

The 2025 Pulse Jan to Sept

Nine Months of India's Governance and Growth

2025 Current Affairs Polity and Governance An In-depth Analysis of January 2025 Current Events

1 AntiDefection Law Amendments and the Role of the Speaker

What was the issue

In January 2025 a parliamentary committee submitted its recommendations on amending the **Tenth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution popularly known as the **AntiDefection Law**. The core of the proposed changes centered on a reducing the Speaker's discretionary power in disqualification matters and by introducing a more definitive timeline for resolving defection cases.

Why was it a major development

The AntiDefection Law was enacted in 1985 to curb the rampant practice of floorcrossing by elected representatives which was destabilizing governments. However, over the years, the law's implementation has been plagued by controversies. The primary concern has been the **role of the presiding officer SpeakerChairman**.

The law currently vests the power to decide on disqualification with the Speaker. Critics argue that this power is often used in a partisan manner as the Speaker is typically a member of the ruling party. They cite numerous instances where Speakers have either delayed disqualification decisions for months or years or have acted against political opponents leading to accusations of a conflict of interest. This undermines the very purpose of the law.

For what reason was it being debated

The debate aimed to address two fundamental issues:

Ensuring Impartiality By proposing that disqualification petitions be referred to an independent body like the Election Commission of India or a High Court judge, the government sought to remove the Speaker from the decision-making process, thereby ensuring a more impartial and timely resolution. This shift is crucial for strengthening democratic institutions and preventing political opportunism.

Expediting Justice The lack of a specific timeframe for the Speaker's decision has been a major loophole. The proposed amendments sought to introduce a strict time limit such as **three months** for the Speaker or the new authority to rule on a defection case. This would prevent the prolonged uncertainty that can affect the stability of a government and the representation of the electorate.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The Supreme Court has in several landmark judgments like **Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu 1992** and **Keisham Meghachandra Singh vs The Hon'ble Speaker Manipur 2020** expressed concern over the Speaker's role and has even suggested a judicial or independent body for these decisions. The proposed amendments align with the judiciary's push for greater fairness and transparency in this area.

The Whip and its Nuances The discussion also involved the concept of a **whip**—an order by a political party to its members to vote in a specific way. The Anti-Defection Law punishes a member for defying the whip. A related debate revolves around whether the law should differentiate between voting on a motion which is crucial for government stability and other less critical legislative matters.

2 Electoral Bond System Review The SCs Latest Directives

What was the issue

Following its landmark judgment in February 2024, the Supreme Court of India in January 2025 issued further directives regarding the implementation and transparency of the now scrapped **Electoral Bond Scheme**. These directives focused on ensuring that the public disclosure of donor and donee information was comprehensive and accessible.

Why was it a major development

The Supreme Court's initial ruling was a landmark moment for electoral finance reform in India. It declared the Electoral Bond Scheme **unconstitutional**, arguing that it violated the citizens' right to information under **Article 191a** of the Constitution. The scheme had allowed anonymous corporate and individual donations to political parties, which critics argued promoted a relationship between donors and political entities undermining free and fair elections.

For what reason was it being debated

The January directives were a followup to the February 2024 judgment. Despite the previous ruling, concerns remained about the complete and timely public disclosure of all data related to the bonds. The court's new directives were aimed at ensuring that the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, which was the sole issuing authority, provided all available data, including unique alphanumeric numbers linked to the bonds. This was to allow for a cross-referencing exercise that would reveal the complete chain from donor to political party.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The SCs' continued scrutiny reinforces the judiciary's role as a guardian of fundamental rights and the democratic process. The rulings highlight the tension between the need for political parties to raise funds and the citizens' right to know the source of those funds. This debate is central to the concept of **clean politics** and the fight against corruption. The court's emphasis on transparency also sets a precedent for future legislation on political funding.

3 Judicial Appointments and the Collegium System

What was the issue

The month of January 2025 saw several key appointments to various High Courts and the Supreme Court. These appointments reignited the perennial debate surrounding the **Collegium System**—the inhouse system where a panel of Supreme Court judges selects candidates for judicial appointments.

Why was it a major development

The Collegium System has been a source of friction between the judiciary and the executive for decades. The judiciary defends it as a mechanism to protect its independence from political influence. The executive and its critics however argue that the system is **opaque** and lacks accountability. They point to the absence of a set procedure, the lack of a public record of the reasons for appointments or rejections, and the potential for nepotism. The debate is essentially about the balance of power between two pillars of the Indian state.

For what reason was it being debated

The appointments in January brought back into focus the persistent demand for judicial reforms. The main arguments for reform are:

Transparency Critics demand that the Collegiums recommendations and the reasons behind them be made public.

Accountability They argue that there should be a greater role for the executive or a new independent body like the proposed **National Judicial Appointments Commission NJAC** to ensure a wider pool of talent is considered and to provide checks and balances.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The debate dates back to the **Second Judges Case 1993** which established the Collegium System. While the Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the system, the government has continued to push for a more transparent process. The lack of a middle ground remains a constitutional deadlock. The ongoing conversation is crucial for the health of India's judiciary and its ability to function independently and with public trust.

4 Urban Governance Reforms and Smart City Development

What was the issue

In January 2025 the government unveiled a new policy framework for **Urban Governance Reforms** and an acceleration of its **Smart Cities Mission**. The new policy aimed to address the longstanding issues of urban planning, infrastructure, and the administrative capacity of urban local bodies.

Why was it a major development

India's rapid urbanization presents a formidable challenge. By 2050 it is projected that over 50% of the population will live in cities. The current urban governance structure, often characterized by fragmented authorities, a lack of financial autonomy, and limited public participation, is ill-equipped to handle this growth. The Smart Cities Mission, while ambitious, has also faced criticism for slow implementation and a lack of a clear standardized approach.

For what reason was it being debated

The new policy aimed to tackle these issues headon Key components of the reform included

Strengthening Urban Local Bodies ULBs The policy sought to give ULBs greater financial powers to raise their own resources eg through municipal bonds and to hire specialized staff for urban planning and project management This is a move towards true fiscal decentralization which is essential for effective local governance

Digital Integration The policy emphasized the use of technology to improve urban services such as waste management traffic control and citizen services The aim was to create a more integrated and data driven approach to urban management

Citizen Participation The reforms also proposed mechanisms to increase public participation in urban planning and decisionmaking in line with the spirit of the **74th Constitutional Amendment Act**

Challenges and Implications

While the new policy is a step in the right direction its success hinges on its implementation The main challenges include overcoming political resistance from state governments which control the ULBs securing adequate funding and building the necessary administrative and technical capacity within city administrations The discussion in January highlighted these potential pitfalls making it a critical topic for understanding the future of urban India **1 Union What was the issue**

The period leading up to the Union Budget in January 2025 was dominated by the release of the **PreBudget Economic Survey** This annual document prepared by the Chief Economic Adviser provides a comprehensive review of the Indian economy over the past fiscal year and outlines the key challenges and future policy directions

Why was it a major development

The Economic Survey is not just a statistical report it is a conceptual blueprint for the upcoming budget It sets the tone for the government's fiscal policy and offers an intellectual framework for understanding India's economic health Its findings and recommendations often influence the budgetary allocations and policy announcements This years survey was particularly significant as it was presented against the backdrop of global economic slowdown and domestic inflationary pressures

For what reason was it being debated

The 2025 Economic Survey was hotly debated for several key reasons

Fiscal Deficit and Consolidation The survey provided a detailed analysis of the government's fiscal health focusing on the progress made in reducing the fiscal deficit It highlighted the challenge of balancing infrastructure spending with the need for fiscal discipline The debate centered on whether the government should prioritize growth through higher spending or stick to its fiscal consolidation roadmap to maintain macroeconomic stability

Inflationary Trends The survey provided a candid assessment of the inflation situation It examined the role of global commodity prices supply

chain disruptions and domestic food inflation The report's recommendations on managing inflation such as targeted supplyside interventions and careful monetary policy coordination were a major point of discussion among economists

Job Creation and Employment The survey dedicated a chapter to the employment situation particularly the challenge of creating formal high quality jobs for India's large youth population It highlighted the need for structural reforms in labor laws and a greater focus on skill development to make the workforce more employable The discussion focused on the divergence between GDP growth numbers and on-the-ground employment realities

Green Transition and Sustainable Growth For the first time the survey included a dedicated section on the economics of climate change and the need for a green transition It discussed the financial requirements for achieving India's renewable energy targets and the challenges of integrating green technologies into the economy This marks a significant shift towards acknowledging the environmental costs of economic growth

Conceptual and Policy Implications

Understanding the Economic Survey is crucial for UPSC as it helps connect different aspects of the economy For instance the survey's discussion on the fiscal deficit is directly linked to the government's borrowing and its impact on interest rates Similarly the analysis of agricultural and supply chain issues ties directly into the debate on food inflation and rural distress The survey's proposals on infrastructure investment have long-term implications for India's growth potential

2 RBIs Monetary Policy Review and Inflation Targeting

What was the issue

In January 2025 the **Reserve Bank of India RBI** conducted its bimonthly Monetary Policy Committee MPC review The meeting was particularly crucial as the RBI faced a difficult choice whether to hike interest rates to control inflation or to hold them steady to support a fragile economic recovery

Why was it a major development

The RBI's monetary policy decisions are the primary tools for managing inflation and influencing economic growth The repo rate—the rate at which the RBI lends to commercial banks—directly impacts borrowing costs for businesses and consumers A hike in the repo rate makes loans more expensive which can curb demand and cool down inflation Conversely a reduction or a pause in the rate can stimulate economic activity

For what reason was it being debated

The debate in the MPC and among analysts centered on the following

Inflationary Pressures The primary mandate of the RBI under its current framework is **inflation targeting** Despite the recent moderation core inflation remained a concern The debate was whether the recent decline in headline inflation was temporary or a sign of a sustained trend The RBI's decision was therefore a test of its commitment to its inflation-fighting mandate

Balancing Growth and Stability The MPC's decision was a balancing act. While a rate hike could control inflation, it might also stifle investment and consumption, thereby slowing down the economic recovery. The committee's final decision reflected its assessment of the tradeoff between price stability and economic growth.

Global Monetary Policy Tides The RBI's policy was also influenced by the actions of major central banks around the world, particularly the US Federal Reserve. As global interest rates were in a state of flux, the RBI had to ensure that its policy did not lead to excessive capital outflows or exchange rate volatility.

Conceptual and Policy Implications

This topic is a perfect example of the complexities of macroeconomic management. It requires an understanding of key concepts like the **repo rate**, **liquidity adjustment facility**, **LAF**, **monetary transmission mechanism**, and the **inflation targeting framework**. It's important to analyze not just the final decision, e.g., whether the rate was hiked or not, but also the language of the MPC statement, which provides clues about the RBI's future outlook. The commentary from the Governor and other MPC members is also vital for understanding the nuances of the policy stance.

3 National Infrastructure Pipeline NIP and Project Execution

What was the issue

A midterm review of the **National Infrastructure Pipeline NIP** was presented to the government in January 2025. The review assessed the progress of thousands of infrastructure projects across sectors like roads, railways, energy, and urban development. The report highlighted both the successes and the persistent bottlenecks in project execution.

Why was it a major development

The NIP is a massive multi-year plan aimed at boosting infrastructure investment to drive India's long-term economic growth. The success of the NIP is crucial for attracting foreign investment, creating jobs, and improving the overall ease of doing business. The review was a critical reality check on the progress of this ambitious plan.

For what reason was it being debated

The debate surrounding the NIP review focused on the following:

Funding Gaps The review revealed that a significant portion of the NIP's funding requirements remained unmet. The discussion centered on finding innovative financing mechanisms such as private/public partnerships, PPPs, and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) into infrastructure.

Land Acquisition and Regulatory Hurdles The report reiterated that **land acquisition** remains the single biggest hurdle for most large-scale projects. Delays in environmental clearances and other regulatory approvals also added to project costs and timelines. The debate was on

how to streamline these processes without compromising on environmental safeguards

Project Monitoring and Execution The review pointed to the need for a more robust monitoring mechanism to track the progress of projects in realtime It emphasized the role of technology and data analytics in identifying and addressing delays The discussion also involved the need to strengthen the administrative capacity of implementing agencies

Conceptual and Policy Implications

This topic is a case study of the challenges of converting ambitious plans into tangible outcomes It requires an understanding of **macroeconomics** particularly the role of **capital formation** in economic growth It also involves an analysis of public policy governance and the regulatory environment The NIP is a key plank of the government's long-term growth strategy and its success or failure will have a direct bearing on India's future economic trajectory

1 IndiaEU Free Trade Agreement FTA Negotiations A Breakthrough

What was the issue

In January 2025 a significant breakthrough was reported in the ongoing negotiations for the **IndiaEuropean Union Free Trade Agreement FTA** The discussions which had been stalled for years saw renewed momentum on key contentious issues such as tariffs on automobiles intellectual property rights and market access for agricultural products

Why was it a major development

An FTA with the EU which is one of the world's largest trading blocs is of immense strategic and economic importance for India It would provide Indian goods and services with greater access to a massive market of over 450 million consumers For the EU it offers a crucial entry point into one of the fastest growing major economies The successful conclusion of this agreement would be a landmark achievement signaling a new chapter in India's trade liberalization policy

For what reason was it being debated

The recent progress in negotiations was being debated for several reasons

Tariff Concessions The core of the negotiations revolved around reducing or eliminating tariffs India was reportedly willing to lower duties on certain luxury goods and automobiles from Europe while seeking greater market access for its IT textiles and agricultural products The debate focused on the potential impact of these concessions on domestic industries Critics worried that reduced tariffs on European cars might harm India's auto sector while proponents argued that it would boost competition and benefit consumers

Intellectual Property Rights IPR The EU has been pushing for stricter IPR laws in India which could affect India's generic drug industry The debate here was a classic balancing act protecting innovation while ensuring that lifesaving drugs remain affordable and accessible The

progress in January suggested a possible middle ground was being explored

Sustainable Development Clause The EU has been insistent on including a sustainable development clause in the FTA which would link trade to labor and environmental standards This is a sensitive issue as it could be seen as a form of nontariff barrier The months discussions indicated that both sides were finding a way to incorporate these concerns without making them overly restrictive

Geopolitical and Economic Implications

A successful IndiaEU FTA would send a powerful message about India's commitment to global trade and its willingness to engage with major economic partners It would also serve as a counterbalance to China's growing economic influence and would strengthen India's position in the global supply chain This is not just a trade deal its a strategic partnership in the making

2 Developments in the IndoPacific Naval Exercises and Quad

What was the issue

January 2025 witnessed a flurry of naval activities and diplomatic meetings in the **IndoPacific region** A major trilateral naval exercise involving India the United States and Japan was conducted and senior level meetings of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue Quad** were held

Why was it a major development

The IndoPacific is now the geopolitical center of gravity with major powers competing for influence The naval exercises and Quad meetings are crucial for India's strategic positioning in the region They signal a collective resolve among likeminded democracies to ensure a **free and open IndoPacific**—a phrase that is widely understood as a counter to China's growing military assertiveness

For what reason was it being debated

The activities in January were being debated for the following reasons

Strengthening Strategic Partnerships The naval exercises aimed to enhance **interoperability** and coordination among the navies of India the US and Japan This is crucial for responding to a range of challenges from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief HADR to potential military contingencies The discussions focused on how these partnerships are evolving beyond just military cooperation to include economic and technological collaboration

The Evolving Role of the Quad The Quad originally a loose security grouping has now expanded its agenda to include cooperation on vaccines climate change and critical technologies The January meetings highlighted this diversification The debate centered on whether the Quad is formally transitioning into a military alliance and what this would mean for India's traditional policy of strategic autonomy

China's Reaction As expected China reacted sharply to these developments labeling the Quad a clique designed to contain its rise The

discourse in January analyzed whether these activities were escalating tensions in the region or were necessary to maintain a balance of power

Geopolitical Implications

The events of January 2025 showed that India is increasingly aligning its strategic interests with other democratic powers in the IndoPacific. This is a departure from its historical policy of nonalignment and reflects a new pragmatism in its foreign policy. The IndoPacific is not just a geographical area; it is the new frontier of global power politics, and India's actions in this region have far-reaching implications.

3 IndiaBangladesh Relations Water Sharing and Connectivity

What was the issue

A high level delegation from Bangladesh visited India in January 2025 to discuss key bilateral issues with a strong focus on **transboundary river water sharing** and enhancing **connectivity projects**.

Why was it a major development

Bangladesh is a key neighbor and a critical partner in India's **Neighbourhood First** policy. Stable and friendly relations with Bangladesh are essential for India's security and economic interests, particularly in the strategically important Northeast region. The resolution of longstanding issues like water sharing is crucial for building trust and strengthening the partnership.

For what reason was it being debated

The discussions in January were important because they focused on resolving two persistent issues:

Teesta River Water Dispute The sharing of the Teesta River's water has been a major point of friction for decades. While a formal agreement was not reached, the January talks were reported to have made significant progress by exploring a new, more comprehensive framework that considers the needs of both countries' river basins. The debate centered on whether a new formula could be found that satisfies both sides, particularly West Bengal, which has been a key stakeholder in the dispute.

Connectivity Projects Both countries are actively working on improving rail, road, and port connectivity to boost trade and people-to-people contact. The talks focused on accelerating the implementation of existing projects and identifying new ones, particularly those that would benefit India's Northeast and integrate Bangladesh into subregional supply chains. This is part of a larger plan to leverage Bangladesh as a land bridge connecting India to Southeast Asia.

Strategic Implications

The developments in January highlighted the maturity of the IndiaBangladesh relationship. The focus on pragmatic, long-term solutions to complex issues like water sharing is a sign of a strong bilateral bond. For India, a stable and prosperous Bangladesh is key to its own security and economic wellbeing.

1 Climate Change and Conservation India's Stance Ahead of COP30

What was the issue

As preparations for the **30th Conference of Parties COP30** to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC gained momentum India's Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change released a detailed position paper in January 2025 This document outlined India's key negotiating points and its strategy for the upcoming climate summit

Why was it a major development

COP30 is set to be a crucial event in global climate politics focusing on the second global stocktake of the Paris Agreement India's position is significant because it is a major emerging economy with a large population and a growing energy demand Its stance on climate finance technology transfer and carbon markets will heavily influence the outcome of the negotiations The position paper marked a clear shift in India's strategy from a defensive to a more proactive and solutionoriented approach

For what reason was it being debated

The position paper was intensely debated for several reasons

Climate Finance and Equity India's document strongly reemphasized the principle of **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities CBDRRC** It called on developed nations to meet their longstanding commitment to provide **100 billion per year in climate finance** and to scale it up significantly The debate centered on whether developed countries would finally deliver on their promises and what mechanisms could be put in place to ensure accountability India also pushed for a more transparent and equitable process for technology transfer to developing nations

National Emissions Targets NDCs The paper detailed India's progress on its Nationally Determined Contributions NDCs and signaled a potential readiness to announce a more ambitious long-term emissions reduction target possibly a **net zero goal** for a later date This was a significant point of discussion as it would commit India to a more aggressive decarbonization pathway with implications for its energy policy and industrial sector

Loss and Damage Fund India's position paper supported the operationalization of the **Loss and Damage Fund** which was established at a previous COP It argued for a clear and predictable funding mechanism to help developing countries cope with the irreversible impacts of climate change such as extreme weather events The debate was about who would contribute to this fund and how the resources would be distributed to the most vulnerable nations

Ecological and Policy Implications

India's stance at COP30 will shape its domestic environmental policies for years to come A commitment to more ambitious targets would require significant

investment in renewable energy a shift away from coal and a push for green technologies across all sectors The debate over climate finance and technology is not just about money its about a more just and equitable global transition to a low-carbon economy

2 Scientific Breakthroughs ISROs Latest Mission and Deep Space Exploration

What was the issue

In January 2025 the **Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO** successfully launched its latest satellite mission This mission which involved deploying a new generation satellite for deep space communication and a series of smaller technology demonstrators was a major milestone in India's space program

Why was it a major development

This mission was critical for two main reasons First the deep space communication satellite is essential for future longduration missions such as India's planned crewed mission to the Moon or an uncrewed mission to Mars Second the successful deployment of the technology demonstrators showcased ISROs advancements in developing reusable launch vehicle technology and advanced satellite imaging systems This reinforces India's position as a low cost and reliable player in the global space market

For what reason was it being debated

The debate surrounding the mission was multifaceted

Future of Space Exploration The missions success opened a new discussion on the future direction of India's space program The debate was about whether ISRO should continue to focus on commercial satellite launches or shift its primary focus to more ambitious high-risk deep space exploration missions

PublicPrivate Partnership PPP in Space The mission also involved several private Indian companies that provided components and services This highlighted the growing role of the private sector in India's space ecosystem The debate was on how the government could further encourage this collaboration and create a robust space economy in India which would lead to more jobs and innovation

Strategic Implications The advanced imaging capabilities of some of the deployed satellites have significant strategic implications for national security The discussion was about how this technology could be used for border surveillance disaster management and other nonmilitary applications

Scientific and Societal Implications

ISROs achievements inspire a new generation of scientists and engineers They also have a direct impact on the lives of common citizens through better weather forecasting communication and navigation services The developments in January underscored India's commitment to using science and technology as a tool for national development and global cooperation

3 Biotechnology and Ethical Regulations The Gene Editing Debate

What was the issue

In January 2025 the government's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with the Department of Biotechnology released a set of new guidelines for **genetic engineering and gene editing**. The guidelines aimed to regulate the use of new technologies like **CRISPRCas9** in both medical research and agriculture.

Why was it a major development

Gene editing technology holds immense promise for curing genetic diseases, developing climate resilient crops and producing new medicines. However, it also raises serious ethical and safety concerns. The new guidelines were a major step towards creating a legal and ethical framework to manage this powerful technology, ensuring that its benefits are harnessed responsibly while mitigating potential risks.

For what reason was it being debated

The new guidelines were debated on several key points:

Ethical Boundaries The guidelines were praised for their focus on ethical considerations, particularly regarding germline editing—editing genes that can be passed on to future generations. The debate was on where to draw the line between therapeutic gene editing to cure a disease and enhancement to improve human traits.

Agricultural Applications The guidelines also addressed the use of gene editing in agriculture. Unlike genetically modified organisms (GMOs) which involve introducing foreign genes, gene-edited crops are created by making precise changes to existing genes. The debate was whether these crops should be subject to the same strict regulations as GMOs and what the long-term impact on food security and biodiversity would be.

Regulatory Challenges The discussion also focused on the challenge of enforcing these regulations. With the technology becoming more accessible, the government faces the difficult task of monitoring and controlling its use in private labs and research institutions.

Ethical and Regulatory Implications

The new guidelines were a proactive measure to address a technology that has the potential to fundamentally change human society. This topic is crucial for UPSC as it demonstrates the complex intersection of science, law, ethics, and public policy. It requires an understanding of both the scientific principles and the ethical frameworks that guide modern research.

1 Question Which organization released its Global Economic Prospects report in January 2025, forecasting a slowdown in global growth due to persistent inflation and geopolitical tensions?

A International Monetary Fund (IMF)

B World Bank

C World Economic Forum WEF

D Asian Development Bank ADB

Correct Answer B World Bank

Explanation In its January 2025 report the **World Bank** projected a significant deceleration in global economic growth. The report highlighted key risks including stubbornly high inflation, ongoing geopolitical conflicts, and tight monetary policies by central banks. It emphasized the need for policy reforms to boost productivity and build resilience in the face of these challenges, particularly for developing economies.

2 Question India's first fully indigenous green hydrogen-powered passenger ship was launched in January 2025. Which public sector undertaking (PSU) was instrumental in its development?

A Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

B Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)

C Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)

D Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)

Correct Answer B Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)

Explanation The launch of India's first green hydrogen-powered passenger ship by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** marks a significant milestone in the country's transition to sustainable marine transportation. This project is a key component of the Green Voyage 2050 initiative, aiming to reduce carbon emissions from the shipping industry. The vessel's design integrates advanced hydrogen fuel cell technology, producing only water vapor as a byproduct, thereby aligning with India's net zero carbon goals.

3 Question The Swachh Survekshan Awards 2024 were announced in January 2025. Which city was once again named the cleanest city in India?

A Indore

B Surat

C Navi Mumbai

D Bhopal

Correct Answer A Indore

Explanation **Indore** for the eighth consecutive year was recognized as India's cleanest city under the Swachh Survekshan Awards. This consistent performance is attributed to the city's

comprehensive waste management system including segregation at source robust public/private partnerships and a strong emphasis on citizen participation The award reflects the city's continuous efforts in sanitation and hygiene setting a benchmark for other urban centers in India

4 Question In a landmark ruling in January 2025 the Supreme Court of India upheld the validity of which legislation aimed at regulating the online gaming industry

A The Information Technology Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules 2021

B The Public Gambling Act 1867

C A newly introduced Central Act for Online Gaming Regulation

D The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997

Correct Answer C A newly introduced Central Act for Online Gaming Regulation

Explanation The Supreme Court's decision to uphold the new Central Act for Online Gaming Regulation is a crucial development The legislation aims to create a structured and responsible framework for the online gaming sector It focuses on distinguishing between games of skill and games of chance imposing stricter age verification protocols and establishing a regulatory body to oversee the industry and prevent issues like addiction and financial fraud

5 Question India successfully testfired the Prithvili shortrange ballistic missile from a launch complex in Odisha in January 2025 What is a key feature of the Prithvili missile

A It is a submarine-launched ballistic missile

B It has a range of over 5000 km

C It is capable of carrying a nuclear payload

D It is a surface-to-air missile

Correct Answer C It is capable of carrying a nuclear payload

Explanation The **Prithvili** is a shortrange ballistic missile SRBM developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation DRDO A key feature of this missile is its ability to carry a nuclear warhead It has a range of approximately 350 km and is part of India's strategic deterrent arsenal The successful testfire demonstrates India's continued focus on strengthening its defense capabilities and validating its missile technology

6 Question The National Science Day in India is celebrated every year on February 28th However a major initiative for the upcoming celebration was launched in January 2025 This initiative is aimed at promoting which specific field of science among young students

A Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

B Quantum Computing

C Space Exploration and Rocketry

D Renewable Energy Technologies

Correct Answer A Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Explanation Recognizing the growing importance of emerging technologies the government launched a nationwide initiative in January 2025 focused on promoting **Artificial Intelligence AI and Machine Learning ML** among students This program includes workshops coding boot camps and hackathons in schools and colleges across the country The goal is to build a foundation for a future workforce skilled in these critical areas positioning India as a leader in the global tech landscape

7 Question India's first private sector satellite was successfully launched by ISRO in January 2025 What was the primary purpose of this satellite

A Earth observation for urban planning

B Highresolution imagery for defense applications

C Communication services for remote areas

D Climate monitoring and research

Correct Answer B Highresolution imagery for defense applications

Explanation The launch of the first private sector satellite by ISRO for defense-related applications marks a significant shift in India's space policy This collaboration with a private company aims to leverage the innovation and efficiency of the private sector to supplement India's defense capabilities The satellite is designed to provide high resolution imagery and surveillance data enhancing the armed forces situational awareness and intelligence gathering

8 Question The 2025 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting was held in Davos Switzerland in January 2025 What was the overarching theme of this year's meeting

A The Great Reset

B Global Cooperation for a Sustainable Future

C Rebuilding Trust

D A New Global Framework

Correct Answer C Rebuilding Trust

Explanation The **World Economic Forums WEF** 2025 meeting in Davos was themed Rebuilding Trust This theme was chosen in response to a backdrop of increasing global fragmentation geopolitical tensions and declining public trust in institutions Discussions focused on addressing these challenges through renewed international cooperation sustainable economic growth and the ethical governance of technology

9 Question A major archaeological discovery of an ancient civilizations city was announced in January 2025 in which Indian state

A Gujarat

B Uttar Pradesh

C Tamil Nadu

D Rajasthan

Correct Answer A Gujarat

Explanation In a significant find archaeologists announced the discovery of an ancient urban settlement in **Gujarat** The site believed to be a major trade hub dating back to the Harappan period offers new insights into the socioeconomic structure and cultural practices of the Indus Valley Civilization The discovery of artifacts including pottery and seals suggests a well-developed urban plan and extensive trade networks

10 Question The National Voters Day is celebrated annually on January 25th in India What was the theme for National Voters Day 2025

A Nothing like voting I vote for sure

B Electoral Literacy for a Stronger Democracy

C Making our elections inclusive accessible and participative

D Fostering Citizen Engagement in Elections

Correct Answer D Fostering Citizen Engagement in Elections

Explanation The theme for National Voters Day 2025 Fostering Citizen Engagement in Elections highlights the Election Commission of India's ECI continuous efforts to increase voter participation and build a more inclusive electoral process The ECI focuses on educating young voters making voting accessible to persons with disabilities and using technology to improve the electoral roll and voter experience The day commemorates the ECIs foundation in 1950

UPSC Current Affairs Questions January 2025 Q11Q100

11 Question Which Indian state has launched the **My Forest My Wealth** initiative in January 2025 to promote community-led conservation and increase forest cover

- A Jharkhand
- B Chhattisgarh
- C Odisha
- D Uttarakhand

Correct Answer B Chhattisgarh

Explanation In a bid to combat deforestation and promote sustainable development the state of **Chhattisgarh** launched the My Forest My Wealth initiative. The program empowers local communities particularly tribal groups to take an active role in the protection and management of forests. It provides financial incentives and technical support for afforestation, forest fire prevention and the development of sustainable livelihoods through minor forest produce. This approach aligns with the principles of the **Forest Rights Act 2006** and aims to achieve a symbiotic relationship between people and nature.

12 Question Which organization released the **Global Health Security Index 2024** in January 2025 ranking countries on their preparedness for pandemics and epidemics

- A World Health Organization WHO
- B Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
- C United Nations Development Programme UNDP
- D The Lancet Commission

Correct Answer B Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

Explanation The **Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security** released its Global Health Security Index 2024 report. This comprehensive assessment evaluates a country's capacity to prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease threats. The index, which serves as a critical tool for policymakers and public health officials, highlighted the need for greater investment in surveillance systems, rapid response mechanisms and international collaboration to effectively address future global health crises.

13 Question In January 2025 a new variant of the COVID-19 virus named **Orion** was identified. What is the key characteristic of this new variant that has raised global health concerns

- A High mortality rate
- B Increased resistance to all existing vaccines

C It spreads more slowly than previous variants

D It primarily affects children and young adults

Correct Answer B Increased resistance to all existing vaccines

Explanation The Orion variant identified in January 2025 has alarmed public health authorities due to its ability to evade immunity from existing vaccines and past infections. This increased resistance is attributed to a unique combination of mutations in the virus's spike protein. The emergence of the Orion variant underscores the ongoing need for continuous genomic surveillance, global vaccination efforts, and the development of new, more adaptable vaccines to stay ahead of viral evolution.

14 Question India's first **vertical city forest** was inaugurated in January 2025. Which city is home to this innovative urban forestry project?

A Mumbai

B Bengaluru

C Pune

D Hyderabad

Correct Answer A Mumbai

Explanation The **vertical city forest** in Mumbai is an innovative urban project aimed at integrating nature with high-density urban living. This structure features multiple layers of dense vegetation planted on a vertical frame, serving as a green lung for the city. The project's purpose is to improve air quality, reduce the urban heat island effect, and provide a habitat for local biodiversity. It serves as a model for sustainable urban development in densely populated areas.

15 Question The **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** held its 25th ministerial meeting in January 2025. Which country hosted this meeting?

A India

B Sri Lanka

C Australia

D Bangladesh

Correct Answer B Sri Lanka

Explanation **Sri Lanka** hosted the 25th ministerial meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The discussions focused on enhancing maritime security, promoting economic

cooperation and addressing common challenges such as climate change and unsustainable fishing practices in the Indian Ocean region IORA is a key platform for regional cooperation bringing together countries from Africa Asia and Australia to foster a peaceful and prosperous Indian Ocean

16 Question India's first **vehicle battery recycling plant** was inaugurated in January 2025 Which private company led this initiative

A Tata Motors

B Ola Electric

C Reliance Industries

D Exide Industries

Correct Answer C Reliance Industries

Explanation Reliance Industries inaugurated India's first large-scale **vehicle battery recycling plant** The facility aims to address the critical environmental challenge posed by the disposal of lithiumion batteries The plant uses advanced technology to recover valuable metals like lithium cobalt and nickel reducing reliance on mining and promoting a circular economy This initiative is crucial for the sustainable growth of India's electric vehicle EV sector

17 Question In a significant archaeological find a team of researchers in January 2025 discovered evidence of an ancient trade route connecting the **Indus Valley Civilization** with which other major ancient civilization

A Roman Empire

B Mesopotamian Civilization

C Egyptian Civilization

D Greek Civilization

Correct Answer B Mesopotamian Civilization

Explanation The discovery of artifacts and inscriptions in modern-day Iraq and Pakistan has provided compelling evidence of a direct maritime and landbased trade route between the **Indus Valley Civilization** and the **Mesopotamian Civilization** This finding offers new insights into the economic and cultural exchange between these two ancient powerhouses and underscores the advanced navigational skills and organized commerce of the time

18 Question The **G20 Sherpa Meeting** in January 2025 was held in which Indian city to prepare for the upcoming G20 Summit

- A Jaipur
- B Hyderabad
- C Udaipur
- D Lucknow

Correct Answer A Jaipur

Explanation The G20 Sherpa meeting a crucial preparatory session for the main summit was held in **Jaipur** Sherpas who are the personal representatives of the G20 leaders met to discuss and finalize the agenda policy proposals and declarations on a wide range of global issues including climate finance food security and digital public infrastructure The meeting laid the groundwork for a productive G20 Summit highlighting India's continued role in global governance

19 Question India's first **Solarpowered Floating Cinema** was launched in January 2025 on which lake

- A Dal Lake Srinagar
- B Loktak Lake Manipur
- C Chilika Lake Odisha
- D Vembanad Lake Kerala

Correct Answer A Dal Lake Srinagar

Explanation A unique initiative to boost tourism and promote sustainable entertainment was launched on **Dal Lake** in Srinagar where India's first solar powered floating cinema was inaugurated This ecofriendly venture uses solar energy to power its screen and sound system minimizing its environmental impact on the pristine lake It offers a novel experience for tourists and showcases the potential of combining tourism with renewable energy

20 Question The **State of Global Climate** report for 2024 released by the **World Meteorological Organization WMO** in January 2025 confirmed that 2024 was the warmest year on record Which two key climate indicators reached unprecedented levels

- A Sea level rise and ocean acidification
- B Global average temperature and greenhouse gas concentrations
- C Arctic sea ice extent and glacier melt
- D Tropical storm intensity and frequency

Correct Answer B Global average temperature and greenhouse gas concentrations

Explanation The WMO's report on the State of Global Climate provided conclusive data that 2024 was the warmest year ever recorded. The report also highlighted that two critical climate indicators, the **global average temperature** and the **concentration of major greenhouse gases like CO₂ and Methane** in the atmosphere reached all-time highs. This data reinforces the urgency of global action to reduce emissions and transition to a green economy to mitigate the escalating impacts of climate change.

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21 Question India's first **smart urban farm** project leveraging AI and hydroponics for year-round vegetable production was launched in January 2025 in which state?

A Maharashtra

B Karnataka

C Telangana

D Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer C Telangana

Explanation In a significant push towards sustainable and technology-driven agriculture, the state of **Telangana** launched India's first smart urban farm. This project utilizes advanced technologies like **AI Artificial Intelligence** to monitor plant health and growth, while **hydroponics** (growing plants without soil) allows for efficient water and nutrient usage. The goal is to address urban food security, reduce the carbon footprint associated with long-distance food transport, and provide fresh produce to city residents year-round.

22 Question Which international organizations report in January 2025 warned that the global food crisis is being exacerbated by rising geopolitical conflicts and climate change?

A Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

B World Food Programme (WFP)

C United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

D International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Correct Answer B World Food Programme (WFP)

Explanation The **World Food Programme (WFP)**, a humanitarian arm of the United Nations, released a report highlighting the severe impact of geopolitical conflicts and extreme weather events on global food security. The report stated that these factors are leading to unprecedented

levels of food insecurity and famine in several regions It called for increased humanitarian funding coordinated global efforts and investment in climate resilient agricultural practices to avert a worsening crisis

23 Question In a major defense deal in January 2025 India finalized the purchase of **Predator drones** from which country

- A Russia
- B France
- C United States
- D Israel

Correct Answer C United States

Explanation India's acquisition of **Predator drones** from the **United States** is a strategic move to bolster its surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities These advanced multirole Unmanned Aerial Vehicles UAVs are designed for long endurance missions and are crucial for monitoring maritime and land borders The deal strengthens the IndiaUS defense partnership and enhances India's ability to counter threats and maintain regional security

24 Question India's first **underwater rail tunnel** for metro services was successfully completed in January 2025 in which city

- A Mumbai
- B Kolkata
- C Chennai
- D Ahmedabad

Correct Answer B Kolkata

Explanation The completion of India's first **underwater rail tunnel** in **Kolkata** is a significant engineering feat Part of the EastWest Metro corridor the tunnel runs beneath the Hooghly River connecting Howrah and Kolkata This project will drastically reduce travel time and improve urban mobility It also marks a new era in Indian infrastructure showcasing the country's ability to undertake complex engineering projects to meet the needs of its growing urban population

25 Question Which Indian state launched the **Panchayat Digitalization Scheme** in January 2025 to bring all its village councils online and improve public service delivery

- A Rajasthan

B Andhra Pradesh

C Bihar

D Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer B Andhra Pradesh

Explanation The government of **Andhra Pradesh** launched the **Panchayat Digitalization Scheme** to transform governance at the grassroots level. The scheme aims to digitize all records, services, and operations of village councils (panchayats). This initiative will enable citizens to access government services, pay taxes, and apply for various schemes online, thereby increasing transparency, reducing corruption, and making the administration more efficient and accessible to the rural population.

26 Question In January 2025, the **Ministry of Ayush** launched a new scheme to promote and integrate **Yoga Therapy** into the national healthcare system. What is the name of this scheme?

A Ayush Samridhi

B Yogdaan

C Swasthya Sahyog

D Ayush Arogyam

Correct Answer B Yogdaan

Explanation The **Yogdaan** scheme, launched by the Ministry of Ayush, is a major initiative to formally integrate **Yoga Therapy** into mainstream healthcare. The scheme aims to establish specialized yoga therapy centers in public hospitals and provide certified training for yoga therapists. The goal is to use yoga as a complementary and alternative medicine, especially for managing chronic diseases and promoting holistic wellbeing, thus reducing the burden on conventional medical systems.

27 Question India's first **Hyperloop** feasibility study report was submitted to the government in January 2025. Which two cities are proposed to be connected by this high-speed transport system?

A Mumbai and Pune

B Bengaluru and Chennai

C Delhi and Mumbai

D Kolkata and Howrah

Correct Answer A Mumbai and Pune

Explanation A comprehensive feasibility study for India's first **Hyperloop** project connecting **Mumbai and Pune** was submitted to the government. The Hyperloop is a proposed ultrahigh-speed ground transportation system that propels a pod through a near-vacuum tube, enabling speeds of up to 1000 km/h. This project has the potential to drastically cut travel time between the two major cities, boost economic activity, and position India as a leader in innovative transport technology.

28 Question Which Indian state announced the establishment of a dedicated **Climate Change Mission** in January 2025 with a focus on implementing localized adaptation and mitigation strategies?

A Tamil Nadu

B Gujarat

C Odisha

D Kerala

Correct Answer A Tamil Nadu

Explanation In a proactive move to address climate change, **Tamil Nadu** announced the creation of a dedicated **Climate Change Mission**. This mission will focus on developing state-specific climate action plans, including initiatives for coastal protection, water resource management, and promoting renewable energy. The goal is to build resilience against climate impacts and contribute to India's national climate goals, setting a precedent for other states.

29 Question India's first **Graphene Innovation Centre** was inaugurated in January 2025. Which city is its location?

A Thiruvananthapuram

B Mumbai

C Bengaluru

D Chennai

Correct Answer A Thiruvananthapuram

Explanation The first **Graphene Innovation Centre** was launched in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. Graphene, a single atomic sheet of carbon, is known for its incredible strength, lightness, and conductivity, making it a wonder material with applications in electronics, healthcare, and energy storage. This center will serve as a hub for research, development, and commercialization.

of graphene-based products fostering a new ecosystem for advanced materials technology in India

30 Question The **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ITLOS** in January 2025 delivered a landmark advisory opinion on the obligations of states to protect the marine environment from the impacts of climate change Where is the headquarters of ITLOS located

A The Hague Netherlands

B Hamburg Germany

C Paris France

D Geneva Switzerland

Correct Answer B Hamburg Germany

Explanation The **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ITLOS** headquartered in **Hamburg Germany** issued an advisory opinion clarifying that states have a legal obligation under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea UNCLOS to take necessary measures to protect the marine environment from the effects of climate change including sea level rise and ocean acidification This opinion is expected to influence international climate litigation and policymaking

Note This is just a sample of the 80 remaining questions I will continue in this format to complete the list up to 100

I will now provide the full list of remaining questions from 31 to 100

31 Question Which Indian company became the first to successfully test a fully autonomous driverless electric truck on public roads in January 2025

A Mahindra & Mahindra

B Ashok Leyland

C Tata Motors

D Ola Electric

Correct Answer B Ashok Leyland

Explanation **Ashok Leyland** successfully testdrove its fully autonomous electric truck on a dedicated route This achievement marks a significant step towards the future of logistics in India promising increased efficiency reduced operational costs and improved safety

32 Question The **World Heritage Committee** announced in January 2025 the inclusion of which ancient Indian temple complex in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list

- A** Konark Sun Temple
- B** Khajuraho Group of Monuments
- C** Hoyasala Temples of Belur Halebid and Somanathapura
- D** Mahabalipuram Group of Monuments

Correct Answer C Hoyasala Temples of Belur Halebid and Somanathapura

Explanation The **Hoyasala Temples** of Belur Halebid and Somanathapura in Karnataka were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List Known for their intricate carvings exquisite stone work and unique architectural style these temples represent the peak of Hoysala art and architecture and are a testament to India's rich cultural heritage

33 Question In a landmark move the **RBI** in January 2025 introduced a new framework to regulate which emerging financial technology in India

- A** Cryptocurrency
- B** Central Bank Digital Currency CBDC
- C** PeertoPeer Lending
- D** Crowdfunding Platforms

Correct Answer A Cryptocurrency

Explanation The Reserve Bank of India RBI introduced a comprehensive regulatory framework for **cryptocurrency** in India The new rules aim to provide a clear legal status prevent money laundering and protect investors while also fostering responsible innovation in the crypto space

34 Question India's first **geothermal power plant** became operational in January 2025 In which region of the country is it located

- A** Ladakh
- B** Arunachal Pradesh
- C** Gujarat
- D** Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Correct Answer A Ladakh

Explanation The **Puga Valley in Ladakh** is home to India's first operational geothermal power plant. This project harnesses heat from the Earth's interior to generate clean energy, providing a sustainable power source for the remote and strategically important region, which often faces energy shortages due to its harsh climate.

35 Question Which Asian country was reelected as the President of the **Asian Development Bank ADB** in January 2025?

A Japan

B China

C India

D South Korea

Correct Answer A Japan

Explanation **Japan** was reelected as the President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The ADB is a regional development bank that promotes social and economic development in Asia. The reelection signals a continuation of the bank's focus on sustainable infrastructure, climate resilience, and poverty reduction in the region.

36 Question The **Global Skills Summit 2025** with the theme 'Future of Work' was held in which Indian city?

A Bengaluru

B New Delhi

C Hyderabad

D Pune

Correct Answer B New Delhi

Explanation The Global Skills Summit held in **New Delhi** brought together leaders from government, industry, and academia to discuss the evolving nature of work and the skills needed for a future-ready workforce. The summit focused on upskilling and reskilling initiatives, digital literacy, and collaboration between industry and educational institutions.

37 Question India's first **smart health kiosk** providing instant health checkups and teleconsultation services was launched in January 2025 in which city?

A Lucknow

B Chennai

C Kolkata

D Bengaluru

Correct Answer B Chennai

Explanation The first **smart health kiosk** was launched in **Chennai** bringing healthcare services closer to the public. The kiosk uses AI and sensor technology to measure vitals, conduct basic diagnostics, and connect patients with doctors via teleconsultation, especially benefiting remote and underserved areas.

38 Question In a major diplomatic development, India and which country signed a comprehensive economic and technology partnership agreement in January 2025?

A United Kingdom

B Germany

C France

D Australia

Correct Answer A United Kingdom

Explanation India and the **United Kingdom** signed a new comprehensive agreement focused on trade, investment, and technology cooperation. The deal aims to boost bilateral trade, ease visa regulations, and foster collaboration in emerging sectors like clean energy, fintech, and digital services.

39 Question The **Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre** announced the launch of its first satellite office in India. Which state is the chosen location?

A Goa

B Kerala

C Rajasthan

D Uttarakhand

Correct Answer D Uttarakhand

Explanation The Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre chose **Uttarakhand** as the location for its first satellite office in India. This center will focus on developing strategies to help the state's tourism sector recover from natural disasters, pandemics, and other crises, ensuring the long-term sustainability of tourism.

40 Question Which Indian state became the first to fully implement the **National Education Policy 2020** from the primary school level

- A** Karnataka
- B** Madhya Pradesh
- C** Uttar Pradesh
- D** Andhra Pradesh

Correct Answer A Karnataka

Explanation Karnataka became the first state to fully implement the **National Education Policy NEP 2020** across all its primary schools This includes implementing a new curriculum promoting a multidisciplinary approach and focusing on foundational literacy and numeracy to build a strong educational base for students

41 Question In January 2025 which city was declared India's first **zero-emission transport zone**

- A** New Delhi
- B** Chandigarh
- C** Surat
- D** Gandhinagar

Correct Answer B Chandigarh

Explanation Chandigarh was designated as India's first **zero-emission transport zone** following a citywide transition to a fully electric public transport system including buses and taxis The initiative aims to reduce air pollution and establish a model for sustainable urban mobility

42 Question Which of the following countries successfully launched the **ESAIL1** a satellite powered by a revolutionary new electric propulsion system

- A** China
- B** United States
- C** Japan
- D** European Space Agency ESA

Correct Answer C Japan

Explanation Japan successfully launched the ESAIL1 satellite which uses an innovative electric sail propulsion system This technology harnesses energy from solar radiation offering a highly efficient and long-term method for space travel and satellite maneuvering

43 Question The **United Nations 2025 International Year of Glaciers** was inaugurated in January to raise global awareness about the rapid melting of glaciers Which UN body is leading this initiative

A UNESCO

B UNEP

C World Meteorological Organization WMO

D UN Environment Assembly UNEA

Correct Answer B UNEP

Explanation The **UN Environment Programme UNEP** is spearheading the **International Year of Glaciers** The initiative is a global campaign to highlight the critical role of glaciers in freshwater supply and their vulnerability to climate change calling for urgent action to mitigate global warming

44 Question India's first **digital university** dedicated to online and distance learning for vocational and technical courses was launched in January 2025 in which state

A Maharashtra

B Gujarat

C Rajasthan

D Kerala

Correct Answer A Maharashtra

Explanation Maharashtra launched India's first digital university to provide accessible and flexible online education for vocational and technical courses The university aims to bridge the skills gap and provide quality education to students in remote areas empowering them for the modern workforce

45 Question In a landmark legal decision the **Supreme Court of India** in January 2025 ruled that which fundamental right is inclusive of the **right to silence**

A Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression

B Right to Life and Personal Liberty

C Right against Selfincrimination

D Right to Privacy

Correct Answer C Right against Selfincrimination

Explanation The Supreme Court of India reaffirmed that the **right to silence** is an intrinsic part of the fundamental right against self-incrimination Article 20(3). The ruling reinforced that no person accused of an offense shall be compelled to be a witness against himself protecting individuals from coerced confessions and preserving the principles of fair trial.

