

UPSC WITH NIKHIL



UPSC 2025 QUESTION PAPER SET - B

*We have again outperformed many of the nation's premier institutions in the 2025 Prelims. No fabricated or deceptive claims are made by us. Several prestigious institutions are claiming their questions in UPSC Prelims 2025 not just from their test series but also from their other material including their website blogs, Study materials, Magazines etc.). But we are claiming all **52 questions** from our Test Series only.*

Like in the previous six years, we assert that this year's performance—52 questions from our "UPSC with Nikhil" Prelims exam Test series 2025—is among the finest in all of India. In several tests, we have repeated many questions. We have also used cards, maps, charts, and diagrams to clarify some of the answers in our test series.

*Please note that there can be dispute regarding few questions which are not exact but similar to the original question asked in Prelims exam. We have considered few such questions. So, take time to think wisely before you purchase our Test series. Below is a comprehensive list of all **52 questions with proof**.*

For any help, please contact us at-

Mo.- +91-7558644556

upscwithnikhil@gmail.com

In the years to come, we aspire to provide for you even better. Thank You!

Team UPSC with Nikhil!

{1} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 01

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-52 Q-70 | Test-38 Q-08**

1. Consider the following types of vehicles :

- I. Full battery electric vehicles
- II. Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles
- III. Fuel cell electric hybrid vehicles

How many of the above are considered as alternative powertrain vehicles?

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

Q 70. Consider the following statements regarding Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV):

1. They use both an internal combustion engine (ICE) (petrol or diesel) and electric motors.
2. A parallel HEV uses only the electric motor to drive the wheels, while the ICE powers the generator, which in turn recharges the battery.
3. A series HEV, based on the driving condition, uses the best power source to power the vehicle.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 2 and 3 only

Q 8. Consider the following statements with reference to Hydrogen Fuel Cell:

1. Vehicle powered by hydrogen fuel cells can be two to three times more efficient than vehicles powered by gasoline combustion engines.
2. Hydrogen fuel cells are cheaper than either gasoline or batteries.
3. Hydrogen fuel cell-powered vehicles produce only heat and clean water as by-product.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two

Test: 38 | Environment - VI | (2025) | Test Code: 12538

Q 70. (D)

Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV)

- A hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) uses an ICE (a petrol/diesel engine) and one or more electric motors to run.
- It is powered by the electric motor alone, which uses energy stored in batteries, by the ICE, or both.
- The powertrain of the HEV is more complex than a regular ICE-powered car as it has EV components and a conventional ICE.
- That means a typical HEV will have a low-voltage auxiliary battery, a traction battery pack to store electricity for the electric motor, an electric generator, an AC/DC converter, a power electronics controller, a thermal system to maintain working temperature, an ICE, a fuel tank, a fuel filler, a transmission, and an exhaust system.

How do HEV powertrains work?

- HEV powertrains are designed to power cars in a series, parallel, or series-parallel (power split) method.
- A series HEV uses only the electric motor to drive the wheels, while the ICE powers the generator, which in turn recharges the battery.
- A parallel HEV, based on the driving condition, uses the best power source to power the vehicle.
- It will alternate between the electric motor and the ICE to keep the car moving.
- A series-parallel HEV offers a combination of both models and allows to split power, wherein power is routed from the ICE alone or from the battery to the electric motor to drive the vehicle.
- Moreover, in all three designs, the battery is charged through regenerative braking technology.

Regenerative Braking System (RBS)

- A regenerative braking system (RBS) used in automotive applications has several advantages like better braking efficiency in stop-and-go traffic which enhances fuel economy and also helps in reducing carbon emissions.
- Besides, RBS also helps in energy optimization resulting in minimum energy wastage.

{2} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 03
> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-24 Q-24**

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

www.upscwithnikhil.com

Q 24. Consider the following statements regarding solid-state batteries:

- 1. Solid state batteries have lithium cobalt oxide as the cathode.
 - 2. They offer high energy density as compared to traditional batteries.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (A) 1 only
 - (B) 2 only
 - (C) both 1 and 2
 - (D) neither 1 nor 2

LVPK-O-PSO/56B

3

Q 25. Consider the following:

1. Release the amount of carbon in the air

www.upscwithnikhil.com

UPSC WITH NIKHIL - NAGPUR

Q 24. (B)

Explanation:

1st statement is incorrect:

- Anode: Typically made of lithium metal or other high-capacity materials such as silicon.
- Cathode: Composed of materials like lithium iron phosphate, lithium cobalt oxide, or other lithium-containing compounds.
- Solid Electrolyte: This is the key component that distinguishes solid-state batteries. It replaces the liquid electrolyte found in traditional batteries with a solid material, which can be a ceramic, polymer, or composite.

2nd statement is correct:

Solid-state batteries have the potential to offer higher energy density, enabling longer driving ranges for electric vehicles and longer-lasting portable electronics.

Q 25. (D)

Explanation:

{3} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 05

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-05 Q-11 | Test-48 Q-75

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

Q 75. Consider the following statements with respect to chemical fertilizers in India:

1. It is mandatory for all the domestic producers of urea to produce only neemcoated urea.

2. The Syngas produced from the coal gasification process is used in urea manufacturing.

3. Potash derived from Molasses was brought under the Nutrient Based Subsidy scheme.

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

Q 11. Consider the following statements regarding coal gasification:

1. Coal is blown with oxygen and steam under high-pressure conditions.

2. Syngas is the product of the coal gasification process.

3. Coal gasification is cheaper than conventional power plants.

4. It can be a substitute for petroleum products and natural gas.

hnikhil@gmail.com / +91-7558644556

Q 75. (D)

• The government is making available fertilizers, namely Urea and 24 grades of P&K fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers/importers. **Urea is being provided to the farmers at a statutorily notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP).** As far as Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers are concerned, Government is implementing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme since 2010. Under the said scheme, the subsidy is provided on each grade of subsidized Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers depending upon their nutrient content.

• In order to tackle the import dependency and make the subsidy regime more efficient and transparent, the Government has taken several steps. For example, New Urea Policy-2015 has been notified with the objectives of maximizing indigenous production, promoting energy efficiency in production, and rationalizing subsidy burden on the government. The government **has made it mandatory for all the domestic producers of urea to produce only neem-coated urea. The government has brought Potash Derived from Molasses (PDM) under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme** for the first time since its inception in 2010 to give a push to its manufacturing by Sugar Mills as a by-product and reduce its import dependence. **Hence statements 1 and 3 are correct.**

• **Coal gasification** is the process of converting coal into synthesis gas (also called **syngas**), which is a mixture of **hydrogen (H₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and carbon dioxide (CO₂).** The syngas can be used in a variety of applications such as in the production of electricity and making chemical products, such as fertilizers. In 2019, **Odisha's Talcher fertilizer plant was awarded a contract for starting a coal gasification unit for the production of urea and Ammonia.** In April 2021 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister has given its approval for the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for the formulation of an **exclusive subsidy policy for Urea produced through the coal gasification route by Talcher Fertilizers Limited (TFL).** Hence statement 2 is correct.

• Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

Q 11. (C)

Coal gasification is the process of producing syngas—a mixture consisting primarily of carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂), natural gas (CH₄), and water vapor (H₂O)— from Coal and water, air and oxygen. In pulverized coal combustion (PCC) systems, the powdered Coal is blown into the combustion chamber of a boiler, where it is burnt at high temperatures. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

Syngas produced by coal gasification generally is a mixture of 30 to 60% carbon monoxide, 25 to 30% hydrogen, 5 to 15% carbon dioxide, and 0 to 5% methane. It also contains a lesser amount of other gases. Syngas has less than half the energy density of natural gas. So, statement 2 is correct.

According to CSE's assessment, coal gasification actually produces more carbon dioxide than a conventional coal-powered thermal power plant. Also, coal gasification plants are costlier than conventional power plants. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

Especially the liquid fuels are made from Coal, which can be a substitute for gasoline, jet fuel and just about any other transportation fuel on which we currently rely. **So, statement 4 is correct.**

{4} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 07

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-28 Q-98 | Test-64 Q-04

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

Q 4. Analyze the following pairs:

- 1) BPALM regimen
– AIDS
- 2) 'Barnase-Barstar system'
– Genetically modified crops
- 3) Citric Acid
– Helps to store chemical energy produced in mitochondria
- 4) Blue Marmon, Banded Royal, Water Snow Flat and Long banded Silverline
– Butterflies
- 5) Willow and Ocelot
– Advanced quantum computing processors developed for high-performance computing.
- 6) 'Phishing and Smishing'
– Cybersecurity threats
- 7) 3TG
– A group of conflict minerals linked to armed conflicts and human rights abuses.
- 8) Kaji Nemu, a variety of indigenous lemons
– Nagaland

Q 98. Which of the following is/are correct about the principles and applications of the artificial intelligence in today's world?

1. Machine learning algorithms are developed in such a way that it can evolve and modify itself with increasing variation in the data and its patterns.
2. Artificial Intelligence can be applied to get the projected forecast of the weather and climate based on the historical pattern.
3. Advancement of the field of artificial intelligence has reduced the burden of processors since the data required by the

EXPLANATION:

Majorana 1, Willow, and Ocelot are advanced quantum computing processors developed for high-performance computing.

➤ Recently, Amazon launched its first-ever in-house quantum computing chip, Ocelot. This nine-qubit chip is designed to help Amazon build highly efficient hardware systems. Compared to current approaches, Ocelot can reduce the costs of implementing quantum error correction by up to 90 per cent.

➤ Microsoft introduced its quantum computing chip, Majorana 1, which can potentially be scaled to a million qubits.

➤ Google has announced a new quantum chip, Willow, which it says can solve a computational problem in just less than five minutes, a task that would take the world's fastest supercomputers 10 septillion years to complete. This breakthrough in quantum computing was demonstrated when Willow outperformed the Frontier supercomputer in a benchmark algorithm, marking a significant step forward for the company's ambitions in quantum technology.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES****Quantum Communication**

Test: 64 (Full Length Test - 8) (2025) | Test Code: 12564 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

Q 98. (A)

Explanation:

❑ **Statement 3 is incorrect:** the data needed by the machine learning algorithms are much larger than the normal algorithms and they require huge processing capacity.

Supplementary notes:**Artificial Intelligence**

- ❑ It is a branch of computer science that deals with creating computers or machines as intelligent as human beings.
- ❑ It refers to the ability of the machines to perform human intelligence processes like thinking, perceiving, learning, and problem-solving and decision making.
- ❑ Thus in simple terms, Artificial Intelligence is the intelligence showed by machines.
- ❑ The term Artificial Intelligence was coined by John McCarthy in 1956 at the Dartmouth conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
- ❑ There are two subsets under the Umbrella term AI, they are – Machine Learning and Deep Learning.
- ❑ A subset of artificial intelligence that deals with the creation of algorithms that can modify itself without human intervention to generate desired output by feeding itself via structured data.
- ❑ Machine learning algorithms are built to "learn" to do things by understanding labelled data, then use it to produce further outputs with more sets of data. However, they need to be retrained through human intervention when the actual output isn't the desired one (errors).

{5} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 08
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-80 Q-08

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) 1, II and III

Q 8. Consider the following statements regarding Monoclonal Antibodies:

1. Monoclonal antibodies are naturally produced by the human body's immune system to combat various diseases.
 2. The word "monoclonal" refers to the diversity of antibodies created in the laboratory, ensuring a wide range of targets.
 3. Monoclonal antibodies are produced by cloning different types of immune cells, known as B cells.
 4. Monoclonal antibodies are used exclusively for the treatment of infectious diseases.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) Only three
 - (d) All four

Q 8. (A)

Explanation

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Monoclonal antibodies are not naturally produced by the human body; they are synthesized in laboratories.
- Statement 2 is correct: The term "monoclonal" refers to the fact that the antibodies produced in the laboratory are clones, representing exact copies of one antibody.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Monoclonal antibodies are produced by cloning a single type of immune cell, the B cell, not different types.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: Monoclonal antibodies are used in a variety of medical applications, including the treatment of cancer, autoimmune diseases, and infectious diseases, not exclusively for infectious diseases.

www.upscwithnikhil.com

UPSC WITH NIKHIL - NAAGPDA

• Antibodies are parts of our immune system. They seek out the antigens (foreign materials) and stick to them in order to destroy them.

• The word "monoclonal" refers to the fact that the antibodies created in the laboratory are clones. They are exact copies of one antibody.

• Production:

• They are produced by cloning a single type of immune cell, known as a B cell, to generate large quantities of identical antibodies.

• This process creates highly specific antibodies that target a particular antigen, which could be a virus, bacteria, cancer cell, or other disease-related molecule. Specificity: They can be designed to recognise and bind to a particular target molecule with great precision. This specificity reduces the risk of unintended side effects.

• They are used in a variety of medical applications, including the treatment of cancer, autoimmune diseases, and infectious diseases.

• Monoclonal antibodies vs. Polyclonal antibodies:

Monoclonal antibodies are clones of just one antibody, and they bind to one antigen only.

• Polyclonal antibodies come from several different types of immune cells and will bind to more than one antigen.

{6} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 09
> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-58 Q-56**

9. Consider the following statements :

- I. No virus can survive in ocean waters.
- II. No virus can infect bacteria.
- III. No virus can change the cellular transcriptional activity in host cells.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 56. Which of the following statement regarding the virus is incorrect?

- (a) A virus is an infectious agent and can only replicate within a host organism.
(b) Unlike bacteria, a virus genome cannot be circular in shape.
(c) Apart from plants and animals, viruses can infect bacteria too.
(d) Formation of virus particles like envelope and capsids also occurs in the host.

Q 56. (B)

Explanation: Option (b) is correct

• **Supplementary notes:**

Viruses A virus is an infectious agent that can only replicate within a host organism. Viruses can infect a variety of living organisms, including bacteria, plants, and animals. When a virus particle is independent from its host, it consists of a viral genome, or genetic material, contained within a protein shell called a capsid. In some viruses, the protein shell is enclosed in a membrane called an envelope. Viral genomes are very diverse, since they can be DNA or RNA, single- or double-stranded, linear or circular, and vary in length and in the number of DNA or RNA molecules.

The viral replication process begins when a virus infects its host by attaching to the host cell and penetrating the cell wall or membrane. The virus's genome is uncoated from the protein and injected into the host cell. Then the viral genome hijacks the host cell's machinery, forcing it to replicate the viral genome and produce viral proteins to make new capsids. Next, the viral particles are assembled into new viruses. The new viruses burst out of the host cell during a process called lysis, which kills the host cell. Some viruses take a portion of the host's membrane during the lysis process to form an envelope around the capsid.

{7} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 13

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-59 Q-72 | Test-52 Q-76 | Test-58 Q-72

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 tends to move towards the equator.

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

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

Q 76. Consider the following statements regarding the earth's rotational speed:

- 1. The Earth's magnetic field is produced by convection created by waves called torsional waves.
- 2. They originate from the inner core or from the fluctuations of buoyancy in the outer molten core.
- 3. The melting of glaciers and polar ice caps results in a change of mass distribution on the surface or interior of the Earth. Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Test: 52 (Current Affairs - 18) (2025) | Test Code: 12552 up

Q 72. Which of the following statements regarding the Sunspots are incorrect?

