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UPSC 2025 Prelims Questions Reflections



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**Totally 47 questions (out of
100) of the UPSC Prelims
2025, can be traced from the
Thervupettagam website**



Exam Question

3. In the context of electric vehicle batteries, consider the following elements:

- I. Cobalt
- II. Graphite
- III. Lithium
- IV. Nickel

How many of the above usually make up battery cathodes?

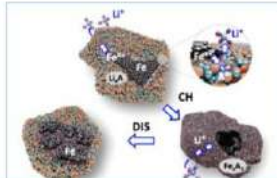
- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) *Only three*
- (d) All the four



News Page

June 1, 2024 150 days 111 9 Like 0 Share

- Researchers have reportedly developed an iron-based cathode material which can pave the way for making cheaper, safer, and more sustainable batteries.
- They have made a cathode material out of iron, which is easy to find and cheap.
- Traditional lithium-ion batteries depend a lot on cobalt and nickel, which are both expensive and hard to find.
- The new material will end the need to use expensive and scarce metals such as cobalt and nickel.
- It will be leading to the manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs) at cheaper rates.





Exam Question

5. Consider the following substances:

- I. Ethanol
- II. Nitroglycerine
- III. Urea

Coal gasification technology can be used in the production of how many of them?

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



News Page

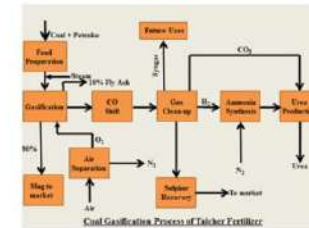


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January 13, 2023 | 855 Views | 70 | 0

[Like 0](#) [Share](#)

- Country's first-ever coal gasification based Talcher Fertiliser plant in Odisha will open in 2024.
- This plant at Talcher will use Coal Gasification Technology to produce urea.
- The plant will help to reduce dependency on urea import.



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[National News](#)

India's first coal to methanol plant

January 19, 2022 | 1224 Views | 163 | 0

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- The union minister for Heavy Industries, Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated India's first BHEL-built 'coal to methanol' (CTM) pilot plant in Hyderabad.
- It is currently producing methanol with a purity of more than 99 percent from high-ash Indian coal.
- This conversion of high ash Indian coals to methanol through the gasification route is the first of its kind technology demonstration in India.



Exam Question

7. Consider the following statements:

- I. It is expected that Majorana 1 chip will enable quantum computing.
- II. Majorana 1 chip has been introduced by Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- III. Deep learning is a subset of machine learning.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) **I and III only**
- (d) I, II and III



News Page

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Science and Technology News

Microsoft - Majorana 1

February 22, 2015 14 days 356

[Like 0](#) [Share](#)

- The Microsoft has announced the arrival of Majorana 1, a new quantum chip that produces more reliable and scalable qubits than its predecessors.
- Qubits are the building blocks of quantum computers.
- The Majorana 1 is an eight-qubit chip, which may seem modest when compared to quantum chips developed by rivals such as Google's Willow (100-qubit chip) and IBM's R2 Heron (150-qubit chip).





Exam Question

8. With reference to monoclonal antibodies, often mentioned in news, consider the following statements:

- I. They are man-made proteins.
- II. They stimulate immunological function due to their ability to bind to specific antigens.
- III. They are used in treating viral infections like that of Nipah virus.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) **I, II and III**



News Page

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International News

Aducanumab

Jun 12, 2021 | 145 days | 82 | 0 | 1.6K | 0 | Share

- Aducanumab (Aduhelm) is the new drug approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating Alzheimer's disease.
- It is developed by the company Biogen.
- Alzheimer's disease causes the accumulation of the debris caused by the breakdown of neurons in the brain.
- This leads to plaque formation.
- Aducanumab is a monoclonal antibody.
- It is designed to reduce the presence of amyloid beta, a protein that forms plaques in the brain.

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International News

New Alzheimer's drug

June 11, 2021 | 145 days | 815 | 0 | 1.6K | 0 | Share

- Independent advisers committee to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave nod to the new Alzheimer's drug - Donanemab.
- Donanemab is a monoclonal antibody that targets amyloid beta protein plaques in the brain.
- Though the therapy slows down the progression of the disease, it does not ultimately treat the disease.
- Alzheimer's disease has multiple modalities and we would need various therapies.

New Drug on Alzheimer's

What do the new drugs do?



Exam Question

10. Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

Activated carbon is a good and an attractive tool to remove pollutants from effluent streams and to remediate contaminants from various industries.

Statement II:

Activated carbon exhibits a large surface area and a strong potential for adsorbing heavy metals.

Statement III:

Activated carbon can be easily synthesized from environmental waters with high carbon content.

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



News Page

Miscellaneous News

Superhydrophobic catalyst

June 29, 2024 · 337 days · 475 · 0 · Like 0 · Share

- A team of scientists from Assam, Odisha, China, and the United Kingdom have developed a water-repellent catalyst.
- It can cut the cost of producing "environmentally benign" biodiesel substantially from the current levels.
- The process of arriving at the "spherical superhydrophobic activated carbon catalyst" to withstand water by-product during the production of biodiesel.
- Superhydrophobic catalysts are imitating the anti-wetting or water-repulsing properties of natural surfaces such as lotus leaves.
- The catalyst remains highly effective and can be reused multiple times, making the catalytic process more efficient and cost-effective.



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October 15, 2023 · 10th days · 1117 · 0 · Like 0 · Share

- The Delhi government approved a proposal to install a 'smog tower' in Connaught Place to deal with air pollution.
- It will be the second smog tower after China and first of its kind in the world.
- The technology of the smog tower coming up at Connaught Place will be different from the one in China.
- Smog towers are structures designed to function as large-scale air purifiers to reduce air pollution particles.
- They are usually fitted with multiple layers of air filters, which clean the air of pollutants as they pass through them.
- Highly-effective H114 grade Highly Effective Particulate Arrestance (HEPA) filter would be used in Delhi.
- The filter is said to have been designed to clean up to 99.99% Particulate Matter (PM) present in the air with the help of pre-filter and activated carbon.





Exam Question

11. Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

Studies indicate that carbon dioxide emissions from cement industry account for more than 5% of global carbon emissions.

Statement II:

Silica-bearing clay is mixed with limestone while manufacturing cement.

Statement III:

Limestone is converted into lime during clinker production for cement manufacturing.

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



News Page

Environment News

'CO2 Emissions in 2022' report

March 10, 2023 239 days 518 0

Like 0 Share

- CO₂ Emissions in 2022 Report was released by the International Energy Agency.
- Global energy-related emissions of carbon dioxide hit a record high last year.
- Global emissions from energy rose by 0.9% in 2022 to a record 36.8 billion tonnes.
- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from coal grew by 1.6% last year.
- CO₂ emissions from oil rose by 2.3% but remained below pre-pandemic levels.
- Emissions in China decreased in 2022 due to the COVID lockdown.
- In the European Union, emissions decreased by 2.5%.
- The Asia Pacific region also saw unprecedented reductions (-1.8%).
- The emissions from the global industries decreased.
- The main reason behind the reduction was a 10% decrease in cement production and a 2% decrease in steel production.
- Emissions due to natural gas decreased by 1.6%.
- The biggest sectoral increase in emissions in 2022 came from electricity and heat generation.



Exam Question

12. Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

At the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), India refrained from signing the 'Declaration on Climate and Health'.

Statement II:

The COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health is a binding declaration; and if signed, it becomes mandatory to decarbonize health sector.

Statement III:

If India's health sector is decarbonized, the resilience of its health-care system may be compromised.



News Page



COP 28
United Arab Emirates
30 NOV - 12 DEC 2023

Declaration on Climate and Health

- The declaration calls for climate action to achieve benefits for health from deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- It is including from transitions, lower air pollution, active mobility, and shifts to sustainable healthy diets.
- The declaration has been signed by 124 countries.
- Till now, the US and India, which are among the top greenhouse gas emitters, are absent from the list of signatories.
- The declaration is aimed at addressing the critical intersection between climate change and global health.
- It emphasises the need for swift and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.



Even Question

13. Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

Scientific studies suggest that a shift is taking place in the Earth's rotation and axis.

