prevention.
2. PrEP is meant for people living with HIV as a substitute for ART.
3. Zimbabwe's rollout began in Epworth, about 20 km south of Harare, with 46,000 doses across 24 sites.
4. Resistance to lenacapavir can occur, but strong resistance mutations can reduce viral replication to about 20–30% of normal levels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 – Correct.

- Lenacapavir is the **first twice-yearly injectable PrEP** for HIV prevention.

Statement 2 – Incorrect.

- PrEP is for **HIV-negative individuals**. It does **not replace ART**, which is used for people living with HIV.

Statement 3 – Correct.

- Zimbabwe’s rollout began in **Epworth (20 km south of Harare)** with **46,000 doses across 24 sites**.

Statement 4 – Correct.

- Resistance can occur, but strong mutations reduce viral replication to about **20–30%**, showing a fitness cost.

Q.38) 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.

APPSC MCQs

Q.39) With reference to the “Green & Healthy Kuppam” initiative, consider the following statements:

1. Kuppam set a Guinness World Record by distributing 5,555 electric cycles in a single day.
2. The initiative aims to promote green mobility and net-zero development at the constituency level.
3. The electric cycles distributed emit more carbon dioxide per kilometre than petrol scooters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct: 5,555 e-cycles were distributed in one day.
- Statement 2 – Correct: The programme promotes sustainable transport and net-zero development.
- Statement 3 – Incorrect: E-cycles emit **significantly less CO₂** than petrol scooters.

Q.40) Consider the following pairs of irrigation projects and their associated regions in Andhra Pradesh:

1. Veligonda Project — Prakasam District
2. Korisapadu Project — Palnadu District
3. Paleru Project — Prakasam District

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

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

As per the recent announcements by the State Social Welfare Minister during the **57th Formation Day of Prakasam District**, the following geographic and administrative associations apply:

1. **Veligonda Project (Poola Subbaiah): Correctly Matched.** This is a massive irrigation project designed to draw floodwaters from the Srisailem reservoir to provide drinking and irrigation water to the drought-prone areas of **Prakasam**, Nellore, and Kadapa districts. It is the lifeline of the Prakasam district.
2. **Korisapadu Project: Incorrectly Matched.** The Korisapadu Lift Irrigation Scheme is located within the **Prakasam District** (specifically serving the Korisapadu mandal and surrounding areas). The pair in the question incorrectly associates it with the Palnadu district.
3. **Paleru Project: Correctly Matched.** The Paleru reservoir and its associated canal systems are integral to the irrigation network of the **Prakasam district**. The Minister specifically highlighted this project as a budget priority for the district's development in 2026–27.

Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding the zero excise duty on raw tobacco:

1. The duty applies to unbranded tobacco products not packaged for retail sale.
2. The reform aims to reduce tax evasion by clarifying classification rules.
3. The notification was issued by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct: Zero duty applies to unbranded tobacco under HS Code 2401.
- Statement 2 – Correct: Clear rules reduce excise duty evasion.
- Statement 3 – Incorrect: The notification was issued by the **Finance Ministry**, not the Agriculture Ministry.

Q.42) Consider the following statements regarding the AI4AP Police Project:

1. It integrates Artificial Intelligence with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS).
2. The project originated from India's first police-specific AI hackathon.
3. It aims to replace human investigators entirely with automated systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct: The project is built on a secure AI foundation integrated with CCTNS.
- Statement 2 – Correct: It emerged from the AI4 Andhra Police Hackathon.
- Statement 3 – Incorrect: AI is intended to assist, not replace, human investigators.

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding WAPCON-2026:

1. It is India's first national conference dedicated to women in Ayurveda.
2. The conference is organised solely by the Ministry of AYUSH.
3. The theme of the conference is "Swastha Nari – Sashakt Bharat."

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct: It is the inaugural women-focused Ayurveda conference.
- Statement 2 – Incorrect: It is jointly organised by Vishwa Ayurveda Parishad and Andhra University with support from the Ministry of AYUSH.
- Statement 3 – Correct: The theme emphasizes women's health and empowerment.

Q.44) Consider the following statements:

1. Andhra Pradesh plans to introduce a population management policy to address ageing population concerns.
2. The Sanjeevani project includes preparation of health profiles for school students.
3. The P4 model refers to a Public-Private-Partnership exclusively for infrastructure development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Policy aims to prevent demographic imbalance and future labour shortages.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Health profiles of 70 lakh students are planned.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** P4 stands for **People-Public-Private-Partnership**, focused on reducing inequality — not just infrastructure.

Q.45) With reference to quantum technologies,

consider the following statements:

1. Quantum Key Distribution enables theoretically secure communication.
2. Gender Parity Index measures the level of technological advancement in a region.
3. The National Quantum Mission aims to develop quantum computing and communication capabilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct. Quantum Key Distribution enables theoretically secure communication.
- Statement 2 – Incorrect (GPI measures gender equality in participation)
- Statement 3 – Correct. The National Quantum Mission aims to develop quantum computing and communication capabilities.