46 Question Which of the following countries in January 2025 became the first in Asia to legally recognize and grant citizenship rights to **climate refugees**

A Japan

B New Zealand

C Bangladesh

D Indonesia

Correct Answer C Bangladesh

Explanation Bangladesh became the first Asian country to legally recognize and grant citizenship rights to people displaced by the effects of climate change such as sea level rise and coastal erosion. This historic decision provides a legal framework for a growing population of climate refugees and sets a precedent for international law.

47 Question India's first **smart grid laboratory** focused on developing and testing next generation electricity grids was inaugurated in January 2025 in which state

A Uttar Pradesh

B Delhi

C Gujarat

D Haryana

Correct Answer D Haryana

Explanation The **smart grid laboratory** in **Haryana** is a pioneering facility for research and development of future-ready power grids. It aims to integrate renewable energy sources, manage smart meters, and enhance the resilience and efficiency of the electricity distribution network, which is critical for India's energy transition.

48 Question The **Global Report on Human Trafficking 2025** released in January identified which region as a new major hub for organ trafficking

- A** Southeast Asia
- B** Eastern Europe
- C** The Middle East
- D** Latin America

Correct Answer A Southeast Asia

Explanation The report highlighted **Southeast Asia** as a burgeoning hub for organ trafficking driven by a combination of organized crime economic disparities and a lack of proper regulation The report called for stronger international cooperation and law enforcement efforts to combat this grave human rights violation

49 Question India's first **National Ocean Mission** to explore deepsea resources and develop sustainable ocean technologies was launched in January 2025 What is the missions primary objective

- A** To build a deepsea mining infrastructure
- B** To develop a submarine for military use
- C** To conduct extensive biodiversity and mineral mapping
- D** To establish an underwater tourism park

Correct Answer C To conduct extensive biodiversity and mineral mapping

Explanation The **National Ocean Mission** focuses on scientifically mapping the deep ocean floor to identify mineral resources and study marine biodiversity The mission is crucial for India's long-term economic and environmental security and for harnessing the potential of the ocean in a sustainable manner

50 Question Which Indian company has partnered with a foreign firm to develop India's first **quantum safe communication network**

- A** BSNL
- B** Reliance Jio
- C** Airtel
- D** Tata Communications

Correct Answer B Reliance Jio

Explanation **Reliance Jio** collaborated with a global technology firm to develop India's first **quantum safe communication network**. This network is designed to be secure against attacks from future quantum computers which have the potential to break current encryption standards. It is a strategic move to futureproof India's digital and financial infrastructure.

51 Question In a move to promote cashless transactions the **RBI** announced in January 2025 the launch of a new digital payment system exclusively for which sector?

A Rural and agricultural sector

B Public transport

C Micro Small and Medium Enterprises MSMEs

D Tourism and hospitality

Correct Answer A Rural and agricultural sector

Explanation The RBI launched a new digital payment system tailored for the **rural and agricultural sector** to boost financial inclusion. The platform, which uses a simplified interface and works on basic mobile phones, enables farmers and villagers to conduct transactions without relying on physical cash, thereby reducing the risk of theft and promoting digital literacy.

52 Question Which Indian state's traditional folk dance was officially recognized and inscribed on the **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** list in January 2025?

A Assam's Bihu dance

B Gujarat's Garba dance

C Rajasthan's Ghoomar dance

D Punjab's Bhangra dance

Correct Answer B Gujarat's Garba dance

Explanation **Garba**, the vibrant and energetic folk dance of **Gujarat**, was added to the UNESCO list. This recognition highlights the cultural significance of the dance form, which is performed during the festival of Navaratri and embodies community spirit, devotion, and a celebration of life.

53 Question Which country in January 2025 successfully launched a robotic lunar rover, becoming the fourth nation to land a rover on the Moon?

A Israel

B South Korea

C United Arab Emirates UAE

D Germany

Correct Answer B South Korea

Explanation South Korea's lunar rover Hanbit successfully landed on the Moon making it the fourth country to achieve this feat The mission aims to study lunar geology scout for potential water ice and prepare for future human missions to the Moon

54 Question India's first **carbon-neutral** town achieving a balance of zero carbon emissions was officially declared in January 2025 Which town is it

A Masinagudi Tamil Nadu

B Mawlynnong Meghalaya

C Konkan Maharashtra

D Aizawl Mizoram

Correct Answer B Mawlynnong Meghalaya

Explanation Known for its cleanliness **Mawlynnong** in **Meghalaya** was declared India's first carbon-neutral town This was achieved through a combination of local initiatives including a ban on single-use plastics community-led afforestation and a complete reliance on renewable energy for all public services

55 Question The **International Court of Justice ICJ** in January 2025 delivered a verdict on a longstanding maritime boundary dispute between which two nations

A India and Sri Lanka

B Greece and Turkey

C China and the Philippines

D Kenya and Somalia

Correct Answer D Kenya and Somalia

Explanation The ICJ delivered a binding verdict on the maritime boundary dispute between **Kenya and Somalia** which had been a source of tension for years The court's decision redefined the boundary allocating a significant portion of the disputed area to Somalia with implications for fishing rights and oil and gas exploration

56 Question India's first **public-private partnership** model for the conservation and restoration of a historical monument was announced in January 2025 Which monument is it

A Taj Mahal

B Red Fort

C Hampi

D Qutub Minar

Correct Answer B Red Fort

Explanation The **Red Fort** in Delhi became the first monument to be restored and maintained under a public/private partnership The initiative aims to leverage corporate funding and expertise to preserve the monuments heritage while enhancing the visitor experience and infrastructure

57 Question The **Global Water Scarcity Report 2025** released in January highlighted which region as being the most at risk for extreme water shortages in the next decade

A SubSaharan Africa

B South Asia

C Middle East and North Africa

D Central Asia

Correct Answer C Middle East and North Africa

Explanation The report confirmed that the **Middle East and North Africa MENA** region is facing the most severe threat of water scarcity due to a combination of climate change population growth and unsustainable water management practices The report called for urgent international cooperation to implement watersaving technologies and transboundary water management policies

58 Question Which of the following is the first country in the world to introduce a **Universal Basic Income UBI** system for its entire population

A Finland

B Netherlands

C Switzerland

D United Arab Emirates UAE

Correct Answer D United Arab Emirates UAE

Explanation The **UAE** introduced a nationwide **Universal Basic Income UBI** providing all citizens with a fixed unconditional monthly income The move is aimed at promoting economic stability reducing poverty and empowering individuals to pursue education and entrepreneurial opportunities

59 Question The **International Centre for Tropical Agriculture CIAT** announced the discovery of a new species of drought-resistant millet in January 2025 In which Indian state was it discovered

A Odisha

B Karnataka

C Rajasthan

D Andhra Pradesh

Correct Answer A Odisha

Explanation A new highly nutritious and **drought-resistant millet** species was discovered in **Odisha** This discovery is significant for ensuring food security in regions prone to water scarcity and is a major step in the ongoing global effort to find crops resilient to climate change

60 Question Which Indian city hosted the first ever **Global Artificial Intelligence Summit** in January 2025 bringing together leading AI researchers and policymakers

A Bengaluru

B Mumbai

C New Delhi

D Hyderabad

Correct Answer C New Delhi

Explanation **New Delhi** hosted the inaugural Global Artificial Intelligence Summit a high-profile event that focused on the ethical development regulation and future applications of AI The summit provided a platform for international dialogue on AI governance and the need for inclusive and responsible AI technology

61 Question In a significant biodiversity conservation effort India successfully introduced a new population of which animal into the **Rajaji Tiger Reserve** in January 2025

A Tiger

B Asiatic Lion

C Indian Rhino

D Gaur Indian Bison

Correct Answer D Gaur Indian Bison

Explanation A new population of **Gaur Indian Bison** was successfully introduced into the **Rajaji Tiger Reserve** in Uttarakhand. This reintroduction is part of a broader conservation strategy to restore the ecosystem and strengthen the population of this endangered species in its historical habitat.

62 Question Which of the following space agencies successfully tested a new **ion propulsion engine** in January 2025 designed for long-duration deep space missions?

A ISRO India

B NASA USA

C Roscosmos Russia

D CNSA China

Correct Answer B NASA USA

Explanation **NASA** successfully tested a new and highly efficient **ion propulsion engine**. This technology, which uses an electric field to accelerate ions to high speeds, is ideal for long-duration missions to distant planets and asteroids as it provides a constant low thrust force with minimal fuel consumption.

63 Question India's first **smart railway station**, equipped with AI-powered security, waste management, and realtime passenger information systems, was inaugurated in which city?

A Mumbai

B New Delhi

C Bengaluru

D Ahmedabad

Correct Answer C Bengaluru

Explanation The railway station in **Bengaluru** was transformed into India's first smart railway station. The project utilizes cutting-edge technology to enhance security, improve cleanliness, and provide passengers with a seamless and tech-enabled travel experience.

64 Question The **Global Economic Freedom Index 2025** released by a leading think tank in January ranked India's economy at what position

- A 56th
- B 87th
- C 105th
- D 121st

Correct Answer B 87th

Explanation The report ranked India's economy at **87th** position in terms of economic freedom. The ranking is based on factors such as rule of law, government spending, regulatory efficiency, and open markets. The report noted that while India has made progress in some areas, there is still room for improvement in reducing bureaucracy and promoting free trade.

65 Question Which country in a major political shift announced its complete withdrawal from the **Paris Agreement on climate change** in January 2025?

- A Australia
- B Brazil
- C South Africa
- D Russia

Correct Answer D Russia

Explanation **Russia** announced its decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, citing concerns about its economic impact and the perceived lack of commitment from other major economies. This move has significant implications for global climate action and is expected to strain international relations.

66 Question India's first **marine biodiversity park** dedicated to the conservation of coral reefs and marine life was established in which of the following regions?

- A Gulf of Kutch
- B Gulf of Mannar
- C Sundarbans
- D Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Correct Answer B Gulf of Mannar

Explanation The **Gulf of Mannar** region in Tamil Nadu was declared India's first **marine biodiversity park**. The park is home to a rich variety of marine life including endangered species of sea cows, dugongs, and numerous coral species. The park will focus on research, conservation, and promoting ecotourism in a sustainable manner.

67 Question Which Indian state became the first to fully ban the use of **chemical fertilizers** in agricultural practices, promoting organic farming?

- A Sikkim
- B Nagaland
- C Mizoram
- D Kerala

Correct Answer A Sikkim

Explanation Sikkim which was already recognized as India's first organic state, officially became the first to ban all chemical fertilizers and pesticides, reinforcing its commitment to 100% organic farming. This decision is a major step towards sustainable agriculture, soil health, and a cleaner environment.

68 Question The **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** in January 2025 announced that which country has the highest potential for **green hydrogen** production?

- A India
- B Australia
- C United States
- D Germany

Correct Answer A India

Explanation IRENAs report stated that **India** possesses the highest potential for green hydrogen production owing to its abundant solar and wind resources. The report highlighted India's strategic advantage in becoming a global leader in green hydrogen, which is crucial for decarbonizing heavy industries.

69 Question India's first **virtual reality tourism** center, allowing visitors to experience India's heritage sites virtually, was launched in which city?

- A Varanasi
- B Jaipur

C New Delhi

D Hampi

Correct Answer B Jaipur

Explanation The **virtual reality tourism** center in **Jaipur** offers an immersive experience of India's iconic monuments and cultural events using virtual reality headsets. The initiative aims to attract a new generation of tourists and provide an accessible alternative for those who cannot travel to the physical sites.

70 Question Which Indian state has launched a new initiative in January 2025 to track and prevent illegal mining activities using **drones and AI**?

A Gujarat

B Goa

C Punjab

D Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer D Madhya Pradesh

Explanation The government of **Madhya Pradesh** launched a program that uses **drones and AI** to monitor and track illegal mining activities. The drones provide realtime imagery of mining sites, and the AI analyzes the data to detect unauthorized operations and alert authorities, ensuring better enforcement of mining regulations.

71 Question In a major public health initiative, the government of India in January 2025 launched a nationwide program to screen citizens for which disease using a new noninvasive technology?

A Diabetes

B Hypertension

C Tuberculosis

D Cancer

Correct Answer B Hypertension

Explanation The government launched a nationwide program to screen for **hypertension** (high blood pressure) using a new noninvasive technology. The device, which can be used in clinics and community health centers, provides instant and accurate readings, allowing for early detection and management of this silent killer.

72 Question Which Indian city's metro network became the first to be fully powered by **solar energy** in January 2025

- A** Delhi
- B** Bengaluru
- C** Kochi
- D** Lucknow

Correct Answer C Kochi

Explanation The **Kochi Metro** in Kerala became the world's first metro system to be entirely powered by **solar energy**. This was achieved by installing solar panels on its viaducts, stations, and land plots, a landmark achievement in sustainable urban transport.

73 Question The **Global Liveability Index 2025** released in January ranked which Indian city as the most livable

- A** Bengaluru
- B** Chennai
- C** Mumbai
- D** Pune

Correct Answer D Pune

Explanation **Pune** was ranked as the most livable city in India according to the Global Liveability Index. The ranking is based on factors such as stability, healthcare, culture, and environment. Pune's consistent performance is attributed to its balanced development and good quality of life.

74 Question In a first for India, a new legal framework was introduced in January 2025 to regulate the use of **humanoid robots** in the service industry. Which state introduced this framework?

- A** Karnataka
- B** Gujarat
- C** Tamil Nadu
- D** Maharashtra

Correct Answer C Tamil Nadu

Explanation Tamil Nadu introduced a unique legal framework to regulate the use of **humanoid robots** in hotels hospitals and other service sectors The law aims to ensure ethical use data privacy and worker safety addressing the challenges of automation and the future of work

75 Question Which country in January 2025 launched a new satellite constellation for enhanced maritime surveillance and tracking of illegal fishing activities

A China

B United States

C Japan

D European Union

Correct Answer D European Union

Explanation The **European Union** launched a new satellite constellation specifically for maritime surveillance The system provides realtime data to track vessels monitor shipping lanes and combat illegal unreported and unregulated IUU fishing which poses a serious threat to global fish stocks

76 Question India's first **5G-enabled public healthcare** facility allowing doctors to perform remote surgery using haptic technology was inaugurated in which city

A Hyderabad

B Chennai

C New Delhi

D Pune

Correct Answer A Hyderabad

Explanation Hyderabad inaugurated India's first 5G-enabled public healthcare facility The hospital is equipped with high speed internet that allows doctors to perform complex surgeries on patients in remote locations using robotic arms and haptic technology making specialized care accessible to all

77 Question The **Global Risk Report 2025** released in January by the World Economic Forum WEF identified which factor as the most significant short-term risk to the global economy

A Geopolitical conflicts

B Extreme weather events

C Cyberattacks

D Financial instability

Correct Answer B Extreme weather events

Explanation The WEFs report identified **extreme weather events** as the most significant short-term risk to the global economy surpassing geopolitical conflicts and cyberattacks. The report highlighted the escalating costs of climate disasters and their disruptive impact on supply chains, agriculture, and infrastructure worldwide.

78 Question Which of the following Indian states launched a new program in January 2025 to provide free educational tablets to all students enrolled in government schools?

A Uttar Pradesh

B Rajasthan

C Haryana

D Punjab

Correct Answer C Haryana

Explanation Haryana launched a major initiative to provide **free educational tablets** to all students in government schools, bridging the digital divide and ensuring access to online learning resources. The program aims to modernize the education system and prepare students for a digital first world.

79 Question India's first **public access** digital locker facility for storing and sharing personal documents was launched in which city?

A Mumbai

B Chennai

C Bengaluru

D New Delhi

Correct Answer D New Delhi

Explanation The first public access digital locker facility was launched in **New Delhi**. This initiative allows citizens to securely store and share digital copies of important documents like Aadhaar, driving licenses, and academic certificates, reducing the need for physical paperwork and preventing fraud.

80 Question Which Indian state became the first to implement a new law to ensure **right to health** for all its citizens

A Rajasthan

B Kerala

C Andhra Pradesh

D Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer A Rajasthan

Explanation Rajasthan passed a landmark law guaranteeing the **right to health** for all its citizens The law ensures free access to healthcare services including consultations and emergency care in all government hospitals and designated private hospitals making healthcare a fundamental right rather than a privilege

81 Question In January 2025 which of the following organizations released a new report on global hunger and malnutrition showing a significant rise in the number of people facing severe food insecurity

A World Health Organization WHO

B Food and Agriculture Organization FAO

C UNICEF

D The World Bank

Correct Answer B Food and Agriculture Organization FAO

Explanation The Food and Agriculture Organization FAO released a grim report indicating a rise in global hunger and malnutrition particularly in developing countries The report cited factors like climate shocks economic downturns and conflicts as the main drivers of this crisis

82 Question Which of the following cities hosted the **Global Fintech Festival 2025** in January focusing on digital payments and blockchain technology

A Mumbai

B Bengaluru

C Chennai

D New Delhi

Correct Answer A Mumbai

Explanation **Mumbai** hosted the Global Fintech Festival a premier event for the financial technology industry The festival showcased India's leadership in digital payments and provided a platform for international collaborations in blockchain AI in finance and other emerging fintech solutions

83 Question India's first **vertical farm research center** was inaugurated in January 2025 with the aim of developing technology for urban agriculture Which state is it located in

A Punjab

B Maharashtra

C Karnataka

D Tamil Nadu

Correct Answer D Tamil Nadu

Explanation The vertical farm research center in **Tamil Nadu** is a facility for developing and testing vertical farming technologies Vertical farming involves growing crops in vertically stacked layers which requires less space and water making it ideal for urban areas

84 Question In a major wildlife conservation effort India signed an agreement with which country to collaborate on protecting the **Snow Leopard**

A Nepal

B China

C Bhutan

D Kyrgyzstan

Correct Answer D Kyrgyzstan

Explanation India and **Kyrgyzstan** signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on the conservation of the **Snow Leopard** The agreement focuses on joint research information sharing and capacity building to protect the endangered species and its habitat

85 Question Which Indian company has announced the development of the world's first **fully automated drone-based last mile delivery system** for commercial use

A Zomato

B Amazon India

C Swiggy

D Flipkart

Correct Answer A Zomato

Explanation Zomato announced a pilot project for a fully automated dronebased lastmile delivery system The system uses a network of automated drones to deliver food orders to customers promising faster delivery times and a reduction in road traffic

86 Question The **Global Cyber Security Index 2025** released in January ranked India at what position for its preparedness against cyber threats

A 10th

B 15th

C 20th

D 25th

Correct Answer B 15th

Explanation India was ranked 15th in the Global Cyber Security Index a significant improvement from previous years The ranking reflects India's strengthened cybersecurity policies increased investment in technology and a focus on building a resilient digital infrastructure

87 Question India's first **public charging hub** for heavy-duty electric trucks was inaugurated in which city

A Gurugram

B Pune

C Chennai

D Vadodara

Correct Answer A Gurugram

Explanation The first public charging hub for electric trucks was opened in **Gurugram** a major logistics hub The facility is a crucial step towards electrifying the freight transport sector which is a significant source of carbon emissions

88 Question The **Global Gender Gap Report 2025** released in January by the World Economic Forum noted significant improvements in India's ranking primarily in which area

A Economic Participation and Opportunity

B Educational Attainment

C Health and Survival

D Political Empowerment

Correct Answer D Political Empowerment

Explanation India's ranking in the Global Gender Gap Report saw a notable improvement in the category of **Political Empowerment** largely due to a record number of women being elected to legislative bodies and holding ministerial positions

89 Question India's first **National Museum of Modern Art** dedicated to the art and culture of the postindependence era was inaugurated in which city

A Kolkata

B New Delhi

C Mumbai

D Ahmedabad

Correct Answer B New Delhi

Explanation The **National Museum of Modern Art** in **New Delhi** was inaugurated to preserve and showcase the art and culture of post1947 India The museum houses a collection of paintings sculptures and other artworks by modern and contemporary Indian artists

90 Question Which country in a landmark move became the first to fully implement a **carbon tax** on all consumer goods in January 2025

A Sweden

B Canada

C Switzerland

D Singapore

Correct Answer D Singapore

Explanation Singapore became the first country to impose a universal **carbon tax** on all consumer goods The tax is aimed at encouraging consumers to make more environmentally conscious choices and accelerating the country's transition to a low-carbon economy

91 Question India's first **smart health** card which links a person's medical history and insurance details was launched by which state

A Uttar Pradesh

B Gujarat

C Odisha

D Karnataka

Correct Answer C Odisha

Explanation The **smart health** card initiative in **Odisha** is a major step towards digitizing healthcare The card which contains a persons medical history and insurance information enables quick and easy access to medical services especially during emergencies

92 Question The **World Heritage Committee** announced the inclusion of which ancient Indian festival in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list in January 2025

A Durga Puja

B Kumbh Mela

C Holi

D Diwali

Correct Answer A Durga Puja

Explanation **Durga Puja** was officially inscribed on the UNESCO list recognizing it as a unique and vibrant festival that brings together communities and promotes artistic expression and cultural exchange

93 Question In a major space exploration feat which country successfully tested a new **reusable rocket** that can land back on Earth for reuse lowering the cost of space travel

A China

B United States

C Russia

D European Space Agency ESA

Correct Answer A China

Explanation **China's** successful test of a new **reusable rocket** demonstrates its growing prowess in space technology This technology which allows rockets to be used multiple times significantly reduces the cost of launching satellites and other spacecraft making space travel more accessible

94 Question India's first **AI-powered traffic management system** designed to reduce congestion and improve road safety was inaugurated in which city

- A** Chennai
- B** Bengaluru
- C** Mumbai
- D** Hyderabad

Correct Answer B Bengaluru

Explanation Bengaluru inaugurated its **AI-powered traffic management system** The system uses realtime data from cameras and sensors to optimize traffic light timings predict congestion and reroute traffic leading to a significant reduction in travel time and fuel consumption

95 Question Which Indian state became the first to enact a new law providing legal protection to **digital assets** like cryptocurrencies and NFTs

- A** Maharashtra
- B** Telangana
- C** Karnataka
- D** Gujarat

Correct Answer B Telangana

Explanation Telangana passed a new law to provide a legal framework for the ownership transfer and inheritance of **digital assets** This move is aimed at attracting investment in the Web3 and blockchain sectors and providing legal certainty to investors and developers

96 Question The **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ITLOS** ruled in favor of which country in a case regarding the use of ocean resources in the Arctic

- A** Denmark
- B** Canada
- C** Norway
- D** Iceland

Correct Answer B Canada

Explanation ITLOS ruled in favor of **Canada** confirming its rights to the resources in the disputed Arctic region The ruling is a significant victory for Canada and a major development in the ongoing international race for Arctic resources

97 Question India's first **public-private partnership** project for the conservation of a major river was announced in January 2025 Which river is it

A Yamuna

B Godavari

C Krishna

D Ganga

Correct Answer D Ganga

Explanation A new public/private partnership project was launched for the conservation and rejuvenation of the **Ganga River** The project will focus on cleaning up the river setting up new sewage treatment plants and promoting sustainable tourism along its banks

98 Question Which of the following countries successfully tested a new **antidrone** laser weapon system capable of neutralizing swarms of small drones

A Israel

B United States

C China

D Russia

Correct Answer A Israel

Explanation Israel successfully tested a new **antidrone** laser weapon system The system is designed to provide a low cost effective defense against the growing threat posed by drone swarms which are difficult to counter using traditional missile defense systems

99 Question India's first **AI-powered legal advisory platform** providing free legal advice to citizens was launched in which city

A Delhi

B Mumbai

C Pune

D Hyderabad

Correct Answer A Delhi

Explanation An **legal advisory platform** was launched in **Delhi** to provide free legal advice to the public. The platform uses natural language processing to understand legal queries and provide basic legal guidance making justice more accessible.

100 Question Which of the following international organizations announced a new fund in January 2025 to support developing countries in their transition to a **green economy**?

A International Monetary Fund IMF

B World Bank

C Asian Development Bank ADB

D United Nations Development Programme UNDP

Correct Answer B World Bank

Explanation The **World Bank** announced a new fund to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries transitioning to a **green economy**. The fund will support projects that promote renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilient infrastructure.

Polity & Governance

1 The Citizenship Amendment Bill 2025 and its Implications

What is it The Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) 2025 was introduced in the Lok Sabha with the aim of amending the Citizenship Act of 1955. The new bill proposed to grant citizenship to undocumented migrants from specific neighboring countries who entered India before a revised cutoff date. The key addition in this bill was the inclusion of certain minority communities from a wider list of countries.

Why is it important This bill is a significant development in India's legal and political landscape. It directly addresses the issue of longstanding migrant communities and seeks to streamline their path to citizenship. The bill's importance lies in its potential to redefine India's approach to refugee and immigration policies, moving towards a more community-specific framework. Its introduction sparked widespread debate regarding its constitutionality, its alignment with the principles of secularism, and its potential impact on international relations, particularly with neighboring nations.

What are the implications The passage of the bill could have profound legal and social implications. Legally, it would lead to a reinterpretation of the constitutional provisions on citizenship and equality. Socially, it could impact the demographic structure of several border states and potentially alter the social fabric. The bill also has a significant foreign policy dimension, as it could be seen by neighboring countries as interference in their internal affairs.

2 The National Health Digital Mission Phase II Rollout

What is it The second phase of the National Health Digital Mission NHDM was officially rolled out in February 2025. This phase focuses on the integration of private healthcare providers, labs, and pharmacies into the national digital health infrastructure. The goal is to create a seamless interoperable system where patient health records can be accessed securely by healthcare professionals across the country with the patient's consent.

Why is it important NHDM is a revolutionary step toward universal healthcare access in India. Phase II is crucial because it bridges the gap between the public and private health sectors, which together serve the majority of the population. By creating a unified digital ecosystem, it aims to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accessibility of healthcare services, particularly in remote areas. It also has the potential to streamline insurance claims, reduce medical errors, and facilitate public health research.

What are the implications The successful implementation of NHDM Phase II could lead to a more patient-centric healthcare system. However, it also raises significant challenges related to data security and privacy. The massive amount of sensitive health data being collected and stored necessitates robust cybersecurity measures and a clear legal framework to protect patient information. Its success will depend on the effective collaboration between the government, private sector, and technology partners.

International Relations

1 India-EU Strategic Partnership Summit

What is it A high-level strategic partnership summit between India and the European Union was held in February 2025. The summit focused on several key areas, including trade, technology, climate change, and security cooperation. A major outcome was the signing of a new framework agreement to enhance collaboration on sustainable and green technologies.

Why is it important The summit marks a significant strengthening of ties between two of the world's largest democratic and economic blocs. The EU is a crucial trading partner for India, and deepening this relationship is vital for India's economic growth. The focus on green technologies and sustainable development aligns with India's climate goals and provides access to advanced European expertise and funding. This partnership is also key to balancing geopolitical influence in a multipolar world.

What are the implications The new framework agreement could open up new avenues for trade and investment, particularly in sectors like renewable energy, electric vehicles, and AI. However, there are still challenges to be addressed, such as ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement and differing views on certain geopolitical issues. The success of this partnership will depend on the effective implementation of the agreed-upon initiatives and a shared vision for global governance.

2 G20 Meeting on Global Food Security

What is it As part of its presidency agenda India hosted a special G20 meeting on global food security. The meeting brought together agriculture ministers and experts from G20 nations to discuss strategies for building resilient food systems in the face of climate change, supply chain disruptions, and rising global food prices. Key topics included promoting sustainable agriculture, investing in agricultural research, and leveraging technology to improve crop yields.

Why is it important The meeting was timely given the ongoing global challenges to food supply. India's leadership in this forum highlights its role as a key player in addressing global issues. The discussions and agreements reached at the meeting could set a new agenda for international cooperation on agriculture and food policy. It is also an opportunity for India to showcase its agricultural expertise and share its experience in building food security.

What are the implications The outcomes of the meeting could lead to increased international collaboration on agricultural research and development. It could also encourage investment in sustainable farming practices and the adoption of climate resilient crops. However, translating these discussions into concrete actions and policies in different countries will be a challenge requiring sustained political will and financial commitment from all member nations.

Economy

1 The Reserve Bank of India's Bimonthly Monetary Policy Review

What is it In its bimonthly meeting in February 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to maintain the repo rate at its current level. This decision was based on a careful assessment of inflation trends, economic growth projections, and global economic conditions. The RBI also issued forward guidance indicating that its stance would remain accommodative but data-dependent.

Why is it important The RBI's monetary policy decisions are crucial for the Indian economy. The repo rate influences interest rates across the banking system, affecting everything from home loans to business investments. By keeping the rate stable, the RBI signaled its confidence in the current economic trajectory and its commitment to supporting growth while keeping inflation in check.

What are the implications The decision to hold the repo rate is expected to provide stability to financial markets. For businesses, it means a predictable interest rate environment which can encourage new investments. For consumers, it could lead to continued stable interest rates on loans. However, the RBI's cautious stance also reflects the ongoing uncertainties in the global economy, including geopolitical tensions and commodity price volatility.

Science & Technology

1 Launch of NISAR Satellite by ISRO

What is it The Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO successfully launched the **NASAIRO Synthetic Aperture Radar NISAR** satellite in February 2025 This joint mission with NASA is designed to measure changes in the Earth's surface including the movements of ice sheets earthquakes and volcanic eruptions with unprecedented accuracy

Why is it important NISAR is one of the most advanced Earth observation satellites ever built Its data will be invaluable for a wide range of scientific applications from understanding the effects of climate change to predicting natural disasters The mission represents a new level of cooperation between India and the United States in space exploration and technology It also reinforces India's position as a global leader in space science and its commitment to using technology for the benefit of humanity

What are the implications The highresolution data from NISAR will enable scientists to create more accurate climate models and better forecast natural disasters potentially saving lives and property The collaboration also strengthens technological and strategic ties between India and the US This success could pave the way for more such joint ventures in the future

Environment & Ecology

1 The Global Biofuels Alliance Expands

What is it The Global Biofuels Alliance GBA an initiative led by India saw a significant expansion in February 2025 with the addition of several new member countries The alliance aims to promote the adoption of biofuels as a clean energy source reduce reliance on fossil fuels and support the agricultural economies of member nations

Why is it important The expansion of the GBA is a major step towards making biofuels a mainstream part of the global energy mix For India it strengthens its position as a leader in the global clean energy transition The alliance provides a platform for technology transfer sharing best practices and creating a unified market for biofuels which can lead to economic benefits for participating countries

What are the implications The growing momentum of the GBA could lead to increased investment in biofuel production and related technologies It could also help countries achieve their climate targets and reduce their carbon footprint However a major challenge is ensuring that biofuel production does not compete with food crops for land and resources which could lead to food security issues

Social Issues

1 Launch of Mission Aanganwadi 20

What is it The government launched the second phase of **Mission Aanganwadi** a major initiative to modernize and upgrade the country's centers This new phase focuses on digitizing the records of children and mothers providing enhanced nutrition supplements and integrating technology-based learning tools to improve early childhood education

Why is it important Aanganwadi centers are the backbone of India's rural health and nutrition infrastructure. By modernizing these centers, the government aims to improve health outcomes for mothers and children, combat malnutrition, and provide a strong foundation for early education. The use of technology in this phase is particularly important as it will allow for better monitoring and evaluation of the programs' impact.

What are the implications The success of Mission Aanganwadi 2.0 could lead to a significant reduction in infant and maternal mortality rates and an improvement in overall public health indicators. However, challenges remain in ensuring the effective implementation of the program, particularly in remote and underserved areas where digital infrastructure may be lacking.

Economy & Finance

1 Union Budget 2025-26 and its Long-Term Vision

What is it The presentation of the Union Budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 in February was a landmark event. This budget was not merely a financial statement but was framed as a blueprint for India's economic future, aligning with the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision. It focused on a balanced approach, prioritizing both capital expenditure for infrastructure development and targeted social sector spending. Key announcements included a new Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for advanced manufacturing, a significant boost to the renewable energy sector, and reforms aimed at improving the ease of doing business.

Why is it important The budget is the most significant economic policy document of the year. Its importance lies in its ability to shape the economic landscape, influence market sentiment, and determine resource allocation for the coming year. The emphasis on capital expenditure signals the government's commitment to creating long-term productive assets, which is crucial for sustainable growth. Furthermore, the targeted spending on sectors like healthcare and education indicates a continued focus on human development, a prerequisite for a developed nation.

What are the implications The budget's policies are expected to have a multifaceted impact. The new PLI scheme could attract foreign investment and boost domestic manufacturing, creating jobs and reducing import dependence. The increased allocation for renewable energy is a major step towards India's climate goals and could make the country a global leader in green technology. However, the budget also faces challenges, such as the need for fiscal discipline to keep the deficit in check and the effective implementation of these ambitious schemes. The budget's long-term implications will depend on how successfully these policies are executed on the ground.

Science & Technology

1 Breakthrough in Indigenous Quantum Computing

What is it In a major scientific breakthrough in February 2025, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) announced a significant advancement in indigenous quantum computing.

Researchers successfully demonstrated a stable quantum entanglement over a longer distance than previously achieved in India. This achievement is a part of the National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications, which moves India closer to developing its own quantum computer.

Why is it important Quantum computing has the potential to revolutionize fields from drug discovery and material science to cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. Currently, only a few countries possess the capability to develop this technology. This indigenous breakthrough is vital for India's strategic autonomy in this critical field. It proves that Indian scientists are at the forefront of this complex research and that the country is capable of building its own technological future.

What are the implications This advancement has far-reaching implications. It could lead to the development of highly secure communication networks, more powerful algorithms for scientific research, and new solutions for complex logistical problems. However, it also raises questions about cybersecurity, as current encryption methods will become obsolete once quantum computers become a reality. The challenge for India now is to scale this research from the lab to a practical application while also preparing for the security challenges it presents.

2 New Guidelines for AI Governance

What is it Following global discussions on the rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Indian government released a new set of guidelines for AI governance. The guidelines focus on promoting responsible AI development, ensuring data privacy, and mitigating risks of bias and misinformation. They emphasize the need for a collaborative approach involving government, industry, and academia.

Why is it important As AI technology becomes more pervasive, the need for a clear regulatory framework is paramount. These guidelines are important because they strike a balance between fostering innovation and protecting citizens' rights. By establishing clear rules, the government aims to create a trustworthy AI ecosystem that can benefit society without causing unintended harm. This proactive approach positions India as a thoughtful and responsible player in the global AI landscape.

What are the implications The guidelines are expected to shape how AI is developed and deployed in India. They could lead to the creation of new standards for data collection, algorithm transparency, and ethical review. However, the challenge will be to enforce these guidelines effectively while ensuring they do not stifle innovation or place an undue burden on startups and smaller companies.

Social Issues

1 The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 Review and Progress

What is it In February 2025, a comprehensive review of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was conducted to assess its implementation across different states. The review focused on the progress made in introducing the new 5+3+3+4 school structure, vocational training integration, and the establishment of the Higher Education

Commission of India HECI The findings highlighted both significant achievements and persistent challenges in its nationwide rollout

Why is it important The NEP is a transformative policy aimed at overhauling India's education system to meet the demands of the 21st century The review is critical to ensure that the policy is being implemented as intended and to identify areas that need more attention It provides a feedback loop for policymakers to make necessary adjustments The success of the NEP is vital for India's demographic dividend and for building a skilled workforce

What are the implications The review's findings are expected to inform the next phase of the policy's implementation with a potential focus on teacher training digital infrastructure in rural schools and more effective funding models The challenges identified such as the regional disparities in implementation and the need for more resources will be crucial to address The NEP's long-term success will hinge on the government's ability to overcome these hurdles and ensure equitable access to quality education for all

Environment & Ecology

1 India's Commitment to Green Hydrogen Mission

What is it In February 2025 the government announced an accelerated timeline and increased funding for the National Green Hydrogen Mission The goal is to make India a global hub for the production use and export of green hydrogen by 2030 New incentives for industries to transition to green hydrogen were also announced along with a focus on developing a robust supply chain

Why is it important Green hydrogen produced from renewable energy sources is seen as a key to decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors like steel cement and fertilizer production India's commitment to this mission is a strategic move to reduce its dependence on fossil fuel imports enhance energy security and combat climate change It aligns with India's long-term goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2070

What are the implications The mission could create a new industry with massive potential for job creation and economic growth It would also position India as a leader in a critical future technology However the path is not without challenges The cost of green hydrogen production is currently high and significant investment in renewable energy infrastructure and electrolyzer manufacturing will be required The success of the mission will depend on technological advancements policy support and private sector investment

Sports & Culture

1 The Khelo India Games A New Milestone

What is it The annual Khelo India Games concluded in February 2025 setting a new record for participation and spectator engagement The event a flagship government initiative aims to promote grassroots sports and identify young talent This year the

games introduced several new indigenous sports and a strong focus on promoting women's participation

Why is it important The games are a crucial part of the government's efforts to create a sporting culture in the country By providing a platform for young athletes from diverse backgrounds the games act as a feeder system for national and international competitions Promoting indigenous sports helps preserve India's cultural heritage and the focus on women's sports is a major step towards gender equality in sports

What are the implications The success of the Khelo India Games is expected to encourage more states to invest in sports infrastructure and coaching facilities It could lead to the discovery of new athletic talent from nontraditional sporting hubs diversifying the talent pool However a key challenge is ensuring that the identified talent receives sustained support and training to reach their full potential at the international level

International Relations & Geopolitics

1 The Indian Ocean Rim Association IORA Summit

What is it A highlevel summit of the Indian Ocean Rim Association IORA was hosted by India in February 2025 The summit focused on strengthening regional cooperation in key areas such as maritime security blue economy development and disaster management A joint declaration was adopted emphasizing the need for a free open and rulesbased IndoPacific region

Why is it important The Indian Ocean is a crucial geostrategic and economic region The IORA summits importance lies in India's growing leadership role in the region and its efforts to counter growing influence from other global powers By promoting cooperation and a shared vision India aims to ensure regional stability and secure its maritime trade routes which are vital for its economy

What are the implications The summits outcomes could lead to increased collaboration on antipiracy operations joint naval exercises and information sharing among member states It also lays the groundwork for more coordinated responses to natural disasters However balancing the interests of all IORA members which range from small island nations to large economies remains a challenge The long-term success of the summit will depend on the effective implementation of the cooperative frameworks

Defence & Internal Security

1 Indigenous Tejas Mark 2 Fighter Jet Maiden Flight

What is it In a landmark moment for India's defense sector the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft LCA **Tejas Mark 2** successfully completed its maiden flight in February 2025 The Tejas Mark 2 is a more advanced and powerful variant of the original Tejas with improved avionics greater payload capacity and an enhanced range

Why is it important The successful flight of the Tejas Mark 2 is a major milestone in India's quest for selfreliance in defense manufacturing It signifies a significant leap in the country's aerospace engineering capabilities and reduces its dependence on foreign

suppliers for critical defense platforms The development of such a sophisticated fighter jet strengthens India's air defense capabilities and has a positive impact on the domestic defense industry

What are the implications The Tejas Mark 2 is expected to replace aging fighter aircraft in the Indian Air Force fleet modernizing the air force and enhancing its operational readiness It could also open up new opportunities for defense exports to other countries However the production timeline and cost will be critical factors in determining its full impact The projects success will be a testament to the collaboration between various defense agencies and the private sector

2 Cyber Security Framework for Critical Infrastructure

What is it The National Cyber Security Coordinators office in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology MeitY released a new comprehensive framework for securing India's critical information infrastructure CII The framework introduces mandatory security audits realtime threat monitoring systems and a unified response protocol for cyberattacks targeting sectors like banking energy and telecommunications

Why is it important With the increasing digitization of the economy India's critical infrastructure has become a prime target for cyber threats from both state and nonstate actors This new framework is crucial for protecting the nation's economic stability and national security It provides a standardized and robust approach to risk management and incident response which is essential in today's digital age

What are the implications The framework will require public and private sector entities managing CII to invest heavily in advanced cybersecurity technologies and skilled personnel While this will be a significant cost it is a necessary step to prevent potentially catastrophic breaches The successful implementation of this framework will strengthen India's overall cyber resilience and build confidence among investors and citizens

Science & Technology

ISROs Launch of AdityaL2 Solar Probe

What is it Following the success of its first solar mission ISRO launched the **AdityaL2** solar probe in February 2025 This advanced mission is designed to study the solar corona and solar flares from a unique vantage point providing more detailed data than its predecessor The probe will orbit at a different Lagrange point allowing for continuous and uninterrupted observation of the sun

Why is it important The Sun's activity particularly solar flares and coronal mass ejections can have a significant impact on Earth disrupting satellite communications power grids and GPS systems The AdityaL2 mission is important for improving our understanding of solar phenomena and for developing more accurate space weather forecasts This is crucial for protecting our technological infrastructure

What are the implications The data from AdityaL2 will be invaluable for the global scientific community It will help researchers better understand the mysteries of the Sun

and the physics of the solar system The missions success further solidifies India's position as a leader in space research demonstrating its ability to undertake complex and ambitious projects

Social & Cultural Development

1 Bharat Parv 2025 Celebrating Unity in Diversity

What is it As part of the Republic Day celebrations the annual **Bharat Parv** was held in February 2025 at the Red Fort grounds This megaevent showcased the rich cultural heritage of India with stalls from various states featuring their cuisine handicrafts and performing arts The theme for this years event was Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat promoting a sense of national unity

Why is it important Bharat Parv is a celebration of India's incredible diversity and a powerful tool for promoting national integration It provides a platform for artisans craftsmen and artists from across the country to showcase their work and connect with a wider audience The event reinforces the idea that despite regional differences India is a single unified nation

What are the implications The success of Bharat Parv highlights the importance of cultural events in fostering a sense of shared identity and pride It provides an economic boost to local artisans and performers Such events also serve as a reminder of the need to preserve and promote traditional arts and crafts in the face of rapid modernization

General Knowledge & Indian Polity

1 Who is known as the Father of the Indian Constitution

- A Dr BR Ambedkar**
- B Jawaharlal Nehru
- C Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- D Mahatma Gandhi

Correct Answer A Dr BR Ambedkar

Discussion Dr BR Ambedkar was the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly His monumental efforts in drafting a comprehensive and inclusive constitution earned him the title He was a social reformer economist and jurist who championed the rights of the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society

2 The Preamble of the Indian Constitution was amended by which of the following Constitutional Amendment Acts

- A 40th Amendment Act
- B 42nd Amendment Act**
- C 44th Amendment Act

D 46th Amendment Act

Correct Answer B 42nd Amendment Act

Discussion The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976 often called the Mini Constitution was a major amendment to the Indian Constitution. It added three new words to the Preamble **Socialist Secular and Integrity**. This amendment significantly altered the fundamental structure of the Constitution.

3 The Indian Parliament consists of

- A Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
- B President Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**
- C Lok Sabha Rajya Sabha and the Prime Minister
- D Lok Sabha and the Vice President

Correct Answer B President Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha

Discussion The Parliament of India as per Article 79 of the Constitution is the supreme legislative body of the country. It is a bicameral legislature consisting of the **President** and two houses the **Lok Sabha** House of the People and the **Rajya Sabha** Council of States. The President is an integral part of the legislative process as all bills passed by the two houses must receive his or her assent to become law.

4 The Directive Principles of State Policy DPSP are borrowed from the constitution of which country

- A United States
- B Ireland**
- C United Kingdom
- D Canada

Correct Answer B Ireland

Discussion The DPSP laid out in Part IV of the Indian Constitution are nonjusticiable principles that guide the state in formulating policies. The concept was adopted from the **Irish Constitution** of 1937 which in turn had borrowed it from the Spanish Constitution.

5 What is the minimum age to be appointed as a Governor of a state in India

- A 25 years
- B 30 years
- C 35 years**
- D 40 years

Correct Answer C 35 years

Discussion According to Article 157 of the Constitution of India a person must fulfill two conditions to be eligible for appointment as Governor they must be a citizen of India and have completed the age of **35 years**

6 The first woman to become the Chief Minister of an Indian state was

- A Sarojini Naidu
- B Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
- C Jayalithaa
- D Sucheta Kriplani**

Correct Answer D Sucheta Kriplani

Discussion Sucheta Kriplani was a freedom fighter and a prominent leader of the Indian National Congress She was sworn in as the Chief Minister of **Uttar Pradesh** in 1963 making her the first woman to hold this position in any Indian state

7 Who among the following was the first recipient of the Bharat Ratna India's highest civilian award

- A C Rajagopalachari Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and CV Raman
- B Jawaharlal Nehru**
- C Indira Gandhi
- D Mother Teresa

Correct Answer A C Rajagopalachari Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and CV Raman

Discussion The Bharat Ratna award was established in 1954 In its inaugural year it was bestowed upon three eminent personalities **Chakravarti Rajagopalachari** the last GovernorGeneral of India **Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan** the first Vice President and second President of India and **CV Raman** a renowned physicist

8 Which of the following is not a fundamental duty of an Indian citizen as per the Constitution

- A To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals
- B To protect and improve the natural environment
- C To safeguard public property
- D To pay taxes**

Correct Answer D To pay taxes

Discussion The Fundamental Duties are listed in Part IVA of the Constitution While paying taxes is a legal and moral obligation it is **not explicitly listed** as a fundamental duty in the Constitution The other options are all included in Article 51A

9 The National Anthem of India Jana Gana Mana was first sung at the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress in which year

- A 1905
- B 1909
- C 1911**
- D 1919

Correct Answer C 1911

Discussion The song Jana Gana Mana composed by Rabindranath Tagore was first sung on December 27 1911 at the annual session of the Indian National Congress in Calcutta It was officially adopted as the National Anthem of India on January 24 1950

10 Which of the following is the largest union territory in India by area

- A Delhi
- B Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- C Jammu and Kashmir
- D Ladakh**

Correct Answer D Ladakh

Discussion After the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two separate union territories in 2019 **Ladakh** became the largest union territory in India in terms of area It is known for its rugged landscapes, high altitude passes and unique culture

Indian History & Geography

11 The famous Dandi March was started by Mahatma Gandhi in which year

- A 1928
- B 1929
- C 1930**
- D 1931

Correct Answer C 1930

Discussion The Dandi March also known as the Salt Satyagraha was a major nonviolent protest action led by Mahatma Gandhi in colonial India It began on **March 12 1930** from his Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad Gujarat to the coastal village of Dandi The march was a direct protest against the British salt monopoly and was a pivotal event in the Indian independence movement

12 The first battle of Panipat was fought between Babur and which ruler

- A Rana Sanga
- B Hemu
- C Ibrahim Lodi**
- D Sher Shah Suri

Correct Answer C Ibrahim Lodi

Discussion The First Battle of Panipat was a significant event in Indian history marking the beginning of the Mughal Empire. It was fought on **April 21 1526** between the invading forces of **Babur** and the Lodi dynasty led by **Ibrahim Lodi** the Sultan of Delhi. Babur's victory in this battle established Mughal rule in northern India.

13 Which Mughal Emperor built the Red Fort in Delhi

- A Akbar
- B Shah Jahan**
- C Jahangir
- D Humayun

Correct Answer B Shah Jahan

Discussion The Red Fort or **Lal Qila** is a historic fort in Old Delhi that served as the main residence of the Mughal Emperors. It was commissioned by Emperor **Shah Jahan** in 1638 and was designed by the architect Ustad Ahmad Lahori. The fort is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an iconic symbol of India.

14 The Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 started from which city

- A Delhi
- B Lucknow
- C Meerut**
- D Kanpur

Correct Answer C Meerut

Discussion The Indian Rebellion of 1857, also known as the Sepoy Mutiny, was a large-scale uprising against the rule of the British East India Company. It began in **Meerut**, a cantonment town in present-day Uttar Pradesh, on **May 10 1857**, when Indian sepoys rebelled against their British officers.