Statement II:

Solar flares and associated coronal mass ejections bombarded the Earth's outermost atmosphere with tremendous amount of energy.

Statement III:

As the Earth's polar ice melts, the water lends to move towards the equator.

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

Science and Technology News

Extreme Solar Storm Hits Earth

May 14, 2024 578 days 417 0

Like 0 Share

- An unusually strong solar storm hitting Earth could produce northern lights in the U.S.
- The most intense solar storm in recorded history, in 1859, prompted auroras in central America and possibly even Hawaii.
- An extreme geomagnetic storm in 2003, for example, took out power in Sweden and damaged power transformers in South Africa.
- The sun has produced strong solar flares since May 8, resulting in at least seven outbursts of plasma.



News Page

International News

Changes in Tilt of Earth's Axis

December 2, 2024 17k days 112 0

Like 0 Share

- The Earth has tilted 31.5 inches east in just 17 years.
- The redistribution of groundwater has the largest impact on the drift of the rotational pole.
- It also has contributed to a sea level rise of about 0.24 inches and altered the distribution of Earth's mass.
- Between 1993 and 2010, scientists estimate 2,150 gigatons of groundwater were pumped and shifted globally.
- Earth tilt is the angle between the planet's rotational axis and its orbital axis.



Science and Technology News

Powerful Solar Storms

May 13, 2024 330 days 125 0

Like 0 Share

- Just days ago, two colossal solar flares have emerged from sunspot region AR3663 and Earth is in the firing line.
- The first eruption occurred on May 2 and it was an X-class flare, the most powerful category of solar flares.
- It causes shortwave radio blackouts across Australia, Japan and much of China.
- X FLARE! Sunspot region AR3663 just produced an X1.7 flare, the 11th largest flare so far this cycle.
- The second eruption reported was an M-class flare.
- Flares are classified according to their strength.
- After the most powerful X-class, there are M-class flares that are 10 times less powerful.
- It is followed by C-class and finally, B-class flares.





Exam Question

14. Consider the following statements: 1

Statement I :

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change is frequently discussed in global discussions on sustainable development and climate change.

Statement II:

Articles 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change sets out the principles of carbon markets.

Statement III:

Articles 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change intends to promote inter-country non-market strategies to reach their climate targets.

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



News Page

International News

COP 29 - International Carbon Market

November 17, 2024 · © 191 days · 431 · 0 · Like 0 · Share

- COP29 agreed the UN-backed carbon market standards pertaining to Article 6 of the Paris climate agreement.
- It defines how countries can voluntarily use the carbon credits to meet carbon emission reduction targets set out in their nationally determined contributions.
- It also guarantees that the emission reductions and removals are real, additional, verified, and measurable.
- Article 6 was proposed in the 2015 UN Paris Agreement.
- It is an international framework that allows countries to achieve the national emission mitigation targets via a market-based mechanism.
- Private sector also plays a key role in the mechanism.
- The Key Sections of this Article are 6.2, 6.4, and 6.8, covering non-market approaches.





Exam Question

15. Which one of the following launched the 'Nature Solutions Finance Hub for Asia and the Pacific'?
- (a) *The Asian Development Bank (ADB)*
 - (b) The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
 - (c) The New Development Bank (NDB)
 - (d) The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)



News Page

International News

First Biodiversity and Nature Bond

November 19, 2024 · 139 days · 457 · 0

14 Lac 0 Share

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has issued its first biodiversity and nature theme bond.
- It aims to finance a pool of eligible projects across Asia and the Pacific.
- The A\$150 million (equivalent to US\$100 million), 10-year issue was purchased by the Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, of Japan.
- ADB is a founding partner of the Coral Triangle Initiative established in 2009.
- In 2023, ADB launched the Nature Solutions Finance Hub along with partners, as well as the Natural Capital Fund, in partnership with the Global Environment Facility.





Exam Question

16. With reference to 'Direct Air Capture', an emerging technology, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- I. It can be used as away of carbon sequestration.
- II. It can be a valuable approach for plastic production and in food processing.
- III. In aviation, it can be a source of carbon for combining with hydrogen to create synthetic low-carbon fuel.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) I and II only
- (b) III only
- (c) **I, II and III**
- (d) None of the above statements is correct



News Page

International News

World's largest carbon capture plant

May 12, 2024 · 377 days · 388 · 9

Like 0 Save

- The world's largest facility designed to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere started operations in Iceland.
- It is dubbed as "Mammoth," this plant is Climeworks' second commercial direct air capture (DAC) facility.
- This cutting-edge technology draws in air and chemically extracts carbon dioxide, which can then be stored underground, converted into stone, or reused.
- The Mammoth direct air capture and storage (DAC-S) plant run by Climeworks is 10 times bigger than the Swiss company's previous plant, Orca.





Exam Question

18. Consider the following statements:

- I. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in India are less than 0.5 t CO₂/capita
- II. In terms of CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion, India ranks second in Asia-Pacific region.
- III. Electricity and heat producers are the largest sources of CO₂ emissions in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and III only
- (b) II only
- (c) II and III only
- (d) I, II and III



News Page

Reports and Indices

Climate Change Performance Index 2025

November 20, 2024 10:00 am 513 1 Like 0 Share

- The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI 2025) report was released at the annual UN climate conference in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- India was ranked at 10th on a list of over 60 countries assessed for efforts to fight climate change.
- It leaves the first three places empty followed by Denmark (fourth place) and the Netherlands.
- The largest two emitters, China and the U.S., remain very low at 33th and 37th place, respectively.
- India's per capita emissions stand at 2.9 tons of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e), far below the global average of 6.6 tCO₂e.
- India and the U.K. are the only two G20 countries among the high performers in the CCPI.
- The four lowest-ranked countries in the CCPI are Iran (67th), Saudi Arabia (66th), the United Arab Emirates (65th), and Russia (64th).



TNPSC Current Affairs | TNPSC Micro Current Affairs | TP Quiz | Downloads

January 4, 2025 10:00 am 124 1 Like 0 Share

- India recently submitted its latest report detailing its greenhouse gas emission (GHG) inventory and the efforts it has taken to curb emissions.
- Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), developing countries are obliged to submit a detailed report on their efforts towards climate action.
- Between 2005 and 2020, India's emissions intensity of GDP reduced by 36%.
- India's total GHG emissions were 2,930 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent.
- After counting the absorption by forestry sector and land resources, the country's net emissions were 2,437 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
- The total national emissions (including land use, land-use changes, and forestry) fell 7.93% compared to 2019.
- On the other hand, it has increased by 90.34% since 1994.
- CO₂ accounted for 80.53% of emissions, followed by methane (13.32%), nitrous oxide (2.13%) and others 1.02%.
- The emissions were highest from the energy sector at 73.66%.
- Agriculture contributed 13.72% emissions while Industrial Process and Product Use and Waste sector contributed 8.06% and 2.56%, respectively.
- In the energy sector, electricity production alone accounted for 39% of emissions.



Exam Question

31. With reference to investments, consider the following:

- I. Bonds
- II. Hedge Funds
- III. Stocks
- IV. Venture Capital

How many of the above are treated as Alternative Investment Funds?

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



News Page



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September 9, 2021 | 1257 reads | 911 | Like | Share

- ASK Investment Managers (ASK IM), registered with SEBI, is one of the largest Portfolio Management Service providers in India.
- It has launched India's First Digital Alternate Investment Fund (AIF).
- An alternative investment is a financial asset that does not fall into one of the conventional investment categories.
- Alternative investments include private equity or venture capital, hedge funds, managed futures, art and antiques, commodities, and derivatives contracts.

TYPES OF ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUNDS IN INDIA



Category 1

- Infrastructure Fund
- Venture Capital Fund
- Angel Fund
- Social Venture Fund



Category 2

- Private Equity Fund
- Real Estate Fund
- Debt Fund
- Fund of Funds



Category 3

- Hedge Fund
- PIPE Fund



Exam Question

33. With reference to the Government of India, consider the following information.

	Organization	Some of its functions	It works under
I.	Directorate of Enforcement	Enforcement of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018	Internal Security Division-I, Ministry of Home Affairs
II.	Directorate of Revenue Intelligence	Enforces the Provisions of the Customs Act, 1962	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
III.	Directorate General of Systems and Data Management	Carrying out big data analytics to asset tax officers for better policy and nabbing tax evaders.	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

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

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



National News

I4C under PMLA

May 1, 2023 26 days 142 0 0 Like 0 Share

- The Finance Ministry included I4C under Section 66 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
- It authorised Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to share and receive information from the ED under the anti-money laundering law.
- This would help I4C to share and receive the information from the Enforcement Directorate and other law enforcement agencies.
- This would help identify the masterminds behind cyber frauds.