- 1. Sunspots are temporary phenomena on the Sun's surface that appear hotter than the surrounding regions due to their higher temperature.
- 2. Sunspots are regions of intense magnetic activity on the Sun, often associated with solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs).
- 3. The number of sunspots on the Sun follows a cyclic pattern known as the solar cycle, with an average period of approximately 13 years.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only

Q 76. (C)

Earth's rotational speed

- On June 29, 2022, the Earth completed its axial spin at a record speed, shortening the day by 1.59 milliseconds.

Test: 52 (Current Affairs - 18) (2025) | Test Code: 12552 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

www.upscwithnikhil.com

UPSC WITH NIKHIL - NAGPUR

- This new record could indicate the heavenly body's move towards a faster rotational axis in the short run but could slow down over time.
- There are several factors that have been linked to the change in the Earth's rotation rate ranging from the transfer of angular momentum from its interior to the outside to the oxygenation of its atmosphere.
- Anything that changes the composition and distribution of material on the Earth's surface can also have this effect.
- The Earth's magnetic field is produced by convection that occurs in the outer core, creating waves.
- These are called torsional waves.
- They originate from the outer core or from buoyancy fluctuations in the inner molten core.
- Tidal waves and tidal motion can also contribute to the variations in the length of night and day and can indirectly be associated with climate change.
- The melting of glaciers and polar ice caps results in a change of mass distribution on the surface or interior of the Earth.
- If the ice melts rapidly or continuously in a particular region of the planet, it could cause a tip in balance.
- The Earth also wobbles because of the fact that its axis of rotation is tilted with respect to the geographical axis.
- This is called the Chandler wobble, named after American astronomer Seth Carlo Chandler who also discovered the effect.
- A change in this angle can cause a variation in rotation time too.

Q 72. (C)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect

· Sunspots are temporary phenomena on the Sun's photosphere, appearing darker than the surrounding areas. They are cooler regions, having temperatures lower than the surrounding surface due to the presence of strong magnetic fields inhibiting convective heat transfer.

Statement 2 is correct

· Sunspots are regions of intense magnetic activity on the Sun's surface. The magnetic fields associated with sunspots are highly concentrated and can lead to solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs), which are explosive releases of energy and particles from the Sun into space.

Statement 3 is incorrect

Q 72. (C)

Explanation:

· All statements are correct.

Supplementary Notes:

Earth's Rotation Phenomenon

· Humans have pumped so much water out of the ground that it has effectively affected Earth's spin, and the pole has drifted at a speed of 4.36 centimetres per year between 1993 and 2010.

· This has led to Earth being tilted nearly 80 centimetres eastward, scientists have estimated based on new climate models.

· One way to understand this is by looking at the Earth's rotational pole. This is the point around which the Earth spins. It actually moves slightly over time in a process called polar motion.

· Earth's rotational pole is the point around which the planet rotates. The axis of rotation of the planet lies at this point and it moves in a process called polar motion, which is when the position of the Earth's rotational pole varies relative to the crust.

· The distribution of water on the planet affects how mass is distributed.

· Similar to adding a bit of weight to a spinning top, the Earth spinning movement differs a little as water is moved around.

Why in news?

· Rampant groundwater pumping has changed the tilt of Earth's axis, as per latest reports.

{8} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 14

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-62 Q-24 | Test-80 Q-11

14. Consider the following statements :
- 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 :
Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change intends to promote inter-country non-market strategies to reach their climate targets.
- Statement III :
Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change sets out the principles of carbon markets.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Q 24. (D)

EXPLANATION:

In the annual climate conference, COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, countries voted to clear a much-delayed agreement to finalise a global carbon market. Such a market would allow countries to trade carbon credits – certified reductions of carbon emissions – among themselves and whose prices are determined as a consequence of emission caps imposed by countries. So, Option (a) is correct.

The market itself follows from a section in the Paris Agreement called Article 6. Sub-sections of the Article spell out how countries can bilaterally trade carbon among themselves (Art 6.2) and participate in a global carbon market (6.4). This global carbon market has the potential to direct resources to the developing world. So, Options (b) and (c) are correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

COP29	
Recently in News	The UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) ended with a new financial goal to help countries protect their people and economies against climate disasters and share in the vast benefits of the clean energy boom.
About	With a central focus on climate finance, COP29 brought together nearly 200

Q 11. (D)

EXPLANATION:

The Subsidiary Bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC SB60) will reconvene at the World Conference Center Bonn. These sessions, often referred to as interim negotiations, hold significant weight in shaping the agenda for the upcoming climate conference slated for Nov 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Key Outcomes of Bonn Climate Change Conference 2024 are:

➤ Adaptation strategies – which focus on adjusting to the effects of climate change, and mitigation strategies – aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, were also at the center of negotiations. A significant portion of the Bonn discussions centred on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). Established in the 2015 Paris Agreement, the goal seeks to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change. The Adaptation Committee's report highlighted that while some progress has been made, many countries, particularly developing nations, still lack the necessary resources and infrastructure to implement effective adaptation strategies. So, Statement 1 is correct.

➤ Article 6: Paris Agreement includes provisions for both market-based and non-market-based approaches to carbon reduction. Delegates focused on ensuring that carbon markets operate with high transparency and environmental integrity. So, Statement 2 is correct.

➤ Climate Finance: New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) aims to mobilise substantial financial resources

Q 24. Which of the statements related to the global carbon market finalised at the COP29 Climate Summit in Baku is not correct?

- (a) A global carbon market enables countries to bilaterally trade carbon credits.
- (b) Article 6 of the Paris Agreement has provisions related to carbon credit trade.
- (c) Planting trees or putting up wind farms in poorer countries are considered carbon credits.
- (d) All the above statements are correct.

Q 11. Which of the following are the key outcomes of the Bonn Climate Change Conference 2024?

1. Global Goal on Adaptation strategies, which focus on adjusting to the effects of climate change.
2. Market-based and non-market-based approaches to carbon reduction under the Paris Agreement.
3. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) is to mobilise substantial financial resources from developed nations to support climate action in developing countries. Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

{9} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 16
> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-21 Q-72**

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

- I. It can be used as a way 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

Q 72. (C)

Geoengineering

Test: 21 (CA 05) (2025) | Test Code: 12521 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

Q 72. Consider the following statements:

1. Geoengineering refers to any large-scale attempt to alter the Earth's natural climate system to counter the adverse impacts of global warming.
 2. Under Direct Air Capture (DAC) methods, carbon dioxide is sucked out through large "artificial trees" from ambient air and directed towards storage sites or utilisation.
- 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

Page 58

A new study has argued that spraying millions of tonnes of diamond dust in the Earth's upper atmosphere every year could help cool down the Earth and combat global warming.

☐ Geoengineering refers to any large-scale attempt to alter the Earth's natural climate system to counter the adverse impacts of global warming.

☐ The examples of geoengineering include:

☐ Carbon dioxide emitted, from industry or power plants, is "captured" at source and deposited deep below the Earth's surface in suitable geological formations for long-term storage.

☐ Since carbon dioxide is not released into the atmosphere, overall emissions are reduced.

☐ Another option involves the captured carbon being used as an input for other industrial processes (known as Carbon Capture and Utilisation or CCU).

☐ In Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), some carbon dioxide is utilised and the rest is stored underground.

☐ Under Direct Air Capture (DAC) methods, carbon dioxide is sucked out through large "artificial trees" from ambient air and directed towards storage sites or utilisation.

☐ Since these methods can potentially eliminate carbon dioxide accumulated over the years, the benefits are larger compared to CCS.

{10} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 21

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-57 Q-72 | Test-70 Q-09**

21. Consider the following statements about Raja Ram Mohan Roy :

- I. He possessed great love and respect for the traditional philosophical systems of the East.
- II. He desired his countrymen to accept the rational and scientific approach and the principle of human dignity and social equality of all men and women.

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

Q 72. Arrange the following events related to Raja Ram Mohan Roy in chronology:

1. Atmiya Sabha
2. Writing of Gift to Monotheists
3. Brahmo Samaj
4. Campaign against the custom of Sati

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Q 9. With reference to the socio-religious reform movements, consider the following statements:

1. Raja Rammohan Roy pioneered the reform movement through social work which led to the ban on Sati.
 2. Most reform movements spread to major urban centers across the country but had limited penetration in rural areas.
 3. Reformists rejected the infallibility of religious scriptures and advocated change through humanism, rationalism, and logical reasoning.
- How many of the above given statements are not correct?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three

Q 72. (A)

Explanation:

• Option (a) is correct

Supplementary notes:

Raja Rammohan Roy

• Raja Ram Mohan Roy was an Indian socio educational reformer who was also known as **Father of Modern India** and 'Father of the Bengal Renaissance'.

• In 1809 Rammohan Roy wrote in Persian his famous work **Gift to Monotheists**. **Atmiya Sabha** was started in 1814/15. It was a philosophical discussion circle in India where people used to conduct debate and discussion sessions on philosophical topics such as Hindu Vedantism and also used to promote free and collective thinking and social reform.

• From 1818, he started a long crusade against the evils of Sati custom. He set out to rouse public opinion on the question by citing the authority of the oldest sacred books that the Hindu religion right from its origin is opposed to the practice of Sati.

• **Brahmo Samaj** was established in 1828, whose purpose was to purify Hinduism and to preach theism or the worship of one God. The society was to be based on the **twin pillars of reason** and the Vedas and Upanishads.

Q 73. (A)

Q 9. (D)

EXPLANATION:

Raja Ram Mohan Roy, pioneered various socio-religious reform movement of the 19th century, and after that, a social movement emerged.

➤ He was against traditional social practices and echoed his voice against the Sati system, polygamy, caste rigidity and child marriage.

➤ Rammohan Roy was a determined crusader against the inhuman practice of sati. He started his anti-sati struggle in 1818, and he cited sacred texts to prove his contention that no religion sanctioned the burning alive of widows **besides appealing to humanity, reason and compassion.**

➤ He also visited the cremation grounds, organised vigilance groups and filed Counter petitions to the government during his struggle against sati.

➤ He encouraged women's education and widow remarriage. Raja Ram Mohan Roy began to publish a journal called "Soudha Kumudi" in 1821, aimed at creating public opinion against the Sati system.

{11} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 22

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-34 Q-35 | Test-57 Q-97 | Test-10 Q-49**

22. Consider the following subjects with regard to **Non-Cooperation Programme** :

- I. Boycott of law-courts and foreign cloth
- II. Observance of strict non-violence
- III. Retention of titles and honours without using them in public
- IV. Establishment of Panchayats for settling disputes

How many of the above were parts of Non-Cooperation Programme?

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

Q 35. Consider the following statements regarding **Non-Cooperation movement (NCM)**;

1. India's import of foreign cloths decreased drastically during the NCM.
2. NCM proved to be beneficial for the Indian Textile industries.
3. Rabindranath Tagore extended his Support to the Gandhian model of noncooperation movement.

Q 97. In the context of the Khilafat Movement and **Non-cooperation Movement** during India's struggle for independence, consider the following statements:

1. Khilafat movement was primarily led by Indian Muslims, with prominent figures like Mahatma Gandhi and the Ali Brothers.
2. It was a significant socio-political and religious movement that emerged in response to the aftermath of World War I and the Treaty of Sèvres.
3. Under the leadership of Gandhi, the Khilafat Movement was integrated with the Non-Cooperation Movement.
4. It resulted in the temporary suspension of the Non-cooperation Movement due to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

How many of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

LVPK-O-PSO/56B

13

Test: 34 (History - IV) (2025) | Test Code: 12534 upsc

Q 35. (A)

Explanation:

• **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Rabindranath Tagore articulated his opposition to the Gandhian mode of non-cooperation movement meant to attain the much awaited freedom for India.

Supplementary notes:

The Non-Cooperation Movement

- The Non-Cooperation Movement was pitched in under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress from September 1920 to February 1922, marking a new awakening in the Indian Independence Movement.
- After a series of events including the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, Gandhiji realized that there was no prospect of getting any fair treatment at the hands of British, so he planned to withdraw the nation's cooperation from the British Government, thus launching the Non-Cooperation Movement and thereby marring the administrative set up of the country.
- This movement was a great success as it got massive encouragement to millions of Indians. This movement almost shook the British authorities.
- The value of imports of foreign clothes fell from Rs. 102 crore in 1920-21 to Rs. 57 crore in 1921-22. And the demand for Indian cloth increased which helped Indian textile industries to grow.
- Rabindranath Tagore articulated his opposition to Gandhian mode of noncooperation movement meant to attain the much-awaited freedom for India.

DIFFERENT METHODS ADOPTED DURING THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT

Among the several forms of struggle thrown up by the movement, it was the boycott of foreign goods which met with the greatest visible success at the practical and popular level. Boycott and public burning of foreign cloth, picketing of shops selling foreign goods, all became common in remote corners of Bengal as well as in many important towns and cities throughout the country. Women refused to wear foreign bangles and use foreign utensils, washermen refused to wash foreign clothes and even priests declined offerings which contained foreign sugar.

The movement also innovated with considerable success different forms of mass mobilization. Public meetings and processions emerged as major methods of mass mobilization and simultaneously as forms of popular expression. Numerous meetings and processions organized at the district, taluqa and village levels, in cities and towns, both testified to the depth of Swadeshi sentiment and acted as vehicles for its further spread. These forms were to retain their pre-eminence in later phases of the national movement.

Corps of volunteers (or *samitis* as they were called) were another major form of mass mobilization widely used by the Swadeshi Movement. The Swadesh Bandhab Samiti set up by Ashwini Kumar Dutt, a school teacher, in Barisal was the most well known volunteer organization of them all. Through the activities of this Samiti, whose 159 branches reached out to the remotest corners of the district, Dutt was able to generate an unparalleled mass following among the predominantly Muslim Peasantry of the region. The samitis took the Swadeshi message to the villages through magic lantern lectures and Swadeshi songs, gave physical and moral training to the members, did social work during famines and epidemics, organized schools, training in Swadeshi craft and arbitration courts. By August 1906 the Barisal Samiti reportedly settled 523 disputes through eighty-nine arbitration committees. Though the samitis stuck their deepest roots in Barisal, they had expanded to other parts of Bengal as well. British officialdom was genuinely alarmed by their activities, their growing popularity with the rural masses.

Test: 10 (2025) History I | Test Code: 12510

upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

Page 28

Q 97. (A)

Explanation:

- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Khilafat Movement and Non-cooperation Movement started losing momentum after the Chauri Chaura incident.

Supplementary notes:**Khilafat Movement: India's struggle for independence**

- The Khilafat Movement, which took place in India between 1919 and 1924, was a significant socio-political and religious movement that emerged in response to the aftermath of World War I and the Treaty of Sèvres.
- **This movement was primarily led by Indian Muslims, with prominent figures like Mahatma Gandhi and the Ali Brothers (Maulana Muhammad Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali) playing crucial roles in shaping its course.** The Khilafat Movement was closely linked to the larger Indian struggle for independence from British colonial rule.

Key aspects and developments of the Khilafat Movement:

- **Background:** The movement was a reaction to the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire after World War I and the subsequent treaty imposed by the victorious Allied powers. The Treaty of Sèvres (1920) threatened to abolish the Ottoman Caliphate and divide the empire among Western powers. This deeply concerned Muslims worldwide, including India, who saw the Caliph as the religious leader of the global Muslim community.

Test: 57 (Full Length Test - 01) (2025) | Test Code: 12557 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

Page 75

- **Unity among Hindus and Muslims:** One of the remarkable features of the Khilafat Movement was the unity it fostered between Hindus and Muslims. Mahatma Gandhi, already a leader in the Indian National Congress, saw the Khilafat issue as an opportunity to bridge the gap between the two communities and create a united front against British colonial rule.