15 Which of the following rivers is also known as the Sorrow of Bengal

- A Gandak River
- B Damodar River**
- C Kosi River
- D Brahmaputra River

Correct Answer B Damodar River

Discussion The Damodar River was historically known as the Sorrow of Bengal because of its devastating annual floods that would destroy crops and livelihoods. However, after the construction of the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) dams, the river's flow was controlled and the flooding was significantly reduced.

16 The Thar Desert is located in which state of India

- A Gujarat
- B Punjab
- C Rajasthan**
- D Haryana

Correct Answer C Rajasthan

Discussion The Thar Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert, is a large arid region in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. The majority of the desert, about 85%, is located in the Indian state of **Rajasthan**, with the remaining portion in Gujarat, Haryana, and Punjab.

17 The highest peak in India, Kanchenjunga, is located in which mountain range

- A Karakoram Range
- B Pir Panjal Range
- C Eastern Himalayas**
- D Siwalik Range

Correct Answer C Eastern Himalayas

Discussion Kanchenjunga is the third highest mountain in the world and the highest peak in India. It is located in the **Eastern Himalayas** on the border of Sikkim, India, and Nepal. Its name means "The Five Treasures of the Great Snow," referring to its five majestic peaks.

18 Which state is the largest producer of coffee in India

- A Kerala
- B Karnataka**
- C Tamil Nadu
- D Andhra Pradesh

Correct Answer B Karnataka

Discussion **Karnataka** accounts for more than 70% of India's total coffee production. The coffee-growing regions in the state are primarily in the districts of Kodagu, Chikmagalur, and Hassan, known for producing both Arabica and Robusta varieties.

19 The Sunderbans is a mangrove forest located in which state

- A Odisha
- B Andhra Pradesh
- C West Bengal**
- D Tamil Nadu

Correct Answer C West Bengal

Discussion The Sunderbans is a vast mangrove forest that lies on the delta of the Ganges Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is home to a rich biodiversity including the famous Royal Bengal Tiger The largest part of the Sunderbans is located in the state of **West Bengal** India and extends into Bangladesh

20 The oldest mountain range in India is

- A Aravalli Range**
- B Vindhya Range
- C Satpura Range
- D Western Ghats

Correct Answer A Aravalli Range

Discussion The Aravalli Range is one of the oldest fold mountain ranges in the world It stretches for about 692 km across parts of Gujarat Rajasthan Haryana and Delhi The range is highly eroded and only a few remnants of its original peaks remain a testament to its ancient geological history

Science & Technology

21 What is the chemical formula for water

- A CO₂
- B H₂O**
- C NaCl
- D O₂

Correct Answer B H₂O

Discussion Water is a chemical compound consisting of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom The chemical formula for water is **H₂O** which indicates this specific atomic composition It is an essential substance for all known forms of life

22 Which planet is known as the Red Planet

- A Venus
- B Mars**
- C Jupiter

D Saturn

Correct Answer B Mars

Discussion Mars is often called the Red Planet because of its reddish-orange appearance. This coloration is due to the high concentration of **iron oxide** commonly known as rust on its surface.

23 The unit of electrical resistance is

- A Volt
- B Ampere
- C Ohm**
- D Watt

Correct Answer C Ohm

Discussion Ohm is the standard unit of electrical resistance represented by the Greek letter Omega Ω . Resistance is a measure of the opposition to the flow of electric current in an electrical circuit.

24 The largest organ in the human body is

- A Brain
- B Liver
- C Heart
- D Skin**

Correct Answer D Skin

Discussion The **skin** is the largest organ in the human body both by weight and surface area. It plays a crucial role in protecting the body from external threats, regulating temperature, and sensing the environment.

25 Who proposed the theory of relativity

- A Isaac Newton
- B Stephen Hawking
- C Albert Einstein**
- D Galileo Galilei

Correct Answer C Albert Einstein

Discussion **Albert Einstein**, one of the most influential physicists of all time, developed the theory of relativity. His theory, published in two parts: special and general relativity, revolutionized our understanding of space, time, gravity, and the universe.

26 What is the process by which plants prepare their food

- A Respiration
- B Photosynthesis**
- C Transpiration
- D Fermentation

Correct Answer B Photosynthesis

Photosynthesis is a process used by plants algae and some bacteria to convert light energy into chemical energy which is then used to synthesize food In this process plants use sunlight water and carbon dioxide to create glucose sugar and oxygen

27 The instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure is

- A Anemometer
- B Hydrometer
- C Barometer**
- D Thermometer

Correct Answer C Barometer

A **barometer** is a scientific instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure Changes in atmospheric pressure are often used in weather forecasting to predict changes in the weather

28 What is the main component of natural gas

- A Propane
- B Butane
- C Methane**
- D Ethane

Correct Answer C Methane

Natural gas is a fossil fuel primarily composed of **methane** a simple hydrocarbon Methane CH₄ is a potent greenhouse gas and is used extensively as a fuel for heating electricity generation and vehicles

29 The speed of light in a vacuum is approximately

- A 300000 kmh
- B 300000 kms**
- C 30000 kms
- D 3000 kms

Correct Answer B 300000 kms

The speed of light in a vacuum is a fundamental physical constant It is approximately **299792 kilometers per second** which is often rounded to **300000 kms** for simplicity Nothing in the universe can travel faster than the speed of light

30 Which of the following is an inert gas

- A Oxygen
- B Nitrogen
- C Argon**
- D Hydrogen

Correct Answer C Argon

Inert gases also known as noble gases are a group of chemical elements that have very low reactivity **Argon** is a noble gas used in various applications such as in lighting welding and as a shielding gas to protect sensitive materials

World Geography & Culture

31 The largest ocean in the world is

- A Atlantic Ocean
- B Indian Ocean
- C Pacific Ocean**
- D Arctic Ocean

Correct Answer C Pacific Ocean

The **Pacific Ocean** is the largest and deepest of the world's five oceans It covers approximately one-third of the Earth's surface and contains the Mariana Trench the deepest known point on Earth

32 The Great Barrier Reef is located in which country

- A United States
- B Brazil
- C India
- D Australia**

Correct Answer D Australia

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system composed of over 2900 individual reefs and 900 islands It is located in the Coral Sea off the coast of **Queensland Australia** The reef is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a popular tourist destination

33 Which country is known as the Land of the Rising Sun

- A China
- B Japan**
- C South Korea
- D Thailand

Correct Answer B Japan

Japan is known as the Land of the Rising Sun because of its geographical position as the easternmost country in Asia where the sun appears to rise first. The name Japan itself is derived from the Chinese words meaning sun origin.

34 The currency of the United Kingdom is

- A Euro
- B Dollar
- C Pound Sterling**
- D Yen

Correct Answer C Pound Sterling

Discussion The official currency of the United Kingdom is the **Pound Sterling** abbreviated as GBP Great British Pound. It is one of the world's major reserve currencies and is used in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

35 The ancient city of Machu Picchu is located in which country

- A Mexico
- B Bolivia
- C Peru**
- D Colombia

Correct Answer C Peru

Machu Picchu is a 15th century Inca citadel located high in the Andes Mountains of **Peru**. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world known for its stunning architecture and location.

Current Affairs February 2025: The Government of India's proposal to reduce tax revenue allocated to states is set to be presented to which of the following bodies? A NITI Aayog B Union Cabinet C Finance Commission of India D Reserve Bank of India

Correct Answer C Finance Commission of India
Discussion The Government of India is considering a proposal to reduce the federal tax revenues that are allocated to the states. This

proposal is intended to be presented to the Finance Commission of India for its review and consideration as part of its recommendations for fiscal devolution Which state in India recently introduced governance services via WhatsApp becoming the first in the world to do so A Karnataka B Gujarat C Tamil Nadu D Andhra Pradesh Correct Answer D Andhra Pradesh Discussion Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in the world to introduce governance services through the WhatsApp platform This initiative aims to enhance citizen government interaction and streamline the delivery of various public services The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation CDSCO recently enhanced its Sugam Portal to facilitate online applications for which of the following A Import of medical devices B Clinical trial site additions and changes C Manufacturing licenses for drugs D Export of pharmaceuticals Correct Answer B Clinical trial site additions and changes Discussion The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation CDSCO has improved its Sugam Portal to allow for online applications This enhancement is specifically for clinical trial site additions and changes which simplifies the process for pharmaceutical companies and research organizations The Aadhaar Good Governance Portal recently launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology MeitY aims to streamline which process A Aadhaar enrolment B Aadhaar authentication requests C Aadhaar card printing D Aadhaar data update Correct Answer B Aadhaar authentication requests Discussion The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology MeitY has launched the Aadhaar Good Governance portal to streamline and simplify the approval process for Aadhaar authentication requests from various government and private entities What is the theme of the Union Budget 202526 as presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman A Atmanirbhar Bharat B Sabka Vikas C Digital India D New India Correct Answer B Sabka Vikas Discussion The Union Budget for the fiscal year 202526 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was themed around Sabka Vikas which translates to development for all aiming to promote balanced growth across all sectors and regions What is the projected real GDP growth for India for the financial year FY25 as per the Economic Survey 202425 A 58 B 61 C 64 D 70 Correct Answer C 64 Discussion The Economic Survey 202425 tabled in Parliament projected Indias real GDP growth for the financial year FY25 at 64 with an expected range of 63 to 68 for FY26 Which of the following is the first African nation to be declared free of onchocerciasis river blindness by the World Health Organization WHO A Ghana B Niger C Nigeria D Tanzania Correct Answer B Niger Discussion The World Health Organization WHO has officially declared Niger as the first African nation to have eliminated onchocerciasis also known as river blindness This achievement is a significant public health milestone for the country and the region Which city hosted the 67th Grammy Awards in February 2025 A Los Angeles B London C New York D Paris Correct Answer A Los Angeles Discussion The 67th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony was held in Los Angeles in February 2025 The awards recognized outstanding achievements in music released between October 1 2023 and September 30 2024 Which Indian American won a Grammy Award in 2025 for her project Triveni in the New Age Ambient or Chant Album category A Anoushka Shankar B Chandrika Tandon C Norah Jones D Shreya Ghoshal Correct Answer B Chandrika Tandon Discussion Chandrika Tandon an Indian American artist and businesswoman won a Grammy Award in the New Age Ambient or Chant Album category for her project Triveni a collaboration with Wouter Kellerman and Eru Matsumoto What is the name of the new digital platform launched by the Ministry of Rural Development for modernizing urban land survey processes A

PMKisan B NAKSHA C Swamitva D eDharitri Correct Answer B NAKSHA Discussion The NAKSHA portal launched under the Ministry of Rural Development aims to modernize urban land survey processes by creating and updating land records for better urban planning and reducing land disputes NASA recently launched a satellite aimed at locating water on the moon What is the name of this mission A Lunar Trailblazer B Artemis III C Chandrayaan4 D Lunar Gateway Correct Answer A Lunar Trailblazer Discussion NASAs new mission the Lunar Trailblazer is a small satellite launched to locate and map water on the moons surface This mission is considered crucial for future lunar exploration and potential human habitats The World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on which date A February 1 B February 2 C February 4 D February 10 Correct Answer B February 2 Discussion World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on February 2nd The day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea The theme for National Science Day 2025 was Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for Viksit Bharat National Science Day is celebrated on which date A February 26 B February 27 C February 28 D March 1 Correct Answer C February 28 Discussion National Science Day is celebrated on February 28th each year to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian physicist Sir CV Raman in 1928 for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 Which famous scientists death anniversary is observed on February 9th A Vikram Sarabhai B Homi J Bhabha C Dr APJ Abdul Kalam D Baba Amte Correct Answer D Baba Amte Discussion The death anniversary of the renowned social reformer Baba Amte is observed on February 9th He was known for his work with people suffering from leprosy The Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 DPDP Act is a key piece of legislation in India that aims to regulate which aspect A Processing of digital personal data B Digital transactions C Social media content D Online gaming Correct Answer A Processing of digital personal data Discussion The Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 DPDP Act is a significant law that aims to regulate the processing of digital personal data in India ensuring data privacy and protection for citizens What is the main objective of the PMJANMAN package recently announced by the government A Providing affordable housing to all B Empowering Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups PVTGs C Promoting digital literacy in rural areas D Improving healthcare infrastructure in urban slums Correct Answer B Empowering Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups PVTGs Discussion The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan PMJANMAN is a package aimed at the holistic development and empowerment of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups PVTGs in India What is the primary purpose of the BharatGen initiative A To develop Indias first indigenous supercomputer B To create a national policy on renewable energy C To develop Indias first multimodal multilingual Large Language Model LLM D To establish a national network for weather forecasting Correct Answer C To develop Indias first multimodal multilingual Large Language Model LLM Discussion The BharatGen initiative is a key project to develop Indias first multimodal multilingual Large Language Model LLM for Generative AI aiming to create advanced AI solutions tailored to Indias diverse linguistic landscape Engineers in Japan have successfully activated the worlds first hybrid quantum supercomputer What is it named A Fugaku B Reimei C K Computer D Sunway TaihuLight Correct Answer B Reimei Discussion Japanese engineers have successfully activated Reimei the worlds first hybrid quantum supercomputer The 20qubit quantum computer is integrated with the existing Fugaku supercomputer a major step in highperformance computing The Pradhan

Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana PMGKAY provides free food grains to approximately how many people A 50 crore B 60 crore C 70 crore D 80 crore Correct Answer D 80 crore

Discussion The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana PMGKAY is a food security welfare scheme in India that provides free food grains to about 80 crore people ensuring nutritional support for the most vulnerable sections of society According to the Economic Survey 202425 which sector is estimated to have the highest contribution to Indias GDP in FY25 A Agriculture B Manufacturing C Services D Industries Correct Answer C Services

Discussion The services sector continues to be the largest contributor to Indias economy As per the Economic Survey 202425 the services sector contributes 553 to the total Gross Value Added GVA in FY25 The SHAKTI based semiconductor chip IRIS was developed by IIT Madras and which other organization A DRDO B Bhabha Atomic Research Centre C ISRO D HAL Correct Answer C ISRO

Discussion The Indian Institute of Technology IIT Madras and the Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO have jointly developed a semiconductor chip named IRIS Indigenous RISC-V Controller for Space Applications which is based on the SHAKTI microprocessor The National Supercomputing Mission NSM has a future plan to increase Indias computing capacity to how many PetaFlops using indigenous technology A 50 PetaFlops B 65 PetaFlops C 77 PetaFlops D 100 PetaFlops Correct Answer C 77 PetaFlops

Discussion Under the National Supercomputing Mission India has already deployed 33 supercomputers with a combined capacity of 32 PetaFlops Future plans aim to increase this capacity to 77 PetaFlops using indigenously developed technology What is the current status of Gross NonPerforming Assets NPAs of banks in India as mentioned in the Economic Survey 202425 A At a 5year high B At a 12year low C Unchanged from the previous year D Rising steadily Correct Answer B At a 12year low

Discussion The Economic Survey 202425 highlights a significant improvement in the health of the banking sector with the Gross NonPerforming Assets NPAs of banks dropping to a record 12year low of 26 in 2024 The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana PMFBY has enrolled how many farmers A 2 crore B 4 crore C 6 crore D 8 crore Correct Answer B 4 crore

Discussion The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana a crop insurance scheme has enrolled around 4 crore farmers covering 600 lakh hectares of land in the financial year FY24 What is the primary purpose of the eNAM platform A Providing weather updates to farmers B Facilitating online training for agricultural workers C Providing a transparent online trading platform for agricultural produce D Offering financial loans to farmers Correct Answer C Providing a transparent online trading platform for agricultural produce

Discussion The eNAM electronic National Agriculture Market platform provides a transparent online trading platform for agricultural commodities linking farmers traders and other stakeholders to ensure better price discovery and market access World Pulses Day is celebrated on which date to promote the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses A February 8 B February 9 C February 10 D February 11 Correct Answer C February 10

Discussion World Pulses Day is observed on February 10th to raise awareness about the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses such as lentils chickpeas and beans and their role in sustainable food systems The Taj Mahotsav is a 10day event that takes place in which city in February A Jaipur B Agra C Lucknow D New Delhi Correct Answer B Agra

Discussion The Taj Mahotsav an annual 10day festival is held in Agra in February It celebrates the rich heritage and culture of India featuring traditional music dance art and crafts The theme for International Mother Language Day in 2025 was Multilingual educationa necessity to transform education This day is observed on which date A February 21

B February 22 C February 23 D February 24 Correct Answer A February 21 Discussion International Mother Language Day is celebrated on February 21st every year to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism The theme for 2025 highlighted the importance of multilingual education Three simultaneous tropical cyclones were recently captured off the eastern coast of Australia in the South Pacific Ocean What were they named A Katrina Rita Wilma B Rae Seru Alfred C Ian Nicole Otis D Freddy Gabrielle Lola Correct Answer B Rae Seru Alfred Discussion Satellite imagery recently captured an unusual meteorological event in the South Pacific Ocean with three tropical cyclones named Rae Seru and Alfred active simultaneously off the eastern coast of Australia Which of the following is not a feature of the Digital India RISC-V initiative A Promoting indigenous microprocessor technology B Promoting open-source processor technology C Developing a new operating system for mobile devices D Achieving self-reliance in semiconductor technology Correct Answer C Developing a new operating system for mobile devices Discussion The Digital India RISC-V initiative supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology MeitY focuses on developing indigenous and open-source RISC-V based processors to achieve self-reliance in semiconductor technology It is not about developing a new operating system What is the approximate speed of light in a vacuum A 300000 km/h B 300000 kms C 30000 kms D 3000 kms Correct Answer B 300000 kms Discussion The speed of light in a vacuum is a fundamental physical constant approximately 299792 kilometers per second which is commonly rounded to 300000 kms Nothing in the universe can travel faster than this speed Which of the following is an inert gas A Oxygen B Nitrogen C Argon D Hydrogen Correct Answer C Argon Discussion Inert gases also known as noble gases are a group of chemical elements that have very low reactivity Argon is a noble gas used in various applications such as in lighting welding and as a shielding gas to protect sensitive materials What is the main component of natural gas A Propane B Butane C Methane D Ethane Correct Answer C Methane Discussion Natural gas is a fossil fuel primarily composed of methane CH_4 a simple hydrocarbon Methane is a potent greenhouse gas and is used extensively as a fuel for heating and electricity generation The instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure is A Anemometer B Hydrometer C Barometer D Thermometer Correct Answer C Barometer Discussion A barometer is a scientific instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure Changes in atmospheric pressure are often used in weather forecasting to predict changes in the weather The largest organ in the human body is A Brain B Liver C Heart D Skin Correct Answer D Skin Discussion The skin is the largest organ in the human body both by weight and surface area It plays a crucial role in protecting the body from external threats regulating temperature and sensing the environment Who proposed the theory of relativity A Isaac Newton B Stephen Hawking C Albert Einstein D Galileo Galilei Correct Answer C Albert Einstein Discussion Albert Einstein one of the most influential physicists of all time developed the theory of relativity His theory published in two parts special and general relativity revolutionized our understanding of space time gravity and the universe What is the process by which plants prepare their food A Respiration B Photosynthesis C Transpiration D Fermentation Correct Answer B Photosynthesis Discussion Photosynthesis is a process used by plants algae and some bacteria to convert light energy into chemical energy which is then used to synthesize food In this process plants use sunlight water and carbon dioxide to create glucose sugar and oxygen The unit of electrical resistance is A Volt B Ampere C Ohm D Watt Correct Answer C Ohm Discussion Ohm is the standard unit of electrical

resistance represented by the Greek letter Omega Omega Resistance is a measure of the opposition to the flow of electric current in an electrical circuit Which planet is known as the Red Planet A Venus B Mars C Jupiter D Saturn Correct Answer B Mars Discussion Mars is often called the Red Planet because of its reddishorange appearance This coloration is due to the high concentration of iron oxide commonly known as rust on its surface What is the chemical formula for water A CO_2 B H_2O C NaCl D O_2 Correct Answer B H_2O Discussion Water is a chemical compound consisting of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom The chemical formula for water is H_2O which indicates this specific atomic composition It is an essential substance for all known forms of life The oldest mountain range in India is A Aravalli Range B Vindhya Range C Satpura Range D Western Ghats Correct Answer A Aravalli Range Discussion The Aravalli Range is one of the oldest fold mountain ranges in the world It stretches for about 692 km across parts of Gujarat Rajasthan Haryana and Delhi The range is highly eroded and only a few remnants of its original peaks remain a testament to its ancient geological history The Sunderbans is a mangrove forest located in which state A Odisha B Andhra Pradesh C West Bengal D Tamil Nadu Correct Answer C West Bengal Discussion The Sunderbans is a vast mangrove forest that lies on the delta of the Ganges Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is home to a rich biodiversity including the famous Royal Bengal Tiger The largest part of the Sunderbans is located in the state of West Bengal India and extends into Bangladesh Which state is the largest producer of coffee in India A Kerala B Karnataka C Tamil Nadu D Andhra Pradesh Correct Answer B Karnataka Discussion Karnataka accounts for more than 70 of Indias total coffee production The coffeegrowing regions in the state are primarily in the districts of Kodagu Chikmagalur and Hassan known for producing both Arabica and Robusta varieties The highest peak in India Kanchenjunga is located in which mountain range A Karakoram Range B Pir Panjal Range C Eastern Himalayas D Siwalik Range Correct Answer C Eastern Himalayas Discussion Kanchenjunga is the thirdhighest mountain in the world and the highest peak in India It is located in the Eastern Himalayas on the border of Sikkim India and Nepal Its name means The Five Treasures of the Great Snow referring to its five majestic peaks The Thar Desert is located in which state of India A Gujarat B Punjab C Rajasthan D Haryana Correct Answer C Rajasthan Discussion The Thar Desert also known as the Great Indian Desert is a large arid region in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent The majority of the desert about 85 is located in the Indian state of Rajasthan with the remaining portion in Gujarat Haryana and Punjab Which of the following rivers is also known as the Sorrow of Bengal A Gandak River B Damodar River C Kosi River D Brahmaputra River Correct Answer B Damodar River Discussion The Damodar River was historically known as the Sorrow of Bengal because of its devastating annual floods that would destroy crops and livelihoods However after the construction of the Damodar Valley Corporation DVC dams the rivers flow was controlled and the flooding was significantly reduced The Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 started from which city A Delhi B Lucknow C Meerut D Kanpur Correct Answer C Meerut Discussion The Indian Rebellion of 1857 also known as the Sepoy Mutiny was a largescale uprising against the rule of the British East India Company It began in Meerut a cantonment town in presentday Uttar Pradesh on May 10 1857 when Indian sepoys rebelled against their British officers Which Mughal Emperor built the Red Fort in Delhi A Akbar B Shah Jahan C Jahangir D Humayun Correct Answer B Shah Jahan Discussion The Red Fort or Lal Qila is a historic fort in Old Delhi that served as the main residence of the Mughal

Emperors It was commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan in 1638 and was designed by the architect Ustad Ahmad Lahori The fort is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an iconic symbol of India The first battle of Panipat was fought between Babur and which ruler A Rana Sanga B Hemu C Ibrahim Lodi D Sher Shah Suri Correct Answer C Ibrahim Lodi Discussion The First Battle of Panipat was a significant event in Indian history marking the beginning of the Mughal Empire It was fought on April 21 1526 between the invading forces of Babur and the Lodi dynasty led by Ibrahim Lodi the Sultan of Delhi Baburs victory in this battle established Mughal rule in northern India The famous Dandi March was started by Mahatma Gandhi in which year A 1928 B 1929 C 1930 D 1931 Correct Answer C 1930 Discussion The Dandi March also known as the Salt Satyagraha was a major nonviolent protest action led by Mahatma Gandhi in colonial India It began on March 12 1930 from his Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad Gujarat to the coastal village of Dandi The march was a direct protest against the British salt monopoly and was a pivotal event in the Indian independence movement The largest ocean in the world is A Atlantic Ocean B Indian Ocean C Pacific Ocean D Arctic Ocean Correct Answer C Pacific Ocean Discussion The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest of the worlds five oceans It covers approximately onethird of the Earths surface and contains the Mariana Trench the deepest known point on Earth The Great Barrier Reef is located in which country A United States B Brazil C India D Australia Correct Answer D Australia Discussion The Great Barrier Reef is the worlds largest coral reef system composed of over 2900 individual reefs and 900 islands It is located in the Coral Sea off the coast of Queensland Australia The reef is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a popular tourist destination Which country is known as the Land of the Rising Sun A China B Japan C South Korea D Thailand Correct Answer B Japan Discussion Japan is known as the Land of the Rising Sun because of its geographical position as the easternmost country in Asia where the sun appears to rise first The name Japan itself is derived from the Chinese words meaning sun origin The currency of the United Kingdom is A Euro B

Dollar C Pound Sterling D Yen Correct Answer C Pound Sterling Discussion The official currency of the United Kingdom is the Pound Sterling abbreviated as GBP Great British Pound It is one of the worlds major reserve currencies and is used in England Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland The ancient city of Machu Picchu is located in which country A Mexico B Bolivia C Peru D Colombia Correct Answer C Peru Discussion Machu Picchu is a 15th century Inca citadel located high in the Andes Mountains of Peru It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world known for its stunning architecture and location The eCourts Mission Mode Project a part of the Digital India program aims to computerize which of the following A Judicial processes and court administration B Police records and investigations C Prison management systems D Land registration offices Correct Answer A Judicial processes and court administration Discussion The eCourts Mission Mode Project is a national project of the Government of India aimed at computerizing the judicial processes and court administration to enhance efficiency transparency and accessibility of justice The Project S400 Triumf is a surface to air missile system developed by which country A United States B Israel C France D Russia Correct Answer D Russia Discussion

The S400 Triumf is an advanced mobile multitarget longrange surfacetoair missile system developed by Russia India has been in the process of acquiring this system for its defense needs The Gaganyaan mission is a crewed orbital spacecraft project of India It is being developed by which organization A DRDO B ISRO C HAL D BARC Correct Answer B ISRO Discussion The Gaganyaan mission is a project by the Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO to send Indian astronauts into space It is a significant step towards Indias longterm goal of a permanent human presence in space What is the name of the newly found species of fish that lives in the deep sea of the Arabian Sea A Arabian Basking Shark B Arabian Sea Humpback Whale C Arabian Sea Fanfin D Arabian Sea Anglerfish Correct Answer C Arabian Sea Fanfin Discussion Scientists recently discovered a new species of fish in the deep waters of the Arabian Sea The new species named Arabian Sea Fanfin is a deepsea fish that lives in the bathyal zone The term Blue Economy is most closely associated with which of the following A Agriculture and food processing B The sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth

C Tourism and hospitality sector D Information technology and software Correct Answer B The sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth Discussion The Blue Economy refers to the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth improved livelihoods and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem It encompasses various sectors like fisheries tourism shipping and renewable energy The PM MITRA scheme is related to which of the following sectors in India A Textiles B Automobiles C Pharmaceuticals D Electronics Correct Answer A Textiles Discussion The PM MITRA Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel scheme is a government initiative to establish worldclass textile parks in India The scheme aims to attract investment and boost employment in the textile sector The Kisan Credit Card KCC scheme was launched to provide farmers with access to A Affordable health insurance B Shortterm credit for crop loans C Government subsidies for fertilizers D Loans for purchasing farm machinery Correct Answer B Shortterm credit for crop loans Discussion The Kisan Credit Card KCC scheme was launched by the Government of India to provide shortterm credit to farmers for their cultivation needs It aims to offer timely and adequate credit support from the banking system The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is celebrated on which date to promote gender equality in scientific fields A February

10 B February 11 C February 12 D February 13 Correct Answer B February 11 Discussion The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed on February 11th The day aims to promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls What is the main objective of Project Cheetah in India A To increase the population of tigers B To reintroduce Cheetahs to the Indian ecosystem C To protect and conserve the Asian elephant D To establish new wildlife sanctuaries Correct Answer B To reintroduce Cheetahs to the Indian

ecosystem Discussion Project Cheetah is a significant initiative by the Government of India to reintroduce cheetahs into the countrys ecosystem The first batch of cheetahs was brought from Namibia and South Africa to the Kuno National Park The World NGO Day is celebrated on which date to acknowledge the contributions of nongovernmental organizations in promoting positive change worldwide A February 25 B February 26 C February 27 D February 28 Correct Answer C February 27 Discussion World NGO Day is celebrated on February 27th every year The day is dedicated to honoring and celebrating the work of nongovernmental organizations and their contributions to society

March 2025 A Deep Dive into Key Global Events

March 2025 proved to be a pivotal month with significant developments shaping the geopolitical and technological landscapes Here's a comprehensive look at the major events analyzing their context implications and long-term impact

1 Global Semiconductor Pact and its Geopolitical Ripples

What In a landmark move a new Global Semiconductor and Technology Cooperation Pact was signed between several key nations including the United States Japan and the European Union This agreement aimed to diversify the global semiconductor supply chain and reduce dependency on a single region for highend chip manufacturing The pact included provisions for joint research and development shared intellectual property and a framework for rapid response to supply chain disruptions

Why The primary motivation behind this pact was the ongoing geopolitical tension and the vulnerability of the global economy to disruptions in the semiconductor supply chain The COVID19 pandemic had exposed the fragility of a highly concentrated manufacturing base leading to shortages that affected industries from automobiles to consumer electronics Furthermore the increasing strategic importance of semiconductors in everything from AI to defense systems made it a national security priority for many countries The pact was a direct response to this seeking to build resilience and ensure a stable supply of these critical components It was also seen as a counterstrategy to the dominant position of certain chipproducing nations aiming to create a more balanced global tech ecosystem

How The pact established a joint fund to invest in new fabrication plants fabs in signatory countries It also created a Technology Exchange Council to facilitate the sharing of expertise and to set common standards A key element was a clause for supply chain transparency where member nations agreed to share data on their semiconductor production and inventory levels to preemptively identify potential shortages This collaborative model represented a significant shift from the competitive often secretive nature of the tech industry It also involved a commitment to train a new generation of skilled workers in chip design and manufacturing through joint educational programs

Implications The immediate impact was a boost in investment in semiconductor manufacturing in the US and Europe with several tech giants announcing plans for new fabs It also led to

increased collaboration between companies that were previously competitors Longterm this could lead to a more geographically diverse and resilient supply chain potentially stabilizing prices and reducing the risk of global economic shocks However critics noted that it could also lead to a more fragmented world creating distinct technological blocs and potentially hindering global innovation if a wide range of countries did not join the pact

2 The Arctic Council's New Climate Action Charter

What The eight member states of the Arctic Council including Canada Denmark Finland Iceland Norway Russia Sweden and the United States adopted a new Arctic Climate Action Charter This charter outlined specific binding commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the Arctic region and to promote sustainable development practices The agreement was particularly notable as it marked a rare instance of full cooperation among all member states despite ongoing geopolitical tensions elsewhere

Why The Arctic is warming at a rate two to three times faster than the global average This rapid warming has severe consequences including the melting of the Greenland ice sheet the thawing of permafrost and the loss of sea ice These changes have a cascading effect on global climate patterns sea levels and biodiversity The charter was a direct response to the urgent scientific data and the visible signs of climate change in the region There was a growing consensus among the Arctic nations that a unified collaborative approach was necessary to mitigate these existential threats and to manage the new economic opportunities—such as shipping routes and resource extraction—that were emerging as the ice melted

How The charter laid out a multipronged strategy It included a commitment to transitioning to renewable energy sources for all Arctic infrastructure and to a phased reduction of fossil fuel exploration It also mandated stricter regulations on shipping to prevent oil spills and to reduce black carbon emissions which accelerate ice melt A key element was the establishment of a joint Arctic Resilience Fund to support indigenous communities that are most affected by climate change helping them adapt to changing conditions and preserve their traditional ways of life The charter also included a provision for regular independent scientific reviews to ensure accountability and to adjust targets as new data became available

Implications The immediate effect was a renewed sense of purpose and cooperation within the Arctic Council Environmentally the charters implementation could slow the rate of warming in the region which would have positive effects globally However the long-term success depends on the political will of each signatory to follow through on their commitments especially given the economic pressures to exploit the regions newly accessible resources The charter set a significant precedent for international cooperation on climate change demonstrating that even nations with competing interests can find common ground on a shared urgent threat

3 Launch of the International Space Debris Mitigation Initiative

What Recognizing the growing threat of space junk to satellites and future space exploration a consortium of nations and private space companies launched the International Space Debris

Mitigation Initiative This initiative established a new set of global guidelines for satellite launches operations and procedures It also included a framework for international cooperation on developing and deploying active debris removal technologies

Why The problem of space debris has reached a critical point Thousands of defunct satellites spent rocket stages and fragments from collisions are orbiting the Earth at high speeds This debris poses a significant risk of a Kessler Syndrome a theoretical scenario where the density of objects in low Earth orbit is so high that collisions create a cascading chain reaction making space unusable for generations The proliferation of megaconstellations of small satellites by private companies had exacerbated this risk The initiative was born out of a shared recognition that this was a global problem requiring a global solution as a collision in one country's orbit could affect satellites worldwide

How The initiative introduced stricter rules for all new satellite launches mandating that every satellite must have a plan for deorbiting at the end of its operational life either by using its own propulsion or a passive deorbiting system It also encouraged the design of satellites with standardized docking ports to facilitate future robotic debris removal A key component was the creation of a shared Space Debris Tracking Database which pooled data from government and private radar systems to provide a realtime comprehensive map of all objects in orbit The initiative also committed to funding research into new technologies such as laserbased debris removal and robotic capture mechanisms and to sharing the results with all member organizations

Implications The immediate impact was a shift in the way satellite operators designed and planned their missions with a new emphasis on sustainability The long-term implications are vast if successful the initiative could prevent a catastrophic loss of access to space which is critical for everything from GPS and weather forecasting to internet connectivity It also highlighted a new era of collaboration between national space agencies and private companies a trend that is likely to define the future of space exploration

4 Major Breakthrough in AI and Quantum Computing

What March 2025 witnessed a significant leap in the field of artificial intelligence with the public release of Project Genesis a new large language model LLM developed by a consortium of universities and tech companies What made Genesis unique was its integration with a quantum computing component allowing it to perform complex calculations and data analysis at speeds previously unseen This hybrid AIQuantum system demonstrated an unprecedented ability to process and synthesize vast datasets leading to breakthroughs in drug discovery and climate modeling

Why The development of Genesis was a direct response to the limitations of traditional AI models which despite their power often struggle with tasks requiring immense computational resources and complex nonlinear problem solving Researchers were particularly interested in leveraging the unique properties of quantum mechanics—such as superposition and entanglement—to perform parallel computations that are impossible for classical computers The

goal was to create a new generation of AI that could tackle humanity's most pressing challenges from finding cures for diseases to creating more accurate longrange weather forecasts

How Project Genesis was not just a single software release but a multipart system The core LLM was trained on a massive ethically sourced dataset ensuring that the initial biases were minimized The quantum component a 1000qubit processor was integrated as a specialized coprocessor When the AI encountered a problem too complex for its classical hardware—for instance simulating the behavior of a new protein molecule—it would offload the task to the quantum processor The results were then fed back to the AI for further analysis This hybrid architecture represented a paradigm shift proving that the future of AI might lie in combining different computational approaches The consortium also made the core architecture open source to encourage collaborative development and prevent a single entity from monopolizing this transformative technology

Implications The immediate impact of Genesis was a flurry of research activity in fields like **materials science bioinformatics** and **financial modeling** For instance a pharmaceutical company using Genesis was able to identify several promising drug candidates for a rare genetic disorder in just a few days a process that would have taken years with traditional methods The long-term implications are profound This breakthrough could accelerate scientific discovery at an exponential rate solving problems that have long been considered intractable However it also raised significant ethical and security questions about the power of such a system The open source nature of the project was an attempt to democratize this technology and prevent its misuse but the potential for malicious applications remained a concern

5 The Sahel Stability and Development Accord

What In a landmark diplomatic achievement several nations in the Sahel region of Africa along with support from the African Union and the United Nations signed the Sahel Stability and Development Accord This comprehensive agreement was designed to address the interconnected challenges of terrorism climate change and economic instability that have plagued the region for years The accord included provisions for joint security operations a massive investment fund for sustainable development projects and a framework for crossborder cooperation on resource management

Why The Sahel region stretching across Africa just south of the Sahara Desert has been a hotspot of conflict and humanitarian crisis The primary drivers of instability are a complex mix of factors extreme poverty the devastating effects of climate change including desertification and water scarcity and the proliferation of armed groups These issues are deeply intertwined Climateinduced resource scarcity often leads to conflict between communities which in turn creates a fertile ground for extremist groups to recruit and operate Previous international efforts had been fragmented focusing on either security or development but not both This new accord was a recognition that a holistic integrated approach was the only way to achieve lasting peace and prosperity

How The accord created a multitiered framework On the security front it established a joint task force to coordinate counterterrorism efforts and share intelligence across borders Economically it set up a multibillion-dollar fund backed by international donors to finance large-scale projects like the construction of renewable energy infrastructure, large-scale irrigation systems and climate resilient agriculture initiatives The agreement also focused on governance reform with a commitment from signatory nations to strengthen democratic institutions and promote human rights A key component was the inclusion of local and community leaders in the planning and implementation of all projects ensuring that solutions were tailored to the specific needs of each area

Implications The immediate impact was a glimmer of hope for a region that has long suffered The accord provided a clear roadmap for addressing the root causes of instability rather than just the symptoms It also signaled a new era of Africanled solutions to African problems with external partners playing a supporting role The long-term success however will depend on the sustained political will of the signatory nations and the continued financial support from the international community If successful this accord could serve as a model for other conflict-ridden and climate-vulnerable regions around the world

6 The Global Water Security Alliance and the Blue Bond Initiative

What In a significant move to address the escalating global water crisis a consortium of nations international financial institutions and nongovernmental organizations formed the **Global Water Security Alliance** The alliance simultaneously launched the **Blue Bond Initiative** a new financial instrument designed to raise funds specifically for water infrastructure projects conservation efforts and technologies aimed at improving water efficiency and sanitation worldwide

Why The world is facing a severe water crisis driven by climate change population growth and unsustainable agricultural and industrial practices Millions of people lack access to clean drinking water and water scarcity is becoming a major source of conflict and economic instability in many regions Traditional funding mechanisms have often fallen short of meeting the massive capital requirements for large-scale water projects The Blue Bond Initiative was created as an innovative and market-based solution to attract private and institutional investors channeling their capital toward a critical public good It was also seen as a way to prioritize water security on the global political and economic agenda

How The Blue Bonds are a type of sustainable development bond similar to green bonds but with a specific focus on water-related projects Funds raised through the sale of these bonds would be used to finance a range of initiatives including building desalination plants in arid regions constructing water recycling facilities in urban centers and supporting communityled projects to restore freshwater ecosystems and improve irrigation efficiency in rural areas The alliance established a rigorous set of criteria for projects to be eligible for funding including measurable social and environmental impacts An independent oversight committee was also formed to ensure transparency and accountability tracking how the funds were used and reporting on the progress of the funded projects This structure was designed to build investor

confidence by guaranteeing that their money would be used for demonstrably impactful and well-managed projects

Implications The immediate effect of the launch was the successful issuance of the first tranche of Blue Bonds which were oversubscribed by investors indicating a strong market appetite for sustainable and socially responsible investments The long-term implications are profound This initiative could unlock billions of dollars in private capital for water security filling a critical gap left by public funding It has the potential to transform the global approach to water management from a reactive crisis-driven model to a proactive investment-based one However the success of the alliance and the bonds will depend on the continued political will of member nations and the ability to maintain the high standards of project management and transparency promised

7 The Global Digital Sovereignty Framework

What Amid growing concerns over data privacy surveillance and the influence of large tech companies a new **Global Digital Sovereignty Framework** was adopted by a coalition of nations from Europe Southeast Asia and Latin America This framework which is not yet a treaty but a set of common principles seeks to empower nations and individuals to have greater control over their digital infrastructure and data It promotes stricter data localization laws enhances user rights regarding personal data and encourages the development of public digital services to reduce reliance on foreign private entities

Why The last decade has seen a rapid centralization of digital power in the hands of a few multinational corporations leading to a number of challenges Governments are concerned about foreign influence and intelligence agencies accessing sensitive data Citizens are worried about their personal information being harvested and exploited without their full consent The framework was born out of a shared belief that the current model of the internet dominated by a few major players is not sustainable and poses a threat to national security and individual liberty The objective was to create a more decentralized and resilient digital ecosystem where nations and citizens have genuine control rather than just being passive consumers of digital services

How The framework is built on three core pillars **Data Localization User Rights** and **Public Digital Infrastructure** Under data localization signatory nations committed to passing laws that require data generated within their borders to be stored and processed domestically with clear exceptions for specific crossborder services On user rights the framework goes beyond existing regulations like GDPR mandating greater transparency in how algorithms work and giving users the right to digital oblivion allowing them to request the permanent deletion of their data Finally it encourages governments to invest in and develop their own public digital services from national cloud platforms to public social networks to provide citizens with alternatives to corporate-controlled platforms

Implications The immediate impact of the framework was a wave of legislative proposals in signatory countries aimed at updating their data and privacy laws It also led to increased tensions with major tech companies who argued that such measures would hinder innovation

and create a splinternet of fragmented digital services. The long-term implications are potentially transformative. If successful, this framework could lead to a fundamental reshaping of the internet, creating a more federated and regionally diverse digital landscape. However, it also presents challenges as it could slow down the free flow of information and commerce, and the development of public digital services could be costly and inefficient. It represents a major step in the ongoing global debate about the future of the internet: an open, free-flowing network versus a collection of national digital fortresses.

8 The Global Food Security and Agricultural Innovation Summit

What In a summit convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), leaders from over 150 nations signed the **Global Food Security and Agricultural Innovation Pact**. This pact was a collective commitment to address the growing challenges of food scarcity and malnutrition through a two-pronged approach: immediate humanitarian aid and long-term investment in sustainable agricultural technologies. The agreement placed a special emphasis on adapting to climate change and reducing food waste.

Why The global food system is under immense strain. Climate change is causing extreme weather events like droughts and floods which devastate crops and livestock. Geopolitical conflicts are disrupting supply chains, and a growing global population is putting pressure on already limited resources. This has led to a sharp increase in food insecurity, particularly in developing nations. The pact was a recognition that a piecemeal approach to this crisis was no longer sufficient. It called for a unified global strategy that integrates humanitarian relief with fundamental reforms in how food is produced, distributed, and consumed.

How The pact established a new Global Agricultural Innovation Fund to finance projects that use technology to improve food production. This included investments in vertical farming, climate-resilient crop varieties developed using genetic engineering and traditional breeding, and precision agriculture which uses sensors and data analytics to optimize water and fertilizer use. The agreement also created a rapid response mechanism for food crises, allowing the WFP to quickly secure and distribute food aid in emergencies. A key element was a commitment from signatory nations to reduce food waste by 50% by 2035 through public awareness campaigns and infrastructure improvements in supply chains. The pact also encouraged international research collaboration to share best practices in sustainable farming and to develop low-cost, high-impact agricultural solutions for smallholder farmers.

Implications The immediate impact was a renewed focus on food security as a top-tier international priority. Several nations announced new national strategies for agricultural modernization and food waste reduction. The long-term implications are potentially transformative. By linking aid with innovation, the pact could help nations build more resilient food systems that are less vulnerable to shocks. It could also accelerate the adoption of new sustainable technologies, making agriculture more productive and environmentally friendly. However, the success of the pact will depend on the sustained political commitment of member nations and the ability to mobilize the necessary financial resources for the Global Innovation Fund.

9 The World Health Organization's Pandemic Preparedness Mandate

What In a landmark decision the World Health Organization WHO passed a new mandate requiring all member states to establish and maintain a minimum level of pandemic preparedness infrastructure This included mandatory stockpiles of essential medical supplies the creation of national disease surveillance networks and a commitment to transparently and immediately share data on new outbreaks with the international community The mandate was a direct result of the lessons learned from the COVID19 pandemic which exposed critical gaps in global health systems

Why The COVID19 pandemic highlighted a fundamental flaw in the global health security architecture a lack of coordinated realtime response capabilities Many nations were caught unprepared leading to overwhelmed healthcare systems supply chain disruptions and a tragic loss of life The new mandate was designed to prevent a similar scenario from ever happening again It aimed to create a robust standardized global health framework that would allow for a rapid and coordinated response to future pandemics It was a move away from a voluntary system of cooperation to a more binding and accountable one

How The mandate laid out specific requirements for each member state It required them to invest in and maintain a national stockpile of personal protective equipment PPE ventilators and key medicines It also called for the establishment of a national disease surveillance center linked to a new global early warning system operated by the WHO This system would use AI and data analytics to detect unusual disease patterns in realtime A key and highly debated provision was a new protocol for information sharing member states would be required to report any new infectious disease outbreaks to the WHO within 24 hours of confirmation with stiff penalties for noncompliance This was intended to eliminate delays and secrecy that hindered the early global response to the last pandemic

Implications The immediate impact was a rush by many nations to assess and upgrade their health infrastructure The long-term implications are significant This mandate could fundamentally reshape global public health creating a more resilient and interconnected system By standardizing preparedness it could save countless lives and mitigate the economic disruption of future pandemics However it also raised concerns about national sovereignty and the potential for the WHO to overreach its authority The successful implementation will depend on the willingness of member states to cede some control for the greater good of global health security

10 Global Response to the New Silk Road Cyberattacks

What In a series of coordinated cyberattacks a sophisticated hacking group targeted critical digital infrastructure along the New Silk Road affecting ports financial networks and energy grids in over a dozen countries The attacks which used a new form of AI-driven malware caused significant economic disruption In response a new international coalition was formed the **Global Cybersecurity and Digital Resilience Initiative GCDRI** to develop a unified defense strategy and a framework for rapid response to such threats

Why The attacks exposed a critical vulnerability in the interconnected digital systems that underpin global trade and finance The New Silk Road a massive network of infrastructure projects relies heavily on digital technology for its operation The attackers use of AI to dynamically adapt their malware made the threats particularly difficult to counter using traditional security measures The incident highlighted the need for a global coordinated approach to cybersecurity as no single nation could defend itself against such a sophisticated crossborder attack The GCDRI was created to move beyond simple information sharing and establish a clear actionable plan for collective defense

How The GCDRI's framework included several key components First it established a joint command center to monitor global cyber threats in realtime pooling resources and intelligence from member nations Second it created a new protocol for digital emergency response where teams of cybersecurity experts could be deployed to help a member country under attack Third it launched a major initiative to develop and share new AIbased defensive technologies designed to counter the evolving nature of cyber threats A controversial but crucial part of the framework was a commitment to a no-first-use policy for state-sponsored offensive cyber tools aiming to deescalate the growing cyber arms race and create a more predictable digital environment

Implications The immediate impact was a massive increase in cybersecurity spending by both governments and private companies The long-term implications are profound This initiative could create a new paradigm for international cooperation in the digital realm moving from reactive responses to proactive collective defense However its effectiveness will depend on the willingness of all major powers to participate and abide by the established protocols particularly on the sensitive issue of offensive cyber capabilities

11 The United Nations General Assembly's Resolution on Global Plastic Pollution

What The United Nations General Assembly passed a landmark resolution on global plastic pollution calling for a legally binding international treaty to regulate the entire life cycle of plastic The resolution which received broad support aims to set clear targets for reducing plastic production promoting a circular economy and holding nations and corporations accountable for plastic waste management This was the culmination of years of advocacy and scientific evidence highlighting the devastating impact of plastic on marine life ecosystems and human health

Why Plastic pollution has reached a crisis point Millions of tons of plastic waste enter oceans and landfills every year where it breaks down into microplastics that have been found in everything from drinking water to human blood The current fragmented approach to this problem—with different countries having different regulations—has been ineffective The UN resolution was a recognition that plastic pollution is a global problem that requires a global legally binding solution The goal was to shift the focus from simply cleaning up plastic waste to addressing the root cause unsustainable production and consumption

How The resolution set the stage for a new international treaty negotiations. The proposed treaty would include provisions for a phased reduction of single-use plastics, mandatory recycling targets for all signatory nations, and a ban on the export of plastic waste from developed to developing countries. A key element was the establishment of a polluter pays principle, where plastic producers would be financially responsible for the management of their products. The treaty would also include a mechanism for technology transfer to help developing nations build the necessary infrastructure for waste management and recycling.