Personalities, Awards and Events

New Special Director

March 13, 2019 2432 days 139 0 0 Like 0 Share

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Vivek R Wadekar (1991 IRS) as the new Special Director in the Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- He is appointed for five years as the new Special Director in the Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- The ED is the central investigative agency, under the Union finance ministry, that enforces the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) in the country.

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National News

Operation Rakth Chandran

JAN 17, 2022 5257 days 471 0 0 Like 0 Share

- The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 840 logs of red sandalwood under the Operation Rakth Chandran.
- It has been seized under the Customs Act, 1962.
- Its export is prohibited as per the country's foreign trade policy.



Exam Question



News Page

34. Consider the following statements:

- I. The Reserve Bank of India mandates all the listed companies in India to submit a Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR).
- II. In India, a company submitting a BRSR market disclosures in the report that are largely non-financial in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

International News

Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report

December 8, 2021 | 10:55 AM | 102 | 102 | 102

- In 2021, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced the Business Responsibility & Sustainability Report (BRSR).
- BRSR will replace Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR).
- BRSR is a standardised reporting format that will give a baseline to draw a comparison between Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals across companies and sectors.
- BRSR seeks disclosures from listed entities on their performance against the 9 principles of the National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC).

Categories

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International News	2043



36. Consider the following statements:

- I. India has joined the Minerals Security Partnership as a member.
- II. India is a resource-rich country in all the 30 critical minerals that it has identified.
- III. The Parliament in 2023 has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowering the Central Government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite licence for certain critical minerals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

January 31, 2023 114 days 405 0 Like 0 Share

- The government approved a ₹16,300-crore National Critical Mineral Mission.
- It is envisaging a total outlay of ₹34,300 crore spread over seven years.
- It aims to achieve the self-reliance and accelerate India's journey towards green energy transition.
- Public sector enterprises are expected to contribute ₹18,000 crore to the mission.
- The Critical minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth are essential raw materials required to fuel the growth of rapidly growing clean energy technologies.
- 24 critical minerals have been identified.
- The NCMM will encompass all stages of the value chain, including the mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recovery from the end-of-life products.
- The mission will intensify the exploration of critical minerals within the country and in its offshore areas.
- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has undertaken 368 exploration projects for critical minerals over the past three years.
- 195 projects are currently underway in 2024-25.
- In 2025-26, GSI will take on 227 projects for various critical minerals.



News Page

International News

Minerals Security Finance Network

October 2, 2024 227 days 451 0 Like 398 Share

- India has joined the US-led minerals security finance network.
- It aims to "strengthen cooperation and promote information exchange and co-financing" among participating institutions from the Indo-Pacific region and Europe.
- The network is the latest initiative from the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), a framework established by the US in 2022.
- India was inducted to the MSP in June 2023.
- The MSP grouping is focused on the supply chains of minerals such as cobalt, nickel, lithium and also the 17 "rare earth" minerals.



National News

Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023

August 5, 2023 661 days 575 0 Like 0 Share

- Rajya Sabha cleared the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 by a voice vote.
- The bill allows the Centre to exclusively auction mining leases and composite licences for certain critical minerals of the country, with states also getting their revenue.
- The bill also seeks to allow increased private sector participation.
- Players now allowed to mine six out of 12 atomic minerals, including lithium, and deep-seated minerals such as gold and silver.
- Earlier, all 12 atomic minerals were reserved for mining and exploration by government entities.



Exam Question

38. Consider the following statements"

- I. India accounts for a very large portion of all equity option contract traded globally thus exhibiting a great boom.
- II. India's stock market has grown rapidly in the recent past even overtaking Hong Kong's at some point of time
- III. There is no regularly body either to warn the small investors about the risks of options trading or to act on unregistered financial advisors in this regard.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
(b) II and III only
(c) I and III only
(d) I, II and III



News Page

Economy News

India's Market Capitalization

May 27, 2024 341 days 428 0

Like 0 Share

- The total market capitalisation of BSE-listed stocks closed above \$5 trillion as the benchmark indices ended at record levels led by banks and auto stocks.
- India's market capitalisation to GDP has surged to 1.42 times, or 142%, inching closer to the peak seen in 2007.
- The market-cap of all BSE-listed companies stood at \$5.05 trillion (or ₹420.22 lakh crore).
- India is the fifth country after the US, China, Japan, and Hong Kong whose market capitalisations have crossed the \$5-trillion mark.



Miscellaneous News

150 years of Bombay Stock Exchange

April 26, 2023 24 days 311 0

Like 0 Share

- The BSE Ltd, Asia's oldest stock exchange, has celebrated its 150th anniversary recently.
- The BSE, the fourth largest stock exchange in the world, was founded on July 9, 1875, near Town Hall in South Bombay.
- The Stock brokers in 1855 began meeting under the banyan tree to buy and sell cotton.
- By 1865, the unorganised stock market was witnessing a massive boom.
- Bombay back then had 31 banks, 62 joint stock companies, 20 insurance companies and 16 cotton pressing companies.
- In 1957, the BSE granted permanent recognition under Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act (SCRA).
- In 1986, the S&P BSE SENSEX, India's first equity index was officially launched at a base of 1,000.
- In 2017, the BSE became the first listed stock exchange in India.



Exam Question

39. Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

Circular economy reduces the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Statement II:

Circular economy reduces the use of raw materials as inputs.

Statement III:

Circular economy reduces wastage in the production process.

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 Statement II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct



News Page

International News

Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum

March 9, 2023 19 days 118 0 Like 0 Share

- The 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific was held in Jaipur, India.
- Theme of the event was 'Realizing Circular Societies Towards Achieving SDGs and Carbon Neutrality in Asia-Pacific'.
- The Forum focused on the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (3R), aiming to create a roadmap for sustainable production and consumption patterns.
- The last Forum was hosted in 2023 by Cambodia.
- India has previously hosted the Forum in 2018, when the 8th edition was held in Indore.
- The Forum concluded with the unanimous adoption of the 'Jaipur Declaration' by the member countries.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India



TNPSC Current Affairs | TNPSC Micro Current Affairs | TP Quiz | Downloads

December 9, 2023 129 days 108 0 Like 0 Share

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled this report.
- It is a collaborative effort between leading research institutions in India and Australia.
- India and Australia are active participants in the negotiations for formulation of a Global Plastics Treaty to be finalized next year.
- It aims to establish research and industry partnerships to develop a roadmap for India's transition to a circular economy in the plastic sector.
- India has taken the lead in its quest for a circular economy towards achieving the Net Zero target by 2070.



Exam Question

41. Consider the following countries:

- I. Austria
- II. Bulgaria
- III. Croatia
- IV. Serbia
- V. Sweden
- VI. North Macedonia

How many of the above are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization?

- (a) Only three
- (b) **Only four**
- (c) Only five
- (d) All the six



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International News

75th anniversary of NATO

April 11, 2024 | 414 days | 161 | 0 | Like 0 | Share

- NATO is celebrating 75 years of collective defence across Europe and North America.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded in 1949 to ensure collective security against the Soviet Union.
- NATO's primary and military headquarters are located in Brussels, Belgium.
- Recently, Sweden has been accepted as the 32nd member.

April 5, 2020 | 2181 days | 1328 | 0 | Like 9 | Share

- Virologist MinalDakhveBhosale managed to provide India's first coronavirus testing kit for evaluation. She is the research and development chief of Mylab Discovery in Pune.
- North Macedonia officially became the 30th member of the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) military alliance. In June 2018, Macedonia and Greece agreed to rename Macedonia as Republic of North Macedonia.