- **Non-cooperation with the British:** Under the leadership of Gandhi, the Khilafat Movement was integrated with the Non-Cooperation Movement. The movement called for non-violent non-cooperation with the British government, which included boycotting British goods, resigning from government positions, and staging protests.

Mass Protests:

- The movement saw mass protests, strikes, and demonstrations across India. It was marked by a wave of civil disobedience, including non-payment of taxes, non-participation in British educational institutions, and refusal to buy British products.

- **Chauri Chaura Incident:** In 1922, a violent incident took place in Chauri Chaura, Uttar Pradesh, during a protest. Police fired on a group of protesters, and in retaliation, the protesters set a police station on fire,

{12} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 25

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-11 Q-17 | Test-34 Q-80**

25. Fa-hien (Faxian), the Chinese pilgrim, travelled to India during the reign of

(a) Samudragupta

~~(b) Chandragupta II~~

(c) Kumaragupta I

(d) Skandagupta

| P.T.O.

Q 17. With reference to the account of Faxian in India, consider the following statements:

1. He provided a very vast account on Nalanda University
2. He refers to houses dispensing charity and medicine in the cities of South India
3. He refers to Tamralipti in Bengal as an important center of trade on the eastern coast

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q 80. Which of the following statements represent the account of Fa-hien?

1. The administration of the Guptas was liberal, the people enjoyed economic prosperity and the burden of taxes on them was not heavy.
2. Capital punishment was not given at all.
3. The public highways were secure and free from the menace of thieves and dacoits.

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

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

Q 17. (C)

EXPLANATION:

Fa Xian (337-422 CE), also referred to as Fa-Hien, Fa-Hsien and Sehi, a Chinese Buddhist monk, came to India on a pilgrimage during the reign of Chandragupta II. Faxian's travels extended from 399 to 414 CE, confined to northern India.

He also wrote an account of his travels called the Gaoseng Faxian Zhuan ('A Record of Buddhist Kingdoms'). Faxian does not mention Nalanda University; instead, his account focuses mainly on Buddhist monasteries in various parts of north India, the number of monks and their practices, descriptions of places of Buddhist pilgrimage, and legends associated with them. The detailed descriptions of Nalanda university is found in the travel accounts of Chinese pilgrim Hieun Tsang (Xuanzang). So, **Statement 1 is not correct.**

The Chinese pilgrim of Faxian refers to houses dispensing charity and medicine in the cities of north India, not South India. The Charaka Samhita gives details of how a hospital should be equipped. So, **Statement 2 is not correct.**

The travels of Faxian in India lasted about a decade, from 337 to 422 CE and took him from the northwest into the Ganga valley, right down to the eastern seaport of Tamralipti in the Bay of Bengal. Faxian refers to Tamralipti in Bengal as an important trade center on the eastern coast. These ports and towns were connected with those of Persia, Arabia, and Byzantium on the one hand and Sri Lanka, China, and Southeast Asia on the other. Faxian describes the perils of the sea route between India and China.

Q 80. (D)

Explanation:

- All statements are correct

Supplementary notes:

Account of Fa hien

- Fa-hien, a Chinese pilgrim, visited India during the reign of Chandra Gupta II. His primary aim was to visit the Buddhist religious places and to take with him the copies of the Buddhist religious texts. He, therefore, travelled through the Gupta empire and also wrote down his impressions about India. As his main interest was religion, we know nothing about the political condition of India from his account. However, his account helps us to know something about the social and religious condition of that period.

- It is inferred that the administration of the Guptas was liberal, the people enjoyed economic prosperity and the burden of taxes on them was not heavy.

- He wrote that corporal punishment was avoided and usually fines were exacted from the offenders according to the nature of their offence. Those who attempted repeated offences against the state were punished severely and in that case their right hands were cut off.

- Most importantly, capital punishment was not given at all

{13} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 26
> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-68 Q-23**

26. Who among the following led a successful military campaign against the kingdom of Srivijaya, the powerful maritime State, which ruled the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring islands?

- (a) Amoghavarsha (Rashtrakuta)
- (b) Prataparudra (Kakatiya)
- (c) Rajendra I (Chola)
- (d) Vishnuvardhana (Hoysala)

Q 23. Which one of the following rulers conquered the territory of Srivijaya?

- (a) Vijayalaya Chola
- (b) Rajaraja Chola
- (c) Parantaka Chola I
- (d) Rajendra Chola

Q 23. (D)

Test: 68 (Full Length Test - 11) (2025) | Test Code: 12568 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

EXPLANATION:

Srivijaya, the most important Hindu kingdom in Sumatra, was founded in 670 CE. It emerged as a great centre of trade and culture with its developed maritime polity. The kingdom later evolved into Shailendra Empire, which was a great maritime and commercial power. I-tsing informs us that Srivijaya supplanted the Malayu kingdom in Sumatra in the late 7th century and promoted Buddhism. The Vat Sema Murong inscription (dated 775 CE) emphasizes the rapid rise of Srivijaya as the overlord of the neighbouring territories and as a significant naval and commercial power.

➤ The Chola navy was technologically more advanced. **Rajendra Chola**, in 1025, sent a huge naval fleet against the Srivijayas, and the Cholas won a decisive victory. So, Option (d) is correct.

➤ The Srivijaya ruler was captured. The Chola invasion and the raids of the city, Srivijaya, along with 12 other port cities on the **Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and the Nicobar Islands**, are mentioned in an inscription at a temple at Tanjavur.

➤ The incident is also recorded in one of the most significant Malay literary works, Sejarah Malayu.

CHOLA DYNASTY

About

➤ The reign of the Cholas began in the 9th century when they defeated the Pallavas to come into power. This rule stretched over for over five long centuries until the 13th century.

{14} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 29

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-11 Q-31 | Test-39 Q-44 | Test-58 Q-39**

29. Ashokan inscriptions suggest that the 'Pradeshika', 'Rajuka' and 'Yukta' were important officers at the

- (a) village-level administration
- (b) district-level administration
- (c) provincial administration
- (d) level of the central administration

Q 31. (B)

EXPLANATION:

Q 31. Consider the following statements with reference to the principles of Ashoka's dhamma:

1. Ashoka's dhamma-vijaya was the same as the dharma-Vijaya of the Arthashastra.
 2. The messages of dhamma were not propagated by means of speech during the period of Ashoka
 3. It did not consist of the promotion of a particular sect
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

Q 44. Which among the following administrative units of Guptas, in descending order of their authority correct?

- (A) Bhuktis, Vishyas, Vithis, Gramas.
- (B) Bhuktis, Vithis, Vishyas, Gramas.
- (C) Pradeshikas, Bhuktis, Vishyas, Vithis.
- (D) Amatyas, Pradeshikas, Rajjukas, Sthanik.

Test: 11 (2025) History II | Test Code: 12511

upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

www.upscwithnikhil.com

UPSC WITH NIKHIL - NAGPUR

Emperor Ashoka of the Mauryan Empire is known for the rock and pillar edicts issued by him during his reign. Most of Ashoka's inscriptions are about his dhamma. One of the most remarkable and innovative aspects of Ashoka's ideas of his own dhamma and the dhamma of a king was his renunciation of warfare and his re-definition of righteous conquest.

The King established his control over the four quarters through righteousness, not through violence or force. Rival kings do not resist and happily accept his sovereignty, which in any case is not about territorial conquest but spreading dhamma.

In this respect, Ashoka's dhamma-vijaya was different from the dharma-vijaya of the Arthashastra. The entire discussion of statecraft in the Arthashastra is from the point of the 'vijigishu' – the would-be conqueror who desires to conquer the entire subcontinent. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Ashoka's message of dhamma was not only inscribed on rocks and pillars across his empire. Relatively few people would have known how to read or write at the time, and Ashoka. Therefore, elaborate arrangements were made for the oral propagation of his message.

It was also orally propagated by his officials, such as kumaras, yutas, rajukas, mahamatas, antamahamatas, pulisani, and members of his parishad. Rock edict 3 states that the rajukas and pradeshikas were to go on tours of inspection every five years as part of their other duties, as well as for preaching dhamma.

So, Statement 2 is not correct.

An important aspect of Ashoka's dhamma was the generation of mutual respect and concord among people belonging to different sects or religious communities. This clearly indicates that dhamma did not consist of

Provinces During the Mauryan Empire

Uttarapath - Taxila (Capital)
Dakshinapatha - Suvarnagiri (Capital)
Avatipatha - Ujjain (Capital)
Kalinga - Toshali
Prachi - Pataliputra

- Provinces were divided into districts and had three main officers. The Pradeshika was responsible for the overall administration of the district. The Rajuka looked after the revenue administration and later judicial affairs, particularly in rural areas were under the Pradeshika. The Yuktas were probably accountants.
- Sub-district consisted of a group of villages numbering 5 to 10 and was administered by Gopa (accountant) and Sthanika (tax collector). The village was administered by the village headman who was responsible to the Gopa and Sthanika.
- The administration of the capital city of Pataliputra has been mentioned by Megasthenes. It was

{15} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 31

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-29 Q-76 | Test-77 Q-61**

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

Q 76. Consider the following statements regarding Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) in India:

1. AIFs are privately pooled investment vehicles regulated by SEBI.
2. AIFs are allowed to invest only in publicly listed companies in India.
3. Mutual Funds are a type of AIF.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q 61. The Alternate Investment Fund includes funds covered under which of the following regulations?

1. The SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996
2. The SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q 76. (A)

● **Statement 1 is correct:** Alternative Investment Fund or AIF means any fund established or incorporated in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors. E.g. Venture capital fund, Angel fund etc.

● **Statement 2 is not correct:** AIFs can invest in unlisted companies including startups.

● **Statement 3 is not correct:** AIF does not include funds covered under the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996, SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 or any other regulations of the Board to regulate fund management activities.

Recently in News	Alternative investment funds gain currency as fundraising tops Rs 5 trillion
Functions	Alternative Investment Fund is a privately pooled investment vehicle. Their main activity involves: ➤ Collection of funds from investors. Such investors can be Indian as well as foreign. ➤ Investment of such collected funds as per their defined investment policies They are required to work for the benefit of their investors.
Category	➤ AIFs that invest in startups, early-stage ventures, and small and medium enterprises fall under Category I AIFs. ➤ Category II AIFs, which account for nearly two-thirds of the investments made, invest in real estate funds, private equity funds, funds for distressed assets, etc. ➤ The third category includes hedge funds and other funds that use complex trading strategies.
Purpose of Introduction of AIF Regulations	➤ Alternative Investment Fund Regulations were introduced with a view to regularizing pooled funds not covered under any of the previous regulations in India. ➤ These regulations require such funds to be registered and operated as per these

{16} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 33

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-15 Q-38 | Test-16 Q-56**

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 assist 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 correctly matched?

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

Q 38. Consider the following laws:

1. Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
2. Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)
3. Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018

How many of the above laws are enforced by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED)?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two

upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

UPSC WITH NIKHIL - NAGPUR

1) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)

– Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)

2) "Mission Sagar"

– To provide COVID-19-related medical aid and essential items to Indian Ocean Region countries as part of India's maritime diplomacy.

3) 'OpenForge Platform'

– A digital platform for collaborative development and sharing of e-governance applications

4) Department of Legal Affairs

– Arrangements of treaties and agreements with foreign countries in matters specifically related to civil and commercial law

Q 38. (C)

• Directorate of Enforcement was (ED) set up at New Delhi in 1956 for enforcement of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1947.

• FERA was repealed in 2000 and replaced with Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA). Subsequently, the Directorate was also entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), which came into force in 2005.

o The Directorate investigates the case to ascertain whether proceeds of crime have been generated from the predicate offence booked by the Law Enforcement Agency, and such proceeds have been laundered.

• ED has also been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the provisions of Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 from April 2018.

• Hence option (c) is the correct answer.

Q 56. (A)

• Recent Context: The DRI's report on smuggling highlights its role in enforcing anti-smuggling measures.

• The DRI is a premier **intelligence and enforcement** agency focused on combating smuggling and related offences.

• Key Details:

o **Ministry of Finance:** DRI operates under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) within the Ministry of Finance.

{17} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 34
> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-16 Q-70**

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 makes 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

Q 70. Consider the following statements with respect to Business Responsibility & Sustainability Reporting (BRSR):

1. It is the medium through which listed companies report the performance on environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects.
2. It is applicable only to the top 1000 companies by market capitalisation.
3. It is based on the nine principles of the National Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) All Three
(D) None of the above

Q 70. (C)

Business Responsibility & Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) Framework The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently concluded a consultation paper seeking feedback on significant revisions to the Business Responsibility & Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) Framework.

- Evolution of BRSR – Evolved from Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR) and National Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct.
- BRSR is the medium through which listed companies report the performance on environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects.
- It is based on the nine principles of the National Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC).
- Scope and Implementation – Applicable to top 1000 companies by market capitalization.
- Key features – BRSR Core focuses on nine key performance indicators.
- It includes Essential and Leadership indicators with Leadership indicators being optional.
- The frame incorporates global standards relevant to India.
- Not fully interoperable with international standards.
- Challenges – IT systems not fully equipped for data capture.
- Lack of awareness and preparedness and shortage of sustainability-trained personnel.
- Global Standards and Frameworks – The IFRS sponsored ISSB's (International Sustainability Standards Board) standards IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 have gained acceptance.
- Similarly, the IFAC's (International Federation of Accountants) standards for assurance are now the norm.
- These standards are not yet officially prescribed although the prescription of 'Reasonable Assurance' by SEBI.

{18} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 36

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-47 Q-98 | Test-35 Q-34**

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 license for certain critical minerals.

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

Q 34. (A)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023, amends the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, with the aim of strengthening the exploration and extraction of critical minerals essential for India's economic development and national security.

Statement-I is correct: Private sector companies can extract minerals like niobium and lithium, which are declassified as atomic minerals and are not subject to exclusive extraction by government agencies.

Statement-II is correct: The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act 2023 declassified six minerals (lithium, beryllium, niobium, titanium, tantalum and zirconium) from the list of atomic minerals, allowing private sector companies to explore and extract these minerals. Under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act 1957, unlike other minerals, the exploration and extraction of atomic minerals are reserved exclusively for government entities.

Thus, Statement-I states a fact that private sector companies can extract minerals like niobium and lithium, which are not atomic minerals, and Statement-II explains that the Amendment Act delisted six minerals from the atomic minerals list, allowing private sector involvement.

Q 98. (C)

- India has officially joined the US-led Minerals Security Finance Network, an initiative aimed at strengthening global cooperation in securing critical mineral supply chains. This framework was established by the US in 2022.

Test: 47 (Current Affairs - 14) (2024) | Test Code: 12547 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

o India's participation in MSP Finance Network is part of its broader effort to diversify and secure sustainable supply chains for critical minerals Hence, Statement-I is correct.

- China dominates global mineral refining, processing 68 percent of nickel, 40 percent of copper, 59 percent of lithium, and 73 percent of cobalt. It leads in producing 20 critical minerals, accounting for 60 percent of global production and 85 percent of rare earth processing. Hence, Statement-II is not the correct explanation of Statement-I.