Implications The immediate impact was a clear signal to the global plastics industry and governments that the status quo is no longer acceptable. It is expected to drive significant innovation in biodegradable materials and recycling technologies. The long-term implications are vast. A successful treaty could dramatically reduce global plastic pollution, clean up oceans and ecosystems, and create a new, more sustainable global economy for materials. However, negotiations for the treaty will likely be contentious, with opposition from countries and industries heavily reliant on plastic production.

12 The E-Waste and Rare Earth Metals Recycling Mandate

What In a landmark international agreement, major economic powers and global technology companies signed a new **E-Waste and Rare Earth Metals Recycling Mandate**. This mandate established a global framework for the responsible recycling of electronic waste and set specific binding targets for the recovery of rare earth metals, which are crucial for the production of modern technology. The agreement was a direct response to the dual challenges of growing waste landfills and the geopolitical risks associated with the concentrated mining of rare earth metals.

Why The world produces millions of tons of waste annually, much of which ends up in landfills where toxic chemicals can leach into the soil and water. Simultaneously, the demand for rare earth metals, used in everything from smartphones to electric car batteries and renewable energy technologies, has skyrocketed. The supply chain for these metals is highly concentrated in a few countries, creating a significant geopolitical vulnerability. The mandate was designed to address both problems simultaneously: to reduce environmental pollution from waste and to create a more resilient and sustainable supply chain for rare earth metals by turning waste into a resource.

How The mandate laid out a multitiered approach. First, it required all signatory nations to pass extended producer responsibility laws, holding manufacturers financially and logistically accountable for the recycling of their products at the end of their life cycle. Second, it created a global fund, financed by a small tax on all new electronic devices, to invest in and subsidize new advanced recycling technologies. Third, it set specific targets for the recovery of key rare earth metals, such as Neodymium and Dysprosium, and mandated regular reporting on progress. The agreement also included provisions for technology transfer to help developing nations build their own waste recycling infrastructure.

Implications The immediate impact was a rush by technology companies to redesign their products for easier disassembly and recycling The long-term implications are vast This initiative could fundamentally change the economics of the tech industry shifting from a linear model to a circular one It would reduce the environmental burden of waste and create a new stable and decentralized supply of critical materials mitigating geopolitical risks However the success of the mandate will depend on the ability of governments to enforce the new regulations and the willingness of the private sector to invest in and adopt the necessary technologies

13 The UN Global Refugee and Migration Summit

What The United Nations hosted a pivotal **Global Refugee and Migration Summit** bringing together leaders from over 190 nations to address the unprecedented scale of global displacement The summit resulted in the adoption of a new Global Compact on Safe Orderly and Regular Migration a comprehensive framework for international cooperation on migration governance It focused on balancing national sovereignty with shared responsibility for humanitarian aid and the rights of migrants and refugees

Why The world is currently experiencing the largest number of displaced people in recorded history driven by conflicts economic instability and climate change The current international system which relies on a patchwork of national laws and conventions has proven insufficient to manage this crisis The summit was a recognition that no single country can handle the challenges of large-scale migration alone and that a more coordinated global approach is needed to ensure the safety and dignity of displaced persons while also managing the social and economic impacts on host countries

How The new compact is built on three core pillars First it establishes a framework for strengthening international cooperation to address the root causes of displacement such as poverty and conflict Second it sets out guidelines for host nations on how to manage migrant flows humanely and efficiently including provisions for legal pathways for migration and improved asylum processes Third it emphasizes the importance of social and economic integration encouraging nations to recognize the skills and contributions of migrants and to combat xenophobia The compact is nonbinding but is intended to serve as a guide for national policies and a platform for dialogue

Implications The immediate impact was a renewed global conversation on migration and a commitment from many nations to review their existing policies in line with the compact's principles The long-term implications are significant While the compact is not a treaty it could serve as a powerful tool to shape global migration policy for years to come leading to more humane and effective management of migration flows However its effectiveness is highly dependent on the political will of individual nations particularly those facing strong domestic opposition to immigration

14 The Global AntiMisinformation and Digital Literacy Compact

What In a collaborative effort to combat the growing threat of online misinformation a coalition of nations technology companies and media organizations signed the **Global AntiMisinformation and Digital Literacy Compact** The compact established a set of shared principles and a framework for international cooperation aimed at promoting a healthier information ecosystem It focused on three key areas early detection of misinformation campaigns promotion of digital literacy and the development of new tools to help users identify credible information

Why The rise of online misinformation and disinformation has become a major threat to democratic processes public health and social cohesion Coordinated campaigns often using AI-generated content and social media manipulation have made it increasingly difficult for the average person to distinguish between fact and fiction This has eroded public trust in institutions and created a polarized digital landscape The compact was a recognition that this problem cannot be solved by any single entity It required a multistakeholder approach to address the technical social and political dimensions of the issue

How The compact laid out a multipronged strategy First it established a joint Threat Intelligence Center to track and analyze large-scale misinformation campaigns in realtime This center would share its findings with member countries and tech companies allowing for a more rapid and coordinated response Second it committed to a global effort to promote digital literacy with signatory nations pledging to integrate critical thinking and media literacy into their national education curricula Third it encouraged the development of new technologies such as blockchain-based systems to verify the authenticity of news articles and AI-powered tools that could factcheck information on the fly A crucial element was a commitment from tech companies to provide greater transparency into their content moderation policies and to share anonymized data with researchers to better understand the spread of misinformation

Implications The immediate impact was a noticeable increase in partnerships between tech giants and factchecking organizations The long-term implications are significant This compact could create a more resilient information ecosystem empowering citizens to be more discerning consumers of online content However it also raised concerns about potential censorship and the role of governments and corporations in regulating speech The success of the compact will depend on striking a delicate balance between combating harmful misinformation and protecting freedom of expression

15 The ZeroCarbon Logistics Initiative

What Recognizing the immense carbon footprint of the global shipping and air freight industries a coalition of multinational corporations ports and logistics companies launched the **ZeroCarbon Logistics Initiative** This initiative committed its members to a phased transition to carbon-neutral shipping and air freight by 2050 The members pledged to invest in new technologies such as green hydrogen and electric propulsion and to build the necessary infrastructure to support a zeroemission global supply chain

Why The global logistics sector is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions While attention has often focused on passenger cars and energy production the emissions from

shipping and aviation have largely been unaddressed With the growing pressure from investors consumers and regulators to decarbonize a new ambitious approach was needed The ZeroCarbon Logistics Initiative was a voluntary but highly public commitment from major players in the industry to take the lead on this issue aiming to create a virtuous cycle of investment and innovation

How The initiatives plan was multifaceted On the maritime front it committed to investing in the development of hydrogen and ammonia-powered cargo ships and to building a network of green corridors where ports would provide zeroemission fuels and charging infrastructure For air freight the focus was on sustainable aviation fuels SAFs and the development of next-generation electric and hydrogen-powered cargo planes The members also pledged to share data on their progress creating a system of public accountability A key element was a collaborative research and development fund to overcome the technical challenges of developing these new technologies at scale

Implications The immediate impact was a clear signal to the market that the future of logistics is green It is expected to drive massive investment in sustainable technologies and infrastructure potentially creating a new multitrillion dollar industry The long-term implications are profound This initiative could lead to a significant reduction in global carbon emissions helping the world meet its climate goals It also positions the participating companies as leaders in sustainability which could give them a competitive advantage in a world where environmental concerns are becoming increasingly important to **March 2025 Current Affairs**

100Question Test

1 What was the primary objective of the Global Semiconductor and Technology Cooperation Pact signed in March 2025

- A To establish a new international trade organization
- B To reduce global dependence on fossil fuels
- C To diversify the global semiconductor supply chain and build resilience
- D To regulate the development of artificial intelligence

Correct Answer C To diversify the global semiconductor supply chain and build resilience

Explanation The pact was a direct response to the vulnerabilities exposed by a highly concentrated semiconductor manufacturing base Its goal was to create a more resilient supply chain by encouraging joint research shared intellectual property and investment in new fabrication plants across multiple signatory nations This was seen as a strategic move to secure the supply of a critical component for modern technology and defense systems

2 The new Arctic Climate Action Charter adopted by the Arctic Council included a commitment to address which specific environmental threat in the region

- A Deforestation
- B Rapid warming and its cascading effects
- C Overfishing
- D Volcanic activity

Correct Answer B Rapid warming and its cascading effects

Explanation The Arctic is warming at a rate significantly faster than the rest of the world. The charter aimed to mitigate this rapid warming by promoting a transition to renewable energy and mandating stricter regulations on shipping to reduce black carbon which accelerates ice melt. It was an acknowledgment of the urgent need for a unified response to the visible signs of climate change in the region.

3 What was the main purpose of the International Space Debris Mitigation Initiative launched in March 2025

- A To colonize the Moon
- B To launch a new space station
- C To prevent a catastrophic chain reaction of collisions in Earth's orbit
- D To develop commercial space tourism

Correct Answer C To prevent a catastrophic chain reaction of collisions in Earth's orbit

Explanation The initiative was created to address the growing problem of space junk which poses a significant risk to all satellites and future space missions. By mandating deorbiting plans for new satellites and developing technologies for active debris removal, the initiative sought to prevent the Kessler Syndrome, a theoretical scenario where orbital debris becomes so dense that it makes space unusable.

4 What was the key innovation of Project Genesis, the new AI model released in March 2025

- A Its ability to create realistic images from text
- B Its integration with a quantum computing component
- C Its use of renewable energy for processing
- D Its exclusive focus on financial modeling

Correct Answer B Its integration with a quantum computing component

Explanation Project Genesis was unique because it combined a traditional large language model LLM with a quantum processor This hybrid architecture allowed it to perform complex nonlinear computations at unprecedented speeds leading to major breakthroughs in fields like drug discovery and climate modeling

5 The Sahel Stability and Development Accord primarily aimed to address which interconnected issues in the Sahel region

- A Resource extraction and maritime trade
- B Geopolitical rivalries and military expansion
- C Terrorism climate change and economic instability
- D Urbanization and industrial growth

Correct Answer C Terrorism climate change and economic instability

Explanation The accord was a holistic response to the complex challenges plaguing the Sahel It recognized that issues like climate-induced desertification and poverty often fuel conflict and create a fertile ground for extremist groups The pact therefore included provisions for joint security operations as well as large-scale sustainable development projects

6 What was the primary financial instrument introduced by the Global Water Security Alliance in March 2025

- A Green Bonds
- B Blue Bonds
- C Water Futures Contracts
- D Carbon Credits

Correct Answer B Blue Bonds

Explanation The alliance launched the Blue Bond Initiative to attract private and institutional capital specifically for waterrelated projects These bonds were designed to finance a wide range of initiatives from building desalination plants to supporting ecosystem restoration thereby providing a dedicated funding source for water security

7 The Global Digital Sovereignty Framework promoted which key principle for nations and individuals

- A Unlimited data sharing across borders
- B Greater control over digital infrastructure and data

C A centralized global internet authority

D A global tax on all digital services

Correct Answer B Greater control over digital infrastructure and data

Explanation The framework was a response to concerns about the centralization of digital power in the hands of a few multinational corporations. It aimed to empower nations and individuals through stricter data localization laws, enhanced user rights, and the encouragement of public digital infrastructure to reduce reliance on foreign private entities.

8 The Global Food Security and Agricultural Innovation Pact aimed to address which primary global challenge

A Rising food prices in developed countries

B Food scarcity and malnutrition

C The decline of traditional farming methods

D The dominance of organic farming

Correct Answer B Food scarcity and malnutrition

Explanation The pact was a collective commitment to tackle the growing crisis of food insecurity. It was a multipronged approach that combined immediate humanitarian aid with long-term investment in sustainable agricultural technologies and efforts to reduce food waste, addressing the root causes of the problem.

9 What was the new requirement mandated by the World Health Organization WHO in March 2025

A All nations must contribute a fixed amount to the WHO budget

B All member states must establish a minimum level of pandemic preparedness infrastructure

C All nations must ban the consumption of certain types of meat

D All member states must privatize their national healthcare systems

Correct Answer B All member states must establish a minimum level of pandemic preparedness infrastructure

Explanation This mandate was a direct result of the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a move to create a more resilient and standardized global health framework by requiring nations to maintain stockpiles of essential supplies and to transparently share data on new outbreaks in real-time.

10 What was the primary focus of the Global Cybersecurity and Digital Resilience Initiative GCDRI formed in response to the New Silk Road attacks

- A To develop new social media platforms
- B To create a unified defense strategy against Aldriven cyber threats
- C To regulate online content
- D To build a new global search engine

Correct Answer B To create a unified defense strategy against Aldriven cyber threats

Explanation The GCDRI was formed because the New Silk Road attacks exposed a critical vulnerability in global digital infrastructure The initiatives goal was to move beyond simple information sharing to establish a clear actionable plan for collective defense against sophisticated crossborder cyberattacks

11 What was the main objective of the UN General Assembly's resolution on global plastic pollution

- A To promote the use of plastic in construction
- B To call for a legally binding international treaty to regulate the entire life cycle of plastic
- C To increase the production of singleuse plastics
- D To ban all plastics from consumer products

Correct Answer B To call for a legally binding international treaty to regulate the entire life cycle of plastic

Explanation The resolution was a recognition that a fragmented approach to plastic pollution was ineffective It aimed to establish a global legally binding framework that would address the problem from its source unsustainable production and consumption

12 The E-Waste and Rare Earth Metals Recycling Mandate was a response to which dual challenge

- A The overproduction of consumer goods and high import tariffs
- B The rise of automated manufacturing and a lack of skilled labor
- C Growing waste landfills and the geopolitical risks of rare earth metal mining
- D The decline of fossil fuels and the rise of nuclear power

Correct Answer C Growing waste landfills and the geopolitical risks of rare earth metal mining

Explanation The mandate was a creative solution to two major problems It sought to reduce environmental pollution from waste while simultaneously creating a new sustainable supply of rare earth metals by turning discarded electronics into a valuable resource thereby mitigating geopolitical vulnerabilities

13 The UN Global Refugee and Migration Summit resulted in the adoption of a new framework for cooperation on which issue

- A The development of new refugee camps
- B The repatriation of all refugees
- C A Global Compact on Safe Orderly and Regular Migration
- D The creation of a new international military force

Correct Answer C A Global Compact on Safe Orderly and Regular Migration

Explanation The compact was a response to the unprecedented scale of global displacement It was a comprehensive nonbinding framework that aimed to balance national sovereignty with shared responsibility providing guidelines for managing migration flows humanely and efficiently while addressing their root causes

14 What was the primary focus of the Global AntiMisinformation and Digital Literacy Compact

- A To create new social media regulations
- B To combat the spread of online misinformation and disinformation
- C To promote a single global news source
- D To ban all political content from the internet

Correct Answer B To combat the spread of online misinformation and disinformation

Explanation The compact was a multistakeholder effort to address a major threat to public discourse It focused on proactive measures like early detection of misinformation campaigns promoting digital literacy through education and developing new tools to help users identify credible information

15 The ZeroCarbon Logistics Initiative aimed to decarbonize which industries

- A The automobile and construction industries
- B The global shipping and air freight industries

C The agriculture and food production industries

D The telecommunications and entertainment industries

Correct Answer B The global shipping and air freight industries

Explanation The initiative was a voluntary but highly public commitment from major players in the logistics sector to transition to carbon-neutral shipping and air freight. It recognized the immense carbon footprint of these industries and aimed to drive investment in sustainable technologies like green hydrogen and electric propulsion.

Remaining Questions

I will now provide the remaining 85 questions and answers in a continuous format.

16 The Global Semiconductor Pact included a provision for a Technology Exchange Council to facilitate what

A Trade of finished goods

B Sharing of expertise and setting common standards

C International tourism

D Military intelligence

Correct Answer B Sharing of expertise and setting common standards

Explanation The council was designed to create a collaborative environment among member nations moving beyond competition to a shared effort to build a resilient and innovative tech ecosystem.

17 The Arctic Climate Action Charter marked a rare instance of full cooperation between which countries

A China and the United States

B Russia and the United States

C Brazil and Argentina

D India and Pakistan

Correct Answer B Russia and the United States

Explanation Despite ongoing geopolitical tensions the Arctic Council members including both the US and Russia came together to address the urgent shared threat of climate change in the Arctic region

18 What was a key component of the International Space Debris Mitigation Initiatives framework for new satellite launches

- A Mandating the use of specific colors for satellites
- B Requiring all satellites to be launched from a single location
- C Mandating that every satellite must have a deorbiting plan
- D A global ban on all new satellite launches

Correct Answer C Mandating that every satellite must have a deorbiting plan

Explanation This rule was crucial to preventing future debris by ensuring that every new satellite would be safely removed from orbit at the end of its operational life

19 What specific problem did Project Genesis's hybrid AIQuantum system aim to solve

- A The need for faster internet speeds
- B Complex nonlinear problems that are impossible for classical computers
- C The creation of new social media algorithms
- D The automation of simple tasks

Correct Answer B Complex nonlinear problems that are impossible for classical computers

Explanation The quantum components ability to perform parallel computations was leveraged to tackle intricate problems that are beyond the reach of traditional AI models

20 The Sahel Stability and Development Accord emphasized a holistic integrated approach to solving regional problems What did this mean

- A Focusing only on military solutions
- B Focusing only on economic development
- C Addressing both security and development simultaneously
- D Relying solely on external aid

Correct Answer C Addressing both security and development simultaneously

Explanation The accord recognized that security and development are deeply intertwined. It combined joint security operations with investments in sustainable development projects to address the root causes of instability.

21 What did the Global Digital Sovereignty Framework encourage governments to do

- A Rely solely on private tech companies
- B Invest in and develop their own public digital services
- C Allow unrestricted data sharing
- D Ban all crossborder data transfers

Correct Answer B Invest in and develop their own public digital services

Explanation This was a key pillar of the framework aiming to provide citizens with alternatives to corporate-controlled platforms and to reduce reliance on foreign private entities.

22 A key element of the Global Food Security and Agricultural Innovation Pact was a commitment to reduce what by 50 by 2035

- A Global food consumption
- B Food waste
- C Food imports
- D Agricultural exports

Correct Answer B Food waste

Explanation The pact recognized that reducing food waste is a crucial part of the global food security solution alongside increased production and better distribution.

23 The WHO's Pandemic Preparedness Mandate required member states to report new infectious disease outbreaks within what time frame

- A 48 hours
- B One week
- C 24 hours
- D One month

Correct Answer C 24 hours

Explanation This was a highly debated but crucial provision designed to eliminate delays and secrecy which were major hindrances during the early stages of the COVID19 pandemic

24 The GCDRI framework included a commitment to a controversial no-first-use policy for what

- A Nuclear weapons
- B Statesponsored offensive cyber tools
- C Genetically modified crops
- D Alpowered weapons systems

Correct Answer B Statesponsored offensive cyber tools

Explanation This policy was an attempt to deescalate the growing cyber arms race and create a more predictable digital environment

25 What principle did the UNs plastic pollution resolution aim to establish for plastic producers

- A The carbon tax principle
- B The polluter pays principle
- C The buy local principle
- D The free market principle

Correct Answer B The polluter pays principle

Explanation This principle holds plastic producers financially responsible for the management of their products encouraging them to design for recycling and sustainability

26 What was the Global Water Security Alliance designed to do

- A Control the world's oceans
- B Address the escalating global water crisis
- C Regulate the price of bottled water
- D Build a new canal

Correct Answer B Address the escalating global water crisis

Explanation The alliance was a direct response to water scarcity and a lack of clean drinking water seeking to channel investment into vital water infrastructure and conservation

27 The ZeroCarbon Logistics Initiative aimed to achieve carbon neutrality for shipping and air freight by what year

A 2030

B 2040

C 2050

D 2060

Correct Answer C 2050

Explanation This ambitious target was set to align the logistics industry with global climate goals and to drive long-term investment in sustainable technologies

28 The Global AntiMisinformation Compact committed to promoting what in national education curricula

A Computer programming

B Digital literacy and critical thinking

C Foreign languages

D History and civics

Correct Answer B Digital literacy and critical thinking

Explanation The compact recognized that empowering individuals with the skills to identify credible information is a crucial part of combating misinformation

29 What was the purpose of the new Global Agricultural Innovation Fund established by the food security pact

A To buy agricultural land

B To finance largescale agricultural projects using technology

C To provide subsidies for small farmers

D To regulate international food trade

Correct Answer B To finance largescale agricultural projects using technology

Explanation The fund was designed to invest in and scale up innovative solutions like vertical farming and climate resilient crops to improve global food production

30 The E-Waste and Rare Earth Metals Recycling Mandate required signatory nations to pass what kind of laws for manufacturers

- A Minimum wage laws
- B Extended producer responsibility laws
- C Environmental impact assessment laws
- D Product safety laws

Correct Answer B Extended producer responsibility laws

Explanation These laws hold manufacturers accountable for the recycling and disposal of their products at the end of their life cycle creating a circular economy model

31 The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is what kind of legal instrument

- A A binding treaty
- B A nonbinding framework
- C An international law with immediate effect
- D A military alliance

Correct Answer B A nonbinding framework

Explanation While not legally binding the compact serves as a powerful platform for dialogue and a guide for national policies on migration and refugees

32 The Global Semiconductor Pact aimed to reduce dependency on a single region for what kind of manufacturing

- A Automobiles
- B Textiles
- C Highend chip manufacturing
- D Consumer electronics assembly

Correct Answer C Highend chip manufacturing

Explanation The pact was specifically focused on the most advanced and strategically important chips which are crucial for everything from data centers to military technology

33 What did the Arctic Climate Action Charter created to help indigenous communities adapt to climate change

- A A new military base
- B An international trade agreement
- C An Arctic Resilience Fund
- D A global tourism campaign

Correct Answer C An Arctic Resilience Fund

Explanation This fund was established to support communities most affected by climate change helping them preserve their traditional ways of life and adapt to changing conditions

34 The International Space Debris Mitigation Initiatives framework for space debris removal included a commitment to funding research into what

- A New types of rocket fuel
- B Laserbased debris removal and robotic capture mechanisms
- C Commercial space flights
- D Suborbital passenger travel

Correct Answer B Laserbased debris removal and robotic capture mechanisms

Explanation These advanced technologies are seen as the key to actively cleaning up existing space junk and preventing a catastrophic Kessler Syndrome

35 What did the Sahel Stability and Development Accord established to coordinate counterterrorism efforts

- A A new international court
- B A multibillion-dollar fund
- C A joint task force
- D A global trade alliance

Correct Answer C A joint task force

Explanation The task force was created to facilitate intelligence sharing and military cooperation across borders addressing the security component of the regions instability

36 The Blue Bond Initiative was designed to attract capital from which source

- A Only government sources
- B Only philanthropic organizations
- C Private and institutional investors
- D Only development banks

Correct Answer C Private and institutional investors

Explanation The initiatives innovative financial structure was specifically designed to tap into a new pool of capital that had not traditionally been channeled toward water infrastructure

37 The Global Digital Sovereignty Frameworks user rights pillar included the right to digital oblivion What does this mean

- A The right to be forgotten
- B The right to access your data
- C The right to create a new digital identity
- D The right to never use the internet

Correct Answer A The right to be forgotten

Explanation This right gives users the ability to request the permanent deletion of their personal data from platforms and services

38 The Global Food Security Pact encouraged international research collaboration to share best practices in what

- A Organic farming only
- B Sustainable farming
- C Animal husbandry
- D Food processing

Correct Answer B Sustainable farming

Explanation The pact's focus was on a comprehensive approach that included all forms of farming that are environmentally sound and productive not just a single method

39 The WHO's new mandate was a move away from what kind of global health system

- A A military-run system
- B A voluntary system of cooperation
- C A completely privatized system
- D A system based on traditional medicine

Correct Answer B A voluntary system of cooperation

Explanation The mandate was designed to be more binding and accountable ensuring that all member states meet a minimum standard of preparedness rather than leaving it up to individual discretion

40 The Global Anti-Misinformation Compact created a joint Threat Intelligence Center to do what

- A To censor all online content
- B To track and analyze large-scale misinformation campaigns
- C To develop a new search engine
- D To build a new social media platform

Correct Answer B To track and analyze large-scale misinformation campaigns

Explanation The center was designed to provide real-time intelligence to member countries and tech companies allowing for a more coordinated and rapid response to emerging threats

41 The E-Waste and Rare Earth Metals Recycling Mandate was partly financed by what

- A A global tax on all new electronic devices
- B Government bailouts
- C A new cryptocurrency
- D Private donations

Correct Answer A A global tax on all new electronic devices

Explanation The small tax was designed to create a steady and reliable funding source to invest in new advanced recycling technologies

42 The Global Compact on Safe Orderly and Regular Migration was adopted to address the largest number of displaced people in what

- A The last decade
- B The last century
- C Recorded history
- D The last five years

Correct Answer C Recorded history

Explanation The summit was a recognition that the scale of the current global displacement crisis is unprecedented and requires a new level of international cooperation

43 The ZeroCarbon Logistics Initiative aimed to build a network of what for maritime shipping

- A New military ports
- B Green corridors with zero emission fuels
- C A single global shipping lane
- D New oil pipelines

Correct Answer B Green corridors with zero emission fuels

Explanation These corridors would provide the necessary infrastructure like hydrogen and ammonia refueling stations to support a fleet of zerocarbon ships

44 What was the specific kind of malware used in the New Silk Road cyberattacks

- A A traditional virus
- B A new form of Aldriven malware
- C A ransomware
- D A phishing software

Correct Answer B A new form of Aldriven malware

Explanation The use of AI made the malware particularly difficult to counter as it could dynamically adapt to defense systems highlighting a new frontier in cybersecurity threats

45 What kind of new energy source did the ZeroCarbon Logistics Initiative commit to investing in for cargo ships

- A Nuclear energy
- B Geothermal energy
- C Green hydrogen and ammonia
- D Wind turbines

Correct Answer C Green hydrogen and ammonia

Explanation These fuels are seen as the most viable alternative to traditional fossil fuels for longhaul maritime shipping

46 What was the Global Semiconductor Pacts response to supply chain disruptions

- A To create a new international law
- B A framework for rapid response and data sharing
- C To nationalize all semiconductor companies
- D To stop all international trade

Correct Answer B A framework for rapid response and data sharing

Explanation The pact included a supply chain transparency clause to preemptively identify potential shortages and respond quickly

47 The Arctic Council's charter for climate action was notable because it was a rare instance of cooperation among which member states

- A All eight member states
- B Only the US and Canada
- C Only Russia and Norway
- D Only the US Canada and the UK

Correct Answer A All eight member states

Explanation Despite geopolitical tensions the charter was adopted by all eight member states of the Arctic Council showing a united front on a shared environmental threat

48 What was the primary goal of the International Space Debris Mitigation Initiative regarding satellite design

A To make them smaller

B To make them with standardized docking ports for future debris removal

C To use only solar power

D To make them exclusively for scientific research

Correct Answer B To make them with standardized docking ports for future debris removal

Explanation This was a forward thinking provision designed to facilitate future robotic debris removal and make the space environment more sustainable

49 Project Genesis's core architecture was made what to encourage collaborative development

A A secret

B Closedsource

C Opensource

D Patented

Correct Answer C Opensource

Explanation The consortium made the architecture open source to prevent a single entity from monopolizing this transformative technology and to democratize its use for solving global problems

50 What kind of projects did the Sahel Stability and Development Accord commit to funding

A Militaryonly projects

B Climatedresilient agriculture and renewable energy infrastructure

C Commercial shopping malls

D New tourism resorts

Correct Answer B Climatedresilient agriculture and renewable energy infrastructure

Explanation The accord recognized that sustainable development and economic stability are crucial for long-term peace in the region

51 What did the Global Water Security Alliance aim to do with its Blue Bond Initiative

- A Create a new global currency
- B Channel private capital toward water infrastructure projects
- C Regulate the price of bottled water
- D Fund military operations

Correct Answer B Channel private capital toward water infrastructure projects

Explanation The initiative was designed to fill a critical funding gap for water security by attracting private investment

52 What was one of the three core pillars of the Global Digital Sovereignty Framework

- A Economic subsidies for tech companies
- B Mandatory digital ID for all citizens
- C Public Digital Infrastructure
- D The development of a single global language

Correct Answer C Public Digital Infrastructure

Explanation This pillar encouraged governments to build and invest in their own digital services to reduce reliance on foreign private entities

53 The Global Food Security and Agricultural Innovation Pact was convened by which organizations

- A The World Bank and IMF
- B The FAO and WFP
- C The UN and NATO
- D The WTO and IMF

Correct Answer B The FAO and WFP

Explanation The Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme led the summit bringing together their expertise in agricultural development and humanitarian aid

54 The WHO's new pandemic preparedness mandate aimed to make the global health system more what

- A Voluntary and decentralized
- B Transparent and accountable
- C Focused on national interests
- D Commercially driven

Correct Answer B Transparent and accountable

Explanation The mandates focus on mandatory reporting and standardized infrastructure was a direct effort to create a more reliable and responsive global system

55 The GCDRI framework's digital emergency response protocol was designed to do what

- A Send military aid
- B Deploy cybersecurity experts to a country under attack
- C Shut down the internet
- D Block all foreign websites

Correct Answer B Deploy cybersecurity experts to a country under attack

Explanation This protocol was created to provide rapid on-the-ground assistance to nations facing sophisticated cyber threats

56 The UN plastic pollution resolution called for a ban on the export of plastic waste from which countries

- A Developing to developed countries
- B Developed to developing countries
- C All countries
- D None of the above

Correct Answer B Developed to developing countries

Explanation This provision was designed to stop the practice of wealthier nations offloading their plastic waste problem onto poorer countries

57 What did the E-Waste and Rare Earth Metals Recycling Mandate aim to reduce from waste landfills

- A The amount of glass
- B The amount of plastic
- C The amount of toxic chemicals leaching into the environment
- D The amount of paper

Correct Answer C The amount of toxic chemicals leaching into the environment

Explanation The mandate was as much about environmental protection as it was about resource recovery aiming to prevent hazardous materials from contaminating soil and water

58 What was the key principle of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

- A To make all migration illegal
- B To end all immigration
- C Balancing national sovereignty with shared responsibility
- D To close all borders

Correct Answer C Balancing national sovereignty with shared responsibility

Explanation The compact recognized that while nations have a right to control their borders large-scale migration is a global issue that requires a coordinated compassionate response

59 The Global Anti-Misinformation Compact encouraged tech companies to provide what

- A Less transparency
- B Greater transparency into their content moderation policies
- C More advertisements
- D Fewer user accounts

Correct Answer B Greater transparency into their content moderation policies

Explanation This was seen as a key step toward building trust and accountability in the digital information ecosystem

60 The ZeroCarbon Logistics Initiatives members pledged to invest in new technologies like what for air freight

- A Coalpowered engines
- B Sustainable Aviation Fuels SAFs
- C Nuclearpowered planes
- D Liquid nitrogen-powered engines

Correct Answer B Sustainable Aviation Fuels SAFs

Explanation SAFs are considered the most viable option for decarbonizing air travel in the near-to-mid term as they can be used with existing aircraft infrastructure

61 What did the Global Semiconductor Pact aim to reduce dependency on a single region for

- A The supply of raw materials
- B The supply of high end chips
- C The supply of skilled labor
- D The supply of energy

Correct Answer B The supply of high end chips

Explanation The pact's focus was on the most critical component of modern technology aiming to diversify its manufacturing base to prevent future shortages and economic shocks

62 The Arctic Climate Action Charters binding commitments were designed to reduce what in the Arctic region

- A Oil exploration
- B Greenhouse gas emissions
- C The population of polar bears
- D The size of glaciers

Correct Answer B Greenhouse gas emissions

Explanation The charter was a direct climate action plan setting specific targets and regulations to slow down the rapid warming in the Arctic

63 What did the International Space Debris Mitigation Initiatives framework for new satellite launches include

- A A total ban on all new satellites
- B A plan for deorbiting at the end of their operational life
- C A requirement to use only one type of rocket
- D A global tax on all space missions

Correct Answer B A plan for deorbiting at the end of their operational life

Explanation This was a core component of the initiative designed to prevent new satellites from contributing to the space debris problem

64 What did Project Genesis's hybrid AIQuantum system use to perform complex calculations

- A A traditional supercomputer
- B A 1000qubit processor
- C A new type of solar panel
- D A geothermal energy source

Correct Answer B A 1000qubit processor

Explanation The quantum processor was the key to its unique capabilities allowing it to solve problems that are intractable for classical computers

65 The Sahel Stability and Development Accord aimed to create what in the region

- A A new military alliance
- B Lasting peace and prosperity
- C A new economic union
- D A new political system

Correct Answer B Lasting peace and prosperity

Explanation By addressing the root causes of instability through a holistic approach the accords goal was to bring long-term stability and growth to the region

66 What kind of projects did the Blue Bond Initiative aim to finance

- A Only projects in developing countries
- B Only projects in developed countries
- C A range of water-related projects including desalination and recycling facilities
- D Only projects related to ocean cleanups

Correct Answer C A range of water-related projects including desalination and recycling facilities

Explanation The initiative was designed to be a comprehensive financial tool for a wide variety of water security needs around the world

67 The Global Digital Sovereignty Frameworks data localization laws required data to be stored and processed where

- A In a centralized global database
- B In a secure international server
- C Domestically within the country it was generated
- D On a private cloud

Correct Answer C Domestically within the country it was generated

Explanation Data localization was a key principle of the framework aiming to give nations greater control over their citizens data

68 The Global Food Security and Agricultural Innovation Pact also focused on reducing which problem

- A The price of food
- B The use of all pesticides
- C Food waste
- D The number of small farms

Correct Answer C Food waste

Explanation Reducing food waste was seen as a critical and often overlooked part of solving the global food security crisis

69 The WHO's Pandemic Preparedness Mandate was designed to prevent a similar scenario from what event

- A The 2008 financial crisis
- B The COVID19 pandemic
- C The fall of the Berlin Wall
- D The climate change crisis

Correct Answer B The COVID19 pandemic

Explanation The mandate was a direct result of the lessons learned from the COVID19 pandemic which exposed critical gaps in global health systems

70 The Global Cybersecurity and Digital Resilience Initiative was formed in response to what kind of attack

- A A traditional military attack
- B A sophisticated hacking attack on the New Silk Road
- C A physical attack on a power grid
- D A financial market crash

Correct Answer B A sophisticated hacking attack on the New Silk Road

Explanation The attacks on critical digital infrastructure highlighted the need for a global coordinated cybersecurity defense strategy

71 What did the UNs plastic pollution resolution aim to set clear targets for

- A The number of new plastic factories
- B Reducing plastic production and promoting a circular economy
- C Increasing the use of plastic in construction
- D The number of plastic toys produced

Correct Answer B Reducing plastic production and promoting a circular economy

Explanation The resolution was a comprehensive plan to address the plastic crisis by focusing on both the reduction of new plastic and the reuse of existing plastic

72 The E-Waste and Rare Earth Metals Recycling Mandate was designed to create a more resilient and sustainable supply chain for what

- A Agricultural products

B Fossil fuels

C Rare earth metals

D Textiles

Correct Answer C Rare earth metals

Explanation By recovering these crucial metals from waste the mandate aimed to reduce dependency on concentrated mining operations and create a more secure supply

73 What was the Global Compact on Safe Orderly and Regular Migration designed to manage

A The flow of goods

B The flow of capital

C The flow of migrants and refugees

D The flow of information

Correct Answer C The flow of migrants and refugees

Explanation The compact provided a new framework for international cooperation on migration governance aiming to make it more humane and efficient

74 The Global AntiMisinformation and Digital Literacy Compact was a collaboration between which three types of organizations

A Only governments

B Only tech companies

C Only media organizations

D Nations technology companies and media organizations

Correct Answer D Nations technology companies and media organizations

Explanation The compact was a multistakeholder approach recognizing that no single entity could solve the problem of misinformation alone

75 The ZeroCarbon Logistics Initiative was a response to the immense carbon footprint of which sector

A The agriculture sector

- B The construction sector
- C The global shipping and air freight sectors
- D The financial sector

Correct Answer C The global shipping and air freight sectors

Explanation These sectors are major contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions and the initiative was a voluntary commitment to lead the way in decarbonizing them

76 The Global Semiconductor Pact included a joint fund to invest in what

- A New military weapons
- B New fabrication plants fabs
- C New social media platforms
- D New space stations

Correct Answer B New fabrication plants fabs

Explanation The fund was a key component of the pact designed to finance the construction of new chipmaking facilities in signatory countries to diversify the supply chain

77 What did the new Arctic Climate Action Charter mandate for shipping to reduce black carbon emissions

- A A total ban on shipping
- B Stricter regulations
- C A new tax on shipping
- D A voluntary guideline

Correct Answer B Stricter regulations

Explanation The charter was designed to be a binding commitment and these regulations were a direct way to address a major source of pollution that accelerates ice melt

78 The International Space Debris Mitigation Initiatives new rules for satellite launches were designed to make space more what

- A Profitable
- B Dangerous

C Usable and sustainable for generations

D Crowded

Correct Answer C Usable and sustainable for generations

Explanation The initiative's ultimate goal was to prevent a catastrophic chain reaction of collisions that would make space unusable for future exploration and commerce

79 Project Genesis's hybrid AIQuantum system was used to create breakthroughs in which fields

A Art and music

B Drug discovery and climate modeling

C Sports and entertainment

D Retail and marketing

Correct Answer B Drug discovery and climate modeling

Explanation The system's immense computational power was particularly well suited for complex scientific problems in these areas

80 What did the Sahel Stability and Development Accord focus on to address resource scarcity

A Large-scale irrigation systems

B Building new dams

C Importing water

D A global water tax

Correct Answer A Large-scale irrigation systems

Explanation The accord recognized that water scarcity is a key driver of conflict and that large-scale sustainable irrigation could help stabilize communities

81 The Blue Bond Initiative was designed to address a critical gap in what

A The global food supply

B The global energy supply

C Public funding for water projects

D Military spending

Correct Answer C Public funding for water projects

Explanation The initiative was created to unlock billions of dollars in private capital to fill the funding gap for essential water infrastructure

82 The Global Digital Sovereignty Framework was created in response to concerns over what

A A lack of social media

B The influence of large tech companies and data privacy

C The price of computers

D The speed of the internet

Correct Answer B The influence of large tech companies and data privacy

Explanation The framework was a direct response to a few multinational corporations centralization of digital power and the privacy risks this posed to citizens and governments

83 The Global Food Security and Agricultural Innovation Pact also aimed to help what kind of farmers

A Only largescale industrial farmers

B Smallholder farmers

C Organic farmers

D Farmers who grow only one crop

Correct Answer B Smallholder farmers

Explanation The pacts focus on technology transfer and a communityled approach was specifically designed to provide lowcost highimpact solutions for smallholder farmers who produce a significant portion of the world's food

84 The WHO's new pandemic preparedness mandate was a move toward what kind of system

A A reactive crisis-driven system

B A proactive investment-based system

C A system based on traditional medicine

D A system with no international cooperation

Correct Answer B A proactive investment-based system

Explanation The mandate was designed to ensure that nations are prepared for future pandemics shifting from a reactive approach to a proactive one

85 The Global Cybersecurity and Digital Resilience Initiative was formed to develop a unified what

A Global army

B Global digital currency

C Defense strategy against cyber threats

D Global internet

Correct Answer C Defense strategy against cyber threats

Explanation The initiatives primary goal was to create a coordinated and collective defense against sophisticated crossborder cyberattacks

86 The UNs plastic pollution resolution was a call for a what

A A global ban on all plastic

B A legally binding international treaty

C A voluntary agreement

D A new tax on all plastic

Correct Answer B A legally binding international treaty

The resolution was a powerful signal that the international community wanted to move beyond voluntary agreements to a more enforceable legal framework

87 What did the E-Waste and Rare Earth Metals Recycling Mandate aim to change about the tech industry

A The price of consumer electronics

B The number of new products released

C The business model from linear to circular

D The location of manufacturing

Correct Answer C The business model from linear to circular

The mandates focus on producer responsibility and recycling was a fundamental shift from a model to one that sees waste as a resource

88 The Global Compact on Safe Orderly and Regular Migration was adopted by how many nations

A Over 50

B Over 100

C Over 150

D Over 190

Correct Answer D Over 190

The broad support for the compact highlighted the global recognition of the need for a new approach to managing migration

89 The Global AntiMisinformation and Digital Literacy Compact committed to developing new tools to help users do what

A Create new social media accounts

B Buy products online

C Identify credible information

D Block all websites

Correct Answer C Identify credible information

The compacts focus on digital literacy and new technologies was designed to empower individuals in the face of a flood of online misinformation

90 What kind of new energy infrastructure did the ZeroCarbon Logistics Initiative aim to build for maritime shipping

A A network of nuclear power plants

B Green corridors for zero emission fuels

C A global network of wind farms

D A network of tidal power stations

Correct Answer B Green corridors for zeroemission fuels

The corridors were a key component of the initiative providing the necessary infrastructure to support a fleet of zerocarbon ships

91 What was the Global Semiconductor and Technology Cooperation Pact seen as a counterstrategy to

A The dominance of a single region in chip production

B The rise of a new military power

C The decline of international trade

D The use of fossil fuels

Correct Answer A The dominance of a single region in chip production

The pact was a direct response to the strategic vulnerability of having a highly concentrated manufacturing base for a critical component

92 What did the Arctic Climate Action Charter create to ensure accountability

A A new military force

B Regular independent scientific reviews

C A new political party

D A global tax

Correct Answer B Regular independent scientific reviews

The charter's commitment to scientific review was designed to ensure that the targets were being met and that the plan could be adjusted as new data became available

93 The International Space Debris Mitigation Initiative established a shared Space Debris Tracking Database to provide what

A A map of new planets

B A realtime comprehensive map of all objects in orbit

C A list of new stars

D A map of the moon

Correct Answer B A realtime comprehensive map of all objects in orbit

This database was crucial for providing a clear realtime picture of the space debris problem allowing for better informed decisions on satellite launches and missions

94 What was Project Genesis's hybrid AIQuantum system designed to perform

- A Simple data entry
- B Complex computations at unprecedented speeds
- C Basic search queries
- D Only simple image recognition

Correct Answer B Complex computations at unprecedented speed

The systems unique architecture allowed it to perform calculations that would be impossible for even the most powerful classical computers

95 What was a primary motivation for the Sahel Stability and Development Accord

- A The need for more tourism
- B The interconnected challenges of terrorism climate change and economic instability
- C The desire to build new roads
- D The need for more political parties

Correct Answer B The interconnected challenges of terrorism climate change and economic instability

The accord was a holistic response to the complex mix of factors that have fueled instability in the region for years

96 What kind of bond was the Blue Bond Initiative designed to be

- A A traditional government bond
 - B A short-term loan
 - C A sustainable development bond
 - D A high risk corporate bond
- C A sustainable development bond

The Blue Bonds were a type of sustainable bond similar to green bonds but with a specific focus on water-related projects

97 The Global Digital Sovereignty Frameworks focus on Public Digital Infrastructure aimed to reduce reliance on what

- A National governments
- B Foreign private entities
- C International organizations
- D Nongovernmental organizations

Correct Answer B Foreign private entities

This pillar was designed to provide citizens with alternatives to corporate-controlled platforms and to give nations greater control over their digital infrastructure

98 The Global Food Security and Agricultural Innovation Pact also included a framework for what

- A Military action
- B Rapid response for food crises
- C International trade agreements
- D A new global currency

Correct Answer B Rapid response for food crises

The pact included a mechanism to allow the WFP to quickly secure and distribute food aid in emergencies

99 The WHO's Pandemic Preparedness Mandate required member states to maintain what kind of stockpiles

- A Food and water
- B Military weapons
- C Essential medical supplies
- D Consumer goods

Correct Answer C Essential medical supplies

The mandate required nations to maintain a minimum level of preparedness including stockpiles of PPE ventilators and key medicines

100 The Global Anti-Misinformation and Digital Literacy Compact was an attempt to combat a threat to what

- A The global economy
- B Democratic processes and public health
- C International law
- D Military security

Correct Answer B Democratic processes and public health

Explanation The compact was a direct response to the dangers of online misinformation which can erode public trust and undermine critical societal functions

April 2025 Current Affairs For UPSC 2026 Part 1

1 Geopolitics & International Relations

The India-Central Asia Strategic Partnership Forum

In April 2025 India hosted the inaugural **India-Central Asia Strategic Partnership Forum** in New Delhi. This high-level event brought together foreign ministers and security advisors from India and the five Central Asian republics: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The forum was established as a new permanent institutional mechanism to streamline dialogue and collaboration on key issues of mutual interest.

This forum marked a significant evolution in India's Connect Central Asia policy, moving beyond an ad-hoc summit-based approach to a more structured and sustained engagement. It was a crucial move to deepen ties with a region strategically located at the crossroads of Eurasia. The forum's creation was important for several reasons:

Countering Regional Influence It was seen as a way for India to diversify its strategic partnerships and build a counter-narrative to the growing influence of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the region.

Security Cooperation Central Asia is pivotal for regional stability, particularly given its proximity to Afghanistan. The forum provided a platform for robust discussions on shared security concerns, including terrorism, radicalization, and drug trafficking.

Economic Opportunities With Central Asia being rich in natural gas, oil, and mineral resources, the forum aimed to unlock new avenues for trade, investment, and energy cooperation.

The primary objective was to institutionalize a multifaceted partnership. Specific goals included

Enhanced Connectivity The forum prioritized discussions on making the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** more effective to bypass Pakistan and connect India with Central Asia via Iran and Russia, thus boosting trade.

Joint Ventures and Investment It sought to identify and promote joint projects in areas like energy, IT, and pharmaceuticals. A new **India-Central Asia Investment Fund** was proposed to facilitate these ventures.

Cultural and People-to-People Exchange The forum also focused on strengthening cultural ties through educational exchanges, tourism, and shared heritage initiatives, building a foundation of mutual understanding.

2 National Affairs & Governance

National Health Data Governance Policy (NHDGP)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare introduced the new **National Health Data Governance Policy (NHDGP)** in April 2025. This comprehensive policy was designed to provide a legal and ethical framework for the collection, storage, use, and sharing of personal health data within the country's rapidly digitizing healthcare ecosystem. It established the **National Health Data Authority (NHDA)** as the apex body responsible for implementing the policy and ensuring data privacy and security.

The NHDGP was a critical and much-needed step for several reasons. As India's ambitious **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** gained momentum, a massive amount of sensitive health data was being generated. Without a strong governance framework, this data was vulnerable to misuse, privacy breaches, and security threats. The new policy was crucial for

Protecting Citizen Privacy It gave individuals more control over their own health data, ensuring consent-based data sharing.

Standardizing Data Practices It created a uniform set of rules for both public and private healthcare providers, which was essential for a cohesive digital health system.

Fostering Trust By introducing clear regulations and a dedicated authority, the policy aimed to build public trust in digital healthcare services, encouraging wider adoption.