Q.46) With reference to legislative functioning in India, consider the following statements:

1. A legislator can be disqualified for remaining absent from the House for 60 consecutive days without permission.
2. The Governor's address is treated as a regular sitting for attendance purposes.
3. The Speaker plays a key role in enforcing discipline in the House.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct

- Under Article 190 of the Constitution of India,

a member's seat can be declared vacant if absent for **60 days** without House permission.

Statement 2: Incorrect

- The **Governor's address** is a constitutional formality and **not treated as a regular sitting** for attendance.

Statement 3: Correct

- The Speaker maintains **discipline, order, and procedural compliance** in the House.

Q.47) The main purpose of "Clicker" in Andhra Pradesh schools is.?

- A. Digital attendance monitoring
- B. Real-time classroom engagement
- C. Online exam proctoring
- D. Mid-day meal tracking

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Clicker is a classroom response system for engagement.

Q.48) The Andhra Pradesh–Gates Foundation partnership mainly focuses on:

- A. Defence manufacturing expansion
- B. Technology-driven improvements in governance and social sectors
- C. Privatization of welfare schemes
- D. Establishment of private universities

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The partnership aims to use AI, digital systems, and innovation to improve governance, healthcare, education, and agriculture.

Q.49) International Fleet Review (IFR) is best described as:

- A. A joint military exercise conducted only by Indian armed forces
- B. A ceremonial assembly of naval ships from various countries reviewed by the Head of State
- C. A maritime trade conference
- D. A naval recruitment programme

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **International Fleet Review (IFR)** is a **ceremonial gathering of naval ships** from India and other countries, formally **reviewed by the Head of State**. It promotes maritime diplomacy, cooperation, and showcases naval capabilities.

Q.50) Exercise MILAN is:

- A. A bilateral naval exercise between India and France
- B. A multilateral naval exercise conducted by the Indian Navy
- C. A joint army counter-terrorism drill
- D. A coast guard training programme

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Exercise MILAN is a **biennial multilateral naval exercise** organised by the **Indian Navy** to enhance cooperation, interoperability, and maritime security among participating countries.

Q.51) The recent MoU signed by Andhra Pradesh with the International Innovation Corps primarily aims to:

- A. Privatised school meal programmes
- B. Improve monitoring and transparency using AI and data analytics
- C. Replace the existing Midday Meal Scheme
- D. Introduce paid meals in schools

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The partnership focuses on using **AI and data analytics** to enhance monitoring, transparency, attendance estimation, and nutritional tracking under the Midday Meal Scheme.

Q.52) With reference to Natural Farming initiatives in India, consider the following statements:

1. Natural farming discourages the use of synthetic chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

2. QR-based traceability systems enhance transparency in agricultural supply chains.
3. Waste processing centres producing organic manure promote circular economy principles.

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. 1 only

Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** Natural farming promotes chemical-free cultivation using bio-inputs and indigenous practices.
- **Statement 2 is Correct.** QR-based traceability allows consumers to track produce details, improving transparency and trust.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** Converting waste into organic manure reflects circular economy principles by recycling resources.

Q.53) With reference to anti-drug enforcement in India, consider the following statements:

1. The NDPS Act provides legal framework for regulating narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
2. The PIT NDPS Act allows preventive detention of habitual drug offenders.
3. Drug trafficking has no linkages with organised crime networks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** NDPS Act, 1985 regulates narcotic drugs and prescribes penalties.
- **Statement 2 is Correct.** PIT NDPS Act, 1988

provides preventive detention provisions.

- **Statement 3 is Incorrect.** Drug trafficking is often linked with organised crime and can fund extremist activities.

Q.54) With reference to 'Aatavidupu', consider the following statements:

1. It is a sports event organised exclusively for Members of Parliament.
2. The initiative was originally launched in 1983 during N.T. Rama Rao's tenure.
3. The 2026 event was held at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect.** It is for Andhra Pradesh legislators (MLAs & MLCs), not Members of Parliament.
- **Statement 2 – Correct.** It was first launched in 1983 during N.T. Rama Rao's tenure.
- **Statement 3 – Correct.** The 2026 event was held at IGMC Stadium, Vijayawada.

Q.55) With reference to SATTE 2026, consider the following statements:

1. SATTE is South Asia's largest travel and tourism exhibition.
2. Andhra Pradesh Tourism participated to promote tourism destinations globally.
3. SATTE 2026 was held in Mumbai.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct: SATTE is South Asia’s largest travel and tourism exhibition.
- Statement 2 – Correct: AP Tourism participated to promote global tourism.
- Statement 3 – Incorrect: SATTE 2026 was held in New Delhi, not Mumbai.

Q.56) With reference to Operation Chinnari-Thalli, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statewide special drive launched by the Andhra Pradesh Police.
2. It is implemented under the Women and Child Safety Wing.
3. Its primary objective is to promote digital literacy among adolescents.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct.

- Operation Chinnari-Thalli is a statewide special drive launched by the Andhra Pradesh Police to prevent sexual offences against children.

Statement 2: Correct.

- The initiative is implemented under the Women and Child Safety Wing of the Andhra Pradesh Police.

Statement 3: Incorrect.

- The programme primarily focuses on preventing crimes against children and strengthening child safety mechanisms, not specifically on digital literacy.