Exam Question

44. Consider the following statements about turmeric during the year 2022-23:

- I. India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric in the world.
- II. More than 30 varieties of turmeric are grown in India.
- III. Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are major turmeric producing States in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) *I, II and III*



News Page

- The National Turmeric Board (NTB) was inaugurated recently in Nizamabad of Telangana as headquarters and Ganga Reddy was its first chairperson.
- Turmeric, known as 'Golden Spice', are spread across Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and others.
- NTB will help boost their incomes and also give impetus to increase production especially in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana where there is a lot of potential.
- Last year, an area of 3.05 lakh hectare was under turmeric cultivation in the country.
- The production of Turmeric is 10.74 lakh tonnes or over 70% of global turmeric production.
- There are 30 varieties of turmeric produced in India.
- India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world with more than 62% share of world trade.
- During 2023-24, 1.62 lakh tonnes of turmeric and turmeric products valued at \$226.5 million was exported.
- The Ministry of Commerce will be the nodal department providing funds and infrastructure for the NTB.



Exam Question

50. Consider the following statements about the Rashtriya Gokul Mission:

- I. It is important for the upliftment of rural poor as majority of low producing indigenous animals are with small and marginal farmers and landless labourers.
- II. It was initiated to promote indigenous cattle and buffalo rearing and conservation in a scientific and holistic manner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II



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March 22, 2023 | 0:07 days | 355 | 0 | [Like 0](#) | [Share](#)

- The Union Cabinet approved the Revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) to boost growth in the livestock sector.
- It got total allocation of ₹3,400 crore for the 15th Finance Commission cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- It provides one-time assistance of 35% of capital cost for setting up 30 housing facilities for 15,000 heifers.
- 3% interest subvention on loans taken by farmers to purchase HGM IVF heifers from milk unions/financial institutions will be provided.
- Milk production has increased by 63.55 percent over the past decade.
- The availability of milk per capita, which stood at 307 grams per day in 2013-14, has risen to 471 grams per day in 2023-24.
- Productivity has also improved by 26.34 percent in the last ten years.

October 20, 2019 | 0:06 days | 1021 | 0 | [Like 0](#) | [Share](#)

- According to data from the 20th Livestock Census released recently, there are 4.85 crore desi (native) milch cows in the country.
- It is less than 1% the 4.81 crore population in the last census in 2012.
- The milch population of exotic and crossbred cattle (Jerseys, Holsteins) saw a whopping growth of 32% over the last seven years from 1.9 crore to 2.5 crore animals.
- Milch cattle are cows kept for the purpose of milk production.
- The Rashtriya Gokul Mission was launched in 2014 to promote indigenous desi breeds.

Cattle diary 2019 Graph shows the change in cattle



Exam Question

52. Consider the following statements in respect of BIMSTEC:

- I. It is a regional organization consisting of seven member States till January 2025.
- II. It came into existence with the signing of the Dhaka Declaration, 1999.
- III. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal are founding member States of BIMSTEC.
- IV. In BIMSTEC, the subsector of 'tourism' is being led by India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and II
- (b) II and III
- (c) I and IV
- (d) I only



News Page



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May 11, 2022 964 days 147 0 Like 0 Share

- BIMSTEC now open to new members and observers after a historic first charter of the grouping came into force.
- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation grouping has acquired a legal personality.
- It will be able to enter into structured diplomatic dialogue with other groupings and countries.
- BIMSTEC was formed in 1997 but for a long time, the organisation could not form consensus among its seven member states.
- The members are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, Myanmar and India.



International News

25th anniversary of BIMSTEC

June 11, 2022 1694 days 342 0 Like 0 Share

- The Secretariat of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Dhaka celebrated the 25th Anniversary on 6th June, 2022.
- It evolved from the signing of the Bangkok Declaration on June 6 in 1996.
- The signature of the BIMSTEC Charter was done during the Fifth Summit in Colombo on March 30, 2022.
- Its headquarters is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are members of BIMSTEC.



54. GPS-Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) uses a system of ground stations to provide necessary augmentation. Which of the following statements is/are correct in respect of GAGAN?

- I. It is designed to provide additional accuracy and integrity.
- II. It will allow more uniform and high quality air traffic management.
- III. It will provide benefits only in aviation but not in other modes of transportation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) I, II and III
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I only
- (d) I and II only

IV. Navigation Satellite

- To meet the Civil Aviation requirements, ISRO is working jointly with Airport Authority of India in establishing the GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) system.
- To meet the user requirements of the positioning, navigation and timing services based on the indigenous system, ISRO is establishing a regional satellite navigation system called Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).

(i) GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN)

- This is a Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS) implemented jointly with Airport Authority of India (AAI).
- The main objectives of GAGAN are to provide Satellite-based Navigation services with accuracy and integrity required for civil aviation applications and to provide better Air Traffic Management over Indian Airspace.

FOR A SAFE AND SMOOTH FLIGHT

India becomes fourth nation to offer satellite-based navigation services to aviation sector



Share | 11/2021 | 711 days | 102 | 0 | Like | Share

- India conducted Asia's first demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters for a flight from Juhu in Mumbai to Pune.
- This demonstration was conducted by using GAGAN satellite technology.
- The technology was jointly developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Airports Authority of India.
- GAGAN — GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation — is a state-of-the-art space-based augmentation system which adds more accuracy.



Related News

Indigenous navigation system - GAGAN

Share | 1/2021 | 1120 days | 101 | 0 | Like | Share

- IndiGo becomes the first airline in Asia to lend its aircraft using the indigenous navigation system GAGAN.
- This is a huge leap for Indian Civil Aviation and a firm step toward Astronaut Bharat.
- India has now become the third country in the world to have its own SBAS system after the USA and Japan.

Post Views:



Share | November 3, 2019 | 2011 days | 102 | 0 | Like | Share

- About 500 passenger locomotives of the South-Central Railway (SCR) have been fitted with the newly developed Real-time Train Information System (RTIS).
- RTIS will be used to monitor their precise speeds and movement throughout the journey.
- It has been developed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems with the help of ISRO-Airports Authority of India's GAGAN-GPS aided geo-augmented navigation.



55. Consider the following statements regarding AI Action Summit held in Grand Palais, Paris in February 2025:

- I. Co-chaired with India, the event builds on the advances made at the Bletchley Park Summit held in 2023 and the Seoul Summit held in 2024.
- II. Along with other countries, US and UK also signed the declaration on inclusive and sustainable AI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

- February 13, 2025 | 104 days | 114 | 1.8k 0 | Share
- The United Kingdom hosted the world's first AI Security Summit.
 - The "Bletchley declaration" on AI was unveiled at the summit.
 - It encompasses not only avoiding catastrophe or threats to life and limb, but also priorities such as securing human rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
 - The declaration was signed by all 27 countries attending, including the UK, the US, China, and India, as well as the European Union.
 - The Bletchley Park Declaration aims to establish a shared understanding of the risks and opportunities posed by "frontier AI."
 - The Frontier AI refers to highly advanced generative AI models with potentially dangerous capabilities that can pose significant risks to public safety.



News Page

- February 13, 2025 | 104 days | 114 | 1.8k 0 | Share
- The third edition of the AI Action Summit was held in Paris.
 - And France and India's Prime Minister acted as a co-chair the Paris Summit.
 - The Summit focused on five major themes, including public service AI, future of work, innovation and culture, trust in AI, and global governance of AI.
 - It's the latest in a series of global dialogues around AI governance with two previous editions held in the UK in 2023.
 - The Second India-France AI Policy Roundtable was also planned as a side event during the Summit.

Paris AI Action Summit 2025 Overview

Legally binding international AI treaty

- September 11, 2024 | 261 days | 281 | 1.8k 11 | Share
- The United States, European Union, and the United Kingdom have signed the first legally binding international treaty on artificial intelligence (AI).
 - It is known as the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.
 - It aims to regulate AI technologies, underlining the need to balance innovation with the protection of human rights and democratic values.
 - This AI convention is the result of years of negotiations between 57 countries.