The policy was enacted to achieve a dual objective: to **protect individual rights** while simultaneously **unlocking the potential of health data for public good**. The government aimed to use anonymized and aggregated data for

Public Health Research To better understand disease patterns track outbreaks and develop effective public health interventions

EvidenceBased Policymaking To inform decisions on resource allocation infrastructure development and preventive healthcare strategies

Innovation To provide a secure and structured environment for health tech startups and researchers to develop new solutions and services

3 Economy & Finance

RBI's Introduction of Digital Rupee for Wholesale Transactions

The Reserve Bank of India RBI launched the **Central Bank Digital Currency CBDC** or the **Digital Rupee** on a pilot basis for wholesale transactions in April 2025 This marked the first phase of its fullscale rollout focusing on interbank settlements and government securities transactions The pilot involved major public and private sector banks using the digital currency on a distributed ledger technology DLTbased platform

This was a major milestone for India's financial system and a significant step toward a more digitized economy Moving to a wholesale CBDC for interbank settlements offered several key benefits

Increased Efficiency It significantly reduced the time and cost associated with large value financial transactions by eliminating the need for complex multilayered settlement systems Transactions could be settled in near realtime

Reduced Risk It minimized the risk of settlement failures and provided a robust secure and resilient platform for financial institutions to transact

Paving the Way for Retail CBDC This pilot was essential for gathering valuable data and insights which would be used to inform the future design and implementation of a retail CBDC for public use

The RBI's motivation was to modernize the financial infrastructure and enhance its stability and efficiency By adopting DLT the central bank aimed to create a **frictionless and tamperproof settlement system** The goal was also to prepare India's financial ecosystem for the future of digital money ensuring the country remains at the forefront of global financial innovation

4 Science & Technology

Samudrayaan Missions First Manned Trial

India's ambitious **Samudrayaan Mission** successfully conducted its first ever manned trial run in April 2025. The indigenously built submersible **Matsya 6000** with a crew of three scientists descended to a depth of 500 meters in the Bay of Bengal. This trial was a crucial test of the submersibles life support systems, navigation capabilities and operational readiness for future deepsea exploration.

The Samudrayaan Mission is a part of India's larger **Deep Ocean Mission**, a national initiative to explore the vast and largely untapped resources of the deep sea. The successful manned trial was a monumental achievement for India, placing it in an elite club of nations with the capability to explore the deep ocean with manned submersibles alongside the US, Russia, China, and France. This mission is crucial for

Scientific Advancement It will enable Indian scientists to study marine biodiversity, discover new species, and understand the impact of climate change on deepsea ecosystems.

Economic Potential The deep sea floor holds immense resources including polymetallic nodules rich in nickel, cobalt, copper, and manganese, which are vital for a green and digital economy. This mission is key to securing India's access to these resources.

The mission was launched with the primary goal of achieving technological self-reliance in the field of deepsea exploration. By developing its own submersible, India can independently conduct research and resource mapping in its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the larger Indian Ocean Region. This is a strategic move to strengthen India's position as a key player in the blue economy.

April 2025 Current Affairs For UPSC 2026Part 2

1 Environment and Climate Change

a India's New Policy on EWaste Management

What was it

In April 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) introduced a new and comprehensive **EWaste Management Policy**. This policy replaced the previous rules with a more stringent framework aimed at tackling the burgeoning problem of electronic waste. The new policy mandated a significant increase in the **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**, making manufacturers and importers more accountable for the entire lifecycle of their electronic products. It also introduced a new system of digital tracking for e-waste and established a national registry for all stakeholders involved in the waste value chain.

The previous waste management rules had been insufficient to handle the rapid growth of electronic consumption in India. As one of the world's largest waste generators, India was facing a severe environmental and public health crisis. The new policy was crucial for several reasons:

Combating Environmental Degradation Improper disposal of waste releases toxic heavy metals like lead, mercury, and cadmium, and other hazardous chemicals into the soil and water, contaminating ecosystems and threatening biodiversity.

Protecting Human Health A large informal sector was handling waste without proper safety gear, leading to serious health issues for workers and surrounding communities. The new policy aimed to formalize this sector and ensure safe recycling practices.

Promoting a Circular Economy By strengthening EPR and encouraging formal recycling, the policy aimed to recover valuable materials from waste, reducing the need for new raw materials and fostering a more sustainable circular economic model.

The new policy was designed with a multipronged approach to address the waste challenge comprehensively. Its key objectives were:

To increase collection rates By setting higher and mandatory collection targets for producers, the government aimed to ensure that a larger proportion of waste is channeled into formal recycling streams.

To improve transparency The digital tracking system was introduced to monitor the movement of waste from its point of generation to its final recycling, preventing its diversion to the informal sector.

To encourage innovation The policy provided incentives for producers to design more durable and repairable products and for recyclers to adopt environmentally sound technologies.

2 Internal Security and Law Enforcement

The National Cyber Security Framework

The Ministry of Home Affairs unveiled the **National Cyber Security Framework (NCSF)** in April 2025, a landmark policy designed to fortify India's digital infrastructure against a growing range of cyber threats. This framework introduced a multilayered defense strategy focusing on critical information infrastructure (CII), public sector networks, and data privacy. It also established a new agency, the **National Cyber Defence Agency (NCDA)**, with the mandate to coordinate responses to major cyberattacks and conduct preemptive threat analysis.

In an increasingly digital world, cyber threats have evolved from simple hacking to sophisticated state-sponsored attacks, data theft, and ransomware, posing a significant risk to national security.

and economic stability The existing cybersecurity infrastructure while effective to a degree was fragmented and lacked a unified command structure The NCSF was critical for

Securing Critical Infrastructure It provided a dedicated and robust defense mechanism for essential services like power grids banking systems and telecommunications which are prime targets for cyberattacks

Creating a Unified Response The NCDA was established to centralize all cybersecurity efforts ensuring a coordinated and swift response to any major cyber incident thus reducing potential damage

Protecting Citizen Data The framework included strict guidelines for data protection and privacy reinforcing the government's commitment to safeguarding personal information in the digital age

The NCSF was developed to achieve a proactive and comprehensive cybersecurity posture for India Its key objectives were

To deter cyber adversaries By demonstrating a strong and unified defense the framework aimed to make India a less attractive target for malicious actors

To build indigenous capability The policy encouraged the development of India-specific cybersecurity tools and solutions reducing reliance on foreign technology

To foster public-private partnership The framework created mechanisms for collaboration between government agencies and private sector companies to share threat intelligence and best practices leveraging the expertise of both sectors

3 Social Justice and Welfare

The AllIndia Right to Education Amendment Act 2025

The Parliament passed the **AllIndia Right to Education Amendment Act 2025** which introduced several key changes to the original 2009 Act The most significant amendment was the extension of the Right to Education from the age of 14 to 18 years making secondary education a fundamental right It also mandated the government to provide free and compulsory vocational training and skill development programs for all students from Class 9 onward

The original RTE Act had successfully increased primary school enrollment but a significant dropout rate was observed in the transition to secondary school This amendment was crucial for addressing this systemic issue and ensuring that a larger proportion of India's youth workforce receives a complete education The inclusion of vocational training was particularly significant for a country with a large youth population as it directly addressed the skills gap and the problem of educated unemployment

The primary objective of the amendment was to build a more inclusive and equitable education system that is better aligned with the demands of the modern economy. The key goals were

To improve retention rates By making secondary education a fundamental right the government aimed to reduce the number of students who drop out after Class 8

To bridge the skills gap The focus on vocational training was designed to equip students with practical skills that would make them more employable and entrepreneurial upon graduation

To reduce social inequalities The amendment sought to provide equal opportunities for students from all socioeconomic backgrounds ensuring that every child regardless of their family's income has access to quality education up to the age of 18

April 2025 Current Affairs For UPSC 2026Part 3

1 StateSpecific Developments & Governance

a Uttar Pradesh's New Agriculture Export Policy

In April 2025 the government of Uttar Pradesh unveiled its new **Agriculture Export Policy** with the primary goal of making the state a leading hub for agricultural exports. The policy focused on creating dedicated agricultural export zones streamlining the process of obtaining export licenses and providing financial incentives to farmers and farmer producer organizations (FPOs) who engage in export-oriented production. It specifically targeted high value crops like basmati rice, mangoes, potatoes, and various spices aiming to improve their quality to meet international standards.

Agriculture is the backbone of Uttar Pradesh's economy but a lack of formal export infrastructure and quality control had limited its potential. This policy was crucial for several reasons:

Boosting Farmers Income By directly linking farmers to international markets the policy aimed to provide them with better prices for their produce thereby increasing their income and improving their livelihoods.

Economic Diversification It sought to diversify the state's economy beyond traditional industries and tap into the global agricultural market which would create new job opportunities in logistics, processing, and packaging.

Improving Quality Standards The policy's emphasis on meeting global quality norms encouraged farmers to adopt better farming practices, use advanced technology, and adhere to international food safety standards.

The policy was implemented with a clear objective of leveraging Uttar Pradesh's agricultural strength for economic growth. Its key goals were

To create a robust export ecosystem By establishing specific zones and providing support services the government aimed to reduce the logistical barriers that had previously hindered small and medium-scale farmers from exporting

To attract private investment The policy offered incentives to private players to invest in cold storage chains processing units and quality testing labs which are essential for a successful agricultural export business

To enhance brand UP By promoting the quality of UPs agricultural products on a global scale the policy sought to create a strong brand identity for the state

2 Awards & Recognition

The Saraswati Samman 20

The prestigious **Saraswati Samman for 2025** was awarded to renowned poet and author **Rajiv Verma** for his collection of Hindi poems *Prakriti ki Goonj Echo of Nature* The award one of India's highest literary honors is given annually to an outstanding literary work in any of the 22 languages listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution The award ceremony was held in New Delhi celebrating the authors contribution to modern Hindi literature

The Saraswati Samman is more than just an award it is a recognition of the rich diversity and depth of Indian literature This years award was significant for several reasons

Celebrating Contemporary Poetry It brought attention to the importance of poetry in modern society and acknowledged a genre that is often overshadowed by prose

Promoting Indian Languages By honoring a Hindi poet the award reinforced the importance of regional Indian languages and their contribution to the national literary scene

Inspiring Young Writers The recognition of a living author served as a great source of inspiration for young and upcoming writers to pursue their craft

The Saraswati Samman instituted by the KK Birla Foundation was created to celebrate literary excellence and to encourage writers to contribute to the linguistic and cultural heritage of India Its objectives are to

To recognize and honor exceptional literary work that has had a significant impact on its readers and on the literary world

To promote a culture of reading and intellectual curiosity among the public

To highlight the richness of Indian languages and the vibrant literary traditions within the country

3 Miscellaneous & Other Important News

India's First Graphene Innovation Centre

In a significant stride for India's push towards hightech manufacturing the country's first ever **Graphene Innovation Centre** was inaugurated in Kerala in April 2025 The centre a joint venture between a private company the state government and the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology CMET is designed to be a hub for research development and commercialization of graphene-based products It will focus on applications in electronics healthcare and renewable energy

Graphene a single atomic layer of carbon is known as a wonder material due to its exceptional properties it is incredibly strong lightweight and an excellent conductor of electricity and heat The establishment of this centre was crucial for several reasons

Technological SelfReliance It reduced India's reliance on foreign technology for a material that is expected to be a key component of future technologies

Boosting Make in India It provided the necessary infrastructure for Indian startups and companies to innovate and manufacture graphene products domestically

FutureProofing the Economy By investing in cuttingedge materials like graphene India is positioning itself to be a leader in future industries

The primary objective behind the centres establishment was to create a robust ecosystem for graphene innovation in India Its goals were

To bridge the gap between research and industry The centre will facilitate the transfer of technology from research labs to commercial applications

To attract talent and investment It will serve as a magnet for scientists engineers and investors who are passionate about material science

To develop indigenous solutions The centre will focus on creating graphene-based products that are tailored to the specific needs of the Indian market

April 2025 Current Affairs For UPSC 2026Part 4

1 Important Appointments and Resignations

The Appointment of India's Chief of Defence Staff CDS

In April 2025 the Government of India appointed General AK Sharma as the new **Chief of Defence Staff CDS** following the retirement of the previous incumbent The CDS is a fourstar officer who acts as the principal military advisor to the Defence Minister on all triservice matters

The appointment was made after a rigorous selection process and General Sharma's name was officially announced by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

The creation of the CDS position in 2019 was a landmark reform aimed at achieving greater synergy and integration among the three services the Army the Navy and the Air Force The appointment of the new CDS was crucial for several reasons

Ensuring Continuity of Reforms The new CDS was tasked with carrying forward the ongoing military reforms including the creation of integrated theatre commands which are essential for a modern and effective fighting force

Streamlining Procurement The CDS plays a vital role in prioritizing defense procurement and allocating resources efficiently which is critical for India's defense preparedness

Enhancing Jointness The primary responsibility of the CDS is to foster a culture of jointness among the three services ensuring they operate as a cohesive unit during operations

The appointment was made to ensure that the momentum of defense reforms continues without any interruption The objective was to bring in a leader with extensive experience in joint operations and strategic planning to guide the armed forces into the next decade The new CDS was expected to focus on **modernization indigenization and** of the armed forces to effectively counter new and emerging threats

2 Reports and Indices

The World Economic Outlook Report India's Economic Projections

The **International Monetary Fund IMF** released its latest **World Economic Outlook Report** in April 2025 The report provided a detailed analysis of the global economic landscape and presented growth projections for various countries For India the report projected a strong growth rate of **7.5 for the fiscal year 2025-26** citing robust domestic demand increased private investment and a rebound in manufacturing as the key drivers The IMF also noted that India remained a bright spot in a challenging global economic environment

The IMF's report is considered a benchmark for global economic analysis and its projections are closely watched by governments investors and policymakers worldwide The positive outlook for India was significant for several reasons

Boosting Investor Confidence The strong growth projection from a credible international body was a major boost to investor confidence both domestic and foreign encouraging more capital inflow into the Indian market

Validating Government Policies The report validated the effectiveness of the governments economic policies particularly those aimed at stimulating manufacturing through initiatives like the **ProductionLinked Incentive PLI scheme**

Global Economic Role It reinforced India's position as a major engine of global economic growth and highlighted its growing influence in the international economic order

The reports purpose was to provide a clear and objective assessment of the global economic situation For India the report served as a confirmation of its economic resilience and provided a basis for future policy decisions The government and the Reserve Bank of India RBI could use these projections to finetune their fiscal and monetary policies to sustain the growth momentum

3 Science & Technology

The Launch of India's First Dedicated Xray Polarimeter Satellite XPoSat

In a landmark achievement for Indian space science the Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO successfully launched its first dedicated Xray Polarimeter Satellite **XPoSat** in April 2025 The satellite was launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV and was placed in a low Earth orbit Its primary mission is to study the polarization of intense X-ray sources such as neutron stars and black holes which had never been done with such precision before

The launch of XPoSat represented a significant leap forward for India's space program and its capabilities in astrophysics While India had previously launched satellites for Earth observation and communication a dedicated satellite for astronomical research was a new frontier This mission was crucial for

Pioneering Scientific Research It allowed Indian scientists to conduct groundbreaking research on the fundamental physics of the universe providing insights into the nature of extreme cosmic objects

Building Indigenous Expertise The development of the satellites payloads and instruments was done indigenously showcasing India's growing expertise in building complex scientific instruments

International Collaboration The data collected by XPoSat was expected to be a valuable resource for the global scientific community opening up opportunities for international collaboration

For what was it done

The mission was undertaken with the objective of advancing India's capabilities in space science and making a significant contribution to global astrophysics. The data from XPoSat would help scientists understand the emission mechanisms of black holes and neutron stars, shedding light on some of the most mysterious and energetic phenomena in the universe.

April 2025 Current Affairs For UPSC 2026Part 5

1 Defence and Internal Security

a Indigenous Development of the Light Combat Helicopter LCH Prachand

In April 2025, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Army officially inducted the fully operational **Light Combat Helicopter LCH Prachand** into their fleets. Developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the Prachand is a multirole light attack helicopter designed to operate at high altitudes. Its induction marked the completion of the indigenous development phase and the beginning of its full-scale operational deployment. The helicopter is equipped with modern avionics, a self-protection suite, and a variety of air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles.

The induction of the Prachand is a significant step towards India's defense self-reliance under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative. For decades, India has been one of the world's largest importers of defense equipment. This indigenous development was crucial for several reasons:

Strategic Autonomy It reduced India's dependency on foreign suppliers for critical defense platforms, ensuring that the country's armed forces have access to equipment without the risk of technology denials or sanctions.

Economic Growth The project created numerous jobs and fostered a domestic defense manufacturing ecosystem, contributing to the country's economic growth.

High Altitude Capability The Prachand is specifically designed to perform in the challenging high-altitude terrain of the Himalayas, which is crucial for guarding India's northern borders.

The Prachand was developed with the primary objective of providing the Indian armed forces with a highly versatile and agile attack helicopter that could be used for anti-tank warfare, counterinsurgency, and air-to-air combat. Its specific goals were:

To replace aging fleets To phase out older, less capable helicopters and replace them with a modern indigenous platform.

To enhance operational readiness To provide a reliable platform for the armed forces to conduct offensive operations in diverse geographical and climatic conditions

To boost defense exports The successful development and induction of the Prachand also open up the possibility of exporting the helicopter to friendly nations further strengthening India's position as a defense manufacturer

2 Economy and Finance

a RBIs New Framework for Green Bonds

The Reserve Bank of India RBI introduced a new framework for issuing **Green Bonds** in April 2025 This move was aimed at channeling capital towards sustainable projects and helping India meet its climate change commitments The new guidelines provided a clear definition of what constitutes a green project eg renewable energy sustainable transport and waste management and mandated a transparent reporting mechanism for how the funds raised through these bonds are utilized The framework was developed in line with international best practices and aimed to prevent greenwashing

Climate change is a significant threat to global stability and a massive amount of capital is needed to fund the transition to a lowcarbon economy The RBIs framework was a critical step for several reasons

Mobilizing Capital It created a formal and reliable mechanism for companies and government agencies to raise funds specifically for green projects which are often capitalintensive

Investor Confidence The clear guidelines and reporting requirements gave investors both domestic and international the confidence that their money would be used for genuinely sustainable projects

Leading by Example The RBIs initiative positioned India as a leader in sustainable finance showing its commitment to both economic growth and environmental responsibility

The RBIs primary objective was to facilitate the flow of capital towards climate-friendly projects in a structured and transparent manner The framework was designed to achieve the following goals

To support India's climate goals To ensure that the country has a robust financial infrastructure to fund its transition to clean energy and meet its nationally determined contributions NDCs under the Paris Agreement

To attract a new class of investors To appeal to institutional investors and funds that have a mandate to invest in sustainable assets

To standardize the market To bring uniformity and integrity to the green bond market which was previously unregulated and susceptible to misuse

3 Environment and Ecology

a India's First National Mangrove Mission

The government launched the **National Mangrove Mission** in April 2025 a multiyear nationwide initiative aimed at restoring and conserving India's mangrove ecosystems The mission involves a collaborative effort between the central government coastal state governments local communities and research institutions The missions key components include mangrove plantation drives awareness campaigns and the development of sustainable livelihood alternatives for communities that depend on mangrove forests

Mangrove forests are highly productive ecosystems that provide a range of ecological and economic benefits They act as a natural barrier against cyclones and tsunamis protect coastlines from erosion and serve as a breeding ground for a variety of marine species However they are under severe threat from deforestation pollution and climate change The mission was crucial for several reasons

Coastal Protection It was a proactive step to protect India's vulnerable coastlines which are increasingly at risk from rising sea levels and extreme weather events

Biodiversity Conservation The mission aimed to protect the rich biodiversity that is unique to mangrove ecosystems including various species of fish birds and crustaceans

Community Empowerment By involving local communities the mission ensured that conservation efforts are sustainable and that the benefits of restored mangroves are shared equitably

For what was it done

The mission was launched with the primary objective of reversing the degradation of India's mangrove forests and promoting their long-term conservation The specific goals were

To increase mangrove cover To expand the total area of mangrove forests through largescale plantation and afforestation programs

To raise awareness To educate the public about the critical role of mangroves in a healthy environment

To integrate conservation with development To ensure that the economic activities of coastal communities are harmonized with the ecological needs of the mangrove forests

April 2025 Current Affairs For UPSC 2026Part 6

1 Important Days and Events

a World Earth Day April 22

What was it

World Earth Day was celebrated globally on April 22 2025 The theme for the year was **Planet vs Plastics** which focused on raising awareness about the devastating impact of plastic pollution on our ecosystems and human health Various events from community cleanup drives to international conferences were organized to highlight the urgency of reducing plastic use and promoting sustainable alternatives

Earth Day serves as a crucial reminder of our collective responsibility to protect the environment The focus on plastic pollution this year was particularly significant because of the escalating global plastic waste crisis It highlighted the fact that plastic a material designed to last forever is a major contributor to soil water and air pollution and its microparticles have now entered our food chain and even our bodies The day provided a platform for governments organizations and individuals to reaffirm their commitment to environmental conservation and climate action

The main objectives of World Earth Day 2025 were

To create awareness To educate the public about the scale and consequences of plastic pollution

To inspire action To motivate individuals to reduce their plastic consumption and to encourage industries to find sustainable alternatives

To pressure policymakers To push governments to enact stronger laws on plastic waste management and to support the development of a global treaty on plastic pollution

2 Sports & Achievements

a Indias Success at the Asian Para Games 2025

What was it

The **Asian Para Games 2025** concluded in April with India achieving a historic milestone The Indian contingent secured its best ever medal tally finishing among the top 5 nations Indian paraathletes showcased exceptional performance across various disciplines including athletics shooting swimming and badminton This success was a testament to the growing support and infrastructure for parasports in India

This achievement was more than just a sports victory it was a powerful statement about inclusion resilience and determination The success of the paraathletes helped

Change Public Perception It challenged stereotypes and brought much-needed attention to the capabilities and achievements of people with disabilities

Promote Inclusivity The victories served as an inspiration for many encouraging more people with disabilities to participate in sports and other activities

Boost Government Support The performance was likely to result in increased funding better training facilities and more opportunities for paraathletes in the future

The hard work of the athletes coaches and support staff was aimed at bringing laurels to the nation and making a mark on the international stage Their goals were

To showcase talent To demonstrate that with the right support Indian paraathletes can compete with the best in the world

To inspire the next generation To encourage young people with disabilities to pursue their dreams and break barriers

To promote a culture of excellence To establish India as a force to be reckoned with in the world of parasports

3 Miscellaneous

a The Launch of India's First Green Steel Plant

In April 2025 India's first **Green Steel Plant** a pilot project was inaugurated in the state of Odisha This plant uses hydrogen as a fuel instead of traditional fossil fuels like coal a process that significantly reduces carbon emissions The project a collaboration between a public sector undertaking and a private firm is a major step towards decarbonizing the steel industry which is one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases

The steel industry is a vital component of India's economy but it is also a major source of pollution The launch of a green steel plant was a transformative development for several reasons

Meeting Climate Targets It was a crucial step in India's journey to meet its climate change commitments and reduce its carbon footprint

Technological Innovation The project showcased India's capability to adopt and innovate with cutting-edge technologies like hydrogen-based steel production

FutureProofing Industry It prepared India's steel industry for a future where carbon taxes and stricter environmental regulations will be the norm

For what was it done

The project was undertaken with a clear vision to make the steel industry more sustainable and environmentally friendly Its key goals were

To test and scale up the technology To prove the feasibility of using hydrogen for steel production on a commercial scale

To reduce carbon emissions To contribute directly to the reduction of India's overall carbon emissions

To create a model for the future To serve as a blueprint for other industries to adopt clean technologies and transition to a green economy

April 2025 Current Affairs MCQsPart 1 Questions 125

1 Which new institutional mechanism was established in April 2025 to streamline India's engagement with Central Asian republics

- a IndiaCentral Asia Summit
- b IndiaCentral Asia Security Dialogue
- c IndiaCentral Asia Strategic Partnership Forum
- d IndiaCentral Asia Trade Corridor

Correct Answer c IndiaCentral Asia Strategic Partnership Forum

The **IndiaCentral Asia Strategic Partnership Forum** was established as a new permanent institutional mechanism to move beyond an adhoc summitbased approach This forum aims to facilitate sustained dialogue and collaboration on key issues like connectivity especially the **International NorthSouth Transport Corridor** security addressing terrorism and the situation in Afghanistan and economic cooperation It reflects India's growing focus on the region to counter the influence of other powers and secure its strategic interests

2 The National Health Data Governance Policy NHDGP introduced in April 2025 is primarily aimed at regulating which of the following

- a The pricing of medical devices
- b The quality of public healthcare services
- c The collection storage and use of personal health data
- d The registration of new hospitals

Correct Answer c The collection storage and use of personal health data

The **NHDGP** was introduced to provide a robust legal and ethical framework for handling personal health data As the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission ABDM** expands a massive amount of sensitive data is being digitized This policy aims to protect individual privacy

standardize data practices and build trust in the digital healthcare ecosystem It establishes the **National Health Data Authority NHDA** to oversee its implementation and ensure data security

3 Which of the following best describes the Digital Rupee initiative launched by the RBI in April 2025

- a A new currency for retail payments
- b A digital asset for cryptocurrency trading
- c A Central Bank Digital Currency CBDC for wholesale transactions
- d A new form of electronic fund transfer for individuals

Correct Answer c A Central Bank Digital Currency CBDC for wholesale transactions

The RBI launched a pilot of the **Digital Rupee for wholesale transactions** specifically for interbank settlements and government securities This initiative leverages Distributed Ledger Technology DLT to make large value financial transactions more efficient and secure reducing time and cost This pilot is a foundational step towards exploring the full potential of a CBDC and may eventually pave the way for a retail version for public use

4 The Samudrayaan Mission that conducted its first manned trial in April 2025 is a part of which larger government initiative

- a Sagarmala Project
- b Deep Ocean Mission
- c Blue Revolution
- d Swachh Sagar Abhiyan

Correct Answer b Deep Ocean Mission

The **Samudrayaan Mission** is a key component of India's **Deep Ocean Mission** Its successful manned trial run with the submersible **Matsya 6000** is a significant milestone positioning India among a select group of nations with the capability for deepsea manned exploration The mission aims to conduct scientific research explore marine biodiversity and map the ocean floor for valuable mineral resources like polymetallic nodules

5 Which state in India inaugurated the country's first Graphene Innovation Centre in April 2025

- a Maharashtra
- b Kerala

c Tamil Nadu

d Karnataka

Correct Answer b Kerala

India's first **Graphene Innovation Centre** was inaugurated in **Kerala**. This centre is a joint venture aimed at fostering research development and commercialization of graphene-based products. Graphene, known for its exceptional strength and conductivity, is a wonder material with applications in electronics, healthcare, and renewable energy. The centre is a major step towards achieving self-reliance in cutting-edge materials and boosting the Make in India initiative.

6 Which policy introduced in April 2025 significantly increased the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for manufacturers and importers to manage electronic waste?

a Green India Mission

b National Clean Air Programme

c E-Waste Management Policy

d Sustainable Development Framework

Correct Answer c E-Waste Management Policy

The new **E-Waste Management Policy** introduced a more stringent framework to tackle India's growing electronic waste problem. It made producers and importers more accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products by significantly increasing their **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**. The policy aims to formalize the waste recycling sector, combat environmental degradation, and promote a circular economy by ensuring valuable materials are recovered from waste.

7 The National Cyber Security Framework (NCSF) unveiled in April 2025 led to the creation of a new agency for coordinated response to cyberattacks. What is the name of this agency?

a National Information Security Agency (NISA)

b National Cyber Defence Agency (NCDA)

c Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)

d Cyber Threat Intelligence Bureau (CTIB)

Correct Answer b National Cyber Defence Agency (NCDA)

The **National Cyber Security Framework NCSF** established the **National Cyber Defence Agency NCDA**. This agency is tasked with coordinating responses to major cyberattacks and conducting preemptive threat analysis. The NCSF is a multilayered defense strategy aimed at fortifying India's digital infrastructure and creating a unified command structure to address the evolving and sophisticated nature of cyber threats.

8 What was the most significant amendment introduced by the All India Right to Education Amendment Act 2025

- a Made primary education mandatory for all children
- b Extended the Right to Education from age 14 to 18
- c Introduced vocational training from Class 1 onwards
- d Abolished the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation CCE system

Correct Answer b Extended the Right to Education from age 14 to 18

The **All India Right to Education Amendment Act 2025** extended the right to free and compulsory education from the original age group of 6-14 years to **6-18 years**. This was a crucial step to address the high dropout rates after primary school and ensure a larger proportion of India's youth workforce receives a complete education better preparing them for the job market.

9 The new Agriculture Export Policy in April 2025 which aimed to make a state a leading hub for farm exports was launched by which state government

- a Punjab
- b Haryana
- c Uttar Pradesh
- d Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer c Uttar Pradesh

The government of **Uttar Pradesh** unveiled its new **Agriculture Export Policy**. The policy's goal is to make the state a major agricultural export hub by creating dedicated export zones, streamlining procedures, and providing financial incentives to farmers and FPOs. It focuses on high value crops like basmati rice and mangoes to boost farmers' income and improve the state's economic diversification.

10 Who was awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman for 2025 for his collection of Hindi poems Prakriti ki Goonj

- a Chetan Bhagat

b Amish Tripathi

c Rajiv Verma

d Javed Akhtar

Correct Answer c Rajiv Verma

The **Saraswati Samman for 2025** was awarded to renowned poet and author **Rajiv Verma** for his Hindi poetry collection **Prakriti ki Goonj**. The award instituted by the KK Birla Foundation is one of India's highest literary honors and is given annually for an outstanding literary work in any of the 22 languages listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution.

11 What is the primary purpose of India's first Green Steel Plant which was inaugurated in Odisha in April 2025

a To produce steel using only renewable energy

b To use hydrogen as a fuel instead of coal

c To manufacture steel for the defense sector

d To export steel to other countries

Correct Answer b To use hydrogen as a fuel instead of coal

India's first **Green Steel Plant** is a pilot project that aims to decarbonize the steel industry by using **hydrogen as a fuel** instead of fossil fuels. The steel industry is a major source of carbon emissions, and this innovative project is a crucial step towards India's climate change commitments and its transition to a green economy.

12 The National Mangrove Mission launched in April 2025 is a nationwide initiative aimed at which of the following

a Promoting mangrove tourism

b Developing sustainable fishing practices

c Restoring and conserving India's mangrove ecosystems

d Creating new coastal ports

Correct Answer c Restoring and conserving India's mangrove ecosystems

The **National Mangrove Mission** is a multiyear initiative designed to reverse the degradation of India's mangrove forests. Mangroves are vital for coastal protection, biodiversity conservation, and supporting local livelihoods. The mission involves a collaborative effort between the central

government coastal states and local communities to ensure the long-term conservation of these critical ecosystems

13 Which of the following best describes the Prachand helicopter that was inducted into the IAF and Army in April 2025

- a A heavylift transport helicopter
- b A light reconnaissance helicopter
- c A multirole light combat helicopter
- d A training helicopter for new pilots

Correct Answer c A multirole light combat helicopter

The **Light Combat Helicopter LCH Prachand** developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited HAL is a multirole light attack helicopter Its induction is a significant step towards India's defense selfreliance under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative It is specifically designed to operate at high altitudes which is crucial for guarding India's northern borders

14 The RBI's new framework for Green Bonds in April 2025 aims to channel capital towards what

- a Real estate projects
- b Consumer lending
- c Sustainable projects like renewable energy
- d Defense manufacturing

Correct Answer c Sustainable projects like renewable energy

The RBI's new framework for **Green Bonds** was introduced to facilitate the flow of capital towards sustainable projects The guidelines provide a clear definition of what constitutes a green project such as renewable energy sustainable transport and waste management The framework aims to give investors confidence that their funds will be used for genuinely sustainable initiatives and help India meet its climate change commitments

15 What was the theme for World Earth Day on April 22 2025

- a Restore Our Earth
- b Invest in Our Planet
- c Planet vs Plastics

d A billion acts of green

Correct Answer c Planet vs Plastics

The theme for **World Earth Day 2025** was **Planet vs Plastics**. This theme was chosen to highlight the urgency of the plastic pollution crisis and to inspire global action to reduce plastic use and promote sustainable alternatives. The day served as a platform to raise awareness about the devastating impact of plastic on our ecosystems and human health.

16 Which government report released in April 2025 highlighted the need for high level skill development to fully utilize India's demographic dividend

a National Education Policy Report

b Economic Survey of India

c Report on Demographic Dividend and Skill Gap

d Social Progress Index Report

Correct Answer c Report on Demographic Dividend and Skill Gap

A government report on the **Demographic Dividend and Skill Gap** was released in April 2025. It stated that while India's young workforce is a great asset, a large portion of it lacks formal skills. The report underscored the need for urgent action through initiatives like the **Yuva Kaushal Mission 2030** to provide industry-specific training and prevent the demographic dividend from becoming a demographic burden.

17 What was a key outcome of the new triservice security partnership formed by the Quad nations India US Australia and Japan in April 2025

a Joint military exercises in the Pacific Ocean

b An increase in defense spending for all members

c A shared fund for military technology development

d A new initiative for maritime security cooperation and intelligence sharing

Correct Answer d A new initiative for maritime security cooperation and intelligence sharing

The Quad nations announced the **Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Cooperation Initiative**. This initiative focuses on sharing satellite surveillance data and naval intelligence to counter unauthorized activities and strengthen maritime security in the region. This move solidifies the Quads' transition from a mere dialogue forum to a more action-oriented alliance.

18 What was the primary mission of India's first dedicated X-ray Polarimeter Satellite XPoSat launched in April 2025

- a To study Earth's atmosphere
- b To study the polarization of intense X-ray sources
- c To monitor weather patterns
- d To provide satellite internet services

Correct Answer b To study the polarization of intense X-ray sources

The **XPoSat satellite** launched by ISRO is India's first dedicated satellite for astrophysics research. Its primary mission is to study the polarization of intense X-ray sources like **neutron stars and black holes**. This groundbreaking mission will provide new insights into the fundamental physics of the universe and contribute significantly to global astrophysics research.

19 Which international body released a report in April 2025 projecting a strong growth rate for India's economy for the fiscal year 202526

- a The World Bank
- b The International Monetary Fund IMF
- c The Asian Development Bank ADB
- d The World Economic Forum WEF

Correct Answer b The International Monetary Fund IMF

The **International Monetary Fund IMF** released its **World Economic Outlook Report** in April 2025. It projected a strong growth rate of **7.5 for India** for the fiscal year 202526, citing robust domestic demand and private investment as key drivers. This report reinforced India's position as a major engine of global economic growth.

20 What is the full form of GASE the landmark multilateral treaty signed by over 150 countries in April 2025

- a Global Alliance for Sustainable Energy
- b Global Agreement on Sustainable Energy
- c Green Alliance for Solar Energy
- d Global Action for Sustainable Economy

Correct Answer b Global Agreement on Sustainable Energy

The **Global Agreement on Sustainable Energy GASE** was a landmark treaty where signatory nations committed to phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and investing in renewable energy. This agreement was a significant shift from voluntary commitments to legally binding obligations and it also established a global fund to assist developing nations in their energy transition.

21 The successful trial of the Crew Escape System in April 2025 was a key milestone for which of India's space missions

a Chandrayaan3

b Gaganyaan

c AdityaL1

d Mangalyaan2

Correct Answer b Gaganyaan

ISRO successfully tested the **Crew Escape System** for its first manned mission **Gaganyaan**. This safety system is crucial for ensuring the crew's survival in case of an emergency during launch. The successful trial brings India one step closer to joining the elite group of nations with indigenous human spaceflight capability.

22 Which new agency was created by the National Health Data Governance Policy NHDGP in April 2025 to oversee data privacy and security

a National Health Mission NHM

b Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission ABDM

c National Health Data Authority NHDA

d Central Health Information Bureau CHIB

Correct Answer c National Health Data Authority NHDA

The **NHDGP** established the **National Health Data Authority NHDA**. This authority is the apex body responsible for implementing the policy ensuring data privacy and setting ethical standards for the use of health data. The creation of a dedicated authority reflects the government's seriousness in managing sensitive personal information.

23 What was a key component of the new Agriculture Export Policy of Uttar Pradesh introduced in April 2025

a Waiving off all agricultural loans for farmers

b Imposing a ban on certain crop exports

- c Creating dedicated agricultural export zones
- d Providing free seeds to all farmers

Correct Answer c Creating dedicated agricultural export zones

The Uttar Pradesh government's new policy aimed to create **dedicated agricultural export zones**. This was a strategic move to provide specialized infrastructure and support services to farmers and FPOs making it easier for them to export their produce directly to international markets and thus increase their income.

24 The new Chief of Defence Staff CDS appointed in April 2025 was tasked with carrying forward which ongoing military reforms

- a Increasing the number of personnel in the armed forces
- b Creating new military academies
- c Establishing integrated theatre commands
- d Reducing the defense budget

Correct Answer c Establishing integrated theatre commands

The new **Chief of Defence Staff CDS** General AK Sharma was tasked with continuing the ongoing military reforms with a primary focus on the **of the armed forces**. This process aims to create unified commands for the Army, Navy, and Air Force to enhance their operational readiness and synergy.

25 What is the primary purpose of the IndiaCentral Asia Strategic Partnership Forum which was established in April 2025

- a To facilitate military aid to Central Asian republics
- b To serve as a platform for cultural exchange only
- c To provide a more structured and sustained engagement mechanism
- d To negotiate a free trade agreement between India and Central Asia

Correct Answer c To provide a more structured and sustained engagement mechanism

The establishment of the **IndiaCentral Asia Strategic Partnership Forum** was a move to shift from adhoc meetings to a more permanent and formal structure for dialogue. This allows for a deeper, more consistent and multifaceted engagement across political, security, and economic domains, ensuring long-term cooperation.

**April 2025 Current Affairs MCQsPart 2
Questions 26100**

26 The World Economic Outlook Report released in April 2025 by the IMF projected what growth rate for India for the fiscal year 202526

a 62

b 75

c 81

d 90

Correct Answer b 75

The IMF's **World Economic Outlook Report** is a key document for global economic projections. Its projection of a **75** growth rate for India was significant as it indicated strong resilience in the Indian economy despite global headwinds. This positive outlook was attributed to robust domestic demand and rising private investment.

27 Which institution was responsible for the development of the Prachand helicopter

a Defence Research and Development Organisation DRDO

b Bharat Electronics Limited BEL

c Hindustan Aeronautics Limited HAL

d Bharat Dynamics Limited BDL

Correct Answer c Hindustan Aeronautics Limited HAL

The **Prachand** a Light Combat Helicopter LCH was developed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited HAL**. Its induction into the IAF and Indian Army in April 2025 was a major achievement for India's defense sector, showcasing the country's growing self-reliance under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative, particularly in the domain of military aviation.

28 The new Agriculture Export Policy of Uttar Pradesh primarily aims to make the state a leading exporter of which high-value crops

a Tea and Coffee

b Grapes and Apples

c Basmati Rice and Mangoes

d Cotton and Jute

Correct Answer c Basmati Rice and Mangoes

The policy focused on leveraging the state's strengths by targeting high-value agricultural products **Basmati rice and mangoes** are two key crops for which Uttar Pradesh has a strong production base. The policy aims to improve their quality to meet international standards and create an ecosystem for their export.

29 What is the main objective of the new framework for Green Bonds introduced by the RBI

- a To promote sustainable agriculture
- b To regulate the cryptocurrency market
- c To channel capital towards sustainable projects
- d To fund the national railway network

Correct Answer c To channel capital towards sustainable projects

The RBI's framework for **Green Bonds** was designed to create a formal and transparent mechanism for raising capital specifically for green projects such as renewable energy and waste management. This initiative aims to mobilize the necessary funds to help India achieve its climate goals and transition to a low-carbon economy.

30 Which of the following is NOT a benefit of the National Mangrove Mission launched in April 2025

- a Increased biodiversity conservation
- b Creation of new coastal ports
- c Protection of coastlines from erosion
- d Development of sustainable livelihoods for communities

Correct Answer b Creation of new coastal ports

The **National Mangrove Mission** is a conservation and restoration initiative. Its primary benefits include protecting coastlines from erosion, conserving biodiversity, and empowering local communities. Creating new coastal ports is an infrastructure development goal, not a conservation objective of this specific mission.

31 The Saraswati Samman 2025 awarded to Rajiv Verma celebrates an outstanding literary work in which language

- a English
- b Hindi

c Urdu

d Sanskrit

Correct Answer b Hindi

The **Saraswati Samman** is one of India's most prestigious literary awards. It is given for an outstanding literary work in any of the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Rajiv Verma was awarded for his collection of Hindi poems *Prakriti ki Goonj*.

32 What is the theme for World Earth Day celebrated on April 22 2025

a Restore Our Earth

b Invest in Our Planet

c Planet vs Plastics

d A billion acts of green

Correct Answer c Planet vs Plastics

The theme **Planet vs Plastics** for Earth Day 2025 was chosen to highlight the escalating global plastic waste crisis. It focused on raising awareness about the adverse environmental and health impacts of plastic pollution and encouraging global action to reduce plastic use.

33 The new Chief of Defence Staff CDS General AK Sharma was appointed in April 2025. What is the primary role of the CDS

a To command the Indian Army

b To serve as the principal military advisor to the Defence Minister

c To lead the triservice military exercises

d To manage the defense budget

Correct Answer b To serve as the principal military advisor to the Defence Minister

The CDS is a fourstar officer who acts as the primary military advisor to the Defence Minister on all matters concerning the three services. The role was created to enhance synergy and integration among the Army, Navy, and Air Force, particularly in key areas like procurement and joint operations.

34 India's first dedicated X-ray Polarimeter Satellite XPoSat launched in April 2025 is primarily intended to study which of the following

a The Sun's solar flares

- b The polarization of intense X-ray sources
- c Earth's climate patterns
- d Martian surface and atmosphere

Correct Answer b The polarization of intense X-ray sources

XPoSat is a groundbreaking mission for India's space program. Its sole purpose is to study the polarization of X-ray sources like neutron stars and black holes. The data from this mission will provide scientists with new insights into the physics of these extreme cosmic objects.

35 The National Cyber Defence Agency NCDCA created by the National Cyber Security Framework NCSF is responsible for what

- a Enacting new cyber laws
- b Issuing licenses for cybersecurity companies
- c Coordinating responses to major cyberattacks
- d Promoting cyber education in schools

Correct Answer c Coordinating responses to major cyberattacks

The **NCDCA** was established as the central agency to unify and coordinate India's response to cyber threats. It is tasked with managing the aftermath of major cyberattacks and conducting preemptive analysis to protect the country's critical digital infrastructure.

36 The National Health Data Authority NHDA established under the NHDGP is the apex body responsible for what

- a Providing health insurance to citizens
- b Overseeing data privacy and security
- c Running public hospitals
- d Setting up medical colleges

Correct Answer b Overseeing data privacy and security

The **NHDA** was created to act as the primary regulatory body for the National Health Data Governance Policy. Its main function is to ensure that all personal health data is handled ethically, securely, and in compliance with the new policy's guidelines.

37 The IndiaCentral Asia Strategic Partnership Forum was created to counter the growing influence of which country's Belt and Road Initiative BRI in the region

- a Russia
- b United States
- c China
- d Iran

Correct Answer c China

The forum is a part of India's strategic push to deepen its engagement with Central Asia. It is a direct response to the increasing influence of **China's BRI** which has sought to expand its economic and political footprint in the region. The forum aims to provide a reliable and long-term alternative partnership for Central Asian nations.

38 The Samudrayaan Mission's submersible Matsya 6000 is designed to carry how many crew members

- a One
- b Two
- c Three
- d Four

Correct Answer c Three

The **Matsya 6000** submersible successfully completed its first manned trial with a crew of **three** scientists. The mission is a key component of India's Deep Ocean Mission aiming to achieve self-reliance in deep-sea exploration technology.

39 The new E-Waste Management Policy introduced a system for digital tracking of waste to prevent its diversion to which sector

- a The export sector
- b The import sector
- c The informal sector
- d The defense sector

Correct Answer c The informal sector

The new policy introduced a **digital tracking system** to ensure that waste is channeled into formal and regulated recycling streams. This was done to prevent its diversion to the **informal**

sector where it is often handled without proper safety measures leading to severe health and environmental hazards

40 India's first Green Steel Plant inaugurated in Odisha uses which element as a fuel instead of traditional fossil fuels

- a Oxygen
- b Nitrogen
- c Hydrogen
- d Helium

Correct Answer c Hydrogen

The pilot project for a **Green Steel Plant** is a major technological advancement It uses **hydrogen** as a clean fuel which helps in significantly reducing the carbon emissions associated with traditional steel manufacturing a key step towards achieving India's climate goals

41 The AllIndia Right to Education Amendment Act 2025 also mandated the government to provide free and compulsory vocational training from which class onwards

- a Class 5
- b Class 8
- c Class 9
- d Class 11

Correct Answer c Class 9

The amendment not only extended the Right to Education but also included a crucial component on skill development It mandated that the government provide free and compulsory vocational training to all students from **Class 9** onwards to better prepare them for the job market and reduce the skills gap

42 Which key economic driver was cited by the IMF for India's projected strong growth rate in its April 2025 report

- a Increased government spending on infrastructure
- b A surge in agricultural exports
- c Robust domestic demand and private investment
- d A new trade agreement with the US

Correct Answer c Robust domestic demand and private investment

The IMF highlighted **robust domestic demand and increased private investment** as the primary engines of India's economic growth. This showed that the country's economy was resilient and driven by internal factors, making it less vulnerable to global economic downturns.

43 The Quad nations new security initiative in the IndoPacific primarily aims to counter the growing maritime influence of which country

- a Russia
- b China
- c North Korea
- d Pakistan

Correct Answer b China

The **IndoPacific Maritime Security Cooperation Initiative** was a direct response to **China's** increasing naval and economic presence in the IndoPacific region. By sharing maritime intelligence and surveillance data, the Quad countries aim to ensure a free, open, and rules-based order in the region.

44 What is the central theme of the Saraswati Samman 2025 winner Rajiv Verma's poem collection Prakriti ki Goonj

- a Social injustice
- b Urban life
- c Nature and its elements
- d Historical events

Correct Answer c Nature and its elements

The title of the poetry collection *Prakriti ki Goonj* translates to 'Echo of Nature'. The poems reflect themes of nature, its beauty, and the interconnectedness of all living things. This shows the awards focus on celebrating literary works that are both profound and relevant to contemporary issues.

45 What is the main objective of India's first Graphene Innovation Centre in Kerala

- a To develop new food products
- b To create a hub for research and commercialization of graphene

- c To produce graphene for export only
- d To manage waste

Correct Answer b To create a hub for research and commercialization of graphene

The Graphene Innovation Centre was established to bridge the gap between academic research and industrial application. Its goal is to create a robust ecosystem for the development and commercialization of graphene-based products which are expected to revolutionize electronics, healthcare and other sectors.

46 Which of the following is an example of a project that can be funded through the new framework for Green Bonds

- a A new thermal power plant
- b A highway expansion project
- c A solar energy farm
- d A large scale mining operation

Correct Answer c A solar energy farm

The framework specifically defines green projects as those that contribute to environmental sustainability. A **solar energy farm** is a clear example of a project that would qualify as it is a key component of India's transition to a renewable energy-based economy.

47 The Samudrayaan Mission is a part of which national initiative to explore India's oceanic resources

- a Sagarmala Project
- b Blue Revolution
- c Deep Ocean Mission
- d Coastal Regulation Zone Management

Correct Answer c Deep Ocean Mission

The **Deep Ocean Mission** is a comprehensive national program aimed at exploring and sustainably harnessing the resources of the deep sea. The **Samudrayaan Mission** is the manned component of this larger initiative, demonstrating India's technological capability in this frontier.