{19} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 38
> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-35 Q-42**

38. Consider the following statements :

- I. India accounts for a very large portion of all equity option contracts 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 regulatory 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

Q 42. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was established as a statutory body under the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992. In the context of gaining prominence of the financial markets, which of the below statement is not correct regarding the roles of SEBI in India?

- (A) To protect the interests of investors in securities
- (B) To promote the development of the securities market
- (C) To encourage insider trading in securities
- (D) To prohibit unfair trade practices relating to the securities market

LVPK-O-PSO/56B

Q 42. (C)

EXPLANATION:

SEBI has taken various measures such as a screen-based trading system, dematerialization of securities, T+2 rolling settlement, and framed various regulations to regulate intermediaries, issue and trading of securities, corporate restructuring, etc., to protect the interests of investors in securities. So, Option (a) is correct.

SEBI is mandated to promote the development of and regulate the securities market. It ensures that the market has systems and practices which make transactions safe. It also ensures that only the fit and proper persons are allowed to operate in the market, every participant has an incentive to comply with the prescribed standards, and the miscreant is awarded exemplary punishment. So, Option (b) is correct.

Insider trading involves trading in a public company's stock by someone with non-public information about that stock for any reason. SEBI prohibits a person from engaging in insider trading either directly or indirectly. So, Option (c) is not correct.

In exercise of the powers conferred under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, the board made the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices relating to Securities Market) Regulations, 2003 that prohibit unfair trade practices relating to the securities market. So, Option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA

SEBI	SEBI is a statutory body and a market regulator that controls India's securities market. The basic functions of SEBI are to protect investors' interests in securities and promote and regulate the securities market.
Composition	SEBI is run by its board of members. The board consists of a Chairman and several other whole-time and part-time members. The chairman is nominated by the union

Test: 35 (Economics - III) (2025) | Test Code: 12535 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

	government. The others include two members from the finance ministry, one from the Reserve Bank of India and five other members also nominated by the Centre.
Securities Appellate Tribunal	A Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has been constituted to protect the interest of entities that feel aggrieved by SEBI's decision. SAT consists of a presiding officer and two other members.
Functions of SEBI	SEBI controls activities of stock exchanges, safeguards the rights of shareholders, and also guarantees the security of their investment. ■ It also aims to check fraudulence by harmonizing its statutory regulations and self-regulating business. ■ The regulator also enables a competitive professional market for intermediaries

{20} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 40
 > UPSC with Nikhil **Test-29 Q-38**

Q 38. Consider the following pairs:

Receipts under the Union Budget	Categorisation
1. Dividends and Profits on Investments	: Revenue Receipt
2. Market Borrowings	: Revenue Receipt
3. Small Savings Schemes	: Revenue Receipt
4. Provident Fund	: Capital Receipt

40. Consider the following statements :

- I. Capital receipts create a liability or cause a reduction in the assets of the Government.
- II. Borrowings and disinvestment are capital receipts.
- III. Interest received on loans creates a liability of the Government.

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

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q 38. (B)

Only Pair 1 and Pair 4 are correctly matched.

Test: 29 (Economics - II) (2025) | Test Code: 12529 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

Revenue receipts: Those receipts of the government which neither creates a liability for the government nor reduces the assets (physical or financial) of the government are called revenue receipts.

Revenue receipts can be of two types:

Tax Revenues consist of direct and indirect taxes of the central government.

Non-Tax Revenue consists of interest receipts on account of loans given by the central government, dividend and profits on investments made by the central government (i.e., PSUs), fees and fines and other receipts for services rendered by the government like passport fees etc. Cash grants-in-aid from foreign countries and international organizations are also part of the non-tax revenue

Capital receipts: Those receipts of the government which either creates liability or reduces the assets (physical or financial) are called capital receipts. The main items of capital receipts are loans raised by the government from the public (market borrowings), borrowing by the government from the RBI, commercial banks and other financial institutions through the sale of government securities (treasury bills/dated securities), loans received from foreign governments and international organizations, and recovery of loans previously granted by the central government. It also includes small savings schemes (Post office savings accounts, National Savings Certificates etc.), Provident Funds and net receipts obtained from the sale of shares in PSUs (disinvestment).

{21} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 41

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-26 Q-48 | Test-64 Q-18**

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

Q 48. Consider the following statements regarding NATO membership:

1. Member Countries establish consensus about a country's potential membership.
 2. The applicant country is invited to join the Membership Action Plan (MAP).
 3. The applicant country issues a formal letter of intent to join NATO.
 4. Applicant country deposits instrument of accession with the U.S. State Department.
 5. All the NATO members notify their acceptance to the government of the United States, the depository of the Washington Treaty.
 6. NATO membership is given to the applicant country. Arrange in the sequence of order of events.
- (A) 1-2-3-4-5-6
(B) 1-2-3-5-4-6
(C) 3-1-2-4-6-5
(D) 3-4-2-1-6-5

Test: 64 (Full Length Test - 8) (2025) | Test Code: 12564 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

www.upscwithnikhil.com

UPSC WITH NIKHIL - NAGPUR

	> NATO is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. The headquarters of the Allied Command Operations is near Mons, also in Belgium. > Members of NATO are committed to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party. > Collective defence lies at the very heart of NATO, "a unique and enduring principle that binds its members together, committing them to protect each other and setting a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance". > This is laid out in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, the founding treaty of NATO.
Members of NATO	At present, NATO has 32 member countries. These countries, called NATO Allies, are sovereign states that come together through NATO to discuss political and security issues and make collective decisions by consensus.  2009 Albania  1949 Belgium  2004 Bulgaria  1949 Canada  2009 Croatia  1999 Czechia  1949 Denmark  2004 Estonia  2023 Finland  1949 France  1955 Germany  1952 Greece  1999 Hungary  1949 Iceland  1949 Italy  2004 Latvia  2004 Lithuania  1949 Luxembourg  2017 Montenegro  1949 Netherlands  2020 North Macedonia  1949 Norway  1999 Poland  1949 Portugal  2004 Romania  2004 Slovakia  2004 Slovenia  1982 Spain  2024 Sweden  1952 Türkiye  1949 United Kingdom  1949 United States

Q 19. (B)

EXPLANATION:

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is an inherited haemoglobin disorder in which red blood cells (RBCs) become

{22} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 44

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-78 Q-71 | Test-32 Q-09**

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.

LVPK-O-PSO/56B

Q 71. With reference to turmeric, which one of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) It is a perennial herbaceous plant of the ginger family.
- (b) India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world.
- (c) Turmeric is known as the 'Golden Spice'.
- (d) Lakadong Turmeric is a variant of turmeric found in the state of Assam.

21

Q 9. Consider the following list of Indian States:

1. Maharashtra
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Telangana
4. Tripura

How many of the above are the major turmeric-producing states in India?

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

Q 71. (D)

EXPLANATION:

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) is a perennial herbaceous plant of the ginger family; the tuberous rhizomes (underground stems) of which have been used from antiquity as a condiment, a textile dye, and medically as an aromatic stimulant. Native to southern India and Indonesia, turmeric is widely cultivated on the mainland and in the islands of the Indian Ocean. So, Option (a) is correct.

India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. In the year 2022-23, an area of 3.24 lakh ha was under turmeric cultivation in India with a production of 11.61 lakh tonnes (over 75% of global turmeric production).

➤ India has more than 62% share of world trade. During 2023-24, 1.62 lakh tonnes of turmeric and turmeric products valued at 226.5 million USD were exported.

➤ More than 30 varieties of Turmeric are grown in India and it is grown in over 20 states in the country. The largest producing states of Turmeric are Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. So, Option (b) is correct.

Turmeric is an ancient spice derived from the rhizomes of *Curcuma longa*, which is a member of the ginger family (Zingiberaceae). Also known as 'Golden Spice of India,' turmeric has been used in India for medicinal purposes for centuries.

It has been used in traditional medicine as a household remedy for various diseases, including biliary disorders, anorexia, cough, diabetic wounds, hepatic disorders, rheumatism and sinusitis. In addition to its use as a spice and pigment, turmeric and its constituents mainly curcumin and essential oils shows a wide spectrum of biological actions. So, Option (c) is correct.

{23} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 45

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-61 Q-06 | Test-06 Q-87**

45. Which of the following are the evidences of the phenomenon of continental drift?

- I. The belt of ancient rocks from Brazil coast matches with those from Western Africa.
- II. The gold deposits of Ghana are derived from the Brazil plateau when the two continents lay side by side.
- III. The Gondwana system of sediments from India is known to have its counterparts in six different landmasses of the Southern Hemisphere.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Q 6. (D)

Explanation:

All statements are correct. Supplementary notes: Evidence in Support of the Continental Drift

The Matching of Continents (Jig-SawFit)

The shorelines of Africa and South America facing each other have a remarkable and unmistakable match.

A map produced using a computer program to find the best fit of the Atlantic margin was presented by Bullard in 1964. The match was tried at 1,000- fathom line instead of the present shoreline. Rocks of same age across the oceans

The radiometric dating methods developed in the recent period have facilitated correlating the rock formation from different continents across the vast ocean.

The belt of ancient rocks of 2,000 million years from the Brazil coast matches with those from western Africa.

The earliest marine deposits along the coastline of South America and Africa are of the Jurassic age. This suggests that the ocean did not exist prior to that time.

Tillite

It is the sedimentary rock formed out of deposits of glaciers. The Gondwana system of sediments from India is known to have its counterparts in six different landmasses of the Southern Hemisphere.

At the base, the system has thick tillite indicating extensive and prolonged glaciation. Counterparts of this succession are found in Africa, Falkland Island, Madagascar, Antarctica and Australia besides India.

The overall resemblance of the Gondwana type sediments clearly demonstrates that these landmasses had remarkably similar histories.

The glacial tillite provides unambiguous evidence of palaeo climates and also of drifting of continents. Placer

Deposits

The occurrence of rich placer deposits of gold in the Ghana coast and the absolute absence of source rock in the region is an amazing fact.

Q 6. Consider the following:

1. Matching of Africa and South America continents.
2. Rocks of the same age across the oceans
3. Absences of source rock in the region of rich placer deposits
4. Distribution of fossils

How many of the following evidences support the Continental Drift Theory?

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

Q 87. Consider the following statements regarding proof of continental drift:

1. Bullard's 1964 map showed a perfect match between the shorelines of Africa and South America.
2. Radiometric dating of rocks suggests that the ocean between South America and Africa existed before the Jurassic age.

3. Gondwana sediments are found in India and six Southern Hemisphere landmasses.

4. Gold deposits in the Ghana coast are derived from the Brazil plateau, indicating past adjacency.

5. Mesosaurus, a reptile found in South Africa and Brazil, supports the idea of continental drift.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(A) Only two

{24} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 49

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-32 Q-17 | Test-75 Q-86

49. Consider the following statements :

- I. Without the atmosphere, temperature would be well below freezing point everywhere on the Earth's surface.
- II. Heat absorbed and trapped by the atmosphere maintains our planet's average temperature.
- III. Atmosphere's gases, like carbon dioxide, are particularly good at absorbing and trapping radiation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 17. Consider the following statements regarding the **Global heat budget**:

1. A net gain of energy occurs in the tropics where dense vegetation leads to low albedo effect.
2. Albedo is the property of substance directly proportional to amount of reflected radiation.
3. The net amount of heat received in the form of insolation is equals to heat lost through terrestrial radiation by earth.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q 86. Consider the following statements: Statement-I:

Despite the huge transfer of heat from the sun, the earth neither warms up nor cools down.

Statement-II:

There exists a near-net zero energy balance between incoming shortwave radiation and outgoing terrestrial radiation.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does explain.
- (c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II

Q 86. (A)

EXPLANATION:

The earth as a whole does not accumulate or lose heat. It maintains its temperature. This can happen only if the amount of heat received in the form of shortwave radiation equals the amount lost by the earth through terrestrial radiation.

The insolation received by the earth is in short waveforms and heats up its surface. After being heated, the earth becomes a radiating body, and it radiates energy to the atmosphere through long-wave terrestrial radiation.

➤ Consider that the insolation received at the top of the atmosphere is 100 per cent. While passing through the atmosphere, some amount of energy is reflected, scattered and absorbed. Only the remaining part reaches the earth's surface.

➤ Roughly 35 units are reflected back to space even before reaching the earth's surface. Of these, 27 units are reflected back from the top of the clouds and 2 units from the snow and ice-covered areas of the earth. The reflected amount of radiation is called the albedo of the earth.

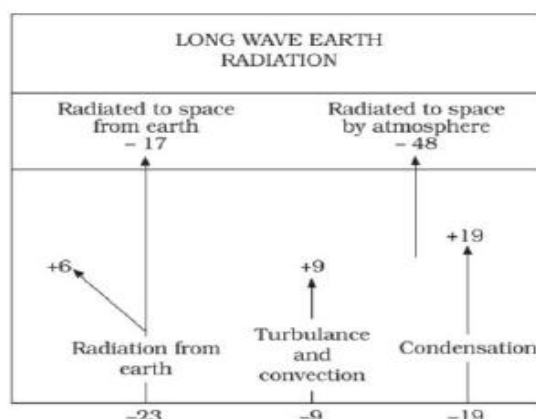
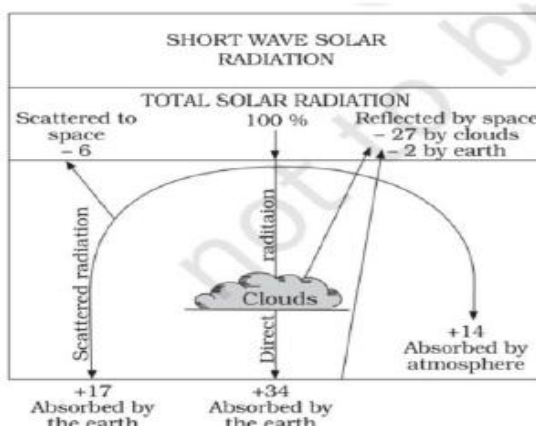
➤ The remaining 65 units are absorbed, 14 units within the atmosphere and 51 units by the earth's surface.

➤ The earth radiates back 51 units in the form of terrestrial radiation. Of these, 17 units are radiated to space directly, and the remaining 34 units are absorbed by the atmosphere (6 units absorbed directly by the atmosphere, 9 units through convection and turbulence and 19 units through latent heat of condensation).

➤ 48 units absorbed by the atmosphere (14 units from insolation +34 units from terrestrial radiation) are also radiated back into space.

➤ Thus, the total radiation returning from the earth and the atmosphere, respectively, is 17+48=65 units, which balances the total of 65 units received from the sun. This is termed the heat budget or heat balance of the earth.

Therefore, the earth neither warms up nor cools down despite the huge transfer of heat that takes place. There exists a near-net zero energy balance between incoming shortwave radiation and outgoing terrestrial radiation. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II explains Statement-I.



{25} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 52
> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-14 Q-87**

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

Q 87. Consider the following statements with respect to the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC):

1. It is a regional organization that was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.
2. India was one of the founding members of the organisation.
3. The BIMSTEC Charter was signed and adopted during the fifth BIMSTEC summit recently.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) All Three
(D) None of the above

Q 87. (B)

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

BIMSTEC has recently acquired 'legal personality' and will be able to enter into structured diplomatic dialogue with other groupings and countries.