Exam Question

56. Consider the following pairs:

- I. International Year of the Woman Farmer : 2025
- II. International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism : 2027
- III. International year of Peace and Trust : 2025
- IV. International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence : 2029

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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



News Page

January 2, 2025 | 48 days | 924 | 0 | 1 Like 0 | Share

- The United Nations has proclaimed 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IQ).
- The UNGA declared 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025) to be celebrated under the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World."
- The United Nations declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation.
- It also accompanied by the proclamation of the 21st March of each year as the World Day for Glaciers starting in 2025.
- 2025 marks the 80th anniversary since the end of World War II and the approval of the UN Charter.
- So, the UN General Assembly has proclaimed 2025 as the International Year of Peace and Trust (IYPT).

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF



Exam Question

57. Consider the following statements with regard to BRICS:

- I. 16th BRICS Summit was held under the Chairship of Russia in Kazan.
- II. Indonesia has become a full member of BRICS.
- III. The theme of the 16th BRICS Summit was Strengthening Multiculturalism for Just Global Development and Security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and II
- (b) II and III
- (c) I and III
- (d) I only



News Page



October 29, 2024 214 days 151



- The 16th BRICS Summit concluded with the adoption of the Kazan Declaration.
- It is a comprehensive document outlining key areas of cooperation and the bloc's unified stance on global issues.
- The theme of the Declaration is "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security".
- The declaration emphasises the need for peaceful resolution through diplomacy.
- The summit underscored the importance of the G20 in global decision-making.
- The BRICS nations has reiterated their pledge to improve global governance by advocating for a more agile, responsive, and representative multilateral system.
- BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM) is focussing on facilitating and expanding innovative financial practices.
- The declaration has welcomed the use of local currencies in BRICS financial transactions and supported the exploration of an independent cross-border settlement infrastructure.
- Establishing a BRICS Grain Exchange and studying the feasibility of a BRICS Cross-Border Payment System and BRICS (Re)insurance Company.
- India's initiative to create an International Big Cats Alliance received recognition.



Exam Question

58. Consider the following statements about Lokpal:

- I. The power of Lokpal applies to public servants of India, but not to the Indian public servants posted outside India.
- II. The Chairperson or a Member shall not be a Member of the Parliament or a Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory, and only the Chief Justice of India, whether incumbent or retired, has to be its Chairperson.
- III. The Chairperson or a Member shall not be a person of less than forty-five years of age on the date of assuming office as the Chairperson or Member, as the case may be.
- IV. Lokpal cannot inquire into the allegations of corruption against a sitting Prime Minister of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) III only
- (b) II and III
- (c) I and IV
- (d) None of the above statements is correct.



News Page

- A Lokpal (Meaning: "caretaker of people") is an anti-corruption authority or body of ombudsmen who represents the public interest in the Republic of India.
- The concept of an ombudsman is borrowed from Sweden which was the World's first country to introduce the Ombudsmen concept.
- The Lokpal has jurisdiction over central government to inquire into allegations of corruption against its public functionaries and for matters connected to corruption.
- It aims to ensure accountability on the part of public officials, including the Prime Minister, but with some safeguards such as exceptions of armed forces.

History of Lokpal

- The term "Lokpal" was coined by Dr. L.M.Singhvi in 1963.
- The concept of a constitutional ombudsman was first proposed in parliament by Law Minister Ashoke Kumar Sen in the early 1960s.
- The first Jan Lokpal Bill was proposed by Advocate Shanti Bhushan in 1968 and passed in the 4th Lok Sabha in 1969, but did not pass through the Rajya Sabha.

Charge of Lokpal chair

June 3, 2022 · 1070 days · 943 · Like · Share

- President has given Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty the additional charge of Lokpal chairperson.
- He holds this position after Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his term as the Lokpal chief.
- The Lokpal is headed by a chairperson and can have eight members.
- At present, there are six members in the Lokpal.
- Two posts of judicial members have been lying vacant for over two years.
- A Lokpal chief and members are appointed for a term of five years or until attaining the age of 70 years.

Post Views:
943



Exam Question

59. Consider the following statements in respect of the first Kho Kho World Cup:

- I. The event was held in Delhi, India.
- II. Indian men beat Nepal with a score of 78-40 in the final to become the world Champion in men category.
- III. Indian women beat Nepal with a score of 54-36 in the final to become the World Champion in women category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III



News Page

Sports News

First ever Kho-Kho World Cup 2025

January 22, 2025 · 138 days · 40 · 0

Like 0 · Share

- The 1st edition of Kho-Kho World Cup 2025 game was hosted by India..
- The tournament featured 20 men's and 19 women's teams.
- The Indian men and women's team claimed victory in the inaugural edition against Nepal team.





Even Question

60. Consider the following statements:

- I. In the finals of the 45th Chess Olympiad held in 2024, Gukesh Dommaraju became the world's youngest winner after defeating the Russian player Lan Nepomniachtchi.
- II. Abhimanyu Mishra, an American chess player, holds the record of becoming world's youngest ever Grandmaster.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

Sports News

Youngest-ever Chess Grandmaster

July 1, 2023 | 127 days | 118 | Like 1 | Share

- Indian-origin American Abhimanyu Mishra has become the youngest ever chess Grandmaster in the world.
- At 12 years, four months and 25 days, he obliterated the record held by Sergey Karjakin.
- Sergey Karjakin was 12 years and seven months old when he attained the title.



News Page



Personalities, Awards and Events

Gukesh – 18th World Chess Champion

December 17, 2024 | 14 days | 40 | Like 1 | Share

- D Gukesh from India (Chennai) defeated defending champion Ding Liren of China at the World Chess Championship, held at Singapore.
- The win made the Indian Grandmaster the youngest ever world champion at the age of 18.
- Before Gukesh, Russian legend Garry Kasparov was the youngest to become the world champion at the age of 22 in 1985.

Sports News

Chess Olympiad 2024

September 27, 2024 | 111 days | 72 | Like 401 | Share

- India has won a double gold medal at 45th Chess Olympiad 2024, Hungary.
- GMs Gukesh Dommaraju, Arjun Erigaisi, and Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu all won as the Indian men wrapped up gold.
- India trumped Azerbaijan in the final round to claim a first-ever gold medal in the women's section.
- India also retained the Caprindashvili Trophy, awarded to the team with the best overall performance across the open and women's sections.
- D. Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and Divya Deshmukh also won individual gold medals.
- The Chess Olympiad is a biennial chess tournament in which teams representing nations of the world compete.



Exam Question

62. Consider the following Statements:

- I. Indian Railways have prepared a National Rail Plan (NRP) to create a future ready railway system by 2028.
- II. 'Kavach' is an Automatic Train Protection system developed in collaboration with Germany.
- III. 'Kavach' system consists of RFID tags fitted on track in station section.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III



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National News

National Rail Plan - 2030

March 28, 2022 11:57 days 1329 0 0

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Share

- The Indian Railways have prepared a National Rail Plan (NRP) for India - 2030.
- The Plan is to create a 'future ready' Railway system by 2030.
- The NRP is aimed to formulate strategies based on both operational capacities and commercial policy initiatives to increase the modal share of the Railways in freight to 45%.



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April 18, 2022 47 days 257 0 0

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- The Union Railways Ministry revealed plans for the rollout of Kavach 3.0 - an upgraded automatic train protection system.
- Kavach 3.0 is expected to significantly reduce the inter-train headway, enabling more trains to run safely and efficiently.
- Kavach is the India's indigenous Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system.
- It is developed to prevent train collisions by automatically activating the braking system if the loco pilot fails to act.
- India operates the world's fourth-largest railway network, spanning over 65,000 kms.





Exam Question

63. Consider the following space missions:

- I. Axiom – 4
- II. SpaDeX
- III. Gaganyaan

How many of the space missions given above encourage and support micro-gravity research?

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



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April 7, 2019 | 2150 days | 1330 | 0

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- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for astronaut selection and training for Gaganyaan Programme.
- The program is scheduled for 2022.
- IAF's Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) will undertake and lead the selection and training of astronauts.
- It will shortlist three sets of three astronauts (9 Members) to be trained for Gaganyaan mission.
- On 30 January 2019, ISRO had set up Human Spaceflight Centre at its headquarters in Bengaluru.
- It provides a unique micro-gravity platform in space to India for conducting experiments and test for future technologies.