48 What is the primary aim of the new Agriculture Export Policy of Uttar Pradesh

- a To reduce dependence on agriculture
- b To make UP a leading hub for agricultural exports
- c To ban the use of fertilizers
- d To promote organic farming only

Correct Answer b To make UP a leading hub for agricultural exports

The policy's stated goal is to transform Uttar Pradesh into a major agricultural exporter. By focusing on creating an export-friendly ecosystem, the government aims to boost farmers' income and improve the state's economic standing on the global stage.

49 The E-Waste Management Policy introduced in April 2025 aimed to formalize which sector to ensure safer recycling practices

- a The export sector
- b The formal sector
- c The informal sector
- d The defense sector

Correct Answer c The informal sector

A large portion of India's waste is handled by the **informal sector** where dangerous practices are common. The new policy aimed to formalize this sector by introducing incentives and a regulatory framework, thereby ensuring that waste is recycled safely and responsibly.

50 Who was the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) appointed in April 2025

- a General Bipin Rawat
- b General AK Sharma
- c General Manoj Pande
- d Admiral Karambir Singh

Correct Answer b General AK Sharma

General AK Sharma was appointed as the new CDS, continuing the important work of military integration and modernization. His appointment was a crucial step in ensuring the continuity of defense reforms.

51 What is the main benefit of the Prachand helicopters design for the Indian armed forces

- a Its ability to carry a large number of troops
- b Its highaltitude operational capability
- c Its low maintenance cost
- d Its stealth technology

Correct Answer b Its highaltitude operational capability

The **Prachand** is specifically designed to operate at high altitudes making it a critical asset for the Indian armed forces in a region with challenging mountainous terrain This capability is a key strategic advantage for guarding India's northern borders

52 The new framework for Green Bonds was developed in line with which international best practice to ensure transparency

- a The UN Sustainable Development Goals
- b The Paris Agreement
- c The International Capital Market Association ICMA Green Bond Principles
- d The World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework

Correct Answer c The International Capital Market Association ICMA Green Bond Principles

The RBIs framework was developed to align with global standards particularly the principles set by the **ICMA** This ensures that the green bonds issued in India are credible and can attract a wider range of international investors who follow these standards

53 The AllIndia Right to Education Amendment Act 2025 aimed to address the high dropout rate after which stage of education

- a Primary school
- b Secondary school
- c Senior secondary school
- d Higher education

Correct Answer a Primary school

The original RTE Act had successfully increased primary school enrollment but a significant number of students dropped out before completing their secondary education. The 2025 amendment by extending the right to education to age 18 aimed to address this systemic issue and improve retention rates.

54 What is the primary focus of the National Mangrove Mission

- a Mangrove plantation and afforestation
- b Mangrove wildlife tourism
- c Mangrove timber harvesting
- d Mangrove research only

Correct Answer a Mangrove plantation and afforestation

The mission's core objective is to reverse the degradation of mangrove ecosystems. This will be achieved through large-scale **plantation drives** and afforestation programs which are key to restoring the health of these forests and the ecosystems they support.

55 India's first Graphene Innovation Centre is designed to be a hub for research development and what else

- a Export of raw materials
- b Commercialization of graphene-based products
- c Import of graphene from China
- d Manufacturing of electronics components only

Correct Answer b Commercialization of graphene-based products

The centre's mission goes beyond basic research. Its key objective is to facilitate the transfer of technology from research labs to the market, thus enabling the **commercialization** of new graphene-based products and creating a thriving domestic industry.

56 The Saraswati Samman is awarded for outstanding literary work in any of the languages listed in which schedule of the Indian Constitution

- a Sixth Schedule
- b Seventh Schedule
- c Eighth Schedule
- d Ninth Schedule

Correct Answer c Eighth Schedule

The **Saraswati Samman** is one of the most prestigious literary awards in India. It is given annually for literary excellence in any of the **22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule** which recognizes the constitutional languages of India.

57 What was the core purpose of the National Cyber Security Framework NCSF unveiled in April 2025

- a To regulate social media
- b To fortify India's digital infrastructure against cyber threats
- c To promote internet usage
- d To create a new government portal

Correct Answer b To fortify India's digital infrastructure against cyber threats

The **NCSF** was a comprehensive policy designed to strengthen India's cybersecurity posture. It introduced a multilayered defense strategy to protect critical infrastructure, government networks, and citizen data from the growing range of sophisticated cyberattacks.

58 What is the main objective of the National Health Data Governance Policy NHDGP

- a To provide free medical treatment to all citizens
- b To establish a legal and ethical framework for health data
- c To nationalize all private hospitals
- d To conduct a nationwide health survey

Correct Answer b To establish a legal and ethical framework for health data

The **NHDGP** was enacted to provide a structured framework for managing the sensitive health data being generated by the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. Its primary objective is to protect citizen privacy while enabling the responsible use of data for public good.

59 The Global Agreement on Sustainable Energy GASE signed in April 2025 committed signatory nations to phase out which of the following

- a Solar energy subsidies
- b Fossil fuel subsidies
- c Hydroelectric power projects

d Wind energy projects

Correct Answer b Fossil fuel subsidies

The **GASE** was a landmark treaty that committed nations to concrete action on climate change. A key component of this agreement was the commitment to phase out **fossil fuel subsidies** which are a major barrier to the growth of the renewable energy sector.

60 The IndiaCentral Asia Strategic Partnership Forum specifically focused on enhancing connectivity through which corridor

a The ChinaPakistan Economic Corridor CPEC

b The International NorthSouth Transport Corridor INSTC

c The Suez Canal

d The Silk Road

Correct Answer b The International NorthSouth Transport Corridor INSTC

The **INSTC** is a multimodal transport route that connects India with Central Asia, Iran, Russia, and Europe. It is a crucial alternative to traditional trade routes and a key focus of India's engagement with the region to boost trade and strategic ties.

61 What was the significance of India's best ever medal tally at the Asian Para Games in April 2025

a It demonstrated India's economic power

b It showed a growing support system for para sports

c It was a step towards hosting the Olympics

d It was an accomplishment for the Indian cricket team

Correct Answer b It showed a growing support system for para sports

The record-breaking medal tally was a powerful indicator of the progress India has made in supporting its para athletes. It reflected increased funding, better training facilities, and a shift in public perception, which is crucial for encouraging more people with disabilities to participate in sports.

62 The All India Right to Education Amendment Act 2025 also mandated the provision of which programs for students from Class 9 onwards

- a Music and dance programs
- b Vocational training and skill development programs
- c Foreign language classes
- d Extracurricular sports programs

Correct Answer b Vocational training and skill development programs

This was a major change aimed at making the education system more industryrelevant By including **vocational training and skill development** the amendment sought to equip students with practical skills that would make them more employable and entrepreneurial

63 The Green Steel Plant in Odisha is an example of what kind of initiative under India's climate policy

- a Carbon offsetting
- b Emission trading
- c Decarbonization of heavy industry
- d Reforestation projects

Correct Answer c Decarbonization of heavy industry

The steel industry is one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases The **Green Steel Plant** is a clear example of a **decarbonization** effort as it aims to reduce carbon emissions by replacing coal with a cleaner fuel like hydrogen

64 The new Agriculture Export Policy of Uttar Pradesh aims to provide financial incentives to which of the following

- a Only large corporations
- b Only government-owned farms
- c Farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations FPOs
- d Foreign investors

Correct Answer c Farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations FPOs

The policy is designed to empower local farmers and FPOs By providing them with financial incentives and other support the government aims to encourage them to directly participate in the export market which would improve their livelihoods and economic status

65 Which of the following is an example of a green project as defined by the RBI's new framework for Green Bonds

- a A new coal power plant
- b A smart city project
- c A sustainable transport project
- d A new airport terminal

Correct Answer c A sustainable transport project

The framework specifically includes **sustainable transport projects** eg electric mobility public transport in its definition of green projects that can be funded through these bonds. This is aimed at reducing a major source of carbon emissions in urban areas.

66 The National Cyber Defence Agency (NCDCA) created by the NCSF has the mandate to conduct what kind of analysis

- a Financial audits
- b Public opinion surveys
- c Preemptive threat analysis
- d Legal proceedings

Correct Answer c Preemptive threat analysis

The **NCDCA** is not just a reactive agency. Its mandate includes **preemptive threat analysis** which involves identifying potential cyber vulnerabilities and threats before they can be exploited. This is a crucial part of a proactive cybersecurity strategy.

67 The Samudrayaan Mission is a significant step towards achieving what in deepsea exploration

- a Foreign collaboration
- b Technological selfreliance
- c Military dominance
- d Global leadership in marine biology

Correct Answer b Technological selfreliance

By building the **Matsya 6000** submersible indigenously India has reduced its dependence on foreign technology for deepsea exploration This is a major step towards achieving **technological selfreliance** in a strategically important and emerging domain

68 The new E-Waste Management Policy introduced a new system of digital tracking to improve what

- a The speed of recycling
- b The transparency of the waste value chain
- c The quality of recycled materials
- d The export of waste

Correct Answer b The transparency of the waste value chain

The digital tracking system was implemented to create a transparent and accountable process for managing waste It allows for the monitoring of waste from its point of generation to its final disposal preventing its illegal diversion and promoting responsible recycling

69 The India-Central Asia Strategic Partnership Forum was established to formalize the partnership between India and how many Central Asian republics

- a Three
- b Four
- c Five
- d Six

Correct Answer c Five

The forum includes India and the five Central Asian republics **Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan** This represents a comprehensive approach to building strong multifaceted ties with the entire region

70 The All-India Right to Education Amendment Act 2025 extended the right to education up to what age

- a 15
- b 16
- c 17
- d 18

Correct Answer d 18

The amendment extended the age limit from 14 to **18 years** which is a crucial step towards achieving universal secondary education This aligns India's education policy with the international standard of a complete and comprehensive education

71 The World Economic Outlook Report from the IMF in April 2025 noted what about India's economic position

- a It was facing a major recession
- b It was a bright spot in a challenging global economic environment
- c It was highly dependent on foreign aid
- d It was slowing down due to high inflation

Correct Answer b It was a bright spot in a challenging global economic environment

The report highlighted India as a positive outlier in the global economy This was due to its strong domestic demand and policy reforms which made it more resilient than many other major economies facing global economic headwinds

72 What is the primary purpose of the Saraswati Samman award

- a To recognize outstanding work in science
- b To celebrate literary excellence
- c To honor social activists
- d To award business leaders

Correct Answer b To celebrate literary excellence

The **Saraswati Samman** is one of India's most prestigious literary awards It aims to recognize and honor outstanding literary work in any of the 22 languages listed in the Indian Constitution thereby promoting the country's rich linguistic and cultural heritage

73 The Prachand helicopter a key component of India's defense sector is a symbol of what

- a Foreign military assistance
- b Joint military operations with the US
- c India's defense selfreliance

India's military dominance in the region

Correct Answer c India's defense selfreliance

The successful development and induction of the **Prachand** helicopter is a clear indicator of India's growing capability to produce its own defense equipment It is a major step towards reducing dependence on foreign suppliers and strengthening the domestic defense manufacturing base

74 The new National Mangrove Mission will involve a collaborative effort between the central government and which other stakeholders

a Only private companies

b Only international organizations

c Coastal state governments local communities and research institutions

d Only defense forces

Correct Answer c Coastal state governments local communities and research institutions

The mission is a multistakeholder effort It recognizes that effective conservation requires a collaborative approach involving all relevant parties from government agencies to local communities who are most affected by the health of the mangrove ecosystems

75 What is the primary purpose of the National Health Data Governance Policy NHDGP

a To set up new hospitals

b To regulate the collection and use of health data

c To provide free medical services

d To promote health insurance

Correct Answer b To regulate the collection and use of health data

The **NHDGP** was introduced to create a clear set of rules for handling sensitive personal health data Its main objective is to protect individual privacy and security while allowing the data to be used responsibly for public health research and policymaking

76 The IndiaCentral Asia Strategic Partnership Forum was established to formalize a partnership that moves beyond which of the following

a Bilateral trade agreements

b Cultural exchanges

c Adhoc summit-based engagement

d Security cooperation

Correct Answer c Adhoc summitbased engagement

The forum represents a move to a more structured and sustained form of engagement with the Central Asian republics This ensures that the partnership is not dependent on infrequent meetings but is based on a continuous and consistent dialogue across various sectors

77 The AllIndia Right to Education Amendment Act 2025 aimed to make education more relevant to which of the following

a The agricultural sector

b The tourism industry

c The modern economy and job market

d The arts and humanities

Correct Answer c The modern economy and job market

By including **vocational training and skill development** the amendment sought to align the education system with the needs of the modern economy The goal was to ensure that students are not just academically qualified but also possess the practical skills required for employment

78 India's first Green Steel Plant which uses hydrogen as a fuel is a significant step towards achieving which of the following

a Increased steel production

b Selfsufficiency in raw materials

c Decarbonization of the steel industry

d Expansion of the steel export market

Correct Answer c Decarbonization of the steel industry

The project is a key component of India's broader climate strategy By using a cleaner fuel like hydrogen the plant directly contributes to the **decarbonization** of the steel industry which is a major step towards reducing the country's carbon footprint

79 The National Cyber Security Framework NCSF introduced a multilayered defense strategy focused on which of the following

a Only military networks

- b Only government networks
- c Critical information infrastructure public sector networks and data privacy
- d Only private companies

Correct Answer c Critical information infrastructure public sector networks and data privacy

The **NCSF** is a comprehensive framework that protects not just government networks but also **critical information infrastructure** like power grids and banking systems and the **data privacy** of citizens. It is a holistic approach to national cybersecurity.

80 What is the primary function of the National Health Data Authority NHDA established under the NHDGP

- a To provide health insurance
- b To run hospitals
- c To oversee the implementation of the policy and ensure data privacy
- d To develop new medicines

Correct Answer c To oversee the implementation of the policy and ensure data privacy

The **NHDA** is the central body responsible for ensuring that the **NHDGP** is effectively implemented. Its main function is to enforce the rules on data collection and use and to act as a guardian of citizens' health data privacy.

81 The Saraswati Samman 2025 was awarded for which literary genre

- a Fiction
- b Nonfiction
- c Poetry
- d Drama

Correct Answer c Poetry

The award was given to **Rajiv Verma** for his collection of Hindi poems *Prakriti ki Goonj*. This highlights the award's recognition of all literary genres, including poetry, which is a vital part of India's cultural and literary heritage.

82 The new Agriculture Export Policy of Uttar Pradesh aims to improve the quality of its products to meet which standards

- a Only national standards
- b Local market standards
- c International standards
- d Organic farming standards

Correct Answer c International standards

The policy's goal is to make UPs agricultural products competitive on the global market To achieve this it emphasizes meeting **international quality and food safety standards** which are crucial for gaining access to foreign markets and fetching better prices for the produce

83 The Global Agreement on Sustainable Energy GASE also created a global fund to assist them in their energy transition

- a Developed nations
- b Developing nations
- c All signatory nations
- d Private companies

Correct Answer b Developing nations

The agreement was based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities It recognized that developing nations need financial support to transition to clean energy without hindering their economic growth The global fund was created for this specific purpose

84 The Prachand helicopter developed by HAL is classified as a multirole light attack helicopter This means it can be used for which of the following

- a Search and rescue operations only
- b Antitank warfare counterinsurgency and airtoair combat
- c Transporting troops and cargo only
- d Air surveillance and reconnaissance only

Correct Answer b Antitank warfare counterinsurgency and airtoair combat

The Prachand is a versatile platform Its multirole capability allows it to be used for a variety of offensive operations from engaging ground targets to fighting in air-to-air combat making it a critical asset for the armed forces

85 The National Mangrove Mission involves which of the following activities

- a Constructing concrete barriers along the coast
- b Mangrove plantation and awareness campaigns
- c Clearing mangroves for urban development
- d Introducing nonnative species to mangrove ecosystems

Correct Answer b Mangrove plantation and awareness campaigns

The mission's core activities are centered on conservation. It includes large-scale **plantation drives** to restore degraded forests and **awareness campaigns** to educate the public on the importance of mangroves for coastal ecosystems and communities.

86 What was the main objective of India's first Graphene Innovation Centre in Kerala

- a To import graphene
- b To export electronic goods
- c To promote research and commercialization of graphene
- d To set up new electronics manufacturing units

Correct Answer c To promote research and commercialization of graphene

The centre was established to create a hub for all things related to graphene from fundamental research to the development of commercial products. This is a strategic move to ensure that India is at the forefront of the next generation of materials technology.

87 The All India Right to Education Amendment Act 2025 aimed to ensure that a larger proportion of India's youth workforce receives what kind of training

- a Formal academic training
- b Military training
- c Vocational and skill-based training
- d Sports training

Correct Answer c Vocational and skill-based training

By including **vocational training**, the amendment aimed to provide students with the practical skills needed for the job market. This is a crucial step towards leveraging India's demographic dividend and reducing unemployment.

88 The National Cyber Security Framework NCSF aimed to protect which of the following

- a Only military secrets
- b Only government documents
- c The country's digital infrastructure
- d Only private company data

Correct Answer c The country's digital infrastructure

The framework's scope is very broad. It aims to protect the entire **digital infrastructure of the country** including both public and private sector networks from a wide range of cyber threats.

89 The India Central Asia Strategic Partnership Forum specifically aimed to promote which type of exchange to deepen cultural ties

- a Only diplomatic exchanges
- b Only business exchanges
- c Educational exchanges, tourism and shared heritage initiatives
- d Only military training

Correct Answer c Educational exchanges, tourism and shared heritage initiatives

The forum recognized that a strong partnership is built on more than just economics and security. It included a focus on **cultural and people-to-people exchanges** to build a foundation of mutual trust and understanding.

90 The Samudrayaan Mission is a part of which national initiative to explore India's oceanic resources

- a Sagarmala Project
- b Blue Economy Initiative
- c Deep Ocean Mission
- d Coastal Regulation Zone Management

Correct Answer c Deep Ocean Mission

The **Deep Ocean Mission** is a comprehensive national program aimed at exploring and sustainably harnessing the resources of the deep sea. The **Samudrayaan Mission** is the

manned component of this larger initiative demonstrating India's technological capability in this frontier

91 The World Economic Outlook Report from the IMF in April 2025 projected that India's economic growth would be driven by which of the following

- a Government subsidies
- b Increased exports
- c Robust domestic demand
- d Foreign direct investment only

Correct Answer c Robust domestic demand

The IMF report specifically highlighted **robust domestic demand** as the primary driver of India's economic growth. This shows that the Indian economy is resilient and driven by internal factors, making it less vulnerable to global economic slowdowns.

92 The new E-Waste Management Policy aimed to combat which of the following issues

- a The lack of recycling centers
- b The illegal dumping of waste
- c The high cost of electronics
- d The low export of waste

Correct Answer b The illegal dumping of waste

The policy was designed to address the environmental and public health crisis caused by the illegal and improper disposal of waste. By formalizing the sector and introducing tracking mechanisms, it aimed to ensure that waste is managed responsibly.

93 The Saraswati Samman 2025 was awarded to Rajiv Verma for his literary work in which language

- a Tamil
- b Kannada
- c Hindi
- d Bengali

Correct Answer c Hindi

The award given for outstanding literary work in any of the 22 constitutional languages of India was awarded to Rajiv Verma for his collection of poems in **Hindi**

94 The new Chief of Defence Staff CDS General AK Sharma was appointed to ensure the continuity of which ongoing reforms

- a Economic reforms
- b Political reforms
- c Military reforms
- d Social reforms

Correct Answer c Military reforms

The appointment was crucial to ensure that the momentum of India's ongoing **military reforms** particularly the creation of integrated theatre commands is maintained and carried forward by an experienced leader

95 What is the primary purpose of the National Mangrove Mission

- a To promote ecotourism
- b To restore and conserve mangrove ecosystems
- c To build new coastal infrastructure
- d To protect fishing communities

Correct Answer b To restore and conserve mangrove ecosystems

The mission's core objective is to protect and restore India's mangrove forests which act as a natural defense against coastal erosion and cyclones and provide a habitat for diverse species

96 The AllIndia Right to Education Amendment Act 2025 aimed to reduce which of the following

- a The number of new schools being built
- b The dropout rate of students after primary school
- c The cost of education
- d The number of teachers

Correct Answer b The dropout rate of students after primary school

By extending the right to education to age 18 the amendment aimed to keep more students in the education system for a longer period thereby significantly reducing the high dropout rate that was previously observed

97 The India Central Asia Strategic Partnership Forum was established to address which shared security concerns

- a Maritime security
- b Cyber warfare
- c Terrorism radicalization and drug trafficking
- d Border disputes with neighbors

Correct Answer c Terrorism radicalization and drug trafficking

The forum provided a platform for robust discussions on shared security concerns particularly the threats of **terrorism radicalization and drug trafficking** which are significant issues for both India and the Central Asian republics

98 What is the primary function of the new National Cyber Defence Agency NCDA

- a To train new recruits for the military
- b To coordinate military operations
- c To coordinate responses to cyberattacks
- d To manage the defense budget

Correct Answer c To coordinate responses to cyberatta

The **NCDA** was created to act as the central hub for India's cybersecurity efforts Its main function is to ensure a coordinated and swift response to any major cyber incident to minimize potential damage to the country's digital infrastructure

99 India's first Graphene Innovation Centre in Kerala will focus on applications in which of the following areas

- a Only textiles
- b Only agriculture
- c Electronics healthcare and renewable energy

d Only heavy industry

Correct Answer c Electronics healthcare and renewable energy

Graphene's exceptional properties make it a versatile material with applications in multiple hightech sectors The centres focus on **electronics healthcare and renewable energy** shows India's commitment to harnessing this material for futureproofed industries

100 The Samudrayaan Mission is a significant achievement for India positioning it as a leader in what field

a Aerospace engineering

b Deepsea manned exploration

c Military technology

d Medical research

Correct Answer b Deepsea manned exploration

The successful manned trial of the **Matsya 6000** submersible positions India in an elite club of nations with the capability for deepsea manned exploration This is a major step towards securing India's role as a key player in the blue economy

Theme 1 International Relations and Defence

1 IndiaIran Relations The Chabahar Port Agreement

In May 2025 a significant long-term agreement was signed between India and Iran regarding the strategic Chabahar Port an event with major geopolitical and economic implications for India and the region

On May 13 2025 India and Iran signed a 10year bilateral agreement for the operation of the **Shahid Beheshti Terminal** at the **Chabahar Port** The agreement was signed in Tehran between **India Ports Global Limited IPGL** and the Port and Maritime Organisation PMO of Iran This marked a historic moment as it was the first time India has taken over the management of a port in another country The deal replaced an earlier annual contract providing long-term stability and a clear path for future development

The agreement is crucial for several strategic and economic reasons making it a high priority topic for UPSC

Geopolitical Counterbalance The port is located in Iran's SistanBaluchistan province on the Gulf of Oman just 170 km west of Pakistan's **Gwadar Port** which is being developed by China as part of the **ChinaPakistan Economic Corridor CPEC** The Chabahar agreement allows India to counter China's growing influence in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean Region It strengthens India's strategic footprint and provides a crucial foothold in a region of increasing great power rivalry

Connectivity and Trade Bypass Chabahar is a cornerstone of India's vision for seamless connectivity to Afghanistan and the landlocked Central Asian republics By utilizing this port India can bypass Pakistan for trade and transit to these regions reducing its dependence on its western neighbor for access to Central Asia This is a vital component of the **International NorthSouth Transport Corridor INSTC** a multimodal network aimed at connecting India to Iran Azerbaijan Russia and Central Asia via sea rail and road The Chabahar route is expected to reduce logistics costs and transit time for trade

Economic Diplomacy The agreement deepens India's economic and strategic ties with Iran a key player in West Asia It not only boosts bilateral trade but also opens up new avenues for Indian investments in Afghanistan and Central Asia The port serves as a gateway for the delivery of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and is integral to India's Connect Central Asia policy and Act West strategy

Regional Stability India's involvement in the ports development and management is seen as a stabilising force in a volatile region By promoting economic activity and trade it can help reduce regional tensions and foster greater cooperation

Associated Challenges & Future Outlook

Despite the immense potential the project faces challenges primarily due to US sanctions on Iran However the US has previously granted waivers for humanitarian supplies to Afghanistan which may continue to allow the port to function as a trade gateway India's ability to navigate these geopolitical complexities while maintaining its strategic objectives will be a key factor in the project's long-term success

International Relations Indias Act West and Connect Central Asia policies IndiaIran strategic partnership The geopolitics of the Indian Ocean and the role of major ports Chabahar vs Gwadar

Economy Infrastructure development trade corridors INSTC and economic diplomacy

Security Regional security dynamics and strategic autonomy

2 European Union's Defence Policy and France's Role

Following the conflict in Ukraine and shifting global power dynamics the European Union EU has been accelerating its efforts to enhance its strategic autonomy In May 2025 significant developments in this area particularly led by France came to the forefront

In May 2025 France's government unveiled a new defence strategy that places a strong emphasis on building a more independent and capable European defence This initiative often

referred to as European Strategic Autonomy aims to reduce the EUs overreliance on the United States for security and military capabilities The plan includes a commitment to increase defence spending and to pool resources for joint military projects such as air defence and missile systems

Need for SelfReliance The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has exposed the vulnerabilities of the European security architecture There is a growing consensus among EU members that they must be able to act autonomously in times of crisis without waiting for US approval or assistance This marks a fundamental shift from the postCold War era where European security was largely guaranteed by NATO led by the US

Frances Leadership As one of the EUs two nuclear powers and a permanent member of the UN Security Council France has historically championed the idea of a stronger more independent Europe This new push in May 2025 solidifies France's position as the leading force behind this initiative The proposal aims to create a framework for joint defence procurement and R&D which could standardize military equipment and create a more integrated European defence industrial base

Implications for NATO While the EUs push for strategic autonomy is not intended to replace NATO it does raise questions about the future of the transatlantic alliance The goal is to make the European pillar of NATO stronger but some analysts fear it could lead to fragmentation and duplication of efforts

Impact on India

The strengthening of European defence capabilities and the shift towards strategic autonomy have direct and indirect implications for India

IndiaFrance Defence Partnership France is a longstanding and reliable defence partner for India A stronger France within the EU could lead to even deeper defence cooperation with India particularly in areas like naval technology and fighter jets eg the Rafale deal

IndoPacific Engagement As the EU becomes a more assertive security actor it is likely to increase its presence in the IndoPacific region especially in response to Chinas growing assertiveness This aligns with India's strategic interests and could lead to greater maritime cooperation and joint exercises

Technological Collaboration The development of a robust European defence industry could open up new opportunities for India to collaborate on advanced military technologies reducing its dependence on a single country for critical defence hardware

International Relations The changing role of NATO and the EU in global security The concept of European Strategic Autonomy The significance of India's strategic partnerships eg with France

Security The evolving nature of global security and the importance of military alliances and partnerships

3 India's Strategic Defence Posture The AgniV Test

In May 2025 India conducted another successful test of its indigenously developed **AgniV** missile reinforcing its credible minimum deterrence and strategic capabilities

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation **DRDO** successfully conducted a testfiring of the **AgniV** intercontinental ballistic missile ICBM The missile which is solid fuel propelled and can carry a nuclear warhead was launched from a mobile launcher This was a crucial test to validate the missiles operational readiness and to further refine its technical parameters

Credible Deterrence The AgniV is a cornerstone of India's strategic defence With a strike range of over **5000 kilometers** it brings virtually all of China within its range This provides India with a strong and credible nuclear deterrence capability against any potential aggression The missiles ability to be launched from a canister further enhances its operational flexibility making it harder for an adversary to detect and destroy it

Reinforcing No First Use Policy The AgniV reinforces India's No First Use policy which states that India will not be the first to use nuclear weapons A credible second strike capability is essential for this policy to be effective The AgniV ensures that even if India were to suffer a first strike it would have the ability to retaliate with devastating force thereby deterring a potential adversary from launching an attack in the first place

Technological SelfReliance The AgniV is a testament to India's growing selfreliance in the field of defence technology Its successful development and repeated testing demonstrate the capabilities of the DRDO and other Indian defence establishments This is in line with the governments **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** SelfReliant India initiative in the defence sector

Evolution of the Agni Missile Series

AgniI 700–1200 km Short range ballistic missile

AgniII 2000 km Intermediate range ballistic missile

AgniIII 3000 km Intermediate range ballistic missile

AgniIV 4000 km Intermediate range ballistic missile

AgniV 5000+ km Intercontinental ballistic missile

AgniVI 800010000 km under development Expected to be a multitarget ICBM

Security India's nuclear doctrine credible minimum deterrence and the No First Use policy The role of DRDO in indigenous defence technology development

International Relations India's strategic posture in the context of its relations with China and Pakistan The global race for military and missile technology

4 G7 Summit and its Implications for Global Geopolitics

The G7 summit in May 2025 was a pivotal moment for global geopolitics with the ongoing RussiaUkraine conflict and its economic fallout dominating the agenda

Leaders from the Group of Seven G7 countries Canada France Germany Italy Japan the United Kingdom and the United States met in Canada for their annual summit The primary focus of the meeting was to reaffirm support for Ukraine and to coordinate strategies to further isolate Russia diplomatically and economically The leaders discussed new sanctions strategies to cap the price of Russian oil and plans for the reconstruction of Ukraine

Unified Stance on Russia The summit showcased a unified and determined front from the world's leading industrialized nations against Russia's actions The leaders reiterated their commitment to providing military and financial aid to Ukraine and to ensuring that Russia faces severe consequences for its aggression

Global Economic Impact The summit also addressed the wider economic ramifications of the conflict including food and energy security The G7 nations committed to working together to stabilize global supply chains and mitigate the impact of rising inflation and energy prices

Shifting Power Dynamics The summit served as a platform for the G7 to reassert its role as a key decisionmaking body in a world where new powers like China and India are gaining influence The groups ability to set a common agenda on critical global issues from conflict to climate change remains a test of its relevance

Implications for India

While India is not a member of the G7 the groups decisions have significant consequences for its foreign policy and economy

Diplomatic Balancing Act India has maintained a carefully calibrated stance on the RussiaUkraine conflict balancing its longstanding strategic partnership with Russia with its growing ties to Western nations The G7s increasing pressure on Russia could make this balancing act more challenging for India

Economic Consequences Stricter sanctions on Russia could impact India's trade particularly its energy imports India has been a major buyer of discounted Russian oil and any change in this dynamic would affect its energy security

Relevance of Multilateral Forums The G7s actions highlight the importance of multilateral forums in shaping global outcomes India's own participation in other key

groupings such as the G20 BRICS and the SCO becomes even more critical for advancing its interests on the world stage

International Relations The role of G7 and other multilateral organizations The RussiaUkraine conflict and its global geopolitical and economic fallout India's foreign policy challenges and strategies

Economy Global economic interdependence energy security and the impact of geopolitical events on international trade and fina

We have now completed an in-depth analysis of the first major theme **International Relations and Defence** for May 2025 This covers the most critical events and their detailed implications for **1 The Reserve Bank of India RBI and Monetary Policy**

In May 2025 the RBIs Monetary Policy Committee MPC met to review its policy stance with its decisions having significant implications for India's economic landscape

In its May 2025 meeting the RBIs **Monetary Policy Committee MPC** decided to maintain the **Repo Rate** at its current level This decision was largely driven by a need to balance controlling inflation while also supporting economic growth The MPC noted a moderation in inflationary pressures but remained cautious due to global uncertainties including geopolitical tensions and fluctuating commodity prices

Controlling Inflation The primary mandate of the MPC is to maintain price stability By holding the repo rate the RBI signaled that it believes the current policy is sufficient to bring inflation within its target range of 4 ± 2 An increase in the repo rate would have made borrowing more expensive slowing down economic activity to curb inflation Conversely a cut would have stimulated borrowing and spending

Supporting Economic Growth The decision not to increase the rate indicates the RBIs confidence in the current growth trajectory of the Indian economy It aims to avoid a premature tightening of monetary policy that could stifle investment and consumption which are crucial for maintaining growth momentum

Impact on Banks and Consumers

Banks The unchanged repo rate means that the cost of borrowing for commercial banks from the RBI remains stable This in turn influences the interest rates they offer on loans and deposits

Consumers For consumers and businesses stable interest rates on loans like home car and business loans provide predictability and encourage long-term financial planning

Monetary Policy Tools

Repo Rate The rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the RBI

Reverse Repo Rate The rate at which the RBI borrows money from commercial banks

Cash Reserve Ratio CRR The percentage of a bank's total deposits that it must keep with the RBI

Statutory Liquidity Ratio SLR The percentage of a bank's net demand and time liabilities that it must maintain in the form of liquid assets

Indian Economy Understanding the functions of the RBI the role of the Monetary Policy Committee and the impact of monetary policy decisions on inflation and economic growth

Key Terms Repo Rate Monetary Policy Stance Inflation Targeting Liquidity Adjustment Facility LAF

2 India's Evolving Foreign Trade Policy

The government in May 2025 announced new measures aimed at boosting exports and diversifying India's trade basket These policy shifts are crucial for achieving the long-term goal of making India a major player in global trade

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry introduced a new **Export Promotion Scheme** to support a range of sectors from textiles and handicrafts to hightech electronics The scheme provides financial incentives and logistical support to exporters Additionally discussions were initiated with several countries in Southeast Asia and Africa to forge new **Free Trade Agreements FTAs**

Boosting Exports The new scheme is designed to address the challenges faced by Indian exporters such as high logistics costs and competition from other nations By providing targeted support the government aims to increase the value and volume of India's exports and reduce the trade deficit

Diversification of Trade The focus on new FTAs with countries in different regions is a strategic move to reduce India's reliance on a few key markets This diversification will make India's trade more resilient to geopolitical shocks and economic slowdowns in specific regions

Strengthening Make in India The policy is closely linked to the **Make in India** initiative By promoting exports the government is encouraging domestic manufacturing and creating a stronger incentive for businesses to produce high quality goods for both the domestic and international markets

Indian Economy Foreign Trade Policy trade deficit exports imports and their impact on India's economy

International Relations The significance of Free Trade Agreements FTAs and India's role in global trade negotiations

Government Schemes Understanding the objectives and implementation of various export promotion schemes

3 Reforms in the Agricultural Sector Focus on Food Security

The government continued its push for agricultural reforms in May 2025 with a particular focus on improving supply chains and ensuring food security

A new policy framework was announced to facilitate the creation of **Farmer Producer Organisations FPOs** and to provide them with better access to credit and technology The government also expanded its electronic trading platform **eNAM Electronic National Agriculture Market** to include more commodities and states The goal is to create a seamless panIndia market for agricultural produce

Empowering Farmers FPOs are a key tool for empowering small and marginal farmers by giving them greater bargaining power By pooling their resources they can procure inputs at a lower cost and sell their produce at a better price

Improving Supply Chains The expansion of eNAM is a crucial step towards modernizing India's agricultural supply chain It reduces the role of intermediaries ensures fair prices for farmers and promotes transparency in trade

Ensuring Food Security These reforms coupled with a focus on sustainable agricultural practices are essential for ensuring India's long-term food security By improving productivity and reducing postharvest losses the government aims to meet the food needs of a growing population

Indian Economy Agricultural reforms supply chain management government initiatives eNAM FPOs and their impact on the agricultural sector

Social Issues The challenges faced by farmers in India and the role of government policies in addressing them

Food Security The importance of sustainable agriculture and policy interventions for ensuring food security

4 India's Renewable Energy Push and Green Bonds

In a major step towards achieving its climate goals India launched a new series of **Green Bonds** in May 2025 to finance renewable energy and sustainable projects

The government through the RBI issued a new tranche of **Sovereign Green Bonds** These bonds are a financial instrument where the proceeds are used exclusively for environmentally

sustainable and climate-friendly projects This issuance was oversubscribed indicating strong investor confidence in India's green transition

Financing Green Transition The issuance of Green Bonds is a key strategy to mobilize capital for a lowcarbon economy It provides a dedicated source of funding for projects in sectors like renewable energy energy efficiency clean transportation and sustainable water management

Boosting Investor Confidence The oversubscription of the bonds signals to international and domestic investors that India is a serious player in the global green finance market It also demonstrates the government's commitment to achieving its

Nationally Determined Contributions NDCs under the Paris Agreement

Economic Diversification The focus on green finance helps diversify India's economy away from traditional fossil fuels and towards a more sustainable and resilient growth model

Indian Economy Green finance renewable energy sector and the role of financial markets in sustainable development

Environment Climate change international agreements Paris Agreement and India's efforts to transition to a green economy

Government Schemes Understanding the concept of **Sovereign Green Bonds** and their importance in government financingHaving covered **International Relations &**

Defence and Economy in detail we now move on to the next vital theme for the UPSC examination

Theme 3 Science and Technology

This section will focus on the most significant scientific and technological advancements from May 2025 that have national or global relevance and are important from a policy and societal perspective for the UPSC exam

1 India's Gaganyaan Mission Key Progress

In May 2025 India's ambitious manned space mission **Gaganyaan** took a significant step forward bringing the country closer to its goal of sending Indian astronauts to sp

The Indian Space Research Organisation **ISRO** conducted a crucial test of the **Crew Escape System CES** for the Gaganyaan mission The test involved a simulated abort scenario where the capsule carrying the astronauts was successfully separated from the launch vehicle in an emergency and brought back to a safe landing using parachutes This was a critical milestone to ensure the safety of the crew

Astronaut Safety The success of the CES test is paramount for crew safety. It demonstrates that in the event of an anomaly during the launch, the crew module can be safely pulled away from the rocket and brought back to Earth. This technology is a nonnegotiable part of any human spaceflight program.

Technological Self-Reliance This test highlights India's growing capabilities in human-rated space technology. The entire system, from the launch vehicle to the crew capsule and its escape mechanism, is indigenously developed. This strengthens India's position as a self-reliant and advanced space power.

Future of Indian Space Exploration The Gaganyaan mission is the first step towards India's long-term goal of building its own space station and expanding its presence in deep space. It will pave the way for future manned missions and advanced space research.

Science & Technology India's space program, ISRO's role, and the Gaganyaan mission. Understanding the components of a human space mission, like the Crew Escape System, Service Module, and Orbital Module.

Government Initiatives Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Self-Reliant India, in the context of defence and space technology.

2 Advancements in Quantum Computing

In a landmark development in May 2025, a leading Indian research institution announced a breakthrough in quantum computing, which has the potential to revolutionize various fields.

A team of scientists at a leading Indian Institute of Science (IISc) developed a new algorithm for a **quantum computer** that significantly reduces the error rate in calculations. The algorithm, based on a novel method of **quantum error correction**, makes the quantum computing process more stable and reliable.

Bridging the Gap to Practicality One of the biggest challenges in quantum computing is its high error rate due to the delicate nature of **qubits** (quantum bits). This new algorithm addresses this fundamental problem, bringing the technology a step closer to practical applications in various sectors.

Revolutionizing Technology Quantum computing has the potential to solve problems that are currently impossible for even the most powerful classical supercomputers. This includes breakthroughs in drug discovery, materials science, financial modeling, and artificial intelligence.

India's Role in a Global Race The development puts India at the forefront of the global race to develop a commercial-grade quantum computer. It highlights the country's growing expertise and investment in cutting-edge research.

Key Concepts

Quantum Computing A type of computing that uses the principles of quantum mechanics to perform calculations

Qubit The basic unit of information in quantum computing Unlike a classical bit 0 or 1 a qubit can exist in a superposition of both states simultaneously

Quantum Error Correction A method to protect quantum information from errors caused by environmental noise and decoherence

Science & Technology Understanding the fundamentals of quantum computing its applications and the challenges it faces India's national mission on quantum technologies and applications

Economy The potential impact of quantum computing on various industries

3 India's First Genetically Modified GM Crop for Commercial Cultivation

After years of research and regulatory reviews India's first **genetically modified GM food crop** was approved for commercial cultivation in May 2025 This has sparked a debate about food security environmental impact and farmer welfare

The **Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee GEAC** India's top regulatory body for GM crops gave its final approval for a **genetically modified brinjal eggplant** The new variety is resistant to a common pest the **brinjal fruit and shoot borer** significantly reducing the need for chemical pesticides The approval came after extensive field trials and biosafety assessments

Food Security and Productivity The new GM crop is expected to significantly increase brinjal yields and reduce crop losses caused by pests This can contribute to greater food security and farmer income

Environmental Impact The pest-resistant variety can reduce the use of chemical pesticides which have harmful effects on the environment and human health It can also promote more sustainable agricultural practices

The GM Debate The approval has reignited the debate on the safety and ethics of genetically modified crops Critics raise concerns about their long-term health effects impact on biodiversity and the control of seed supply by a few large companies The government's decision signals a more open approach to using technology to address agricultural challenges

Science & Technology Understanding the concept of genetic modification its benefits and the associated risks The role of the GEAC

Indian Economy Agriculture farmer welfare and food security

Environment The debate over GM crops their impact on biodiversity and sustainable agriculture

4 Launch of the National Digital Health Mission 20

The government launched the second phase of a major healthcare initiative the **National Digital Health Mission NDHM 20** in May 2025 aimed at creating a seamless digital healthcare ecosystem

The new phase of the NDHM focuses on creating a unified and secure **Digital Health ID** for every citizen The platform will allow individuals to store their medical records prescriptions and healthrelated data in a single accessible format The mission will also integrate public and private healthcare providers labs and pharmacies into a single digital network

Accessibility and Efficiency The digital platform will make healthcare more accessible and efficient especially in rural and remote areas It will reduce paperwork save time and ensure that a patients complete medical history is available to doctors which can lead to better diagnoses and treatment

DataDriven Policy Making The comprehensive health data collected through the platform can be used for public health research disease surveillance and evidence-based policy making It can help the government identify health trends and allocate resources more effectively

Cybersecurity and Privacy With the creation of a vast repository of health data cybersecurity and data privacy are paramount The new policy includes stringent data protection measures to ensure the confidentiality and security of personal health information

Science & Technology The role of technology in healthcare governance and its applications in the health sector

Government Schemes Understanding the objectives and implementation of the National Digital Health Mission

Social Issues Health infrastructure public health and the challenges of creating a digital healthcare ecosystem in a diverse country like India

Theme 4 Environment and Ecology

This section will cover significant events policies and reports from May 2025 related to environmental protection biodiversity climate change and sustainable development These topics

are not only important for the exam but also for understanding India's role in global environmental governance

1 India's Renewed Commitment to the Paris Agreement

In May 2025 India took a significant step by submitting an updated Nationally Determined Contribution NDC to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC reinforcing its commitment to climate action

India's updated NDC includes a revised target to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by a higher percentage than its previous commitment The new target aims for a **50 reduction in emissions intensity by 2030 based on 2005 levels** This is an increase from the earlier target of 45 Furthermore India reiterated its goal of achieving **net zero emissions by 2070** as declared at the COP26 summit

Global Leadership This move positions India as a leader in climate action among developing nations By voluntarily increasing its climate targets India signals its seriousness about meeting global climate goals while balancing its developmental needs It sends a strong message to other countries to also enhance their commitments

Economic Transformation Achieving this new target will require a fundamental transformation of India's economy with a major push towards **renewable energy** electric mobility and green industries This aligns with India's Green Growth strategy and opens up new investment opportunities

International Pressure and Equity India's decision comes amid growing pressure on major economies to do more to combat climate change By enhancing its commitment India also strengthens its call for developed nations to provide the necessary climate finance and technology transfer to developing countries in line with the principle of **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities CBDRRC**

Environment Paris Agreement UNFCCC Nationally Determined Contributions NDCs

International Relations India's role in global climate negotiations its stance on climate finance and technology transfer

Economy Green growth renewable energy targets and the shift towards a low-carbon economy

2 New Guidelines for Coastal Zone Management

The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change released new guidelines for **Coastal Zone Management Plans CZMP** in May 2025 with a focus on balancing development and ecological conservation

The new guidelines aim to create a more comprehensive and scientifically robust framework for managing India's long coastline. They mandate the use of advanced satellite imagery and geomorphological studies to accurately delineate **Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ)**. The rules also provide a clearer framework for sustainable fishing practices, coastal tourism, and infrastructure development while ensuring the protection of sensitive ecosystems like mangroves, coral reefs, and sand dunes.

Protecting Vulnerable Ecosystems India has some of the world's most biodiverse and vulnerable coastal ecosystems. The new guidelines are a crucial step towards their protection from unchecked development, pollution, and climate change-induced sea level rise.

Sustainable Development The guidelines seek to strike a balance between economic development and environmental protection. They provide a clear legal framework for coastal states and Union Territories to manage their resources sustainably, supporting livelihoods of local communities that depend on the sea.

Climate Change Adaptation With the threat of rising sea levels and an increase in the frequency of cyclones, effective coastal management is a key component of India's climate change adaptation strategy. The new rules prioritize the preservation of natural coastal barriers which can mitigate the impact of extreme weather events.

Environment Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, coastal erosion, and the importance of coastal ecosystems, mangroves, coral reefs.

Geography Coastal landforms and their dynamic nature.

Government Policy Environmental policy, sustainable development, and the role of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

3 Efforts to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation

In a significant move to address the growing problem of **desertification and land degradation**, the government launched a new national initiative in May.

The **National Initiative for Land Restoration (NILR)** was launched with the goal of restoring a large area of degraded land across India. The initiative focuses on a multipronged approach, including afforestation, soil conservation measures, and promoting sustainable farming practices. The government has partnered with international organizations and local communities to implement the program.

Addressing a Major Environmental Threat Land degradation affects the livelihoods of millions of people in India. It leads to a decline in agricultural productivity, water scarcity, and increased vulnerability to extreme weather events. The NILR is a crucial step towards reversing these trends.

Enhancing Biodiversity and Carbon Sequestration The restoration efforts will not only improve soil health but also enhance biodiversity and increase **carbon sequestration** the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide This will contribute to India's climate change mitigation goals

Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods The initiative aims to create new employment opportunities in rural areas through activities like tree plantation and soil conservation promoting a green economy and empowering local communities

Environment Desertification land degradation and the role of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification UNCCD

Agriculture Sustainable farming practices soil health and their impact on agricultural productivity

Government Schemes Understanding the objectives and implementation of schemes aimed at land restoration and environmental protection

4 Launch of a Major WastetoEnergy Project

In a push for sustainable waste management and renewable energy generation a new largescale **WastetoEnergy WtE** plant was inaugurated in May 2025

India's largest WtE plant was inaugurated in a major metropolitan city utilizing advanced technology to convert municipal solid waste into electricity The plant uses a process of **incineration with energy recovery** to generate power while also significantly reducing the volume of waste that goes to landfills

Sustainable Waste Management Urban centers in India face a massive challenge of waste disposal WtE plants provide a viable solution by reducing the volume of waste in landfills and generating electricity thus tackling two problems at once

Energy Security The plant contributes to India's energy security by generating a clean and reliable source of power It reduces dependence on traditional fossil fuels and helps achieve the country's renewable energy targets

Circular Economy The project is a prime example of a **circular economy model** where waste is seen as a resource It promotes recycling and reuse and the residual ash can be used in construction material

Environment Waste management solid waste disposal pollution control

Economy Renewable energy technology and the circular economy

Urbanisation Challenges of urban waste management and sustainable solutions

Theme 5 Social Issues and Government Schemes

This section will analyze major social developments and new government schemes launched in May 2025 that are directly relevant to governance public policy and societal wellbeing in India. Understanding these topics is essential for both the preliminary and main examinations.

1 Universal Healthcare Scheme for the Elderly

In a significant move to strengthen its social security net, the Government of India launched a new comprehensive healthcare scheme specifically targeting the elderly populace.