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization that was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.
- This Declaration was signed by Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- The main aim of the regional group was the promotion of economic cooperation between countries bordering the Bay of Bengal.
- The Myanmar joined in 1997 and the group was renamed BIMST-EC.
- With the admission of Nepal and Bhutan in July 2004, the grouping was renamed during the First Summit in Bangkok on 31 July 2004 as BIMSTEC.
- Member states – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.
- Charter – The BIMSTEC Charter was signed and adopted during the 5th BIMSTEC Summit held in virtual format in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 30 March 2022.
- The charter recently came into force and BIMSTEC can now admit new members and observers, and enter into diplomatic dialogues with other countries/groupings.
- Mechanism – BIMSTEC is a five-tiered organization.

{26} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 53

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-51 Q-36

53. Who amongst the following are members of the Jury to select the recipient of 'Gandhi Peace Prize'?

- I. The President of India
- II. The Prime Minister of India
- III. The Chief Justice of India
- IV. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

organoids with modern computing methods which helps to decode the pathology of drug development for devastating neurodevelopmental diseases.

8) **Gandhi Peace Prize** – It is awarded for social, economic and political transformation through nonviolence to any persons or institutions & it is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.

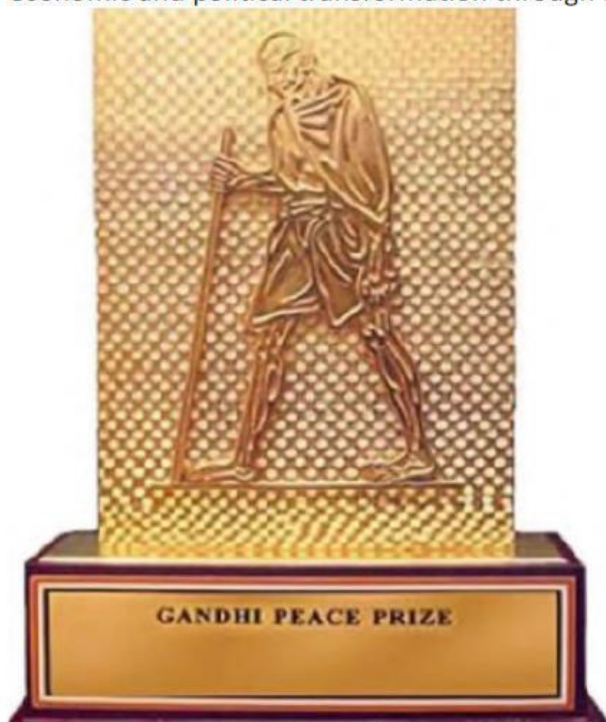
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) Only Five Pairs are correct
- (B) Only Six Pairs are correct
- (C) Only Seven Pairs are correct
- (D) All Pairs are correct

LVPK-O-PSO/56B

Q 37. Consider the following examples of phase changes:

Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by the Government of India in 1995. It is awarded for social, economic and political transformation through non-violence to any deserving persons or institutions.



The award comprises a citation and an amount of Rs 1 crore. It is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender and any association, institution or organisation. The awardee is selected by a five-member jury comprising the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India, the Leader of the Opposition and two eminent personalities.

GANDHI PEACE PRIZE

Recently in News The row over awarding Gita Press the Gandhi Peace Prize.

About ➤ Nominees of the Gandhi Peace Prize must be proposed either by former jury members, former awardees, members of Parliament, Nobel laureates for the last five years, Secretary-General of the United Nations or heads of other international peace organisations, Vice-Chancellors of universities, Chief Ministers, or Governors.

➤ Work achieved within the ten years preceding the nomination is considered for the award

{27} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 54

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-59 Q-62 | Test-16 Q-99

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

Q 62. Consider the following statements regarding GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) Satellite Technology:

1. This Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) is the first such system developed for India and neighbouring countries in the equatorial region.
2. GAGAN uses a system of ground stations to provide necessary augmentations to the GPS standard positioning service (SPS) navigation signal.
3. Apart from GAGAN, there are only two Space-Based augmentation systems available in the world namely Europe (EGNOS) and the US (WAAS).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only

Q 99. Consider the following statements with respect to Global Navigation Satellite (GNSS)-based Tolling:

1. It is a barrier-free method of 'Electronic Toll Collection' that uses virtual toll booths to monitor vehicle entry and exit from tolled sections.
2. It enhances the current FASTag system by eliminating the need for physical toll booths.
3. It utilizes GAGAN and NavIC for improved precision and coverage.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) All Three

Q 99. (C)

Global Navigation Satellite (GNSS)-based Tolling

The GNSS-based toll collection system was recently introduced on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway as part of the pilot project alongside the existing FASTag system, to modernize the country's road infrastructure.

- Global Navigation Satellite (GNSS) is an electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system that uses virtual toll booths to monitor vehicle entry and exit from tolled sections.
- This initiative, aimed at making India toll booth-free within a couple of years, showcases the nation's commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technology for socio-economic development.
- It enhances the current FASTag system by eliminating the need for physical toll booths.
- It utilizes GAGAN (GPS-Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) and NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).
- As it can be automated charged, it enables seamless toll collection without vehicles needing to slow down or stop.

Q 62. (B)

Explanation:

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** There are only four Space-Based augmentation systems available in the world namely India (GAGAN), Europe (EGNOS), Japan (MSAS) and the US (WAAS). GAGAN is the first such system developed for India and neighbouring countries in the equatorial region.

Supplementary Notes:

GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) Satellite Technology:

- GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) is an Indian Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) jointly developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- It is the first such system developed for India and neighbouring countries in the equatorial region.
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) certified GAGAN System in 2015 for Approach with Vertical Guidance (APV 1) and en-route (RNP 0.1) operations.
- It should be noted that there are only four Space-Based augmentation systems available in the world namely India (GAGAN), Europe (EGNOS), Japan (MSAS) and the US (WAAS). GAGAN is the first such system developed for India and neighbouring countries in the equatorial region.
- The GAGAN provides additional accuracy, availability, and integrity required to enable users to rely on GPS for all phases of flight, from en route through approach for all qualified airports within the GAGAN service volume.

Why in News?

- India conducts Asia's first demo of performance-based navigation for copters from Juhu in Mumbai to Pune

{28} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 57

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-72 Q-84 | Test-79 Q-02**

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

Q 84. With reference to the international meetings held in the year 2024, which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

S. No.	Meetings	Place held
1	NAM summit	Uganda
2	BRICS summit	Baku
3	ASEAN-India Summit	Vientiane
4	United Nations Climate Change Conference	Kazan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only

Q 2. Consider the following countries:

1. Egypt
2. UAE
3. Argentina
4. Iran
5. Saudi Arabia

How many of the above-mentioned countries have recently joined the BRICS grouping as full-time permanent members?

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

Some of the regional and international organizations, such as the United Nations or the African Union, NAM neither has a formal founding Charter, Act or Treaty, nor a permanent secretariat.

> Coordinating and managing the affairs of the Movement, therefore, is the responsibility of the country holding the Chairmanship. So, Pair 1 is correct.

The 16th BRICS Summit was held in Kazan, Russia, from October 22 to 24, 2024 (not Baku). BRICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the original five members of which were large, non-Western economies.

On January 1st, 2025, BRICS admitted four new members: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Essentially, BRICS has been envisaged as a grouping of non-Western countries that can act as a counterweight to institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, dominated by the Global North. Also on January 7, Indonesia became the first Southeast Asian nation to formally join BRICS. So, Pair 2 is not correct.

The 21st ASEAN-India Summit was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on October 10 2024. Marking a decade of

EXPLANATION:

BRICS is an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Economist Jim O'Neill created the term BRIC in 2001 (for Brazil, Russia, India, and China) with the belief that these economies would dominate global growth by 2050. South Africa was added to the list in 2010. BRICS is an informal group of states. Till 2023, BRICS comprises the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa as the permanent members.

In January 2024, Under Russia's Presidency, BRICS announced the induction of five full members as part of an expansion of the groupings. The grouping has become a 10-nation body now, with Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates joining as its new members, awaiting confirmation from Saudi Arabia. Argentina has withdrawn the country from becoming a member of BRICS groupings. So, Option (b) is correct.



{29} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 58
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-01 Q-47

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

Q 47. Consider the following statements regarding the Lokpal:

1. It was established through the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
2. A high-level selection committee, including the Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha,

Leader of the Opposition, Chief Justice, and eminent jurist, appoints its members.

3. The Lokpal has the authority to investigate allegations of corruption against public servants at the state level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 3 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 2 only

LVPK-O-PSO/56B

27

Q 47. (B)

Explanation:

■ **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Lokpal has the authority to investigate allegations of corruption against public servants at the central level.

Test: 01 (Polity 1) (2025) | Test Code: 12501 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

Supplementary Notes:

Lokpal

- The Lokpal is an ombudsman institution at the central level in India. **It was established through the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.**
- The primary objective of the Lokpal is to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption against public servants at the central government level, including the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament, and central government employees.
- The Lokpal is an independent body, and its members are appointed by a high level selection committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha (lower house of Parliament), the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India, and an eminent jurist nominated by the President of India.

Jurisdiction of Lokpal:

- The Lokpal has the authority to investigate allegations of corruption against public servants at the central level.
- This includes corruption cases related to the misuse of public office, bribery, embezzlement of public funds, and other acts of corruption.
- However, the Lokpal does not have jurisdiction over the state governments or their employees.

{30} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 61
> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-51 Q-43**

61. Consider the following statements :

Statement I :

Some rare earth elements are used in the manufacture of flat television screens and computer monitors.

Statement II :

Some rare earth elements have phosphorescent properties.

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

Q 43. With reference to the rare earth elements (REE), consider the following statements:

1. They belong to the Actinoids family of the periodic table.
2. They are abundant in the earth's crust.
3. Rare-earth magnets have stronger per unit weight and volume than any other magnet type. 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

Q 43. (B)

- REEs are seventeen chemical elements in the periodic table, specifically the fifteen lanthanides plus scandium and yttrium. Scandium and yttrium are REEs since they tend to occur in the same mineral deposits as the lanthanides. They exhibit similar chemical properties, including malleability with high melting and boiling points. Each REE contains a subshell that houses f-electrons, giving them their magnetic and luminescent properties; all are considered metals. Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- REEs are known as "rare" because finding them in a pure form is very unusual. However, they are found in abundant quantities all over the world. Cerium, for example, is the 25th most common element on the

Test: 51 (Current Affairs - 17) (2025) | Test Code: 12551 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

planet. The term "earth" is an archaic term for something that can be dissolved in acid. Hence statement 2 is correct.

- REEs have unique magnetic, phosphorescent, and catalytic properties. Permanent magnets radically boost magnetic strength, benefiting a wide array of uses. Rare-earth magnets are stronger per unit weight and volume than any other magnet type. Clean energy technologies, such as large wind turbines and electric vehicles, use rare-earth permanent magnets (meaning permanently magnetized) that usually contain four REEs: praseodymium, neodymium, samarium, and dysprosium. Known as "the seeds of technology," rare earth elements (REEs) make today's emerging technologies possible – from the miniaturization of electronics to the enabling of "green" and medical technologies to supporting essential defense, telecommunication, and transportation systems. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- Hence option (b) is the correct answer.

{31} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 62

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-52 Q-10 | Test-68 Q-73**

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

Q 10. (B)

Kavach, an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection System showcased on South Central Railway Friday, is earmarked for aggressive rollout on 2,000 km in 2022-23, according to the Budget proposals.

Kavach Technology

- It is India's very own automatic protection system in development since 2012, under the name Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), which got rechristened to Kavach or "armour".
- It is a set of electronic devices and Radio Frequency Identification devices installed in locomotives, in the signalling system as well the tracks.
- They talk to each other using ultra high radio frequencies to control the brakes of trains and also alert drivers, all based on the logic programmed into them.
- One of its features is that by continuously refreshing the movement information of a train, it is able to send out triggers when a loco pilot jumps signal, called Signal Passed at Danger (SPAD).
- It is a grave offence in railway operations with respect to safety, and the key to accidents like collisions.

Test: 52 (Current Affairs - 18) (2025) | Test Code: 12552 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

Q 73. (C)

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 aims to formulate strategies based on both operational capacities and commercial policy initiatives to increase the modal share of the Railways in freight to 45%. The objective of the Plan is to create capacity ahead of demand, which in turn would also cater to future growth in demand

Test: 68 (Full Length Test - 11) (2025) | Test Code: 12568 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

Q 10. Consider the following statements regarding the Kavach Technology:

1. It is an automatic train protection system developed in India in collaboration with Japan.
2. It is a set of electronic devices and Radio Frequency Identification devices installed in locomotives, in the signaling system, and as well the tracks.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Q 73. Consider the following objectives:

1. Identify new dedicated freight corridors
2. Elimination of all level crossings on all Golden quadrilateral routes
3. Identify new high-speed rail corridors
4. 100% electrification of all routes
5. Introducing Vande Bharat trains between metro cities

How many of the objectives given above are part of the National Rail Plan 2030?

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

{32} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 63

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-44 Q-14 | Test-77 Q-60**

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

Q 14. (C)

Explanation:

■ Statement 1 is incorrect: SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) is a technology demonstrator mission developed by the ISRO to showcase in-space docking technology.

■ Statement 3 is Incorrect: It is launched for the duration of 2 years.

Supplementary notes:

SpaDeX:

■ About: SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) is a technology demonstrator mission developed by the ISRO to showcase in-space docking technology.

• This mission aims to demonstrate the ability to rendezvous, dock, and undock two small spacecraft, marking a significant advancement in India's space capabilities.

■ Objective: The primary goal of SpaDeX is to develop docking technologies for two small spacecraft, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), in low Earth orbit.

• They will dock autonomously using advanced sensors and propulsion systems.

• Secondary objectives include testing electric power transfer and demonstrating spacecraft control.

■ Mission Duration: Two years

• Mission Design: SpaDeX will deploy two satellites, SDX01 and SDX02, into a 470 km orbit using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket, where they drift apart and gradually approach each other, eventually docking at distances from 20 km to 3 meters.

■ The two satellites are equipped with the Bharatiya Docking System (BDS).

■ BDS features identical, low-impact (approach velocity is in the order of 10 mm/s), androgynous (docking systems are identical for both spacecraft, Chaser & Target) docking mechanisms, enhancing mission flexibility and precision for future operations like satellite servicing, crew transfers, and India's space station development.

■ SpaDeX will use PSLV's fourth stage, POEM (PSLV Orbital Experimental Module)-4, to carry 24 payloads from academic institutions and startups. These experiments will leverage the microgravity environment in orbit.

Why in News?

■ ISRO launches SpaDeX mission for space Docking

Q 60. (A)

Explanation: Gaganyaan Mission

Mission Objectives: The mission aims to demonstrate India's human spaceflight capability by launching a crew to Low Earth Orbit.

Launch Vehicle: The Launch Vehicle Mark-3 is a three-stage rocket (not two-stage) with a sophisticated design including a cryogenic engine in its third stage.

Orbital Module: The module is divided into the Crew Module and the Service Module, each serving its specific functions during the mission.

Analysis of Statements:

Statement (1): Incorrect - In reality, the LVM-3 is a three-stage rocket with a distinct third stage powered by the CE-20 engine.

Statement (2): Correct - This correctly identifies the two main components of the Orbital Module.

Statement (3): Correct - This statement highlights India's goal of demonstrating its capability to send humans into orbit.

Hence, the correct answer is (a) 2 and 3 only.