Science and Technology News

SPADEX Docking Mission

October 25, 2024 | 211 days | 825 | 0

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- ISRO got two 400kg satellites that are part of a crucial upcoming mission known as SPADEX – Space Docking Experiment.
- These satellites will be travelling at around 28,000 kmph and precisely align themselves in a manner where they can perform a 'space handshake' and dock to form a single orbiting entity.
- Ananth Technologies Private Limited (ATL) has completed the integration of two 400kg satellites for ISRO.
- This is the first time that ISRO is getting their satellites completely assembled, integrated and tested by the Indian private industry at a private facility.



Exam Question

64. With reference to India's defence, consider the following pairs:

Aircraft type	Description
I. Dornier-228	: Maritime patrol
II. IL-76	: Supersonic combat aircraft
III. IC-17 Globe-master III	: Military transport aircraft

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

International News

Exercise Desert Flag VIII

March 19, 2021 11:17 days 438 0 Like 0 Share

- UAE is hosting 3-week long Exercise Desert Flag VIII.
- It is a multilateral air exercise involving the participation of UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, the UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, the Republic of Korea, and the US.
- It aims to bring about the interoperability of different fighter engagements and sharing of best practices of various Air Forces.
- The IAF would be participating with five LCA Tejas and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.
- This is the first occasion when the LCA Tejas shall participate in an international flying exercise outside India.



News Page

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August 7, 2022 14:57 days 391 0 Like 0 Share

- Five women officers of the Indian Naval Air Squadron 314 (INAS 314) created history by completing the first all-women independent maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission.
- This is held over the north Arabian Sea onboard a Dornier 228 aircraft.
- This first-of-its-kind military flying mission.
- The aircraft was captained by the Mission Commander Lt Commander Anandha Sharma.

National News

Eyes in Sky Project

September 18, 2021 12:53 days 714 0 Like 0 Share

- The Government of India gave its final approval to build 6 AEW&C (Airborne Early Warning and Control) aircraft.
- It aims to bolster the surveillance capability of the Indian Air Force (IAF) along the borders with China and Pakistan.
- These aircrafts are regarded as powerful 'eyes in the sky' in modern warfare.
- The IAF currently operates 3 Israeli Phalcon AWACS mounted on Russian IL-76 transport aircraft.
- The IAF has 2 indigenous 'Netra' aircraft fitted on smaller Brazilian Embraer-145 jet.



Exam Question

65. Artificial way of causing rainfall to reduce air pollution makes use of
- (a) *Silver iodide and potassium iodide*
 - (b) Silver nitrate and potassium iodide
 - (c) Silver iodide and potassium nitrate
 - (d) Silver nitrate and potassium chloride



News Page

International News

Cloud seeding - UAE

July 23, 2021 · 1484 days · 10M · 1 Like · 0 Shares

- The United Arab Emirates is one of the first countries in the Persian Gulf region to use cloud seeding technology.
- It is now testing a new method that has drones fly into clouds to give them an electric shock to trigger rain production.
- Cloud seeding is a kind of a weather modification technology to create artificial rainfall.
- It was pioneered by atmospheric scientist Bernard Vonnegut.
- It works only when there are enough pre-existing clouds in the atmosphere.
- These 'seeds' of rain can be the iodides of silver or potassium, dry ice (solid carbon dioxide), or liquid propane.
- The seeds can be delivered by plane or simply by spraying from the ground.

CLOUD SEEDING IN THE UAE - HOW, WHY?

April 15, 2024 · 408 days · 1072 · 1 Like · 0 Shares

- United Arab Emirates witnessed the heaviest rainfall in 75 years.
- Some areas recording more than 250 mm (around 10 inches) of precipitation in fewer than 24 hours.
- It was the largest ever in a 24-hour period since records started in 1949.
- Experts and officials have contradicted the speculations that cloud seeding caused the rainfall.
- Cloud seeding is a type of weather modification process that normally tries to increase the rain or snow.
- Cloud seeding uses planes and ground-based cannons to shoot particles into clouds making more nuclei, attracting moisture.
- Once enough droplets merge, they become heavy and fall to Earth as rain or snow.
- Silver iodide can potentially serve the same function.
- Other substances, such as dry ice, may also be used for similar purposes.
- The method can't create water from a clear sky – particles must be shot into a cloud that already holds moisture to get it to fall, or to fall more than it otherwise would naturally.
- About 50 countries including the US, China, Australia, UAE, Germany, India, Malaysia, Russia and Mexico employ cloud seeding.



69. Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

In India, State Governments have no power for making rules for grant of concessions in respect of extraction of minor minerals even though such minerals are located in their territories.

Statement II:

In India, the Central Government has the power to notify minor minerals under the relevant law.

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

National News

Reclassification of Minerals

February 14, 2025 10:45 am 234 0

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- The Ministry of Mines has classified beryllium, feldspar, mica and quartz as "major minerals".
- This move will extend the existing extraction contracts by 50 years and now allows them to be mined for crucial science and technology applications.
- These mines will gradually need to register with the Indian Bureau of Mines and be regulated as major minerals.
- Quartz, feldspar, and mica are found in pegmatite rocks.
- They are an important source of many critical minerals like beryllium, lithium, niobium, tantalum, molybdenum, tin, titanium, and tungsten.
- Critical minerals play a vital role in technologies related to electric vehicles (EVs), energy transition, spacecraft industries, and healthcare.
- Until now, when the leases for quartz, feldspar, and mica were granted as minor mineral leases.

Government of India, Ministry of Mines



News Page

Tamil Nadu News

Removal of gravel from waterbodies

July 3, 2024 12:22 am 304 0

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- The Tamil Nadu government has decided against allowing potters, farmers and members of the public to remove "gravel" free of cost from beds of waterbodies.
- They would be able to quarry "clay and silt" for free, but under a revised procedure.
- Earlier, the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, allowed quarrying of 'clay, silt and gravel' for free from the beds of tanks, channels and reservoirs across the State.
- The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, calls gravel a "minor mineral".
- The State government amended the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, in December 2022 to replace the word *servudu* with the term 'ordinary earth'.

National News

Right to tax mineral-rich lands

Aug 10, 2024 10:55 am 321 0

Like 0 Share

- The Supreme Court held that, the power of State Legislatures to tax mining lands and quarries is not limited by the Parliament's Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act of 1957.
- It frees states from the restrictions of the Centre and is in tune with the federalist principles of governance.
- State Legislatures derive their power to tax mines and quarries under Article 246 read with Entry 49 (tax on lands and buildings) in the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- Mineral bearing lands fall within the description of 'lands' in Entry 49.
- But centre had argued that Entry 50 in the State List had allowed the Parliament to impose "any limitations" on taxes on mineral rights through laws relating to mineral development.
- The verdict further clarified that royalty paid by those who lease mines to the government is not tax.
- The case has its genesis in a dispute between India Cement Ltd and the Tamil Nadu government of 1959.



Exam Question

70. Which organization has enacted the nature Restoration Law (NRL) to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss?

- (a) *The European Union*
- (b) The World Bank
- (c) The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- (d) The Food and Agriculture Organization



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International News

Law to Restore Nature

May 7, 2022 | 1941 days | 752 | 0 | Like 0 | Share

- The European Commission's proposal for a Nature Restoration Law is the first continent-wide, comprehensive law and part of the Biodiversity Strategy.
- It calls for binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems.
- It includes reducing chemical pesticide use by 50% (by 2030), increasing tree canopy (by at least 10%) and allowing free flow of rivers.



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- The law calls on EU members to restore at least 30 per cent of drained peatland by 2030, 40 per cent by 2040 and 50 per cent by 2050.
- EU nations must restore at least 25,000 km of rivers into free-flowing rivers.
- Also needs to ensure there is no net loss in the total national area of urban green space and of urban tree canopy cover.





Exam Question

72. India is one of the founding members of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a multimodal transportation corridor, which will connect
- (a) *India to Central Asia a Europe via Iran*
 - (b) India to Central Asia via China
 - (c) India to South-East Asia through Bangladesh and Myanmar
 - (d) India to Europe through Azerbaijan



News Page

INSTC - First shipment

- Russia's national railway company announced that the country has shipped two coal-laden trains to India via the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- For the first time, two trains with Kuzbass coal headed to India along the International North-South Transport Corridor.
- The trains set off from the Kemerovo region.
- They followed along the eastern branch of the INSTC through Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas.
- The INSTC is a multimodal route that connects St. Petersburg to the port of Mumbai in India across 7,200 kilometres (4,500 miles).
- It comprises a railway, road network, and seaports.
- INSTC, initially known as the NSIC project, the agreement was signed by Russia, Iran, and India in 2002, making them the founding members.