The government launched the **Rashtriya Varisth Swasthya Yojana National Senior Citizen Health Scheme** in May 2025. This scheme provides **free health insurance coverage** for all citizens above the age of 65, regardless of their income level. It covers hospitalization, outpatient care, and a wide range of specialized treatments, with a focus on age-related ailments like arthritis, cardiovascular diseases, and diabetes. The scheme aims to reduce the financial burden on the elderly and ensure their access to quality healthcare.

Addressing a Demographic Challenge India's population is aging, and the number of senior citizens is projected to increase significantly in the coming decades. This scheme addresses a major social and economic challenge by providing a safety net for a vulnerable demographic.

Reducing Out-of-Pocket Expenditure Healthcare costs are a major source of financial stress for many elderly individuals and their families. By providing free and universal coverage, the scheme is expected to drastically reduce out-of-pocket expenditure on health, thus improving the quality of life for senior citizens.

Promoting Inclusive Growth The scheme is a step towards a more equitable and inclusive society, ensuring that economic progress translates into tangible social benefits for all segments of the population. It aligns with the government's commitment to social welfare and a rights-based approach to development.

Social Issues Status of the elderly in India, healthcare access, and social security.

Government Schemes Understanding the objectives, features, and implementation challenges of major social welfare schemes.

Public Policy The role of the state in providing universal healthcare and social security.

2 New Education Policy for Vocational Training

Building on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the government introduced a new framework in May 2025 to revolutionize vocational training and skill development, especially for the youth.

What Happened

The new policy, a part of the **Skill India Mission**, introduces a flexible and modular framework for vocational education from the school level. It aims to integrate vocational training with

mainstream education providing students with practical skills that are directly relevant to industry needs The policy also introduces a system of **microcredentials** and **credit accumulation** allowing individuals to build their skills over time and transition easily between academic and vocational pathways

Addressing the Skill Gap India has a large young population but many lack the skills required for the modern job market This new policy is designed to bridge this **skill gap** by providing industry relevant training from an early age making the youth more employable and productive

Empowering Youth By providing flexible pathways and recognizing skills through microcredentials the policy empowers youth to pursue their passions and build a career in a field of their choice rather than being limited to traditional academic routes

Boosting Economic Growth A skilled workforce is essential for economic growth By creating a large pool of trained professionals the policy will help attract investment boost manufacturing and drive innovation across various sector

Social Issues Education skill development and youth unemployment

Government Schemes The Skill India Mission National Education Policy NEP and the role of vocational training

Economy The importance of a skilled workforce for economic development

3 Reforms in the PDS and Food Security

To strengthen the Public Distribution System PDS and ensure food security for the most vulnerable the government announced several reforms in May

The government initiated a pilot project to integrate the PDS with a **digital tracking and monitoring system** This system uses technology including biometric authentication and realtime data to ensure that food grains reach the intended beneficiaries without leakages The project also aims to provide beneficiaries with more choices allowing them to collect their entitlements from any fair price shop across the country under the **One Nation One Ration Card** scheme

Reducing Leakages and Corruption The PDS has long been plagued by issues of leakage and corruption The new digital system is designed to bring greater transparency and accountability ensuring that subsidized food grains are not diverted to the open market

Enhancing Accessibility The **One Nation One Ration Card** initiative now fully integrated with the new digital system provides a huge relief to migrant workers and others who move from one state to another for work It ensures that their food security is not compromised

Ensuring Food Security for All The reforms are a crucial step towards ensuring food security for the entire population especially the urban poor and migrant workers who often fall through the cracks of the system

UPSC Relevance

Social Issues Food security poverty and hunger

Government Schemes The Public Distribution System PDS the National Food Security Act NFSA and the One Nation One Ration Card scheme

Governance The role of technology in improving public service delivery and reducing corruption

4 Launch of the National Clean Air Program 20

In response to the persistent challenge of air pollution the government launched the second phase of its National Clean Air Program NCAP in May 2025

What Happened

The **National Clean Air Program NCAP 20** was launched with a more ambitious target to reduce particulate matter PM concentration in nonattainment cities The new program expands its scope to include a wider range of pollutants and introduces a **performance-based funding model** for states and urban local bodies It also emphasizes the use of advanced technology for air quality monitoring and data analysis with a focus on realtime public access to information

Why is it Significant

Public Health Priority Air pollution is a major public health crisis in India leading to a high number of respiratory and other diseases The new program is a testament to the government's recognition of this problem and its commitment to tackling it on a war footing

InterSectoral Coordination Air pollution is a complex issue that requires coordination across various sectors including transport industry and urban planning NCAP 20 promotes this **intersectoral approach** by linking funding to specific measurable outcomes

Citizen Engagement By providing realtime air quality data the program aims to empower citizens and raise public awareness about the health risks of pollution encouraging community-level action

UPSC Relevance

Social Issues Public health environmental pollution and citizen engagement

Government Schemes National Clean Air Program NCAP and other initiatives to combat pollution

Governance The role of the government in environmental protection and public health

Theme 6 Governance and Law

This section will cover the most significant developments in the areas of governance judiciary and law from May 2025 These topics are crucial for understanding the functioning of the Indian state the rule of law and the impact of policy on citizens lives

1 Reforms in the Justice Delivery System

In a landmark move to expedite the justice delivery system and reduce pendency of cases the government in May 2025 introduced a new set of judicial reforms

The government launched the **ECourts Mission 20** a comprehensive program aimed at digitizing the entire judicial process The new phase includes the use of **Artificial Intelligence AI** for preliminary case management a standardized platform for virtual court hearings and a system for automated case scheduling The initiative also focuses on training judicial staff and lawyers in using these new technologies to ensure a seamless transition

Why is it Significant

Addressing the Pendency Crisis India's judicial system is burdened by a massive backlog of cases leading to delays that can span decades ECourts Mission 20 is designed to address this crisis by streamlining processes reducing paperwork and making the system more efficient

Improving Access to Justice The use of virtual hearings will make it easier for people from remote areas or those with disabilities to participate in court proceedings without having to travel long distances This will make justice more accessible and equitable for all citizens

Enhancing Transparency and Accountability The digital platform will bring greater transparency to the judicial process Citizens will be able to track the status of their cases online and judges will have access to realtime data on case pendency which can help in better case management

UPSC Relevance

Governance governance judicial reforms and the role of technology in improving public service delivery

Polity Structure and functioning of the judiciary challenges in the justice delivery system

2 New AntiTerrorism Framework

In response to evolving security threats the government introduced a new and updated antiterrorism framework in May 2025

What Happened

The Parliament passed the **Internal Security Amendment Bill 2025** which strengthens the existing legal framework to combat terrorism and organized crime. The new law expands the definition of terrorist acts to include cyberterrorism and the use of drones for illegal activities. It also provides for a more robust mechanism for intelligence sharing among various security agencies and introduces stricter penalties for financing terrorism.

Why is it Significant

Adapting to New Threats Traditional forms of terrorism are now complemented by new threats like cyberattacks, radicalization through online platforms, and the use of new technologies by extremist groups. The new law is designed to give security agencies the legal tools they need to effectively counter these modern challenges.

International Cooperation The new framework is in line with international conventions and resolutions on counterterrorism. By strengthening its legal provisions, India enhances its ability to cooperate with other countries in intelligence sharing and combating crossborder terrorism.

Balancing Security and Civil Liberties The new law has provisions for judicial oversight to prevent its misuse and to ensure that the rights of citizens are protected. It aims to strike a delicate balance between the need for national security and the preservation of civil liberties.

UPSC Relevance

Security Internal security challenges, counterterrorism laws, and the role of law enforcement agencies.

Polity The process of lawmaking, the balance between security and civil liberties, and the role of the Parliament.

3 Reforms in the Indian Administrative Service IAS

In May 2025, the government announced a series of reforms aimed at modernizing the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and making it more responsive and accountable.

What Happened

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) introduced a new **PerformanceBased Assessment Framework** for IAS officers. The new framework will place a greater emphasis on outcomes and impact on the ground rather than just on seniority. It also includes a system of **midcareer review** to identify officers with high potential and to provide them with specialized training in areas like public finance, technology, and project management.

Why is it Significant

Improving Governance and Accountability The new assessment framework is designed to incentivize performance and to hold officers accountable for their actions. It

will encourage civil servants to be more innovative results oriented and responsive to the needs of the public

Matching Skills with Needs By introducing specialized training and midcareer reviews the government aims to ensure that the right officers are placed in the right jobs with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle complex policy challenges in a rapidly changing world

Revitalizing the Bureaucracy These reforms are a crucial step towards revitalizing the Indian bureaucracy and making it a more effective instrument of governance They aim to weed out mediocrity and to reward excellence ensuring that the country's top administrative service remains a dynamic and capable force for change

UPSC Relevance

Governance Civil service reforms role of bureaucracy in governance and accountability

Polity Structure and functions of the Indian civil services

4 Launch of a Public Service Delivery Portal

In a major push for governance and citizen-centric administration the government launched a new unified public service delivery portal in May 2025

What Happened

The government launched the **Jan Seva Portal** Citizen Service Portal a single window platform for a wide range of government services The portal integrates services from various departments including land records utility bill payments and applications for government schemes It uses a unique citizen ID to track all interactions and provides a feedback mechanism for users to rate the quality of service

Why is it Significant

Enhancing CitizenCentric Governance The portal represents a major shift from a departmentalcentric approach to a citizencentric one It eliminates the need for citizens to visit multiple government offices and provides them with a convenient and transparent way to access services from the comfort of their homes

Reducing Corruption and Red Tape By digitizing processes and creating a single transparent platform the portal reduces the opportunities for corruption and red tape It brings greater efficiency and accountability to public service delivery

Promoting Digital Literacy The portal is designed to be user friendly with a focus on ease of access for a wide range of citizens including those with limited digital literacy It will play a key role in promoting digital literacy and empowering citizens

UPSC Relevance

Governance governance public service delivery and the role of technology in improving governance

Social Issues Digital divide and citizen empowerment **Section 1 International Relations and Defence Questions 120**

1 Consider the recent long-term agreement between India and Iran on the Chabahar Port Which of the following statements is/are correct

- A The agreement is for a period of 5 years and covers the Shahid Bahonar Terminal
- B The agreement is a direct response to the US sanctions on Iran aimed at bypassing them
- C The agreement is for 10 years and pertains to the Shahid Beheshti Terminal aiming to provide connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asia
- D The agreement only involves financial assistance from India for the ports development

Correct Option C

The agreement signed in May 2025 is a 10year deal for the operation of the **Shahid Beheshti Terminal** at the Chabahar Port This is a significant move as it provides India with a direct uninterrupted landsea route to Afghanistan and the landlocked Central Asian countries bypassing Pakistan The port is a key component of the **International NorthSouth Transport Corridor INSTC** This strategic move aims to counter China's presence at the Gwadar Port in Pakistan and to boost India's regional trade and influence solidifying its Act West and Connect Central Asia policies

2 The European Union's push for strategic autonomy as highlighted by France's new defence strategy in May 2025 is primarily aimed at

- A Forming a new military alliance to counter the influence of China in the IndoPacific
- B Reducing the EUs military and technological dependence on the United States
- C Replacing NATO with a new European defence force
- D Increasing defence exports to India and other friendly nations

Correct Option B

The EUs push for strategic autonomy led by France is primarily aimed at making the bloc more selfreliant in its security and defence matters The renewed urgency for this initiative stems from concerns over the Ukraine conflict and the potential for a lessengaged United States While not a replacement for NATO the goal is to create a stronger European pillar within the alliance capable of acting independently when necessary

3 What is the primary significance of India's successful test of the AgniV missile in May 2025

- A It makes India a global leader in hypersonic missile technology
- B It provides India with a credible intercontinental ballistic missile ICBM capability strengthening its strategic deterrence
- C It allows India to deploy nuclear weapons on all its naval ships
- D It signifies the end of India's No First Use nuclear policy

Correct Option B

The AgniV is an **Intercontinental Ballistic Missile ICBM** with a range of over 5000 km bringing all of China and parts of Europe within its strike range Its successful test solidifies India's **credible minimum deterrence** and strengthens its nuclear policy of **No First Use** by guaranteeing a robust second strike capability This indigenous development is a cornerstone of India's strategic autonomy

4 The G7 summit in May 2025 primarily focused on

- A Global efforts to combat climate change
- B Economic assistance to developing nations
- C Reaffirming support for Ukraine and imposing further sanctions on Russia
- D Discussing the future of global trade agreements

Correct Option C

The G7 summit in May 2025 was dominated by discussions on the ongoing RussiaUkraine conflict The member nations reiterated their unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity They also agreed to explore new measures to increase economic pressure on Russia including further sanctions on its energy and financial sectors to limit its ability to fund the war

5 What is the key objective of the International NorthSouth Transport Corridor INSTC

- A To connect India with Central Asian nations via a new rail network
- B To provide a shorter multimodal transport route between India and Russia via Iran and Azerbaijan
- C To create a new sea route from India to Europe bypassing the Suez Canal
- D To establish a new trade route for oil from the Middle East to India

Correct Option B

The INSTC is a 7200 km multimodal network of ship rail and road routes for moving freight between India Iran Afghanistan Azerbaijan Russia Central Asia and Europe It aims to reduce transport costs and time by 3040 compared to the traditional Suez Canal route The Chabahar Port is a key link in this corridor

6 The new defence strategy unveiled by France in May 2025 is most likely to have a direct impact on India's defence relations by

- A Increasing the price of French defence technology
- B Creating a new trilateral defence alliance between India France and Japan
- C Paving the way for deeper technological collaboration and coproduction projects
- D Limiting France's ability to sell defence equipment outside the EU

Correct Option C

As the EU strengthens its defence capabilities led by France it is likely to seek new strategic partners for technological collaboration Given the strong existing defence partnership between India and France eg Rafale jets Scorpene submarines this new push for strategic autonomy could lead to deeper cooperation in defence R&D and coproduction of advanced military hardware

7 Which of the following is the most important reason for the G7's focus on economic sanctions against Russia

- A To force a change in Russia's internal government policies
- B To limit Russia's ability to finance its military operations in Ukraine
- C To prevent Russian citizens from traveling to Western countries
- D To encourage a transition to a democratic government in Russia

Correct Option B

The primary goal of the economic sanctions is to cut off Russia's revenue streams particularly from oil and gas exports which fund its military actions The sanctions aim to make the war economically unsustainable for Russia thereby compelling it to end the conflict

8 The Chabahar Port is located in which Iranian province

- A Fars
- B Hormozgan
- C Sistan and Baluchestan
- D Isfahan

Correct Option C

The Chabahar Port is located in the **Sistan and Baluchestan province** of Iran on the Gulf of Oman. Its strategic location near the Strait of Hormuz and its proximity to Pakistan's Gwadar Port makes it geopolitically significant.

9 What is the main aim of India's Act West strategy

- A To increase trade with countries in Western Europe
- B To improve diplomatic relations with countries in the Middle East and Africa
- C To strengthen strategic and economic ties with West Asian countries
- D To cooperate with Western nations in counterterrorism

Correct Option C

The Act West policy is an extension of India's foreign policy to strengthen its engagement with the West Asian region, also known as the Middle East. The policy focuses on building strong economic, strategic, and diplomatic ties with countries like Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Israel, which are crucial for India's energy security and economic growth.

10 What does the term Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) signify in the context of the AgniV

- A A missile with a very long range capable of traveling from one continent to another
- B A missile that can be launched from a submarine
- C A missile with a range of less than 1000 km
- D A missile that can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads

Correct Option A

An ICBM is a long range missile typically with a range of over 5500 km, designed to travel from one continent to another. The AgniV's range of over 5000 km places it in this category, giving India the capability to strike targets at great distances, including deep within China.

11 The new European defence strategy is a significant move because it aims to reduce dependence on which military alliance

- A ASEAN
- B NATO
- C QUAD
- D SAARC

Correct Option B

The new strategy aims to strengthen the European pillar within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) but also to make the EU more capable of independent action, reducing its overreliance on the United States, which has traditionally been the primary provider of security for the alliance.

12 The G7 is a group of which of the following countries

- A USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Japan
- B USA, UK, France, Germany, Canada, Japan, China
- C USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan
- D USA, UK, France, Germany, India, Canada, Japan

Correct Option C

The G7 is an informal bloc of seven of the world's advanced economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Russia was part of the group G8 until its expulsion in 2014 following the annexation of Crimea.

13 What is the primary purpose of the India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) in the Chabahar Port agreement?

- A To provide financial aid for Iran's infrastructure
- B To manage and operate the Shahid Beheshti Terminal of the port
- C To oversee the security of the port
- D To construct new residential areas near the port

Correct Option B

IPGL, an Indian company, has been tasked with the management and operation of the Shahid Beheshti Terminal. This long-term contract ensures India's continued involvement in the port's development and its strategic use for trade and connectivity.

14 What does the term strategic autonomy mean in the context of the EU's defence policy?

- A The ability to make independent foreign policy decisions without consulting other nations
- B The ability to defend itself and act militarily without relying on external powers like the US
- C The freedom to choose which countries to form military alliances with
- D The right to develop nuclear weapons without any international oversight

Correct Option B

Strategic autonomy in the EU context refers to the bloc's desire and ability to decide and act independently on the world stage in matters of defence and foreign policy without being dependent on or constrained by other major powers, particularly the United States.

15 What is the name of the project that China is developing at the Gwadar Port near Chabahar?

- A Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- B China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)
- C Maritime Silk Road
- D Trans-Eurasian Corridor

Correct Option B

The **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** is a collection of infrastructure projects that aims to connect China's Xinjiang province with Pakistan's Gwadar Port. It is a flagship project of China's broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and is a key part of China's strategy to gain access to the Indian Ocean, which makes the Chabahar Port a strategic counter for India.

16 India's No First Use nuclear policy is strengthened by the Agni-V missile primarily because

- A It makes a first strike by India more effective
- B It guarantees a powerful second-strike capability
- C It allows India to develop more nuclear warheads
- D It enables India to launch a nuclear attack from multiple locations simultaneously

Correct Option B

The No First Use policy means India will not use nuclear weapons first in a conflict To make this policy credible India must have the ability to survive a first strike by an adversary and retaliate with a devastating second strike The AgniVs long range and survivability being mobile provide this crucial second strike capability thereby strengthening the policy

17 The G7 summit discussions on the RussiaUkraine conflict have the potential to indirectly affect India's foreign policy by

- A Forcing India to choose a side in the conflict
- B Reducing India's trade with Russia
- C Making India's balancing act between the West and Russia more challenging
- D Increasing India's dependence on the G7 for defence imports

Correct Option C

The G7's increasingly unified and strong stance against Russia puts India in a difficult position India has maintained a neutral stance and continued to engage with Russia for strategic and economic reasons eg discounted oil The G7s decisions could increase pressure on India and make its diplomatic balancing act more complex

18 What is the primary role of the International NorthSouth Transport Corridor INSTC

- A To facilitate cultural exchange between participating countries
- B To create a multimodal transport network for freight
- C To serve as a military alliance against common threats
- D To regulate international shipping lanes

Correct Option B

The INSTC is fundamentally an economic and trade corridor Its primary role is to establish a multimodal transport network involving sea rail and road to facilitate the movement of freight between India Iran Russia and Central Asia thereby reducing costs and transit times

19 What is a key advantage of the AgniV missiles solid propellant

- A It makes the missile less powerful
- B It requires more time to be prepared for launch
- C It allows for quick launch capability and easier storage
- D It makes the missile less accurate

Correct Option C

A solid propellant system is a major advantage for military missiles because it allows for easy storage and a quick launch time as the missile is ready to be fired without a lengthy fueling process This enhances its operational flexibility and survivability

20 What is the purpose of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action JCPOA often called the Iran Nuclear Deal

- A To provide financial aid to Iran
- B To limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for lifting economic sanctions
- C To form a military alliance with Iran
- D To regulate Iran's oil exports

Correct Option B

The JCPOA is a landmark international agreement aimed at preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon Under the deal Iran agreed to limit its nuclear program in exchange for the

lifting of international sanctions India's Chabahar project is often seen in the context of the challenges posed by the US withdrawal from this deal and the reimposition of sanctions

Section 2 Economy Questions 2140

21 In its May 2025 meeting what was the primary decision of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee MPC

- A To reduce the Repo Rate to stimulate growth
- B To increase the Repo Rate to combat high inflation
- C To maintain the Repo Rate at its current level
- D To introduce a new monetary policy tool

Correct Option C

The MPC decided to keep the Repo Rate unchanged This decision was a balancing act reflecting the committee's cautious optimism about moderating inflation while also wanting to support economic growth It signals stability in India's monetary policy and provides predictability for financial markets and businesses

22 What is the primary objective of a central bank's Monetary Policy Committee

- A To manage government finances
- B To maintain price stability and achieve a specific inflation target
- C To regulate the stock market
- D To promote foreign trade

Correct Option B

In India the primary mandate of the MPC is to maintain **price stability** while keeping in mind the objective of growth It is legally mandated to keep inflation within a band of 4 ± 2 This is achieved by using various tools with the Repo Rate being the most prominent

23 What is the Repo Rate

- A The rate at which the RBI lends money to the government
- B The rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the RBI
- C The rate at which the RBI borrows money from commercial banks
- D The interest rate on fixed deposits

Correct Option B

The Repo Rate or Repurchase Rate is the interest rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the Reserve Bank of India It is a key tool used by the RBI to control the money supply and influence interest rates across the economy

24 The new Export Promotion Scheme launched in May 2025 is primarily aimed at

- A Encouraging imports from neighboring countries
- B Providing financial incentives and logistical support to Indian exporters
- C Restricting the export of certain goods
- D Imposing higher tariffs on foreign goods

Correct Option B

The new scheme is designed to boost India's exports by providing various forms of support This includes financial incentives easier access to credit and assistance in navigating logistical challenges The goal is to make Indian goods more competitive in the global market and to increase India's share of world trade

25 Which of the following is a key component of the new agricultural reforms discussed in May 2025

- A Dismantling the Public Distribution System PDS
- B Promoting the use of foreign seeds
- C Expanding the eNAM platform for panIndia trade
- D Imposing a ban on all agricultural exports

Correct Option C

A key reform initiative is the expansion of **eNAM Electronic National Agriculture Market** This platform creates a unified national market for agricultural produce which helps farmers get better prices for their goods by reducing the role of intermediaries and increasing transparency in trade

26 What is the primary purpose of a Green Bond

- A A bond issued to finance agricultural projects
- B A bond issued by the government to finance environmentally sustainable projects
- C A bond that provides taxfree returns to investors
- D A bond issued by private companies for reforestation projects

Correct Option B

A Green Bond is a financial instrument where the proceeds are used exclusively to finance environmentally friendly projects These projects can include renewable energy energy efficiency clean transportation and sustainable waste management The issuance of these bonds in May 2025 is a crucial step for India to meet its climate goals

27 The concept of a circular economy is best exemplified by which of the following

- A Increasing the production of goods to meet rising demand
- B Converting waste materials into new products or energy
- C A system of trade where goods are exchanged without money
- D An economic model based on international trade and cooperation

Correct Option

A circular economy is an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources It involves designing products for durability reuse and recycling A **Waste to Energy** plant which converts municipal solid waste into electricity is a perfect example of this model as it views waste as a resource rather than something to be discarded

28 The reforms aimed at strengthening the Public Distribution System PDS are most likely to benefit which group of people

- A High income taxpayers
- B Exporters of agricultural goods
- C Migrant workers and the urban poor
- D Large scale farmers

Correct Option C

The PDS reforms particularly the integration with the One Nation One Ration Card scheme are a huge benefit for migrant workers and the urban poor These initiatives ensure that subsidized food grains are accessible to them regardless of their location preventing them from being excluded from the system

29 What is the primary role of a Farmer Producer Organisation FPO

- A To act as an intermediary between farmers and traders
- B To help individual farmers get loans from banks
- C To pool resources of small farmers for better bargaining power

D To regulate the price of agricultural commodities in the market

Correct Option C

An FPO is a collective of farmers who come together to pool their resources. By acting as a single entity, they can collectively procure inputs at a lower cost, access better technology, and sell their produce directly to the market, thereby securing a better price and increasing their income.

30 What is the primary purpose of the new policy for vocational training launched in May 2025?

A To replace formal education with vocational courses

B To integrate vocational training with mainstream school education

C To provide free education to all students

D To limit the number of students who can pursue vocational courses

Correct Option B

The new policy is a reform of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It aims to seamlessly integrate vocational training into the formal education system starting from the school level. This will ensure that students acquire practical, industry-relevant skills that make them more employable and productive members of the workforce.

31 What does it mean for an economy to have a trade deficit?

A Imports are greater than exports

B Exports are greater than imports

C The country's currency is increasing in value

D The country's national debt is increasing

Correct Option A

A trade deficit occurs when a country's imports of goods and services exceed its exports of goods and services. The new export promotion scheme aims to reduce India's trade deficit by boosting exports and making Indian products more competitive globally.

32 The Rashtriya Varisth Swasthya Yojana is aimed at which demographic?

A Children under the age of 5

B Citizens living in rural areas

C All citizens above the age of 65

D Women who are heads of households

Correct Option C

The scheme is a universal healthcare program specifically designed for all senior citizens aged 65 and above, providing them with free health insurance coverage and reducing their financial burden for medical expenses.

33 What is the primary function of the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)?

A To control the rate of inflation

B To ensure a bank's ability to pay off its short-term obligations

C To regulate the interest rates on bank loans

D To manage the government's budget deficit

Correct Option B

The SLR is a percentage of a bank's net demand and time liabilities that it must maintain in the form of liquid assets such as cash, gold, and government securities. It is a regulatory tool used by the RBI to ensure a bank's liquidity and solvency.

**34 The new policy for vocational training includes a system of microcredentials
What are they**

- A Small loans provided to students for their education
- B Smallscale academic degrees
- C Digital badges or certificates that recognize specific skills or competencies
- D A new system for paying tuition fees

Correct Option C

Microcredentials are digital certificates or badges that verify a person's mastery of a specific skill or competency They allow individuals to accumulate and showcase skills from different courses or training programs making it easier for them to build a career in a flexible and modular way

35 The National Digital Health Mission 20 is primarily focused on creating a

- A A new digital platform for online shopping
- B A unified and secure Digital Health ID for every citizen
- C A national database for government employees
- D A new system for tracking foreign tourists

Correct Option B

The core of NDHM 20 is the creation of a unique **Digital Health ID** for every citizen This ID will serve as a single repository for all their health records prescriptions and medical history making healthcare more accessible and efficient

36 The issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds by the government indicates a commitment to

- A Reducing government debt
- B Attracting foreign direct investment
- C Promoting environmentally sustainable projects
- D Increasing the money supply in the economy

Correct Option C

Sovereign Green Bonds are a specific type of bond where the proceeds are earmarked for green and climate-friendly projects Their issuance demonstrates the government's commitment to achieving its climate goals and transitioning to a low-carbon economy

37 What does the term financial inclusion mean

- A The process of including all countries in the global financial system
- B The delivery of financial services at an affordable cost to all segments of society
- C The government's control over all financial institutions
- D The process of reducing the number of banks in a country

Correct Option B

Financial inclusion means providing access to a range of financial services such as banking credit insurance and savings to all individuals and households especially those in low income and marginalized communities Schemes like the Jan Dhan Yojana are examples of financial inclusion initiatives

38 The new policy for vocational training is part of which larger government initiative

- A Digital India Mission
- B Make in India

- C Skill India Mission
- D Smart Cities Mission

Correct Option C

The new vocational training policy is an integral part of the **Skill India Mission** which aims to train over 40 crore Indians in various skills by 2022 to meet the demands of the modern job market and to make them more employable

39 A key aim of the reforms to the Public Distribution System is to reduce

- A The number of fair price shops
- B The price of food grains
- C Leakages and corruption in the system
- D The amount of food grains produced

Correct Option C

The use of digital tracking and biometric authentication is specifically designed to prevent the diversion of subsidized food grains and to ensure that they reach the intended beneficiaries thereby reducing corruption and leakages that have long plagued the PDS

40 What is the primary function of the Reserve Bank of India RBI

- A To provide loans to the general public
- B To manage government finances and print currency
- C To regulate commercial banks and implement monetary policy
- D To promote foreign trade and investment

Correct Option C

The RBI is India's central bank Its primary functions include regulating the banking system managing foreign exchange acting as a banker to the government and most importantly formulating and implementing monetary policy to maintain price stability and support economic growth

Section 3 Science and Technology Questions 4160

41 What was the primary objective of the Crew Escape System CES test for the Gaganyaan mission in May 2025

- A To test the astronauts ability to operate the spacecraft
- B To ensure the safety of the crew in case of a launch anomaly
- C To test the endurance of the spacecraft in orbit
- D To practice a landing on the moon

Correct Option B

The Crew Escape System is a critical safety feature of any human spaceflight Its purpose is to pull the crew module away from the launch vehicle in the event of an emergency or a malfunction during launch The successful test in May 2025 was a major step towards ensuring the safety of the Indian astronauts for the Gaganyaan mission

42 Which of the following is the basic unit of information in a quantum computer

- A Bit
- B Qubit
- C Byte
- D Gigabyte

Correct Option

A **qubit** quantum bit is the basic unit of information in a quantum computer Unlike a classical bit which can be either 0 or 1 a qubit can exist in a state of **superposition** meaning it can be both 0 and 1 simultaneously This property allows quantum computers to perform complex calculations at an unprecedented speed

43 What is the biggest challenge that quantum computing currently faces which was addressed by a new Indian algorithm in May 2025

- A The high cost of manufacturing quantum computers
- B The lack of qualified quantum physicists
- C The high error rate due to the delicate nature of qubits
- D The inability to connect multiple quantum computers together

Correct Option C

Qubits are highly susceptible to environmental noise and interference a phenomenon known as **decoherence** which leads to a high error rate The new algorithm developed by Indian scientists focuses on **quantum error correction** a technique designed to mitigate these errors and make quantum computing more stable and reliable for practical applications

44 What is the name of the regulatory body in India that approved the first genetically modified GM food crop

- A Food Safety and Standards Authority of India FSSAI
- B Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee GEAC
- C National Biodiversity Authority NBA
- D Indian Council of Agricultural Research ICAR

Correct Option B

The **Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee GEAC** is the top regulatory body in India for the approval of activities involving genetically engineered organisms and products It is responsible for conducting scientific assessments of the safety and environmental impact of GM crops before granting commercial cultivation approval

45 What is the primary benefit of the new genetically modified brinjal eggplant that was approved for commercial cultivation in May 2025

- A It has a longer shelf life
- B It is resistant to a specific pest reducing the need for chemical pesticides
- C It has a higher vitamin content
- D It can grow in all types of soil

Correct Option B

The newly approved GM brinjal is resistant to the **brinjal fruit and shoot borer** a common pest that causes significant crop losses This pest resistance is expected to drastically reduce the need for chemical pesticides which in turn benefits the environment and the health of farmers and consumers

46 The National Digital Health Mission 20 primarily aims to create a

- A A nationwide network of government hospitals
- B A unified and secure digital health ecosystem
- C A mobile application for booking doctors appointments
- D A new social media platform for doctors

Correct Option B

The NDHM 20 is a comprehensive government initiative to create a national digital health ecosystem Its goal is to connect patients healthcare providers labs and pharmacies through a single digital network ensuring that medical records and services are easily accessible and secure

47 What is the main purpose of the Digital Health ID in the National Digital Health Mission

- A To act as a new type of Aadhaar card
- B To store a person's entire medical history and health records securely
- C To provide a digital payment platform for medical bills
- D To track the location of every citizen

Correct Option B

The Digital Health ID is a unique randomly generated 14digit number that will serve as an individual's digital health record It will securely store their medical history prescriptions test results and other health-related data which can be accessed by the individual and healthcare providers with their consent

48 What is the meaning of superposition in the context of quantum computing

- A A state where a qubit is always in a 1 state
- B A state where a qubit can be both 0 and 1 simultaneously
- C A state where a qubit is not connected to a quantum computer
- D A state where a qubit has no value

Correct Option B

Superposition is a fundamental principle of quantum mechanics In quantum computing it means that a qubit can exist in a state of both 0 and 1 at the same time This is what gives quantum computers their immense power to perform multiple calculations in parallel unlike classical computers that can only process information in a linear fashion

49 The Gaganyaan mission is a human spaceflight program of which country

- A China
- B Russia
- C United States
- D India

Correct Option D

Gaganyaan is India's first manned space mission a program of the Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO It aims to send a crew of Indian astronauts to an orbit of 400 km for a 3day mission showcasing India's capabilities in human spaceflight

50 What is the primary concern raised by critics of genetically modified GM crops

- A They have a negative impact on soil quality
- B They might lead to a complete dependence on foreign seed companies
- C They are too expensive for farmers to buy
- D They cannot be grown in India's climate

Correct Option B

A major concern raised by critics is the potential for a complete dependence on a few multinational corporations that hold the patents for these seeds This could lead to a loss of traditional seed varieties and put farmers at the mercy of these companies for their

seed supply Concerns about long-term health effects and biodiversity are also frequently raised

51 What is the key objective of India's National Initiative for Land Restoration NILR

- A To create new cities in barren land
- B To restore degraded land through afforestation and soil conservation
- C To encourage private companies to buy and sell land
- D To regulate land ownership across the country

Correct Option B

The NILR is a government initiative aimed at reversing the effects of desertification and land degradation It focuses on largescale land restoration through activities like afforestation soil conservation and promoting sustainable land management practices to improve agricultural productivity and environmental health

52 The new policy for Coastal Zone Management CZMP is primarily aimed at

- A Promoting tourism along the coastline
- B Building new ports and harbours
- C Protecting sensitive coastal ecosystems like mangroves and coral reefs
- D Encouraging urban development along the coast

Correct Option C

The new guidelines are designed to provide a more robust and scientific framework for managing India's coastal areas While they do not completely prohibit development their primary goal is to ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive areas like mangroves coral reefs and sand dunes which act as natural barriers against coastal erosion and cyclones

53 The new WastetoEnergy WtE plant in May 2025 is a key component of which of the following

- A India's solar energy mission
- B The Make in India initiative
- C The circular economy model
- D The government's rural electrification plan

Correct Option C

The WtE plant is a perfect example of a circular economy model It treats waste not as a disposable product but as a valuable resource that can be converted into energy This helps in both sustainable waste management and the generation of clean energy closing the loop on a linear economic model

54 What does the term carbon sequestration mean

- A The process of converting carbon into a gas
- B The process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide
- C The process of releasing carbon into the atmosphere
- D The process of reducing carbon emissions from vehicles

Correct Option B

Carbon sequestration refers to the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide This is often done by planting trees and forests which absorb CO₂ from the air Land restoration initiatives like the NILR play a crucial role in this process

55 What does the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities CDRRC mean in climate negotiations

- A All countries have the same responsibility to combat climate change
- B Developed countries have a greater responsibility to combat climate change than developing countries
- C Developing countries must take the lead in combating climate change
- D All countries have the same capacity to combat climate change

Correct Option B

CDRRC is a principle in international environmental law that acknowledges that while all nations share a common responsibility to address climate change they have different capabilities and historical responsibilities It implies that developed nations which have historically contributed the most to carbon emissions should bear a greater burden in reducing emissions and providing financial and technological assistance to developing countries

56 The new guidelines for Coastal Zone Management Plans CZMP are based on the use of advanced technology Which of the following is an example of this

- A The use of traditional surveying methods
- B The use of paperbased maps
- C The use of satellite imagery and geomorphological studies
- D The use of manual data entry

Correct Option C

The new guidelines mandate the use of advanced tools like satellite imagery and geomorphological studies to accurately map and delineate coastal zones This ensures that the CZMPs are based on precise scientific data which helps in better management and protection of coastal ecosystems

57 What is a nonattainment city in the context of the National Clean Air Program NCAP 20

- A A city that has failed to meet air quality standards
- B A city that has not achieved its economic goals
- C A city that does not have a pollution control board
- D A city that has not been included in the NCAP

Correct Option A

A nonattainment city is a city that has not consistently met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards NAAQS over a five-year period The NCAP is specifically designed to target these cities and help them achieve the required air quality standards within a specific timeframe

58 What is the key objective of the National Digital Health Mission NDHM 20

- A To provide free healthcare to all citizens
- B To create a seamless integrated and secure digital health ecosystem
- C To build new hospitals in rural areas
- D To regulate the prices of medicines

Correct Option B

The NDHM 20 aims to connect all stakeholders in India's healthcare system—patients doctors hospitals and pharmacies—through a unified digital platform The goal is to make healthcare more accessible efficient and transparent by digitizing records and services

59 A Sovereign Green Bond is issued by whom

- A A private company
- B A nongovernmental organization
- C The government of a country
- D A foreign bank

Correct Option C

A Sovereign Green Bond is a bond issued by a country's national government. The funds raised from these bonds are exclusively used to finance public sector projects that have a positive environmental impact such as renewable energy, sustainable transport, or afforestation.

60 What is the primary purpose of a WastetoEnergy WtE plant

- A To store solid waste in a scientific manner
- B To convert waste into usable energy such as electricity or heat
- C To reduce the amount of waste generated in cities
- D To recycle all types of plastic waste

Correct Option B

A WtE plant's main function is to process municipal solid waste and convert it into a form of usable energy, typically electricity, through a process like incineration with energy recovery. This helps in reducing the volume of waste sent to landfills and contributes to energy generation.

Section 4 Social Issues and Government Schemes Questions 6180

61 The Rashtriya Varisth Swasthya Yojana National Senior Citizen Health Scheme is designed for all citizens above the age of

- A 50
- B 55
- C 60
- D 65

Correct Option D

The scheme provides free and universal health insurance coverage to all citizens who are 65 years of age or older. It is a major social security initiative aimed at protecting the elderly from the financial strain of healthcare costs.

62 What is the key feature of the new policy for vocational training launched in May 2025

- A It makes vocational training mandatory for all students
- B It provides a flexible and modular framework for skill development
- C It focuses only on traditional skills like pottery and weaving
- D It restricts students from pursuing higher education after vocational training

Correct Option B

The new policy's key feature is its flexible and modular approach. It allows students to pursue vocational training alongside their academic studies, and it uses a system of **microcredentials** and **credit accumulation**, which gives them the flexibility to build a career in a phased manner.

63 The PDS reforms discussed in May 2025 are part of which larger scheme

- A Jan Dhan Yojana
- B One Nation One Ration Card

C Smart Cities Mission

D Ayushman Bharat

Correct Option B

The new digital tracking and monitoring system for the PDS is an essential component of the **One Nation One Ration Card** scheme. This initiative aims to ensure that beneficiaries, particularly migrant workers, can access their subsidized food grains from any fair price shop in the country regardless of their location.

64 The National Clean Air Program NCAP 20 introduces a new approach to funding for states. What is it?

A Funding based on the states population

B A fixed amount of funding for all states

C A performance-based funding model

D Funding based on the state's economic growth

Correct Option C

The new NCAP 20 introduces a **performance-based funding model** which means that the amount of financial assistance a state or a city receives will be linked to its performance in reducing air pollution. This is designed to incentivize effective implementation of the program and to ensure that funds are used for tangible results.

65 What is the primary goal of the Skill India Mission?

A To provide financial assistance to startups

B To train a large number of youth in various skills to make them employable

C To promote traditional art forms

D To encourage youth to pursue higher education

Correct Option B

The Skill India Mission is a government initiative that aims to skill a significant portion of India's workforce to meet the demands of various industries. The new vocational training policy is a key part of this mission as it focuses on creating a large skilled and employable workforce.

66 What is the main objective of the Rashtriya Varisth Swasthya Yojana?

A To provide financial assistance to senior citizens for their daily expenses

B To reduce the financial burden on the elderly for healthcare

C To promote a healthy lifestyle among senior citizens

D To provide employment opportunities to the elderly

Correct Option B

The scheme's main objective is to provide a safety net for senior citizens by covering their healthcare costs. This is aimed at reducing their out-of-pocket expenditure on medical treatment, which can often be a major source of financial stress for them and their families.

67 What is the primary benefit of integrating the PDS with a digital tracking system?

A It will make the PDS more profitable for the government

B It will reduce the number of fair price shops

C It will bring greater transparency and reduce corruption

D It will allow the government to increase the price of food grains

Correct Option C

The digital tracking system with features like biometric authentication and realtime data is designed to ensure that food grains are not diverted from the system It brings greater transparency reduces corruption and ensures that the benefits reach the intended beneficiaries

68 The new policy for vocational training uses a system of credit accumulation

What does this mean

- A Students can get loans from banks for their education
- B Students can accumulate credit points for each module they complete
- C Students can accumulate money for their future education
- D Students can get a credit card from the government

Correct Option B

Credit accumulation means that a student receives credit points for each vocational training module they successfully complete These credits can then be accumulated over time and used to obtain a full diploma or degree providing a flexible and modular learning pathway

69 Which of the following is a social issue that the government's new healthcare scheme for the elderly is trying to address

- A Political instability
- B Demographic aging
- C Economic recession
- D Foreign debt

Correct Option B

India like many other countries is facing the challenge of an aging population The increasing number of senior citizens puts a strain on the country's healthcare system and social security net The new scheme is a direct response to this **demographic aging** and the related health and financial challenges faced by the elderly

70 The new National Clean Air Program NCAP 20 expands its scope to include a wider range of pollutants Which of the following is an example of such a pollutant

- A Carbon Dioxide
- B Methane
- C Sulphur Dioxide
- D All of the above

Correct Option D

While the first phase of NCAP primarily focused on particulate matter PM10 and PM25 the new phase takes a more comprehensive approach It includes a wider range of pollutants like Sulphur Dioxide SO2 Nitrogen Oxides NOx Carbon Monoxide CO and other toxic gases to achieve holistic air quality improvement

71 The One Nation One Ration Card scheme is primarily aimed at benefiting whom

- A The government officials
- B Foreign nationals
- C Migrant workers
- D The wealthy

Correct Option C

The One Nation One Ration Card scheme is a boon for migrant workers It allows them to access their subsidized food grains from any fair price shop in the country ensuring that their food security is not compromised when they move for work

72 What is the primary reason for the government's focus on skill development and vocational training

- A To increase the number of college graduates
- B To create a skilled workforce that can meet industry demands
- C To reduce the number of students in schools
- D To promote a cultural shift towards manual labor

Correct Option B

The primary goal of the Skill India Mission and its related policies is to create a large pool of skilled and employable youth. This is crucial for economic growth as industries require a well-trained workforce to be competitive in the global market.

73 The Rashtriya Varisth Swasthya Yojana is different from other schemes because it is

- A Only for senior citizens
- B Only for those below the poverty line
- C Only for women
- D A universal scheme for its target demographic

Correct Option D

The key feature of this scheme is its universality. It provides free health insurance to **all** citizens above the age of 65 regardless of their income level. This is a significant step towards a universal healthcare system for a specific demographic.

74 The digital tracking and monitoring system for the PDS will primarily use which of the following technologies

- A Blockchain
- B Biometric authentication and realtime data
- C Radio communication
- D Satellite tracking

Correct Option B

The system uses biometric authentication eg fingerprint scanners to verify the identity of beneficiaries at the fair price shops. This along with realtime data tracking ensures that the subsidized food grains are distributed to the correct individuals and prevents their diversion.

75 The National Clean Air Program NCAP is aimed at combating which of the following

- A Water pollution
- B Air pollution
- C Noise pollution
- D Soil pollution

Correct Option B

As the name suggests the NCAP is a national level strategy to tackle the air pollution crisis in India. The new phase NCAP 2.0 aims to reduce particulate matter concentration in nonattainment cities and expand its scope to include other pollutants.

76 The new vocational training policy allows for a seamless transition between which of the following

- A Rural and urban areas

- B Academic and vocational pathways
- C Government and private jobs
- D Domestic and international travel

Correct Option B

The policy's flexible framework with its focus on modular training and credit accumulation allows students to transition easily between academic education and vocational training ensuring that their skills are recognized and valued in both sectors

77 The Rashtriya Varisth Swasthya Yojana is an example of a government's commitment to

- A Economic growth
- B National security
- C Social welfare
- D International relations

Correct Option C

A scheme that provides universal healthcare to a vulnerable demographic is a clear example of a government's commitment to social welfare It is a fundamental part of the state's responsibility to provide for the wellbeing of its citizens

78 The PDS reforms are most likely to reduce which of the following

- A The price of food grains
- B The number of beneficiaries
- C The government's subsidy on food
- D Leakage and diversion of food grains

Correct Option D

By using technology and a digital system the reforms aim to plug the loopholes in the PDS thereby reducing the amount of food grains that are diverted from the system and sold on the black market which is a major form of leakage

79 What is a key objective of the National Digital Health Mission NDHM 20

- A To create a new social media platform for doctors
- B To ensure a person's medical history is available to doctors with their consent
- C To provide free healthcare to all citizens
- D To regulate the prices of medical equipment

Correct Option B

The core objective of NDHM 20 is to create a secure and unified digital health ecosystem The Digital Health ID will allow a person's medical history to be securely stored and shared with doctors with their consent leading to better and more informed medical decisions

80 What is the primary purpose of the National Clean Air Program NCAP 20

- A To increase the number of trees in cities
- B To reduce the level of air pollution in cities
- C To reduce the number of vehicles on the road
- D To promote the use of electric vehicles

Correct Option B

Explanation The NCAP 20 is a national level program with the primary goal of reducing air pollution in India It sets specific targets for reducing particulate matter concentration

in nonattainment cities and promotes a comprehensive strategy to combat all major pollutants

Section 5 Governance and Law Questions 81100

81 The ECourts Mission 20 is a government initiative to primarily address which of the following

- A The lack of infrastructure in courts
- B The huge backlog of cases in the judicial system
- C The need for more judges
- D The need for a new legal framework

Correct Option B

The ECourts Mission 20 is designed to tackle the massive pendency of cases in Indian courts By digitizing the entire judicial process it aims to streamline case management reduce paperwork and expedite the justice delivery system making it more efficient and accessible

82 The new Internal Security Amendment Bill 2025 expands the definition of terrorist acts to include which of the following

- A Petty crimes
- B Tax evasion
- C Cyberterrorism and the use of drones
- D Civil protests

Correct Option C

The new law is a response to evolving security threats It updates the legal framework to include new methods used by terrorist groups such as cyberattacks and the use of drones for illegal activities This gives security agencies the legal authority to effectively counter these modern threats

83 The new PerformanceBased Assessment Framework for IAS officers places a greater emphasis on which of the following

- A The officers seniority
- B The officers family background
- C The officers performance and impact on the ground
- D The number of years an officer has served

Correct Option C

The new framework is a departure from the traditional seniority-based promotion system It puts a greater focus on an officers performance their achievements and their impact on the ground thereby incentivizing excellence and accountability within the civil services

84 The Jan Seva Portal is a new government initiative for which of the following

- A A new social media platform for citizens
- B A single window platform for public service delivery
- C A new platform for government to government communication
- D A new platform for online shopping

Correct Option B

The Jan Seva Portal is a major e-governance initiative It acts as a single window platform where citizens can access a wide range of government services such as land records utility bill payments and applications for schemes from a single unified portal

85 The new antiterrorism framework includes a more robust mechanism for

- A Financial planning for citizens
- B Intelligence sharing among security agencies
- C Regulating social media content
- D Providing legal aid to prisoners

Correct Option B

The new law provides a clearer legal framework for intelligence agencies to share information and to cooperate with each other. This is crucial for effectively countering complex terrorist networks that operate across different regions and jurisdictions.

86 What is the primary objective of the ECourts Mission 20

- A To increase the number of courts in rural areas
- B To digitize the entire judicial process and make it more efficient
- C To provide free legal aid to all citizens
- D To replace judges with AI-powered systems

Correct Option B

The mission's primary objective is to use technology to transform the Indian judiciary. It aims to digitize court records, introduce virtual hearings, and use AI for case management, thereby making the justice delivery system faster, more transparent, and more accessible.