Q 60. With reference to the Gaganyaan Mission, consider the following statements:

1. The Launch Vehicle Mark-3 is a two-stage rocket used for the mission
2. The Orbital Module consists of a Crew Module and a Service Module
3. It aims to demonstrate India's human spaceflight capability by launching a crew to Low Earth Orbit

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

{33} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 65
> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-33 Q-99**

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

Q 99. **Cloud Seeding** is used in the areas facing droughts. In this context, consider the following chemicals:

- 1. Silver iodide
- 2. Dry Ice
- 3. Potassium Iodide
- 4. Propane
- 5. Sodium Chloride

How many of the above chemicals are used in Cloud Seeding?

Test: 33 (Environment - IV) (2025) | Test Code: 12533 upscw

Q 99. (D)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer. During abnormally dry seasons, evaporation outpaces precipitation, leading to reduced rainfall and water supplies. However, advancements in technology offer a potential solution: cloud seeding.

Option 1 is correct: Silver Iodide are inorganic compounds which are highly photosensitive as a reaction of iodide solution with silver ions. The chemical has yellowish color and the solid form of it can precipitate quickly. Silver iodide acts as trigger or hook for the seeded cloud to precipitate. The chemical blends with the cloud and induces the freezing cloud to release it in the form of water. With such function, silver iodide is a chemical used in artificial rain.

Option 2 is correct: Carbon dioxide in the form of dry ice is also used in the making of artificial rain. This chemical is a colorless gas with chemical compound CO₂. When it is in the form of ice, carbon dioxide will help to weigh down the clouds and press the trapped water to fall down to the surface of earth.

Option 3 is correct: Potassium Iodide is used in cloud seeding. In cloud seeding, potassium iodide functions as photosensitizer in the application of photochemistry in modern life with silver nitrate. It is also the chemical that forms silver iodide with nitrate as combination. Because of its function, it is used to make artificial rain as well.

Other Chemicals used for cloud seeding:

Test: 33 (Environment - IV) (2025) | Test Code: 12533 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

1) Ammonium Nitrate (NH₄NO₃) is the nitrate salt of ammonium cation. Appear in crystal white solid form, it is used as fertilizer in agriculture. However, it is also used in cloud seeding process to create artificial rain. Along with other chemicals, ammonium nitrate acts as the one that increase nuclei and to increase the density of the clouds as well.

2) Urea Compound ((CH₄N₂O)) is also known as carbamide. The chemical comes with white solid appearance that is often used as plants fertilizer. In cloud seeding, urea acts as the one that absorb the water vapour. As a result, it will create a more dense cloud to break down the super cool clouds.

3) Calcium Carbide (CAC₂) along with calcium oxide acts as absorbers of water vapour. It consists of salt and urea or ammonium nitrate. It is usually colorless but can also appear whiteish.

{34} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 66

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-02 Q-46 | Test-36 Q-35

56. Consider the following statements with regard to ~~pardoning power~~ of the President of India :

- I. The exercise of this power by the President can be subjected to limited judicial review.
- II. The President can exercise this power without the advice of the Central Government.

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

Q 35. (D)

Q 35. With reference to the President of India, consider the following statements:

1. He/She can grant pardon to persons convicted of any offence against a Union Law.
 2. He/She can pardon a person sentenced to death by a state High Court.
 3. His/Her power to pardon extends to cases tried by a Court Martial.
 4. His/Her pardoning power is to be exercised on the advice of the Council of Minister.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 46. Consider the following statements about clemency power of the President of India:

1. The President may reject a petition for mercy but she/he must hear a petition for mercy before rejecting.
2. The President can use his/her judicial powers in all cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial.
3. The President may exercise such powers in all cases where punishment or sentence is for an offence against any law falling within the executive power of the Union.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Test: 36 (Indian Polity - V) (2025) | Test Code: 12536 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The President of India under Article 72 of Indian Constitution has the authority to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or commutations for offenses against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the Union extends.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The President's pardoning power includes the ability to pardon persons sentenced to death by a state High Court.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The President's pardoning power extends to offenses tried by a Court Martial.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The President's power to grant pardons is exercised based on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers.

Q 46. (C)

The President while exercising the pardoning power, does not sit as a court of appeal. So he need not hear a petition for mercy before rejecting it. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the President to grant pardons to persons who have been tried and convicted of any offence in all cases where the:

1. Punishment or sentence is for an offence against a Union Law;
2. Punishment or sentence is by a court martial (military court); and

Test: 02 (Polity 2) (2025) | Test Code: 12502 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

3. Sentence is a sentence of death

So, statement 2 and 3 are correct.

The pardoning power of the President is independent of the Judiciary; it is an executive power. But, the President while exercising this power, does not sit as a court of appeal. The object of conferring this power on the President is two-fold: (a) to keep the door open for correcting any judicial errors in the operation of law; and, (b) to afford relief from a sentence, which the President regards as unduly harsh.

{35} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 67

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-36 Q-72 | Test-31 Q-10**

68. Consider the following statements :

- I. If any question arises as to whether a Member of the House of the People has become subject to disqualification under the 10th Schedule, the (President's) decision in accordance with the opinion of the Council of Union Ministers shall be final.
- II. There is no mention of the word 'political party' in the Constitution of India.

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

LVPK-O-PSO/56B

31

Q 10. In the context of Election to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha, consider the following statements-

1. By convention, the Speaker of Lok Sabha gives up the membership of his/her political party.
 2. G V Mavalankar was the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
 3. Other than the election of the first Speaker, every other Lok Sabha Speaker has been elected unanimously till 2019.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Q 72. Consider the following statements about the speaker:

1. He resign by writing to the deputy speaker.
2. When a resolution for speaker's removal is under consideration, although he can preside at the sitting of house but he cannot vote.

Which of the given statement is correct?

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

Q 10. (B)

G V Mavalankar was the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

In Britain, by convention, political parties do not field a candidate against the Speaker at the time of general elections. And the Speaker can continue in office, until deciding otherwise. The promise of continuity in office for many terms is used to ensure the Speaker's impartiality and by convention, the Speaker also gives up the membership of his/her political party. But there is no such convention in India. Other than the election of Mavalankar, every other Lok Sabha Speaker has been elected unanimously.

Q 72. (A)

A Lok Sabha speaker remains in office during the life of Lok Sabha generally. However, to remain in office, he needs to remain member of Lok Sabha. Whenever Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker continues to remain in office until immediately before the first meeting of Lok Sabha after it is reconstituted.

Resignation and Removal

The speaker automatically ceases to be so if he is disqualified to be a member of Lok Sabha due to reasons whatsoever. He can vacate his office by addressing a resignation letter to Deputy Speaker. He can also be removed by the members of Lok Sabha by a resolution passed by absolute majority {majority of the total members of the House} of Lok Sabha. However, a 14 days advanced notice must be given for such resolution. The motion of removal can be considered and discussed only when it has the support of at least 50 members. These provisions make removal of speaker difficult and provide him security of tenure.

When such resolution is under consideration of the house, Speaker cannot preside the meeting of the house,

{36} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 68

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-01 Q-34 | Test-01 Q-64**

68. Consider the following statements :

- I. If any question arises as to whether a Member of the House of the People has become subject to disqualification under the 10th Schedule, the (President's) decision in accordance with the opinion of the Council of Union Ministers shall be final.
- II. There is no mention of the word 'political party' in the Constitution of India.

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

Q 34. With reference to the Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Act, 1985, which of the following situations would not attract disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

Q 64. Consider the following statements about the Anti-defection law:

1. The speaker's decision under the anti-defection law is immune from judicial review.
2. The anti-defection law does not apply to the nominated members of the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Test: 01 (Polity 1) (2025) | Test Code: 12501 upscwithnikhil

The Speaker has the following powers and duties:

- He maintains order and decorum in the assembly for conducting its business and regulating its proceedings. This is his primary responsibility and he has final power in this regard.
- He is the final interpreter of the provisions of (a) the Constitution of India, (b) the rules of procedure and conduct of business of assembly, and (c) the legislative precedents, within the assembly.
- He adjourns the assembly or suspends the meeting in the absence of a quorum.
- He does not vote in the first instance. But, he can exercise a casting vote in the case of a tie.
- He can allow a 'secret' sitting of the House at the request of the leader of the House.
- He decides whether a bill is a Money Bill or not and his decision on this question is final.
- He decides the questions of disqualification of a member of the assembly, arising on the ground of defection under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule.
- He appoints the chairmen of all the committees of the assembly and supervises their functioning. He himself is the chairman of the Business Advisory Committee, the Rules Committee and the General Purpose Committee.

www.upscwithnikhil.com

UPSC WITH NIKHIL - NAGPUR

- The direction issued by the political party is famously referred to as the party whip.
- A legislator can further be disqualified if he is an independently elected member and joins a political party.
- A legislator will be deemed to be disqualified if he is a nominated member and joins any political party, after six months from the day he became a legislator.
- The decision of the presiding officer who decides the legitimacy of grounds of disqualification of defection is subject to the Judicial Review.
- Initially, the decision of the presiding officer was not subject to Judicial Review.
- It was in 1992 when the Supreme Court allowed appeals against the Presiding Officer's decision in the High Court and Supreme Court.
- But there can be no judicial intervention until the Presiding Officer gives his order.

{37} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 69

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-31 Q-17 | Test-14 Q-64**

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

Q 17. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996?

1. In Scheduled Areas, all seats of Chairpersons of Panchayats at all levels shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.
2. The recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats shall be mandatory for grant of prospecting license or mining lease for minor minerals in the Scheduled Areas.

Select the correct answer:

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

Q 17. (C)

Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996:

1. A state legislation on the Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas shall be in consonance with the customary laws, social and religious practices and traditional management practices of community resources.
2. Every panchayat at the village level shall be required to obtain from the Gram Sabha a certification of utilisation of funds for their plans, programmes and projects.
3. The reservation of seats in the Scheduled Areas in every Panchayat shall be in proportion to the population of the communities for whom reservation is sought to be given under Part IX of the Constitution. However, the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes shall not be less than one-half of the total number of seats. Further, all seats of Chairpersons of panchayats at all levels shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
4. Planning and management of minor water bodies in the Scheduled Areas shall be entrusted to Panchayats at the appropriate level.
5. The recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be mandatory for grant of prospecting licence or mining lease for minor minerals in the Scheduled Areas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 64. (D)

Mining in Protected Areas The recent Supreme Court ruling has banned mining within 1-km from the boundary of a national park or a wildlife sanctuary.

- India produces 87 minerals which include 4 fuel minerals, 10 metallic minerals, 47 non-metallic minerals, 3 atomic minerals and 23 minor minerals.
- Mining is considered illegal when it is done without a license or outside the licensed area and when more than the permissible amount is extracted.
- Section 23C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) 1957, empowers the State Governments to frame rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.
- The Court has recently clarified that the prohibition on mining within 1 km applies not just to national parks and sanctuaries but also to critical tiger habitats or tiger reserves.
- The bench warned that the continuation of any mining activities within the 1-km radius of tiger reserves in Rajasthan would amount to contempt of the Court.

{38} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 70

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-68 Q-38 | Test-78 Q-84**

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

[P.T.O.]

Q 38. Analyze the following pairs:

- 1) Cultural Property Agreement – Arab League
2) Nature Restoration Law (law to restore ecosystems for people, the climate and the planet) – Australia
3) Nothapodytes Nimmoniana (Stinking Trees) – Biofertilizer
4) Alliance Persistent Surveillance from Space – United Nations office for disaster risk reduction

Q 84. With reference to Nature Restoration Law, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The law sets legally binding targets for restoring terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems
2. It was adopted by G7 countries during COP29 to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
Select the answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

The European Commission's proposal for a Nature Restoration Law is the first continent-wide, comprehensive law of its kind. It has an overarching obligation to restore 20 per cent of the EU's land and sea by 2030. It is a key element of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which calls for binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters.

The European Commission adopted the proposal for a Nature Restoration Law on June 22, 2022. The law is a key element of the European Green Deal and the EU Biodiversity Strategy and builds on existing legislation. EU countries are expected to submit National Restoration Plans to the Commission within two years of the Regulation coming into force, showing how they will deliver on the targets. They will also be required to monitor and report on their progress.

Q 84. (A)

EXPLANATION:

The European Council formally adopted the – first of its kind – regulation on nature restoration. The Nature Restoration Regulation is the first continent-wide, comprehensive law of its kind.

It is a key element of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which sets legally binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters.

This law aims to put measures in place to restore at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030, and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.

It sets specific, legally binding targets and obligations for nature restoration in each of the listed ecosystems – from terrestrial to marine, freshwater and urban ecosystems. So, Statement 1 is correct.

The Nature Restoration Law is an initiative of the European Union (EU), not the G7 countries. It was not adopted during COP29 of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). So, Statement 2 is not correct.

Page 112

Test: 78 (Full Length Test - 18) (2025) | Test Code: 12578 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

www.upscwithnikhil.com

UPSC WITH NIKHIL - NAGPUR

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

EUROPEAN UNION (EU)	
Recently in news	Recently, The EU adopted its new Nature Restoration Law
About	> The European Union (EU) is an international organization comprising 27 European countries, governing common economic, social, and security policies.

{39} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 71

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-13 Q-14 | Test-58 Q-80

71. Suppose the revenue expenditure is ₹ 80,000 crores and the revenue receipts of the Government are ₹ 60,000 crores. The Government budget also shows borrowings of ₹ 10,000 crores and interest payments of ₹ 6,000 crores. Which of the following statements are correct?

- I. Revenue deficit is ₹ 20,000 crores.
- II. Fiscal deficit is ₹ 10,000 crores.
- III. Primary deficit is ₹ 4,000 crores.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Q 14. In the context of the public finance of India, arrange the following deficits in the order of high to low based on their values:

1. Fiscal Deficit
2. Effective Revenue Deficit
3. Revenue Deficit
4. Primary Deficit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- (B) 2 – 3 – 1 – 4
- (C) 2 – 3 – 4 – 1
- (D) 1 – 4 – 3 – 2

Q 80. Match the following:

Type of Deficit Impacts

1. Revenue Deficit current income and expenditure
2. Fiscal Deficit cumulative of all the borrowings
3. Primary Deficit fiscal deficit without interest liabilities

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

- (A) No pair
- (B) Only one pair
- (C) Only two pairs
- (D) All the three pairs

Q 14. (D)

EXPLANATION:

Budget deficit is the difference between all receipts and expenses in both revenue and capital account of the government. It always becomes as the value of 0. Revenue deficit is the excess of its total revenue expenditure to its total revenue receipts. Primary deficit refers to the difference between the current year's fiscal deficit and interest payments on previous borrowings.

Fiscal deficit – Interest payment = Primary deficit

The fiscal deficit is the difference between the total income of the government and its expenditure. It is greatest of all the deficits. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Public finance is one of the disciplines in economics that deals with resources mobilization and utilization of the same to accomplish state activities at all level viz, Central, state, and local government.

It is the branch that deals with the government revenue and expenditure. It play an important role in stabilizing the supply, allocating the resources, distribution and development of the state.