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New trilateral to deepen regional relations

- The first trilateral consultations between the Foreign Affairs Ministry of India, Armenia, and Iran took place in Yerevan, Capital of Armenia.
- They also discussed the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- This is a freight corridor that connects India, Iran, and Russia.
- The goal of INSTC is reducing the time and cost of transporting cargo from Mumbai to Moscow.
- The INSTC agreement was originally signed in 2002 by Russia, Iran, and India and has since been expanded.

GEORGIA



Exam Question

73. Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

Of the two major ethanol producers in the world, i.e., Brazil and the United states of America, the former producers more ethanol than the latter.

Statement II:

Unlike in the United States of America where corn is the principal feedstock for ethanol production, sugarcane is the principal feedstock for ethanol production in Brazil.

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 not correct
- (d) *Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct*



News Page

Environment News

Biofuels Alliance

April 4, 2022 787 days 854 0 Like 0 Share

- The Global Biofuel Alliance was announced under India's G20 Presidency.
- The US and Brazil are joined this India-led initiative.
- The aim of this Alliance is to encourage cooperation and promote the use of sustainable biofuels, including in the transportation industry.
- The US and Brazil are the top 2 players in Biofuels.
- They lead in biodiesel and ethanol production.
- Together they accounted for 84% of the world's ethanol production and 26% of the world's biodiesel production.
- India, Brazil and the United States, are the leading biofuel producers and consumers in the world.



National News

India's Ethanol Consumption

January 8, 2022 120 days 782 0 Like 0 Share

- As per recent research of the International Energy Agency (IEA), India is on track to become the world's third-largest ethanol market by 2026.
- India will only be left behind the United States and Brazil by 2026, as it has accelerated the transition towards a clean energy environment to become carbon neutral by 2070.
- According to IEA, India has made "huge progress" in expanding ethanol blending.
- Blending was 2 percent in 2017.
- By 2021, it had reached 8 percent.
- It thus brought India on target to attain 10 percent blending in 2022.





Exam Question

76. Which of the following statements with regard to recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission of India are correct?

- I. It has recommended grants of ₹4,800 crores from the year 2022-23 to the year 2025-26 for incentivizing States to enhance educational outcomes.
- II. 45% of the net proceeds of Union taxes are to be shared with States.
- III. ₹45,000 crores are to be kept as performance-based incentive of all States for carrying out agricultural reforms.
- IV. It reintroduced tax effort criteria to reward fiscal performance.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) I, II and III
- (b) I, II and IV
- (c) I, III and IV
- (d) II, III and IV



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National News

15th Finance Commission report

February 6, 2021

1572 days

1124

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- The final report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission of India for FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26 was tabled in the Parliament.
- The Finance Commissions generally submit their reports for a five-year duration.
- The report has been organized in four volumes:
 - Volume I and II – Main report
 - Volume III: Focused on centre – it examines key departments in greater depth, with the medium-term challenges and the roadmap ahead.
 - Volume IV: Entirely focused on states – it analyses the finances of each State in great depth and has recommended state-specific considerations to address the key challenges that individual States face.

Key recommendation

- Maintaining vertical devolution at 41 per cent to maintain predictability and stability of resources.
- Spending on health by states should be increased to more than 8 per cent of their budget by 2022.
- Giving additional borrowing room to States based on performance in power sector reforms.



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- It will be available in the public domain once it is tabled in the Parliament by the government along with an action taken report on its recommendations.

Key Recommendations

- The states shall get 41% of central tax revenues.
- 4.3 lakh crores for the local governments
- Rs 1 lakh crore to health care
- Rs 2.9 lakh crores of revenue deficit grants to 17 states.
- Earlier, the fourteenth Finance Commission had recommended 42%.
- The states are asked to keep aside at least 8% of their budget for building health care capacities.
- It recommended to set up Modernisation of Defence and Internal Security Fund.
- The fund is to add up to Rs 2.4 lakh crores by 2021-26.
- Of this, Rs 1.3 lakh crore is to be directly transferred to Consolidated Fund of India.

STATES' SHARE IN DIVISIBLE POOL (%)	
42	41*



Exam Question

78. Consider the following statements in respect of RTGS and NEFT :

- I. In RTGS, the settlement time is instantaneous while in case of NEFT, it takes some time to settle payments.
- II. In RTGS, the customer is charged for inward transactions while that is not the case for NEFT.
- III. Operating hours for RTGS are restricted on certain days while this is not true for NEFT.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) I and II
- (c) I and III
- (d) III only



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Economy News

RTGS Timing

December 4, 2020 14:28 days 1110 0 Like 0 Share

- RBI has made the transfer of funds through Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system available to the customers 24x7 on all days of the week.
- It is a fund transfer system that is generally used for large-value transactions.
- It happens in real-time.
- The minimum amount to be transferred through RTGS is Rs 2 lakh and there is no maximum limit.
- In the case of RTGS, every transaction is settled individually.

Post Views:
1110



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Economy News

NEFT – 24x7 basis

December 15, 2019 1509 days 1207 0 Like 1 Share

- RBI has extended the availability of National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) round-the-clock on all the seven days of the week - 24x7 basis to facilitate beyond the banking hour fund transfer.
- NEFT is an electronic funds transfer system maintained by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The setup was established and maintained by Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT).
- NEFT enables bank customers to transfer funds between any two NEFT enabled bank accounts on a one-to-one basis via electronic messages.



Exam Question

79. Consider the following countries:

- I. United Arab Emirates
- II. France
- III. Germany
- IV. Singapore
- V. Bangladesh

How many countries amongst the above are there other than India where international merchant payments are accepted under UPI?

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



National News

UPI in UAE

Apr 24, 2022 11:52 AM 1.5k 0 0

- NPCI International Payments Ltd has announced that across the UAE, BHIM UPI is live on NEOPAY terminals.
- This initiative will be empowering the millions of Indians who travel to the UAE to make payments in a convenient and safe manner.
- The payments can be made using BHIM UPI across the NEOPAY-enabled merchant stores and shops.
- NEOPAY is Mashreq Bank's payment subsidiary.
- NIPL partnered in 2021 with NEOPAY to create the UPI acceptance infrastructure in the country.

TNPSC BITS

TNPSC BITS

February 17, 2024 475 days 188 0 0

- The Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASOG) 2024 was held in New Delhi.
 - The theme of the event is "Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery".
- India's first Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra has been selected as a torchbearer for the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic.
- The Eiffel Tower now stands as the first site in Europe to accept UPI payments, making France the first ever country on the continent to embrace this digital payment mechanism.
- The government will soon launch retail sales of Bharat Rice at ₹29 per kg from to provide relief to consumers.



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Breaking News

Cross-border UPI payments

17/02/2024 10:58 AM 18 0 0

- Bhaskar launched support for UPI (international) payments.
- The feature will allow Indian users travelling abroad to pay foreign merchants using UPI.
- The current launch supports international merchant outlets in UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal, and Bhutan that have local QR codes.
- Bhaskar is the first launch app to launch this feature in India.



Exam Question

80. Consider the following statements about 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana' :

- I. It targets installation of one crore solar rooftop panels in the residential sector.
- II. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy aims to impart training on installation, operation, maintenance and repairs of solar rooftop systems at grassroot levels.
- III. It aims to create more than three lakhs skilled manpower through fresh skilling, and up-skilling, under scheme component of capacity building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) I and III only
- (c) II and III only
- (d) I, II and III



News Page

National News

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

February 19, 2024 · 417 days · 1330 · 2

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- The Union govt announced the launching the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.
- This project will be with an investment of over Rs. 75,000 crores.
- It aims to light up 1 crore households by providing up to 300 units of free electricity every month.
- For solar panels with capacities up to 2 kW, households can avail of a subsidy of Rs. 30,000 per kilowatt, and Rs 18,000 per kW for additional capacity up to 3 kW.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana



Exam Question

82. Consider the following pairs:

- | | State | Description |
|------|-------------------|---|
| I. | Arunachal Pradesh | The capital is named after a fort, and the State has two National Parks |
| II. | Nagaland | The state came into existence on the basis of a Constitutional Amendment Act |
| III. | Tripura | Initially a Part 'C' State, it became a centrally administered territory with the reorganization of States in 1956 and later attained the status of a full-fledged state. |

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two



News Page

Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura – 50th Statehood Day

January 21, 2022
124 days
1119
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- Every year, the states of Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura celebrate their 50th statehood day on January 21.
- These states were formed under the North Eastern Region (Reorganization) Act, 1971.
- The princely states of Manipur and Tripura were joined with India in 1949.
- They were then granted the union territory status.
- In 1972, Meghalaya and Tripura were granted complete statehood.

Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya Foundation Day

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- International News

important days

Statehood Day 2025 - January 21

January 21, 2025
126 days
379
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- The northeastern states of Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura celebrate their State hood Day on January 21.
- They attained full statehood under the North Eastern Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971.
- Manipur known as the 'Jewel of India', merged with India in September 1949.
- Meghalaya, which is called as the "Abode of Clouds," came into existence as an autonomous state within the state of Assam on April 2, 1970.
- Tripura was a princely state till the merger with India on November 15, 1949.



Exam Question

84. Consider the following statements:

- I. The Constitution of India explicitly mentions that in certain spheres the Governor of a State acts in his/her own discretion.
- II. The President of India can, of his / her own, reserve a bill passed by a State Legislature of his/her consideration without it being forwarded by the Governor of the State concerned.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

(a) I only

(b) II only



News Page

Tamil Nadu vs. Governor of Tamil Nadu case

Apr 11, 2023 02:14pm 475 0 1 Like 0 0 Share

- The Supreme Court held that Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's reservation of 10 bills for President's assent is "illegal and liable to be set aside".
- A Bench of the Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadeva bench has unanimously pronounced the judgement.
- The court said that under Article 200 of the Constitution, the Governor does not possess any discretion and has to automatically act on the aid and advice of the council of ministers.
- Article 200 of the Constitution deals with assent to Bills.
- Timelines prescribed for Governors when Bills are presented to them:
 - In case of withholding assent, one month.
 - In case of withholding assent contrary to advice of the State Cabinet, three months.
 - In case of Bills presented for reconsideration by Governors, one month.
- The Bench said the Governor cannot withhold the assent and adopt concept of absolute veto or pocket veto.
- It said the Governor is obligated to adopt one course of action — give assent to Bills, withhold assent and reserve for consideration of the president.

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- Environment News

Supreme Court's deadline on President

Apr 11, 2023 04:49pm 475 0 1 Like 0 0 Share

- The Supreme Court has put the President on a three-month deadline to decide whether or not to assent to State Bills referred to her by a Governor.
- The court begins from the day the Governor referred the bill to the President for her consideration.
- In case of any delay beyond this period the appropriate reasons would have to be recorded and conveyed to the State concerned.
- The States, in turn, must be cooperative to any queries or suggestions from the Centre on the Bills.
- The President ought to, as a measure of prudence, seek the Supreme Court's advice on the Bills reserved by a Governor for her consideration on grounds of perceived unconstitutionality.
- If there is no action by the president within the time limit, then the state can file writ petitions such as mandamus against the president.
- The President cannot exercise absolute veto on state bill under article 201. The judgement paves the way for restoring a 'stalled' Bill.
- As per the Constitution, once the Bill has been returned, or assent to it withheld by the President, the legislation lapses.
- It has to be reintroduced in the Assembly for the passage, with the amendments suggested or without, as desired by the



Exam Question

90. Consider the following activities:

- I. Production of crude oil
- II. Refining, storage and distribution of petroleum
- III. Conditions of the Governor's office
- IV. Production of natural gas

How many of the above activities are regulated by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board in our country?

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



News Page

India's First Green Hydrogen Blending Project

January 7, 2021 04:05 hrs 440 0 0

- NTPC Limited and Gujarat Gas Limited have commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project in Surat.
- Green hydrogen is produced through the electrolysis of water, using electricity generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind power.
- Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board given permission for a 5% vol./vol. blending of green hydrogen with Piped Natural Gas (PNG) initially.
- The blending level is to be gradually increased to reach 20%.

Categories

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National Gas Grid

February 16, 2019 02:28 hrs 472 0 0

- Union Government has envisaged the development of the National Gas Grid.
- Under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has been recognised as the authority.
- It would grant authorization to the entities for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in Geographical Areas.
- The objectives of the National Gas Grid are:
 - To remove regional imbalance within the country with regard to access for natural gas and provide clean and green fuel throughout the country.
 - To connect gas sources to major demand centres and ensure availability of gas to consumers in various sectors.
 - Development of City Gas Distribution Networks in various cities for the supply of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG).



Exam Question

98. Who among the following was the founder of the "Self-Respect Movement"?

- (a) *Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker*
- (b) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- (c) Bhaskarrao Jadhav
- (d) Dinkarrao Javalkar



News Page



awareness of what was happening in Gurukulam.

- Periyar also raised this point in the state congress meeting. At last the school was closed.

Self-respect movement – 1925

- After quitting the congress, Periyar started Self – respect movement in 1925.
- The aims of the 'Self -Respect Movement' were to uplift the Dravidians and to expose the Brahminical tyranny.
- The first provincial conference of Self-Respect Movement was organised by Periyar at Chengalpattu in February 1929. Mr. W.P.A. Soundara Pandian, presided over that conference. In that conference soundrapandiyanar, kutthusi gurusamy, moovalur ramamirtham ammaiyar also participated.
- At Erode, the Second Provincial Conference of the Self Respect Movement was convened by Periyar under the chairmanship of Mr. M.R. Jayakar from Pune, a rationalist leader.
- Periyar introduced a new rationalist marriage system called "Self-Respect Marriage".



Exam Question

99. Consider the following pairs:

Country	Resource-rich in
I. Botswana	: Diamond
II. Chile	: Lithium
III. Indonesia	: Nickel

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

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



News Page

TNPSC THERVU PETTAGAM
Information is a Blessing
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

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International News

Jwaneng Diamond Mine – Botswana

April 23, 2023 · 36 days · 237 · 0 · 0

- Jwaneng Diamond Mine in Botswana, dubbed the 'Prince of Mines,' stands as the world's richest mine.
- It is estimated that the mine's revenue has crossed \$90 billion since its inception.
- Since 1982, it has yielded millions of carats, with 2023 marking a record 13.3 million carats mined.
- Jwaneng rests in an ancient volcanic crater.

JWANENG

International News

Lithium and copper mine in Argentina

January 9, 2023 · 171 days · 795 · 0 · 0

- India has identified two lithium mines and one copper mine in Argentina for a possible acquisition or long-term lease.
- KABIL, a joint venture formed through the participation of National Aluminium Company (Nalco), Hindustan Copper (HCL) and MECL.
- It aims to ensure consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals in the domestic market.
- Argentina is currently the 4th largest producer of Lithium across the globe.
- Together with Chile and Bolivia, the north-west of the country forms the so-called "Lithium Triangle".
- Australia is the top lithium producer globally.
- Lithium is found in sedimentary rock formation and in brine form, which is called salar in Latin America.
- The other alternative is its liquid form.



Exam Question

100. Consider the following pairs:

	Region		Country
I.	Mallorca	:	Italy
II.	Normandy	:	Spain
III.	Sardinia	:	France

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

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



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September 12, 2024 | 361 days | 410 | 0

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- The summer of 2024 has officially been declared the hottest on record for the Northern Hemisphere.
- The boreal summer months of June, July, and August 2024 surpassed all previous temperature records.
- 2024 is on track to overtake 2023 as the warmest year in recorded history.
- The record-breaking temperatures have been attributed to a combination of the human-induced climate change and the El Niño weather phenomenon.
- El Niño is characterised by warming surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean.
- August 2024 has recorded the second-highest average sea surface temperatures, surpassed only by August 2023.
- In Italy, Sicily and Sardinia continue to grapple with a severe drought directly linked to climate change.