Test: 13 (Economics - I) (2025) | Test Code: 12513 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

Q 80. (D)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The revenue deficit refers to the excess of the government's revenue expenditure over revenue receipts. **Revenue deficit = Revenue expenditure – Revenue receipts.** The revenue deficit includes only such transactions that affect the current income and expenditure of the government.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** It is the difference between the government's total expenditure and its total receipts excluding borrowing. **Gross fiscal deficit = Total expenditure – (Revenue receipts + Non-debt creating capital receipts).** The fiscal deficit will have to be financed through borrowing. Thus, it indicates the total borrowing requirements of the government from all sources.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The goal of measuring the primary deficit is to focus on present fiscal imbalances. It is simply the fiscal deficit minus the interest payments. **Gross primary deficit = Gross fiscal deficit – Net interest liabilities.**

{40} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 72

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-44 Q-54

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 to 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

Q 54. Consider the following countries:

- 1. India
- 2. Iran
- 3. UAE
- 4. Armenia
- 5. Russia

How many of the above countries are part of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):

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

Q 54. (C)

Explanation:

- Option (c) is correct: UAE is not part of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Supplementary notes:

International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):

■ Overview:

- The INSTC is a multi-modal transportation route designed to link the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea, passing through Iran, and extending further to northern Europe, specifically to St. Petersburg in Russia.

- The corridor integrates seaports, rail routes, and road transport, providing a combined infrastructure for smoother trade and transit.

■ Aim:

- The primary goal of the INSTC is to reduce transportation costs and transit time between India and Russia. Upon completion, it is expected to cut the current transit time nearly in half.

■ Development Timeline:

- The idea of the INSTC was first proposed in 2000.
- In 2002, Russia, India, and Iran signed preliminary agreements to develop the 7,200-km long corridor.

{41} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 75

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-13 Q-14 | Test-58 Q-80**

Q 14. In the context of the public finance of India, arrange the following deficits in the order of high to low based on their values:

1. Fiscal Deficit
2. Effective Revenue Deficit
3. Revenue Deficit
4. Primary Deficit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- (B) 2 – 3 – 1 – 4
- (C) 2 – 3 – 4 – 1
- (D) 1 – 4 – 3 – 2

Q 80. Match the following:

Type of Deficit Impacts

1. Revenue Deficit current income and expenditure
2. Fiscal Deficit cumulative of all the borrowings
3. Primary Deficit fiscal deficit without interest liabilities

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

- (A) No pair
- (B) Only one pair
- (C) Only two pairs
- (D) All the three pairs

75. A country's fiscal deficit stands at ₹ 50,000 crores. It is receiving ₹ 10,000 crores through non-debt creating capital receipts. The country's interest liabilities are ₹ 1,500 crores. What is the gross primary deficit?

- (a) ₹ 48,500 crores
- (b) ₹ 51,500 crores
- (c) ₹ 58,500 crores
- (d) None of the above

I.P.T.O.

Q 14. (D)

EXPLANATION:

Budget deficit is the difference between all receipts and expenses in both revenue and capital account of the government. It always becomes as the value of 0. Revenue deficit is the excess of its total revenue expenditure to its total revenue receipts. Primary deficit refers to the difference between the current year's fiscal deficit and interest payments on previous borrowings.

Fiscal deficit – Interest payment = Primary deficit

The fiscal deficit is the difference between the total income of the government and its expenditure. It is greatest of all the deficits. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Public finance is one of the disciplines in economics that deals with resources mobilization and utilization of the same to accomplish state activities at all level viz, Central, state, and local government.

It is the branch that deals with the government revenue and expenditure. It play an important role in stabilizing the supply, allocating the resources, distribution and development of the state.

Test: 13 (Economics - I) (2025) | Test Code: 12513 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

Q 80. (D)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The revenue deficit refers to the excess of the government's revenue expenditure over revenue receipts. **Revenue deficit = Revenue expenditure – Revenue receipts.** The revenue deficit includes only such transactions that affect the current income and expenditure of the government.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** It is the difference between the government's total expenditure and its total receipts excluding borrowing. **Gross fiscal deficit = Total expenditure – (Revenue receipts + Non-debt creating capital receipts).** The fiscal deficit will have to be financed through borrowing. Thus, it indicates the total borrowing requirements of the government from all sources.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The goal of measuring the primary deficit is to focus on present fiscal imbalances. It is simply the fiscal deficit minus the interest payments. **Gross primary deficit = Gross fiscal deficit – Net interest liabilities.**

{42} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 76
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-48 Q-79

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 for 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

Q 79. (B)

EXPLANATION:

The Finance Commission is a constitutional body formed by the President of India to give suggestions on center-state financial relations. The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC), led by Chairman Mr. N K Singh, submitted its Report for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The recommendations by the 15th Finance Commission are,

- The share of states in the central taxes for the 2021-26 period is recommended to be 41%, the same as that for 2020-21. This is less than the 42% share recommended by the 14th Finance Commission for the 2015-20 period. The adjustment of 1% is to provide for the newly formed union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh from the resources of the center. So, Statement 1 is correct.
- The Commission suggested that the center bring down the fiscal deficit to 4% of GDP by 2025-26. For
- Sector-specific grants:
 - Sector-specific grants of Rs 1.3 lakh crore will be given to states for eight sectors: health, school education, higher education, implementation of agricultural reforms, maintenance of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana roads, judiciary, statistics, and aspirational districts and blocks.
 - A portion of these grants will be performance-linked.
- State-specific grants:
 - The Commission recommended state-specific grants of Rs 49,599 crore.
 - These will be given in the areas of social needs, administrative governance and infrastructure, water and sanitation, preservation of culture and historical monuments, high-cost physical infrastructure, and tourism.
 - The Commission recommended a high-level committee at the state level to review and monitor the utilization of state-specific and sector-specific grants.

Test: 48 (Current Affairs - 15) (2025) | Test Code: 12548 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

➤ Grants to local bodies:

- The total grants to local bodies will be Rs 4.36 lakh crore (a portion of grants to be performance-linked).
- The grants to local bodies will be made available to all three tiers of Panchayatvillage, block, and district.
- The health grants will be provided for the conversion of rural sub-centers and primary healthcare centers

{43} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 80
> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-72 Q-12**

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 upskilling, 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

Q 12. (B)

EXPLANATION:

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana Launched in Feb 2024, the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative, is designed to promote **rooftop solar energy adoption in residential areas**. By providing financial incentives and subsidies for solar panel installation, the scheme enables households to generate their electricity, reducing their dependence on the national grid and lowering electricity bills.

The initiative has a bold vision to supply **solar power to one crore households by March 2027**. So, Statement 1 is not correct.

The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is expected to have far-reaching outcomes, both for individual households and the nation as a whole:

- Household Savings and Income Generation,
- Expansion of Solar Capacity,
- Environmental Benefits,

➤ **Job Creation:** The scheme is also expected to create approximately 17 lakh direct jobs across various sectors, including manufacturing, logistics, supply chain, sales, installation, operations and maintenance (O&M), and other services, thereby boosting employment and economic growth in the country. So, Statement 4 is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PM SURYA GHAR :MUFT BIJLI YOJANA	
About	➤ The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is set to significantly reshape India's energy landscape by empowering millions of households with solar power. With installations

Q 12. With reference to the **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**, consider the following statements:

1. It focuses on supplying **solar power to one lakh households by 2030**.
2. It aims to reduce electricity costs for the government.

3. Households will be eligible for collateral-free loans for the installation of rooftop solar panels.

4. **It can boost job creation in India.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

{44} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 83

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-01 Q-66 | Test-48 Q-91 | Test-66 Q-18**

83. With reference to India, consider the following :

- I. The Inter-State Council
- II. The National Security Council
- III. Zonal Councils

How many of the above were established as per the provisions of the Constitution of India?

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

Q 18. Which one of the following articles

provides for the establishment of the **Inter-State Council?**

- (a) Article 262
(b) Article 248
(c) Article 263
(d) Article 272

Q 66. In the context of the Zonal Councils, consider the following pairs:

1. Northern Zonal Council - Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir
2. Central Zonal Council - Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand
3. The Eastern Zonal Council - Orissa and Sikkim
4. Western Zonal Council - Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two

Q 91. Consider the following statements with respect to National Security Council:

1. It is a three-tiered organization that oversees political, economic, energy and security issues of strategic concern.
2. Prime Minister of India presides over the council with Defence Minister as a co-chair.
3. The Ministers of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs and Finance are its members.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 & 2 only

Zonal councils

■ The idea of creation of Zonal Councils was mooted by the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1956 when during the course of debate on the report of the States Re-organisation Commission, he suggested that the States proposed to be reorganised may be grouped into four or five zones having an Advisory Council 'to develop the habit of cooperative working' among these States.

■ This suggestion was made by Pandit Nehru at a time when linguistic hostilities and bitterness as a result of re-organisation of the States on linguistic pattern were threatening the very fabric of our nation.

■ As an antidote to this situation, it was suggested that a high level advisory forum should be set up to minimise the impact of these hostilities and to create healthy inter-State and Centre-State environment with a view to solving inter-State problems and fostering balanced socio economic development of the respective zones.

■ In the light of the vision of Pandit Nehru, five **Zonal Councils were set up vide Part-III of the States Re-organisation Act, 1956.** The present composition of each of these Zonal Councils is as under:

• **The Northern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir,**

Q 18. (C)

EXPLANATION:

The **Inter-State Council** was established under Article 263 of the Constitution of India through a Presidential Order dated 28th May 1990.

➤ The Council consists of:-

- Prime Minister – Chairman
- Chief Ministers of all States – Members
- Chief Ministers of Union Territories having a Legislative Assembly and Administrators of UTs not having a

{45} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 84

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-36 Q-33 | Test-36 Q-69

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 for 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
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

Q 69. (D)

The **discretionary** powers of **Governor** in state are much more extensive in comparison to the President in centre in India. For example, Article 163 of the constitution says that there shall be a Council of Ministers in the states with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Governor in exercise his functions, except those which are required to be done by the Governor on his/ her discretion.

The constitution further mentions that if any question arises whether a matter falls within the Governor's discretion or not, decision of the Governor shall be final, and the validity of anything done by the Governor shall not be called in question on the ground that he ought or ought not to have acted in his discretion. Moreover, what advice was tendered by the Governor to the Ministry cannot be inquired into a court.

Some discretionary powers are as follows:

Governor can dissolve the legislative assembly if the chief minister advises him to do following **a vote of no confidence**. Now, it is up to the Governor what he/ she would like to do.

Test: 36 (Indian Polity - V) (2025) | Test Code: 12536 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

Governor, on his/ her discretion can **recommend the president** about the failure of the constitutional machinery in the state.

On his/ her discretion, the Governor can **reserve a bill** passed by the state legislature for president's assent. If there is NO political party with a clear cut majority in the assembly, Governor on his/ her discretion can appoint anybody as **chief minister**.

Governor determines the amount payable by the Government of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram

Q 33. (C)

► **Statement 1 is correct:** As per article 163(2) of the Indian Constitution, the Governor has the discretion to act, and the validity of any decisions made while exercising that discretion cannot be questioned. Which matters fall under the governor's discretion is also a discretionary power of the governor that the President does not have.

► **Statement 2 is correct:** As per Article 200 of the Constitution, the governor must reserve the bill for the president if in his opinion, the bill jeopardises the power and authority of the High Court which has been guaranteed by the Constitution. As per the constitution, this is the only case where the governor cannot give assent to such a bill without the President's consideration.

► **Statement 3 is not correct:** When a Money Bill is presented to the Governor, he may give his assent, withhold his assent or reserve the bill for Presidential assent but cannot return the bill for reconsideration of the State Legislature.

► **Statement 4 is correct:** The Constitution doesn't specify the grounds for a Governor's refusal to give assent (withholding the assent) to a bill. No provisions have been mentioned in the constitution in this regard.

{46} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 85

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-31 Q-59 | Test-36 Q-94 | Test-76 Q-96**

85. Consider the following pairs :

Provision in the Constitution of India	Stated under
I. Separation of Judiciary from the Executive in the public services of the State	The Directive Principles of the State Policy
II. Valuing and preserving of the rich heritage of our composite culture	The Fundamental Duties
III. Prohibition of employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories	The Fundamental Rights

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q 59. Which of the following are Political rights that are also in the list of **Directive Principles of State Policy**?

1. Right to Free Legal Aid
 2. Organization of Village Panchayat
 3. Participation of workers in management
 4. Uniform civil code
 5. Separation of executive and Legislature
 6. Early childhood care and education of children between zero to six years
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q 71. Which of the following situations does **not** violate a person's **Fundamental Right**?

1. Levying tax for Priests working in religious places
 2. Children of 16 years working in a mall
 3. A farmer's land is being taken away for the construction of a highway
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 3 only
(D) 2 and 3 only

Q 94. Which one of the following is not the **Fundamental Duty** of the Citizen of India according to Article 51A?

1. To vote in general elections.
2. To defend the country.
3. To develop humanism and the spirit of inquiry.
4. To strive towards excellence.

Select the correct answer:

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

Q 94. (A)

- To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.
- To cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom.
- To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To defend the country and render national service when called upon to.
- To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or Sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.

Test: 36 (Indian Polity - V) (2025) | Test Code: 12536 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

- To value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture.

- To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** To develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.
- To safeguard public property and to abjure violence.

It advocated panchayat raj as the foundation of India's political system. It would be a decentralized form of government, where each village would be responsible for its own affairs which is ensuring the political rights of the people. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Socialistic Principles aims at providing social and economic justice. Article 43A is based on principles that reflect the ideology of socialism. They direct the State shall take steps, by suitable legislation or in any other way, to secure the participation of workers in the management of undertakings, establishments, or other organizations engaged in any industry. Participation of workers in management is a socio-economic principle and cannot be considered as a Political right. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

According to Article 44, The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizen a Uniform Civil Code(UCC) throughout the territory of India. UCC is considered to bring equality among the citizens by providing a common law irrespective of religion, region or caste. As the UCC is aimed at providing the right to equality, it is considered as a Political right. **So, Statement 4 is correct**

Article 50 is based on the Liberal-Intellectual Principles that represent the ideology of liberalism and, **Article 50 directs the state to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State.** In the Article 50 of the Constitution of India provides that the State shall take steps to separate the Judiciary from the Executive in the Public Services of the State.

There should be a line between the judiciary and the executive body of the Government in the public services of the State as it makes it easier if both do not interfere in each other's work and function independently.

Q 71. (D)

EXPLANATION:

Article 27 states that no person shall be compelled to pay any taxes to promote or maintain any particular religion or religious denomination. In other words, the State should not spend the public money collected by a tax to promote or maintain any particular religion. This provision prohibits the State from favoring, patronizing and supporting one religion over the other. This means that taxes can be used to promote or maintain all religions. This provision prohibits only the levy of a tax and not a fee. This is because the purpose of a fee is to control the secular administration of religious institutions and not to promote or maintain the religion. Thus, a fee can be levied on pilgrims to provide them with some special service or safety measures. Similarly, a fee can be levied on religious endowments for meeting the regulation expenditure. Levying tax for Priests working in religious places violates a person's Fundamental Right. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Test: 31 (Indian Polity - IV) (2025) | Test Code: 12531 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

Article 24 prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in any factory, mine or other hazardous activities like construction work or railway. But it does not prohibit their employment in any harmless or innocent work.

The child labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act 2016 amended the Child labour Act 1986. The Amendment prohibits the employment of children below 14 years in all occupations and processes. Further, the Amendment prohibits the employment of adolescents (14 to 18 years of age) in certain hazardous occupations and processes. Children of age 16 years working as a salesperson in a Mall does not violate the person's Fundamental rights. So, Statement 2 is correct.

Article 19 of the Indian Constitution guarantees all citizens the six rights. These are:

- Right to freedom of speech and expression.

{47} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 86

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-79 Q-06 | Test-68 Q-58**

86. Consider the following statements :

With reference to the Constitution of India, if an area in a State is declared as Scheduled Area under the Fifth Schedule

- I. the State Government loses its executive power in such areas and a local body assumes total administration
- II. the Union Government can take over the total administration of such areas under certain circumstances on the recommendations of the Governor

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

Q 6. Consider the following:

1. To determine the boundaries between States of sixth schedule areas
2. To safeguard the rights and the interests of Scheduled Tribes
3. To determine the authority and responsibilities of Panchayats
4. To protect the interests of all the citizens in the Border States

How many of the above provisions are there in the fifth and sixth schedules of the constitution of India?

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

Q 58. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

The Constitution of India under Article 244 envisages a special system of administration for scheduled areas.

Statement II:

These areas are inhabited by tribals who have not assimilated much into the life of the mainstream population and have their roots in their own culture and civilizations.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are

or the framing of the Constitution, the framers of the Constitution took note of the fact that certain areas and communities in the country on account of their isolated and primitive lifestyle need special consideration for safeguarding their interests and advancing their socio-economic development.

THE FIFTH AND SIXTH SCHEDULES: A COMPARISON

- > Although both the areas under the Fifth and Sixth Schedule are inhabited by the tribals specified as "Scheduled Tribes", the Constitution of India categorise them differently viz.
- > Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule and Tribal Areas in the case of the Sixth Schedule.

Test: 79 (Full Length Test - 19) (2025) | Test Code: 12579 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

- > While provisions under the Fifth Schedule envisage the creation of Tribes Advisory Councils, the Sixth Schedule provides for Autonomous District Councils or Regional Councils as institutional mechanisms for the administration of their respective areas.
- > Tribal Advisory Councils under the Fifth Schedule are the creation of the State Legislature, whereas, District Councils or Regional Councils under the Sixth Schedule are the product of the Constitution, drawing all their powers and functions from the Constitution itself.
- > District Councils under the Sixth Schedule enjoy extensive powers, including executive, legislative and judicial powers, all derived from the Constitution.
- > On the other hand, under the Fifth Schedule, the Tribes Advisory Councils being the creation of the Legislative Assembly of the States have limited powers which are mostly executive in nature.
- > Unlike the provisions of the Sixth Schedule, legislative, judicial, and financial powers are denied to the Fifth Scheduled Areas. The executive power of the State also extends to the Scheduled Areas.

> Application: Scheduled areas are predominantly inhabited by tribes specified as "Scheduled Tribes" and located in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan

> Power: The President has the authority to declare any area as a Scheduled Area or renounce a Scheduled Area or part of a Scheduled Area as a non-scheduled Area in consultation with the Governor of the concerned State

> Special mechanism: The Tribal Advisory Council is constituted by the Governor of a State, which has Scheduled Areas to deal with the welfare and advancement of Scheduled tribes in states.

{48} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 88
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-03 Q-11

88. Consider the following subjects under the Constitution of India :

- I. List I-Union List, in the Seventh Schedule
- II. Extent of the executive power of a State
- III. Conditions of the Governor's office

For a constitutional amendment with respect to which of the above, ratification by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States is required before presenting the bill to the President of India for assent?

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

Q 11. In which of the following matters a Constitutional Amendment is possible only with the ratification of the legislature of not less than one-half of the states?

1. Union List in the Seventh Schedule
2. Procedure in Article 368
3. Administration of area in Fifth Schedule
4. Jurisdiction of High Courts for Union Territories
5. Provisions related to State Emergency

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q 11. (B)

EXPLANATION:

The provisions of the Constitution related to the federal structure can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority. There is no time limit within which the states should consent to the bill.

The following amendments shall require to be ratified by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States by resolutions to that effect passed by those Legislatures before the bill-making provision for such amendment is presented to the President for assent are,

- Articles 54 and 55 of the Indian Constitution that deal with the manner of election of the President.
- Articles 73 and 162 of the Indian Constitution that deal with the Extent of the executive power of the Union and the States.
- Supreme Court (Chapter IV of part V) and High Courts (Chapter V of Part VI) along with Article 241, which deals with High Courts for Union Territories.
- Distribution of legislative power between the Union and the States (Chapter I of Part XI)
- Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.
- Articles 80 and 81 and the Fourth Schedule that deals with the Representation of the States in Parliament.
- Provisions of Article 368 itself.

So, Option (b) is correct.

{49} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 89
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-65 Q-20

89. With reference to the Indian polity, consider the following statements :

- I. The Governor of a State is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his/her office.
- II. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the Governor during his/her term of office.
- III. Members of a State Legislature are not liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said within the House.

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

Q 20. During his/her term of office, the President and the Governor of the particular state enjoy protection in which of the following?

1. He/she is not answerable to any court
2. No review by a court as appointed by either House of Parliament on the conduct of the president or the Governor
3. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted against them
4. No process of imprisonment
5. No civil proceedings in any act done by them

Test: 65 (Full Length Test - 09) (2025) | Test Code: 12

Q 20. (C)

EXPLANATION:

Under Article- 361 of the Indian constitution, The President of India and the Governor of States enjoy the following immunities :

Test: 65 (Full Length Test - 09) (2025) | Test Code: 12565 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

www.upscwithnikhil.com UPSC WITH NIKHIL - NAGPUR

➤ The President or the Governor is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his office. However, their conduct can be reviewed by a court or tribunal if it is related to impeachment proceedings under Article 61. So, Statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is not correct.

➤ No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the President or the Governor in any court during his term of office. So, Statement 3 is correct.

➤ No process for the arrest or imprisonment of the President or the Governor shall be issued from any court during his term of office. So, Statement 4 is correct.

➤ No civil proceedings against the President or the Governor shall be instituted during his term of office in any court in respect of any act done by him in his personal capacity, whether before or after he entered upon his office, until the expiration of two months next after notice has been delivered to him. Thus, after giving two months' notice, civil proceedings can be instituted against them (The President and The Governor) during his term of office in respect of his personal acts. So, Statement 5 is not correct.

This ensures that the President and Governors can perform their duties without legal interference, while also allowing for legal action after they leave office or with proper notice in civil matters.

{50} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 92

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-59 Q-14**

92. The famous female figurine known as 'Dancing Girl', found at Mohenjo-daro, is made of

(a) carnelian

(b) clay

(c) bronze

(d) gold

Q 14. With reference to Indian Bronze Sculpture, consider the following statements:

1. The 'Dancing Girl' from Mohenjo-Daro is the world's oldest bronze sculpture.

2. Chaturanana is the four-headed sculpture of Vishnu Bronze worshiped in Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir regions.

3. Portrait sculptures made of bronze were made during the Pallava period.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 2 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1 and 3 only

Q 14. (B)

Explanation:

• **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Portrait sculptures made of bronze were made during the Vijayanagar period in Andhra Pradesh.

Supplementary notes:

Indian Bronze Sculpture

Page 7

Test: 59 (Full Length Test - 03) (2025) | Test Code: 12559 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

• The Harappan civilization saw a widescale practice of bronze casting. The bronze statues were made using "lost wax technique" or "Cire Perdue".

• The Dancing Girl is the world's oldest bronze sculpture datable to 2500 BCE. Found in Mohenjo-Daro, this four-inch figure depicts a naked girl wearing only ornaments, which include bangles in the left arm, and amulet and bracelet on the right arm. She stands in a 'tribhanga' dancing posture with the right hand on her hip.

• A famous hoard of Jain bronzes was found at Akota, on the outskirts of Baroda, dated between 5th -7th CE. These bronzes were often subsequently inlaid with silver and copper to bring out the eyes, crowns and details of the textiles on which the figures were seated.

• Many standing Buddha images with right hand in abhaya mudra were cast in North India, particularly Uttar

{51} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 94

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-10 Q-38 | Test-12 Q-92**

94. Subsequent to which one of the following events, Gandhiji, who consistently opposed untouchability and appealed for its eradication from all spheres, decided to include the upliftment of 'Harijans' in his political and social programme?

- (a) The Poona Pact
- (b) The Gandhi-Irwin Agreement (Delhi Pact)
- (c) Arrest of Congress leadership at the time of the Quit India Movement
- (d) Promulgation of the Government of India Act, 1935

Q 92. (A)

EXPLANATION:

Gandhi gave up all his other preoccupations and launched a whirlwind campaign against Untouchability first from jail and then, after his release in August 1933, from outside jail. While in jail, he set up the All India Anti-Untouchability League in September 1932 and started the weekly Harijan in January 1933. After his release, he shifted to the Satyagraha Ashram in Wardha. On March 12, 1930, he vowed that he would not return to the Ashram until India won independence. Although this was won on August 15, 1947, when India was declared a free nation, Gandhi was assassinated in January 1948 and never returned. So, Option (a) is correct.

Q 38. (C)

Gandhi-Irwin pact was signed between Gandhiji and Lord Irwin, which was regarding the release of political prisoners. Poona Pact was signed between Gandhiji and B.R Ambedkar, which introduced reserved seats for depressed classes in provincial legislatures. It was the result of fast unto death by Gandhiji to protest against the McDonald's Award. Hence, only statement 3 is correct.

Q 38. Which of the following is/are true about 'Poona Pact'?

1. It was signed between Gandhi and Lord Irwin.
2. It was regarding the release of political prisoners.
3. It introduced reserved seats for depressed classes in provincial legislatures.

Codes:

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3

Q 92. Assertion (A): After his release in 1933, Gandhi shifted to the Satyagraha Ashram in Wardha.

Reason (R): He vowed in 1930 not to return to Sabarmati Ashram unless swaraj was won.

Select the correct answer with the given code below:

- (A) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (B) Both A and R are individually true and R is not a correct explanation of A
- (C) A is true but R is false

{52} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 98
> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-12 Q-36**

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

Q 36. (C)

Q 36. Which among the following newspapers was/were supported to the labour's cause:

- 1. Deenbandhu
- 2. Kesari
- 3. Kudi arasu

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 and 3 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 2 only
- (D) 3 only

EXPLANATION:

Deenbandhu (Dinbandhu), a weekly Marathi-language newspaper. In 1880 Narain Meghajee Lokhanday started the newspaper Deenbandhu and set up the Bombay Mill and Millhands Association. The weekly articulated the grievances of the peasants and workers. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Kesari is a Marathi newspaper founded in 1881 by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. The Kesari newspaper was used to propagate (spokes piece) the Indian national freedom movement. Bal Gangadhar Tilak used to run his two newspapers, Kesari, in Marathi and Mahratta (Run by KesariMaratha Trust) in English from Pune. The newspapers were originally started as a co-operative by Chiplunkar, Agarkar and Tilak. An online Marathi periodical called The Daily Kesari continues to be published, edited by Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak's great-grandson, Deepak Tilak. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Kudi Arasu in English, which means Republic was a Tamil weekly magazine published by Periyar E. V. Ramasamy in Madras Presidency (present-day Tamil Nadu) in India. **Periyar E. V. Ramasamy started the Kudi Arasu journal in 1910, the official newspaper of the Self-Respect Movement.** It brought out the multiple voices and ideas of Non-Brahmins, women and religious minorities, and it became the mouthpiece for propagating the Self-Respect Movement. The Self-Respect Movement was founded in 1925 by S. Ramanathan. **Self-Respect Movement was led by E. V. Ramaswami Naicker or Periyar in 1925,** Tamil Nadu) and was held against caste bias by brahmins. Therefore, Kudi Arasu newspaper does not support the labour's cause. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

{53} UPSC 2025/ Set-B / Q- 99

> UPSC with Nikhil **Test-76 Q-12|Test-65 Q-68|Test-47 Q-60|Test-72 Q-56**

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

Q 12. With reference to **Lithium production**, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Lithium is produced using the brine evaporation method.
 2. **Argentina has the largest reserves of Lithium.** Select the answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
 (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2
 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q 68. Consider the following information:

Sl. No. - Site in news – Country - Issue

1. **Atacama salt flat – Chile - Sinking due to lithium mining**
2. Hokersar wetland – Bangladesh - Decline in arrival of migratory birds
3. Lake Kariba – Sudan - Low water levels due to El Nino drought

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched ?

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

Q 60. With reference to the global distribution of critical minerals, consider the following statements:

1. Argentina produces two-thirds of the world's platinum.
2. **Indonesia produces about half of all the world's nickel.**

Which of the statements given above is/are *not* correct?

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

Q 60. (A)

- **Indonesia produces about half of all the world's nickel** and has pushed prices so low that most other producers are operating at a loss. In 2023, Indonesia accounted for 51% of global mine production and 42%

Test: 47 (Current Affairs - 14) (2024) | Test Code: 12547 upscwithnikhil@gmail.com / +91-75586 44556

of global nickel reserves. Indonesia is expected to produce about 60% of global nickel by 2030. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- Chile is the leading exporter of copper, accounting for more than one-quarter of global exports. In 2023, Chile's copper exports were worth \$40.16 billion, making it the leading copper-exporting country. The majority of Chile's copper exports go to Asia, with \$7.26 billion going to China in 2023. Chile's copper deposits are the result of the Nazca Plate subducting beneath the South American Plate over millions of years.

About

The Diamond Imprest Authorization (DIA) Scheme, effective April 1, 2025, allows duty-free import of natural cut and polished diamonds under ¼ Carat for eligible exporters.

➤ It mandates a 10% value addition for exports and targets boosting exports and creating jobs in the diamond industry, addressing recent declines.

➤ The Scheme is made in response to Beneficiation policies undertaken in a number of **natural diamond mining countries like Botswana**, Namibia, Angola, etc., where Diamond manufacturers are obliged to open cut and polishing facilities for a minimum percentage of value addition.

➤ This Scheme aims to retain India's position as a global leader in the entire value chain of the diamond industry.

➤ The Scheme is designed to provide a level playing field for Indian diamond

Chile holds the highest lithium reserves in the world at 9.3 million metric tons. The country reportedly holds most of the world's "economically extractable" lithium reserves, and its Salar de Atacama hosts approximately 33 per cent of the world's lithium reserve base.

➤ Australia holds the second largest lithium reserves globally, with an estimated 4.8 million metric tons of lithium reserves, primarily located in Western Australia, making it the second largest lithium reserve holder behind Chile.

➤ Argentina ranks third in terms of global lithium reserves at 3.6 million metric tons. It's worth noting that Argentina, Chile and Bolivia comprise the "Lithium Triangle," which hosts more than half of the world's lithium reserves. Thus, Argentina does not have the largest reserves of Lithium. So, Statement 2 is not correct.



Q 68. (A)

EXPLANATION:

Atacama Salt Flat is the biggest salt deposit in Chile. It has a rough white surface below which there is a large salt lake. The lake under the salt flat has one of the largest lithium reserves in the world.

➤ According to a new study, Chile's Atacama salt flat is sinking at a rate of 1 to 2 centimetres per year due to lithium brine extraction, a process in which salt-rich water is pumped to the surface and into a series of evaporation ponds to eventually obtain lithium. It was found that lithium mining has led to a decline in the number of flamingos in the area due to a drop in water levels in the Atacama, and fewer flamingos are reproducing.

➤ Lithium, also known as "white gold", is one of the most sought-after metals on Earth. It is used in rechargeable batteries, which power not only laptops and mobile phones but also electric vehicles, which are a crucial part of the world's plan to tackle climate change. So, Pair 1 is correct.