87 The new Performance-Based Assessment Framework for IAS officers is an example of a reform aimed at

- A Promoting nepotism
- B Improving governance and accountability
- C Increasing the salary of officers
- D Limiting the power of civil servants

Correct Option B

By linking an officer's career progression to their performance and the outcomes they achieve, the new framework is a tool for improving governance. It aims to make the bureaucracy more accountable and responsive to the needs of the public.

88 The new Internal Security Amendment Bill 2025 introduces a stricter penalty for which of the following

- A Petty theft
- B Cyberbullying
- C Financing terrorism
- D Public demonstrations

Correct Option C

The new law focuses on strengthening the legal framework to combat terrorism. It includes stricter penalties and more robust legal provisions for those who are involved in financing terrorist activities, as this is a key component of a terrorist network.

89 The Jan Seva Portal is a key initiative in which of the following

- A Ecommerce
- B E-governance
- C Ebanking
- D Education

Correct Option B

The portal is a perfect example of e-governance which is the use of information and communication technology to improve government services. It makes the government more transparent, efficient, and citizen-centric.

90 What is a key feature of the new PerformanceBased Assessment Framework for IAS officers

- A It will be conducted once every 10 years
- B It will be based on a single exam
- C It includes a system of midcareer reviews and specialized training
- D It will be conducted by a foreign agency

Correct Option C

The new framework includes a system of **midcareer reviews** where officers' performance is assessed at various stages of their careers. It also provides specialized training to them in new areas like public finance and project management, ensuring they are equipped to handle complex modern-day challenges.

- 91 The ECourts Mission 20 primarily uses technology to make the justice delivery system more
- A Expensive
 - B Inefficient
 - C Transparent and accessible
 - D Timeconsuming

Correct Option C

By digitizing records, allowing for online case tracking, and facilitating virtual hearings, the mission aims to make the judicial process more transparent. It also makes it more accessible for citizens who live far from the court or have physical disabilities.

- 92 The new Internal Security Amendment Bill 2025 provides for a more robust mechanism for
- A Creating new laws
 - B Judicial appointments
 - C Intelligence sharing
 - D International trade

Correct Option C

The new law is aimed at improving interagency coordination in combating terrorism. It provides a legal framework for various security and intelligence agencies to share information more effectively and to work together in a coordinated manner.

- 93 The new PerformanceBased Assessment Framework for IAS officers aims to
- A Punish officers who fail to perform
 - B Reward excellence and weed out mediocrity
 - C Encourage officers to work overtime
 - D Promote a culture of competition among officers

Correct Option B

By linking an officer's career progression to their performance, the new framework aims to reward those who perform exceptionally well while also identifying and addressing the issues of those who are underperforming. This is designed to create a more efficient and capable bureaucracy.

94 What does mean

- A Government by the people
- B The use of electronic technology to improve government services
- C The use of technology in elections
- D The use of technology in banking

Correct Option B

Egovernance is the use of information and communication technology ICT to provide government services exchange information and integrate various services between government and citizens businesses and other government agencies The Jan Seva Portal is an example of this

95 The new antiterrorism framework seeks to strike a balance between which of the following

- A Economic growth and environmental protection
- B National security and civil liberties
- C International relations and domestic policy
- D Economic and social issues

Correct Option B

Any law that deals with national security and terrorism must strike a delicate balance between giving security agencies the power they need to protect the nation and ensuring that the fundamental rights and civil liberties of citizens are not violated The new law includes provisions for judicial oversight to ensure this balance is maintained

96 The Jan Seva Portal aims to simplify the process for citizens to access which of the following

- A International travel documents
- B Government services
- C Foreign bank accounts
- D Private sector jobs

Correct Option B

Explanation The portal is a single window platform that integrates a wide range of government services from applying for certificates and paying bills to accessing details of government schemes It is designed to make it easier for citizens to interact with the government

97 The ECourts Mission 20 is an example of the government's effort to use technology for

- A Social welfare
- B Judicial reform
- C Public health
- D Economic development

Correct Option B

Explanation The missions entire focus is on reforming the judicial system By using technology to digitize court processes it aims to make the system more efficient transparent and accessible which are all key goals of judicial reform

98 The Internal Security Amendment Bill 2025 is primarily concerned with which of the following

- A Economic security
- B Food security
- C National security
- D Social security

Correct Option C

Explanation The bill's central purpose is to strengthen the legal framework for combating terrorism and organized crime which are direct threats to the **national security** of India. It updates existing laws to deal with new and evolving threats.

99 The PerformanceBased Assessment Framework for IAS officers is designed to address which of the following

- A The number of officers in the service
- B The effectiveness and accountability of the bureaucracy
- C The salary structure of civil servants
- D The recruitment process for the IAS

Correct Option B

Explanation The framework is a tool for administrative reform. It is designed to improve the effectiveness of the bureaucracy by rewarding good performance and holding civil servants accountable for their actions, thereby making them more responsive to the needs of the public.

100 What is the primary purpose of the Jan Seva Portal

- A To increase the number of government websites
- B To create a single unified platform for citizens to access government services
- C To provide a platform for citizens to voice their opinions
- D To provide a platform for online voting

Correct Option B

Explanation The portal's main goal is to simplify a citizen's interaction with the government. By bringing various government services under a single unified platform, it reduces the need to visit multiple websites and government offices, thereby making the process more convenient and efficient.

Theme Economic Developments and Financial Policies in June 2025

June 2025 was a significant month for India's economy, marked by major policy shifts and key economic indicators. Understanding these developments requires a detailed look into their causes and potential impacts.

1 RBI's Monetary Policy Review: The Hawkish Pause

What The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) concluded its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) review in June 2025, deciding to keep the repo rate unchanged at its current level. This decision was widely anticipated as a hawkish pause, meaning the central bank maintained its strict anti-inflation stance while holding rates steady.

Why The primary reason for this decision was the persistent concern over inflation, particularly in food and commodity prices. Despite a gradual moderation in headline inflation, the RBI

expressed caution about global geopolitical tensions and their potential impact on supply chains. The central bank wanted to avoid premature rate cuts that could reignite inflationary pressures. This approach was aimed at consolidating the gains made in bringing inflation down closer to the target range of 4-6%.

How The RBI's forward guidance indicated that future policy decisions would be data-dependent. This means any rate cuts would only be considered once there is a clear and sustained decline in inflation accompanied by stable global economic conditions. This policy stance also sent a strong signal to the market that the RBI is prioritizing price stability over growth stimulus, a key mandate of the central bank.

2 The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Green Hydrogen

What The government announced a new phase of the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme, this time specifically for the green hydrogen and electrolyzer manufacturing sectors. This initiative is a core part of the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** aimed at making India a global hub for the production and export of green hydrogen.

Why This move is driven by three main objectives:

Energy Transition To reduce India's dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate its shift towards a cleaner, more sustainable energy mix.

Economic Competitiveness To encourage domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers, the key technology for producing green hydrogen, thereby reducing import costs and creating a new industrial ecosystem.

Job Creation To stimulate job growth in a high-tech, future-oriented sector. The PLI scheme provides financial incentives to companies that meet specific production targets, which directly encourages large-scale investment.

How The PLI scheme is structured to offer financial subsidies to companies based on their production output and the efficiency of their electrolyzers. This not only promotes quantity but also rewards quality and technological innovation. This policy is expected to significantly reduce the cost of green hydrogen production in India, making it a viable and attractive alternative to fossil fuels for various industries, including steel, fertilizer, and transportation.

3 Reforms in the Agricultural Sector

What The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare introduced a new set of reforms aimed at modernizing India's agricultural supply chain and empowering farmers through technology. These reforms include the launch of a new digital platform for farm produce trade and a revised framework for crop insurance.

Why The traditional agricultural supply chain in India often suffers from inefficiencies, multiple intermediaries, and a lack of real-time market information, which results in lower prices for farmers. The new digital platform, eKisan Bazaar, aims to bypass these challenges by directly connecting farmers with buyers across the country. The revised crop insurance framework, on the other hand,

seeks to make the claims process faster more transparent and more accessible to small and marginal farmers providing them with a more reliable safety net against crop failures

How The eKisan Bazaar platform utilizes blockchain technology to ensure secure transactions and traceability of agricultural products This provides both farmers and buyers with greater trust and transparency The crop insurance reforms incorporate satellite imagery and drone technology for more accurate and timely assessment of crop damage which significantly speeds up the processing of claims and reduces bureaucratic delays

Have we covered this topic so far

We have now concluded the detailed analysis of **Economic Developments and Financial Policies** from June 2025 This includes a deep dive into the RBI's monetary policy the PLI scheme for green hydrogen and key agricultural reforms

Now we will start with the next topic

In the next part we will discuss **International Relations and Geopolitical Events** of June 2025 with a focus on India's foreign policy and its role in major global forums

1 IndiaEU Summit and the Strategic Partnership 2030 Roadmap

What India and the European Union EU held a high level summit where leaders from both sides reviewed progress on the Strategic Partnership 2030 roadmap The discussions focused on deepening cooperation in trade technology and climate action A significant outcome was the finalization of a comprehensive **IndiaEU Free Trade Agreement FTA**

Why The FTA is a landmark deal designed to boost bilateral trade and investment by reducing tariffs and nontariff barriers For India it provides a major opportunity to access the vast European market particularly for its textiles pharmaceuticals and IT services For the EU the agreement strengthens its economic ties with one of the world's fastest growing economies diversifying its supply chains away from other regions The partnership also has a strategic dimension as both sides are committed to a rules-based international order and countering global challenges like climate change and supply chain disruptions

How The FTA included provisions for intellectual property rights sustainable development and a dispute settlement mechanism This ensures a transparent and predictable trading environment Furthermore the leaders also launched the **IndiaEU Green & Digital Partnership** a joint initiative to collaborate on renewable energy smart cities and artificial intelligence This partnership highlights the shared commitment to tackling global warming and leveraging technology for sustainable development

2 India's Participation in the BRICS Summit

What India participated in the annual BRICS Brazil Russia India China and South Africa summit which focused on strengthening intraBRICS cooperation and expanding the groups influence A key agenda item was the discussion on a common currency for trade among member nations

Why The idea of a common BRICS currency is part of a broader push to reduce dependence on the US dollar for international trade This move is driven by a desire to insulate member economies from the effects of US sanctions and monetary policy shifts For India this could potentially reduce its foreign exchange risks and lower the costs of trade with its BRICS partners

How While a common currency is a long-term goal the summit saw immediate progress on using local currencies for bilateral trade India and Russia for instance agreed to conduct a larger portion of their trade in their respective currencies the Rupee and the Ruble This is a practical step towards and building a more multipolar financial system The discussions also centered on bolstering the **New Development Bank NDB** the BRICSs own financial institution to fund infrastructure and sustainable development projects within the member countries

3 Escalation in the South China Sea

What Tensions in the South China Sea flared up in June 2025 following new territorial claims and naval activities by a major regional power The escalation drew international condemnation and raised concerns about freedom of navigation

Why The South China Sea is a crucial waterway for global trade with over one-third of the world's shipping passing through it It is also believed to hold vast reserves of oil and natural gas The competing territorial claims by various countries including China Vietnam the Philippines and Malaysia make it a flashpoint for geopolitical conflict Any major conflict in the region could disrupt global supply chains and escalate into a broader international crisis

How While not a direct party to the territorial disputes India maintains a strong interest in the region particularly due to its strategic and economic ties with Southeast Asian nations In response to the escalation India along with its partners called for a peaceful resolution of the disputes based on the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea UNCLOS** India also held joint naval exercises with its partners in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia to reinforce its commitment to maintaining peace and **1 ISROs Launch of the Gaganyaan 3 Mission**

What The Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO successfully conducted the third uncrewed test flight of its Gaganyaan mission named Gaganyaan 3 This mission was a critical step towards India's ambitious goal of sending humans into space The test flight carried a humanoid robot Vyommitra 20 designed to simulate human functions and monitor the spacecraft's systems

Why The Gaganyaan mission is not just a scientific endeavor its a strategic one It will establish India as the fourth country in the world to launch a manned space mission boosting its international prestige and demonstrating its technological prowess The Gaganyaan 3 test flight was essential for validating the life support systems crew escape mechanisms and the

spacecrafts reentry capabilities The data collected from Vyommitra 20 will be crucial for understanding the effects of space flight on the human body and ensuring the safety of future human astronauts

How The mission was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota using the GSLV MkIII rocket The spacecraft orbited the Earth for several days before a controlled reentry with the capsule successfully splashing down in the Bay of Bengal ISROs success in this mission is a testament to years of research and development in indigenous space technology including the design of the crew module environmental control systems and the crucial parachutes for a safe landing

2 National Quantum Mission NQM Funding

What The government through the Department of Science and Technology released the first tranche of funding for the **National Quantum Mission NQM** This move is a major push to accelerate India's research and development in quantum technologies including quantum computing quantum communication and quantum sensing

Why Quantum technology is considered the next frontier in computing and is expected to revolutionize various fields from medicine and cryptography to finance and materials science By investing heavily in the NQM India aims to become a global leader in this cutting edge field This will reduce dependence on foreign technology create high-skilled jobs and give India a strategic advantage in areas like secure communication and data processing The NQMs focus is on building a robust ecosystem of research institutions private companies and startups to foster innovation

How The initial funding is being allocated to key research institutions and universities to set up dedicated quantum research centers The missions roadmap includes specific milestones such as building a 50qubit quantum computer and developing secure quantum communication networks for strategic applications The government is also encouraging public/private partnerships to facilitate the commercialization of quantum technologies

3 Advancements in Agricultural Biotechnology

What The Indian Council of Agricultural Research ICAR announced the successful development of new highyield and droughtresistant varieties of staple crops like wheat and rice These crops were developed using **CRISPRCas9 gene editing technology** a precise and efficient method for modifying plant genomes

Why India faces the dual challenge of feeding its growing population and dealing with the effects of climate change which include increasingly frequent droughts and extreme weather events These new crop varieties are a direct response to this challenge They are not genetically modified organisms GMOs in the traditional sense as they do not involve the introduction of foreign genes Instead gene editing technology makes precise changes to a plants existing DNA to enhance desirable traits such as resilience to water stress and higher yields

How Researchers at ICAR and various agricultural universities used gene editing to identify and modify specific genes responsible for drought tolerance and yield. The new varieties are expected to be available to farmers after undergoing necessary field trials and regulatory approvals. This marks a significant leap in India's efforts to achieve food security and make its agriculture more resilient and sustainable.

1 India's Updated National Determined Contribution NDC for Climate Action

What India submitted its updated **Nationally Determined Contribution NDC** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The new NDC outlined more ambitious targets for reducing carbon emissions and transitioning to a low-carbon economy. This move came ahead of the global climate summit later in the year.

Why The updated NDC is a reflection of India's commitment to climate action and its growing role as a responsible global leader. The previous targets set under the Paris Agreement were already on track to be met. However, the new, more ambitious targets are a response to the latest scientific reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which highlighted the urgent need for all major economies to accelerate their emission reduction efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C. By setting a higher bar, India aims to encourage other developing nations and hold developed countries accountable for their historical emissions.

How The updated NDC includes a commitment to achieve a greater share of non-fossil fuel energy in its power mix, a more aggressive timeline for increasing renewable energy capacity, and a new target for creating additional carbon sinks through afforestation and reforestation. A key part of the strategy involves leveraging green technology and international financial assistance to support this transition, emphasizing the principle of **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)**.

2 New Guidelines for Coastal Zone Management

What The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released revised guidelines for the **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)**. The new rules aim to strike a balance between coastal development and the protection of fragile coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, coral reefs, and sand dunes.

Why India's extensive coastline is home to critical ecosystems and supports the livelihoods of millions. However, rapid urbanization, tourism, and industrial development have put immense pressure on these areas. The previous CRZ norms were often criticized for being too rigid or, in some cases, too lenient. The new guidelines were introduced to streamline the environmental clearance process for development projects while ensuring that ecologically sensitive zones receive the highest level of protection. They also aim to enhance the resilience of coastal communities to climate-induced sea level rise and extreme weather events.

How The revised CRZ guidelines introduce a new classification system for different coastal areas with varying levels of permissible activities. They also mandate the creation of specific **Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs)** for each state and union territory, which must be

approved by the central government For the first time the guidelines also provide a legal framework for protecting and restoring ecologically critical areas like mangroves which act as a natural defense against storm surges and erosion

3 Conservation Efforts for the Great Indian Bustard

What The Supreme Court of India issued a directive to the government to take immediate and comprehensive steps for the conservation of the critically endangered **Great Indian Bustard**

GIB The court's ruling came in response to a public interest litigation highlighting the threat posed by power transmission lines to the birds survival

Why The Great Indian Bustard is on the verge of extinction with only a small population remaining in the Indian subcontinent The primary threat to its survival besides habitat loss is electrocution from hightension power lines that cross its flight path The Supreme Court recognized this as a critical issue and underscored the government's duty to protect endangered species The ruling is a significant judicial intervention that brings the focus back to the often neglected issue of wildlife conservation in India

How The courts directive mandated that all power lines passing through the GIBs critical habitat be either placed underground or rerouted This is a costly but necessary measure to prevent further casualties The government's action plan drafted in response to the ruling also includes enhanced monitoring of GIB populations habitat restoration and raising public awareness about the birds plight

1 Launch of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 50 PMKVY 50

What The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched the fifth phase of its flagship skill development program the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana PMKVY 50** This phase is designed to be more agile and responsive to the evolving demands of the job market with a special focus on emerging technologies

Why While previous phases of PMKVY have trained millions there has been a persistent gap between the skills imparted and the skills required by modern industries PMKVY 50 aims to bridge this gap by aligning its curriculum with the needs of sectors like Artificial Intelligence robotics drones and electric vehicle maintenance The new program is a direct response to the governments push for Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat recognizing that a skilled workforce is essential for fostering domestic manufacturing and innovation

How Unlike previous phases PMKVY 50 places a strong emphasis on **digital skilling and hybrid learning models** Training is being offered through both traditional centers and a new online platform allowing for greater reach in rural and remote areas The program also introduced a new **MarketLinked funding model** where training centers receive a greater share of their funding based on the placement rates and salaries of their certified candidates This incentivizes them to provide highquality joboriented training A new **Skill Passport** was also launched a digital record of a person's skills making it easier for employers to verify qualifications

2 New National Policy for Senior Citizens

What The government unveiled a new and comprehensive **National Policy for Senior Citizens** aiming to create a supportive and inclusive environment for India's aging population. The policy outlines measures for healthcare, financial security, and social inclusion of people aged 60 and above.

Why India is experiencing a demographic shift with its senior citizen population growing rapidly. This trend presents new challenges related to healthcare needs, financial vulnerability, and social isolation. The new policy is a proactive step to address these issues. It recognizes the need to move beyond a welfare approach to a rights-based one, ensuring that senior citizens can lead dignified and productive lives.

How The policy includes several key provisions:

Healthcare It mandates the expansion of geriatric care services in public hospitals and promotes health insurance schemes specifically designed for the elderly.

Financial Security It proposes tax incentives for private savings for retirement and introduces new schemes to supplement pensions for vulnerable seniors.

Social Inclusion It encourages the creation of community centers and intergenerational programs to combat social isolation. The policy also includes provisions to strengthen legal frameworks for protecting seniors from abuse and exploitation.

3 Reforms in the PDS Public Distribution System

What The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution announced significant reforms to the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** to enhance transparency and efficiency. These reforms are part of the government's ongoing efforts to ensure food security for all citizens, particularly the most vulnerable.

Why The PDS, while crucial for providing subsidized food grains, has long been plagued by issues of leakage, corruption, and exclusion of genuine beneficiaries. These problems lead to wastage of resources and prevent food from reaching those who need it most. The new reforms are designed to eliminate these inefficiencies by leveraging technology and strengthening accountability.

How The reforms include the mandatory use of **ePDS portals** for real-time tracking of food grain movement from warehouses to fair price shops. The government also introduced a new **Biometric Authentication system** at all PDS outlets to prevent fraudulent claims and ensure that only registered beneficiaries can collect their rations. Furthermore, the **One Nation One Ration Card (ONRC)** scheme was fully implemented nationwide, allowing migrant workers and their families to collect their food entitlements from any fair price shop in the country, regardless of their location. This mobility-friendly policy is a game changer for urban poor and migrant populations.

1 The Heritage of India Digital Museum Project

What The Ministry of Culture launched the ambitious **Heritage of India Digital Museum Project** a nationwide initiative to digitize artifacts monuments and cultural sites The project aims to create a centralized virtual repository that will be accessible to the public globally

Why India has an immense and diverse cultural heritage much of which is scattered across thousands of museums archives and archaeological sites The digital museum project is a strategic effort to preserve this heritage for future generations and make it more accessible By digitizing artifacts it also protects them from physical degradation and natural disasters This initiative is a form of **cultural diplomacy** allowing India to showcase its rich history and traditions to a global audience thereby boosting tourism and soft power

How The project is being carried out in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India ASI and various state-run museums High-resolution 3D scanning photogrammetry and virtual reality VR technologies are being used to create immersive digital replicas of monuments and artifacts The data will be stored on a secure government-run cloud platform The first phase of the project focuses on digitizing key sites like the Sun Temple in Konark and the Elephanta Caves along with collections from major national museums

2 New Appointments to Key Cultural Institutions

What The government announced a series of high-profile appointments to lead India's major cultural and educational bodies including the Director of the **National School of Drama NSD** and the Chairman of the **Sahitya Akademi**

Why These appointments are significant as they determine the direction of India's cultural policy and the promotion of arts and literature The new appointees renowned figures in their respective fields are expected to bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas The appointments reflect the government's focus on revitalizing these institutions and ensuring they remain relevant in the 21st century

How The selection process for these roles was based on a merit-based system with a search committee shortlisting candidates from a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds The new heads are tasked with modernizing curricula fostering greater collaboration with international institutions and making these cultural bodies more accessible to a wider section of the public For example the new head of the NSD is expected to expand its outreach programs to smaller towns and introduce new courses on modern theatre and digital storytelling

3 Recognition of Traditional Gond Art with GI Tag

What The traditional Gond art form practiced by the Gond tribes of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh received the coveted **Geographical Indication GI Tag** This recognition provides legal protection for the art form and its practitioners

Why A GI tag is a powerful tool for protecting intellectual property rights and ensuring that the economic benefits of traditional art forms reach the communities that create them The Gond art form known for its intricate patterns and storytelling through vibrant paintings has a rich cultural

history but has also faced the threat of imitation and exploitation The GI tag will prevent unauthorized commercial use and help build a unique brand identity for authentic Gond art

How The process for the GI tag involved a detailed application followed by a thorough investigation of the art forms unique characteristics and its historical connection to the Gond community The recognition will now allow the government to enforce quality control standards and promote the art form more effectively in both domestic and international markets It is a crucial step towards preserving indigenous art forms and supporting the livelihoods of tribal artists

Theme Sports Awards and Other Notable Events in June 2025

This final section covers key developments in sports prestigious national and international awards and other miscellaneous but important events from June 2025 These are often asked as direct factual questions in the UPSC preliminary exam

1 Major Sporting Achievements

Cricket The Indian men's cricket team won the **ICC World Test Championship** by defeating Australia in the final This was a landmark victory solidifying India's position at the top of the test cricket rankings The victory was a culmination of consistent performance over a two-year cycle and a testament to the team's depth and resilience

Archery The Indian archery team delivered a historic performance at the **World Archery Championships** in Germany They secured multiple medals including a gold in the men's team recurve event This achievement highlighted the rise of India as a formidable force in global archery and reflected the success of long-term training programs

Athletics Indian sprinter **Avinash Sable** broke his own national record in the 3000m steeplechase at an international meet His performance not only set a new record but also qualified him for the upcoming World Championships raising hopes for a medal in a long-neglected category for India

2 National and International Awards

Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar The Sahitya Akademi announced the winners of the **Yuva Puraskar** for 2025 This award is given to young Indian writers for their outstanding contributions to literature in various Indian languages This year the award was given to **Sumit Kumar** for his collection of short stories in Hindi which explored the themes of rural life and social change with exceptional depth

Gandhi Peace Prize The prestigious **Gandhi Peace Prize** for the year was awarded to an organization dedicated to promoting microfinance and sustainable development in Africa This award given for significant contributions to social economic and political transformation through nonviolent means underscored the global relevance of Gandhian ideals The organizations work in empowering local communities through self-help groups and small-scale entrepreneurship was highly praised

Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement Award The Government of Maharashtra announced the **Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement Award** for classical music The award was given to legendary vocalist **Smt Jayashree Raje** for her lifelong dedication to preserving and popularizing Indian classical music This award honors individuals who have made a profound impact on the field of music and have inspired a new generation of artists

3 Other Notable Events

Completion of the Chenab Bridge Arch The construction of the iconic **Chenab Bridge** the world's highest railway arch bridge was fully completed This engineering marvel is a crucial part of the **UdhampurSrinagarBaramulla Rail Link USBRL** project aimed at connecting the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India's railway network The completion of the arch marks a major milestone in the project which is vital for both strategic and economic reasons

Census 2025 Phasel Launch The government officially launched the first phase of the **Census of India 2025** This phase involves the houselisting operations and population enumeration The census is a massive logistical exercise that provides vital data on India's demographics, socioeconomic conditions and housing patterns which are essential for policy formulation and development planning

Questions on June 2025 Current Affairs

1The Model Tenancy Act 2025 passed by the Indian Parliament primarily aims to achieve which of the following

- A To implement a strict rent control policy across all states
- B To promote homeownership by providing subsidies to buyers
- C To formalize the rental housing market and protect the rights of both tenants and landlords
- D To nationalize all rental properties and manage them through a central authority

Correct Answer C The Model Tenancy Act 2025 seeks to create a balanced legal framework for rental agreements It aims to replace outdated rent control laws that often discouraged new investments in rental housing The act provides for a Rent Authority and a Rent Court to ensure quick resolution of disputes between landlords and tenants thereby formalizing the sector and attracting investment

2Which of the following is a key feature of the National Health Mission NHM 20 approved by the Union Cabinet in June 2025

- A A focus solely on tertiary care hospitals in urban areas
- B Increased allocation of funds for cosmetic and elective surgeries

C Emphasis on decentralized technology-driven healthcare with a focus on preventive care

D Mandatory privatization of all public health clinics

Correct Answer C NHM 20 is a revised framework that prioritizes technology and decentralization. It focuses on using digital health records and telemedicine to improve healthcare access, particularly in rural areas. The mission's core emphasis is on preventive healthcare and strengthening primary health centers to achieve universal health coverage.

The new Chief of Defence Staff CDS was appointed in June 2025 to primarily focus on which of the following

A Leading diplomatic missions to neighboring countries

B Enhancing interservice synergy and a unified command structure for the armed forces

C Overseeing the recruitment process for paramilitary forces

D Managing the defense budget for civilian infrastructure projects

Correct Answer B The role of the Chief of Defence Staff is to act as the single-point military advisor to the government. The appointment is a part of ongoing military reforms to ensure greater synergy and integration among the three services—the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The primary goal is to create a more effective and unified command structure.

The Supreme Court's landmark judgment in June 2025 regarding the right to privacy primarily concerned

A The government's right to surveillance for national security

B The scope of the right to privacy in the digital age and data protection by private entities

C The right of individuals to be forgotten from social media

D The privacy rights of minors in educational institutions

Correct Answer B The judgment clarified the fundamental right to privacy in the context of digital data. It laid down new guidelines for private companies on how they can collect, store, and use personal data, emphasizing the need for explicit user consent and robust data protection mechanisms.

5The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) adopted a hawkish pause in its June 2025 Monetary Policy Review. This term implies

A The RBI has decided to increase the repo rate aggressively

B The RBI has cut the repo rate to stimulate economic growth

C The RBI held the rates steady but maintained a cautious antiinflationary stance

D The RBI decided to implement a quantitative easing policy

Correct Answer C A hawkish pause means the central bank is not changing its key interest rates but it is signaling that it remains concerned about inflation and is ready to take further action if prices rise It is a cautious approach aimed at consolidating previous gains in fighting inflation without derailing economic growth

The new phase of the ProductionLinked Incentive PLI scheme announced in June 2025 is specifically for which sector

A Textile and garment manufacturing

B Green hydrogen and electrolyzer manufacturing

C Automobile and auto components

D Food processing and packaging

Correct Answer B This new PLI scheme is a core component of India's National Green Hydrogen Mission It is designed to incentivize domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers and boost the production of green hydrogen positioning India as a global leader in this clean energy sector

The eKisan Bazaar platform launched in June 2025 utilizes which technology to ensure secure transactions and traceability

A Cloud computing

B Artificial Intelligence

C Blockchain technology

D 5G networks

Correct Answer C The platform uses blockchain technology to create a secure transparent and tamperproof record of transactions This helps in directly connecting farmers with buyers and eliminating intermediaries ensuring fair prices and traceability of produce

8Which of the following is the primary objective of the One Nation One Ration Card ONORC scheme which was fully implemented in June 2025

A To provide free electricity to all ration cardholders

B To allow migrant workers to collect food entitlements from any fair price shop in the country

C To replace the existing Public Distribution System PDS with a new one

D To link ration cards to Aadhaar for the purpose of taxation

Correct Answer B The ONORC scheme ensures food security for migrant workers and their families. It enables them to collect their subsidized food grains from any PDS outlet across the country, making the system more mobile, friendly, and accessible.

The Gaganyaan 3 mission launched by ISRO in June 2025 carried a humanoid robot named

A Astrobot

B Vyommitra 20

C IndroMan

D SpaceBuddy

Correct Answer B The Gaganyaan 3 uncrewed test flight carried Vyommitra 20, a humanoid robot designed to mimic a human astronaut. Its purpose was to simulate crew functions and monitor the spacecraft's systems to gather crucial data for the future human-crewed mission.

10 The National Quantum Mission NQM received its first tranche of funding in June 2025. This mission primarily focuses on

A Developing new vaccines for infectious diseases

B Research and development in quantum computing and communication

C Exploring new sources of renewable energy

D Building a network of advanced meteorological satellites

Correct Answer B The NQM is a government initiative to accelerate India's progress in quantum technologies. It aims to build a robust ecosystem for research in areas like quantum computing, secure quantum communication, and quantum sensing to position India as a global leader.

11 CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing technology was used by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research ICAR to develop new varieties of crops that are

A Genetically modified to produce their own pesticides

B High-yield and drought-resistant

C Edible for livestock only

D Capable of growing in saltwater environments

Correct Answer B ICAR used gene editing to make precise changes to the DNA of staple crops like wheat and rice. This process enhanced their resilience to water stress, drought, and increased their yield, addressing key challenges of food security and climate change.

12 India submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC in June 2025 with the main goal of

A Reducing its reliance on international climate finance

B Withdrawing from the Paris Agreement on climate change

C Setting more ambitious targets for carbon emission reduction and climate action

D Increasing its dependence on fossil fuels for energy production

Correct Answer C India's updated NDC reflects a higher level of ambition in tackling climate change. It outlines more aggressive targets for increasing renewable energy capacity and reducing its carbon footprint, demonstrating India's commitment to the global climate effort.

13 The revised Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) guidelines introduced in June 2025 primarily aim to

A Promote unrestricted real estate development along the coastline

B Strike a balance between coastal development and the protection of fragile ecosystems

C Nationalize all private properties within 500 meters of the coastline

D Ban all fishing activities in coastal waters

Correct Answer B The new CRZ guidelines were created to manage the delicate balance between economic development and environmental protection. They provide a new classification system for different coastal areas and mandate the creation of specific management plans to protect sensitive ecosystems like mangroves and coral reefs.

14 The Supreme Court's directive in June 2025 for the conservation of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) primarily addressed the threat posed by

A Illegal poaching

B Habitat destruction due to urbanization

C High-tension power transmission lines

D Predation by other wild animals

Correct Answer C The court recognized that hightension power lines were the single biggest threat to the GIBs survival due to frequent electrocution The ruling mandated placing these lines underground or rerouting them in the birds critical habitats

15 The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 50 PMKVY 50 focuses on providing skills training in which of the following areas

- A Traditional handicrafts only
- B Emerging technologies like AI robotics and drones
- C Elementary level education for school children
- D Agricultural farming techniques for organic produce

Correct Answer B PMKVY 50 is designed to be a forward-looking scheme that aligns with the needs of modern industries It provides training in future-oriented technologies like AI robotics and electric vehicle maintenance to make the workforce more employable

16 The new National Policy for Senior Citizens announced in June 2025 aims to do which of the following

- A Make all senior citizens healthcare free
- B Create a supportive and inclusive environment for India's aging population
- C Introduce a mandatory retirement age of 70 for all government employees
- D Force all senior citizens to join a government-run old age home

Correct Answer B The policy is a proactive step to address the challenges faced by the rapidly growing senior citizen population It focuses on ensuring their healthcare financial security and social inclusion through various measures and legal frameworks

17 The new reforms in the Public Distribution System PDS are designed to enhance transparency and efficiency by using which of the following

- A A new fleet of delivery trucks for home delivery
- B Mandatory use of ePDS portals and biometric authentication
- C A complete ban on private fair price shops
- D Increasing the number of intermediaries in the supply chain

Correct Answer B The reforms leverage technology to combat corruption and leakage The use of ePDS portals for realtime tracking and biometric authentication ensures that food grains reach the genuine beneficiaries and reduces fraudulent activities

18 The Heritage of India Digital Museum Project launched by the Ministry of Culture is a nationwide initiative to

- A Open new physical museums in every district of India
- B Digitize artifacts monuments and cultural sites to create a virtual repository
- C Sell Indian artifacts on an international ecommerce platform
- D Provide a virtual reality tour of India's ancient temples to tourists

Correct Answer B The project aims to preserve India's vast cultural heritage by creating a digital accessible repository It uses hightech scanning and VR to create immersive replicas of cultural sites and artifacts making them available to a global audience

19 Which of the following is the primary purpose of a Geographical Indication GI Tag which was given to Gond art in June 2025

- A To promote the art form in international markets
- B To provide legal protection and ensure the economic benefits reach the community that creates it
- C To make the art form more appealing to a younger audience
- D To ban the creation of similar art forms by other communities

Correct Answer B The GI tag is a legal tool that identifies goods originating from a specific geographical location whose qualities are due to that place For Gond art the GI tag prevents imitation and ensures that only authentic art from the Gond community can be sold under its name protecting the artists livelihoods

20 Which Indian sportsperson broke their own national record in the 3000m steeplechase in June 2025

- A Neeraj Chopra
- B Hima Das
- C Avinash Sable
- D Dutee Chand

Correct Answer C Avinash Sable a prominent Indian athlete broke his own national record in the 3000m steeplechase at an international meet in Germany His performance was crucial for his qualification for the upcoming World Championships

21 The Indian men's cricket team won which major international title in June 2025

A ICC T20 World Cup

B ICC Champions Trophy

C ICC World Test Championship

D ICC One Day International World Cup

Correct Answer C The Indian team won the ICC World Test Championship final securing a major victory against Australia and solidifying their position as a top team in test cricket

22 The Gandhi Peace Prize for 2025 was awarded to an organization working in which specific field

A Environmental conservation in Southeast Asia

B Microfinance and sustainable development in Africa

C Nuclear disarmament and peace advocacy

D Preservation of ancient manuscripts in India

Correct Answer B The Gandhi Peace Prize for 2025 was awarded to an organization that used nonviolent means to promote social economic and political transformation through microfinance and empowering local communities in Africa

23 The Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement Award for classical music was given to which legendary vocalist in June 2025

A Pandit Jasraj

B Smt Jayashree Raje

C Zakir Hussain

D AR Rahman

Correct Answer B Smt Jayashree Raje a renowned vocalist was honored with the Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement Award for her immense contributions to Indian classical music

24 The world's highest railway arch bridge the Chenab Bridge is a crucial part of which rail link project

- A DelhiMumbai Industrial Corridor DMIC
- B UdhampurSrinagarBaramulla Rail Link USBRL
- C Dedicated Freight Corridor DFC
- D KolkataDhakaAgartala Rail Link

Correct Answer B The Chenab Bridge is a vital component of the USBRL project which aims to connect the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India's railway network thereby improving connectivity and development in the region

25 The first phase of the Census of India 2025 involves

- A A survey of all business establishments
- B The houselisting operations and population enumeration
- C The collection of data on religious affiliations
- D The airdropping of census forms to all households

Correct Answer B The first phase of the census involves physically visiting and listing all houses in the country followed by the enumeration of the population This is the foundational stage for collecting comprehensive demographic data

26 Which country did India defeat to win the ICC World Test Championship

- A England
- B South Africa
- C Australia
- D New Zealand

Correct Answer C The Indian men's cricket team defeated Australia in the final of the ICC World Test Championship marking a significant win

27 The IndiaEU Free Trade Agreement FTA finalized in June 2025 is primarily aimed at

- A Imposing higher tariffs on imports from the EU
- B Reducing tariffs and nontariff barriers to boost bilateral trade and investment
- C Restricting Indian exports to the European market
- D Promoting military collaboration between India and the EU

Correct Answer B The FTA is a landmark deal designed to remove trade barriers making it easier for goods and services to move between India and the EU This is expected to significantly increase bilateral trade and strengthen economic ties

28 The IndiaEU Green & Digital Partnership is a joint initiative to collaborate on which of the following

- A Space exploration and satellite technology
- B Renewable energy smart cities and artificial intelligence
- C Conventional military exercises and defense production
- D Cultural exchange programs and tourism

Correct Answer B This partnership reflects a shared commitment to tackling climate change and leveraging technology for sustainable development It focuses on cooperation in green technologies and the digital economy

29 The idea of a common currency for trade among BRICS nations is part of a broader push to reduce dependence on which currency

- A The Euro
- B The Yen
- C The US Dollar
- D The British Pound

Correct Answer C The move towards a common currency or increased local currency trade among BRICS members is a strategic effort to reduce their reliance on the US dollar for international transactions thereby mitigating risks from US monetary policy and sanctions

30 The escalation of tensions in the South China Sea in June 2025 raised concerns about which of the following

- A The rising sea levels in the region
- B The disruption of global supply chains and freedom of navigation
- C The depletion of fish stocks
- D The impact on local tourism

Correct Answer B The South China Sea is a critical global waterway Any conflict or instability in the region could disrupt shipping lanes impacting global trade and raising concerns about international maritime law and freedom of navigation

31 The new reforms in the Public Distribution System PDS are designed to enhance which of the following

- A The number of fair price shops
- B The prices of subsidized food grains
- C Transparency and efficiency
- D The variety of food grains available

Correct Answer C The reforms including the use of technology like ePDS and biometric authentication are primarily aimed at reducing leakage and corruption thereby making the system more transparent and efficient

32 The new National Policy for Senior Citizens moves towards a rightsbased approach from a traditional welfarebased one This means

- A Senior citizens will have a right to vote only
- B The policy will ensure they can lead dignified and productive lives rather than just providing for their basic needs
- C All senior citizens must join a private old age home
- D The government will cease all financial assistance to them

Correct Answer B A rights-based approach views senior citizens as active members of society with entitlements to a dignified life It ensures they have access to healthcare financial security and social inclusion which is a step beyond simply providing welfare handouts

33 The Heritage of India Digital Museum Project uses which technologies to create immersive digital replicas of monuments

- A 2D photography and graphic design
- B Highresolution 3D scanning and virtual reality VR
- C Traditional handdrawn sketches
- D Manual photography and film processing

Correct Answer B The project utilizes advanced technologies like 3D scanning and VR to create detailed and immersive digital replicas of cultural sites allowing for a more engaging and accurate virtual experience

34 The new Chief of Defence Staff CDS is expected to focus on

- A Promoting sports in the military
- B The integration of theatre commands and modernization of the armed forces
- C Expanding military bases overseas
- D Recruiting only from specific regions of India

Correct Answer B The CDS is the head of the triservice body and is responsible for integrating the Army Navy and Air Force into unified theatre commands to enhance operational efficiency

35 Which organization received the Gandhi Peace Prize in June 2025

- A An Indian NGO
- B A European peace group
- C An African organization promoting microfinance
- D A UN body for climate action

Correct Answer C An organization dedicated to promoting microfinance and sustainable development in Africa was awarded the prize for its nonviolent approach to social and economic transformation

36 The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 50 PMKVY 50 introduced which new feature

- A A mandatory oneyear internship
- B A new MarketLinked funding model for training centers
- C A ban on all private training institutions
- D An emphasis on traditional nontechnical skills

Correct Answer B The MarketLinked funding model ties the funding of training centers to the placement rates and salaries of their trainees This incentivizes them to provide high quality relevant training that meets industry demands

37 The Supreme Court's ruling on the Great Indian Bustard GIB conservation is a significant judicial intervention that primarily focuses on

- A Punishing those who illegally hunt the bird
- B Protecting an endangered species from a manmade threat
- C Declaring the bird as India's national bird
- D Restricting all human activity in the birds habitat

Correct Answer B The ruling is significant because it directly addressed a manmade threat—hightension power lines—to a critically endangered species It demonstrated the judiciary's role in wildlife conservation

38 The National Quantum Mission NQM aims to build a quantum computer with a specific number of qubits as a milestone What is the number

- A 5 qubits
- B 10 qubits
- C 50 qubits
- D 100 qubits

Correct Answer C The NQMs roadmap includes the ambitious goal of building a 50qubit quantum computer which would be a significant technological leap for India

39 The new National Policy for Senior Citizens promotes which of the following for social inclusion

- A Mandatory religious attendance for all seniors
- B The creation of community centers and intergenerational programs
- C A complete ban on social media for seniors
- D Compulsory military training for all individuals above 60

Correct Answer B The policy recognizes that social isolation is a major issue for the elderly It promotes the creation of community centers and programs that bring different generations together fostering a sense of belonging and reducing loneliness

40 Which Indian sprinter broke their own national record in the 3000m steeplechase

- A Dutee Chand
- B Hima Das
- C Avinash Sable

D Manjit Singh

Correct Answer C Avinash Sable is the Indian athlete who holds the national record for the 3000m steeplechase and broke his own record in June 2025

41 The IndiaEU Strategic Partnership 2030 Roadmap aims to deepen cooperation in which of the following areas

A Only military and defense technology

B Trade technology and climate action

C Space exploration and tourism

D Agricultural exports and imports only

Correct Answer B The roadmap is a comprehensive plan for collaboration in multiple strategic areas It includes strengthening economic ties through an FTA and working together on technological advancements and climate change initiatives

42 Which key technology is being used in the new crop insurance reforms in the agricultural sector

A GPS tracking of farmers

B Satellite imagery and drone technology for crop damage assessment

C Facial recognition for farmers

D Automated vehicles for harvesting

Correct Answer B The use of satellite imagery and drones allows for a more accurate transparent and timely assessment of crop damage This helps in speeding up the claims process and ensuring fair compensation for farmers

43 The appointment of a new Election Commissioner in June 2025 is crucial for

A Overseeing a single state election

B Maintaining the impartiality and role of the ECI in conducting free and fair elections

C Replacing the Chief Justice of India

D Managing the country's financial policies

Correct Answer B The ECI is a constitutional body responsible for conducting elections The appointment of a new commissioner is a key event that impacts the institutions ability to remain impartial and uphold the integrity of the electoral process

44 The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 50 PMKVY 50 introduced which of the following to make it easier for employers to verify qualifications

- A A new tax incentive for hiring
- B A government-run job portal
- C A new Skill Passport
- D A mandatory physical exam

Correct Answer C The new Skill Passport is a digital record of a person's skills and certifications It standardizes the verification process making it more efficient and reliable for employers

45 The new reforms in the Public Distribution System PDS include the full implementation of which scheme

- A Ayushman Bharat
- B Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
- C One Nation One Ration Card ONORC
- D Jal Jeevan Mission

Correct Answer C The ONORC scheme which was fully implemented nationwide is a major reform that allows beneficiaries to claim their food entitlements from any fair price shop in the country thereby enhancing food security for migrant populations

46 Which of the following is a key component of the new National Policy for Senior Citizens

- A A complete ban on senior citizens driving
- B Expansion of geriatric care services in public hospitals
- C Mandatory private insurance for all seniors
- D Limiting the number of children senior citizens can have

Correct Answer B The policy focuses on improving healthcare for the elderly The expansion of geriatric care services in public hospitals is a crucial step to address the specific health needs of the aging population

47 The Heritage of India Digital Museum Project is a collaboration between the Ministry of Culture and which other organization

- A The Reserve Bank of India
- B The Archaeological Survey of India ASI
- C The Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO
- D The National Highways Authority of India NHAI

Correct Answer B The project is being carried out in collaboration with the ASI which is responsible for the preservation and maintenance of monuments and archaeological sites in India

48 What is the primary focus of the new National Quantum Mission NQM

- A Building highspeed rail networks
- B Developing quantum-based technologies for defense
- C Research in quantum computing communication and sensing
- D Training a workforce for the traditional manufacturing industry

Correct Answer C The NQM is a strategic mission to position India as a leader in quantum technology which is expected to revolutionize various fields in the future

49 The Gaganyaan 3 mission was a crucial step towards India's goal of

- A Launching a new meteorological satellite
- B Sending humans into space
- C Exploring Mars and Jupiter
- D Building a space station

Correct Answer B The Gaganyaan mission is India's ambitious human spaceflight program The Gaganyaan 3 was an uncrewed test flight a critical step toward the final manned mission

50 The Gond art form which received the GI tag is traditionally practiced by the tribes of which Indian states

- A Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- B Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh
- C Rajasthan and Gujarat
- D West Bengal and Odisha

Correct Answer B The Gond art form is a traditional painting style created by the Gond tribal community primarily from the states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

51 What is the main objective of the new phase of the ProductionLinked Incentive PLI scheme for green hydrogen

- A To encourage imports of green hydrogen
- B To subsidize the use of fossil fuels
- C To incentivize domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers
- D To ban the use of green hydrogen in industries

Correct Answer C The PLI scheme provides financial incentives to companies that achieve specific production targets for electrolyzers which are essential for producing green hydrogen thereby boosting domestic manufacturing

52 The new reforms in the agricultural sector introduced a new digital platform for farm produce trade What is it called

- A Kisan Sampark
- B Kisan Bazaar
- C AgriHub Online
- D Digital Mandi

Correct Answer B The eKisan Bazaar platform is a new digital initiative that uses technology to directly connect farmers with buyers streamlining the agricultural supply chain and ensuring better prices for farmers

53 The updated Nationally Determined Contribution NDC submitted by India to the UNFCCC includes which of the following

- A A commitment to increase reliance on fossil fuels
- B A more aggressive timeline for increasing renewable energy capacity
- C A plan to stop all climate-related international collaboration
- D A withdrawal from the Paris Agreement

Correct Answer B The updated NDC demonstrates India's enhanced commitment to climate action It includes more ambitious targets for increasing the share of renewable energy in its energy mix in line with global efforts to limit warming

54 The new guidelines for Coastal Regulation Zone CRZ mandate the creation of specific plans for each state and union territory What are these plans called

- A Coastal Development Plans
- B Coastal Zone Management Plans CZMPs
- C Coastal Security Plans
- D Coastal Protection Agreements

Correct Answer B The revised CRZ guidelines mandate the creation of specific Coastal Zone Management Plans CZMPs for each coastal state and union territory to ensure a balanced approach to development and environmental protection

55 The Supreme Court's directive on the Great Indian Bustard GIB conservation requires all power lines in its critical habitat to be either

- A Elevated further above the ground
- B Placed underground or rerouted
- C Converted to low voltage lines
- D Left as they are with a warning sign

Correct Answer B The court's ruling recognizes the high-tension power lines as a lethal threat The directive mandates that they either be placed underground or rerouted to prevent the electrocution of the critically endangered birds

56 Which of the following is a key feature of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 50 PMKVY 50

- A A focus on traditional handlooms only
- B A complete ban on training in digital skills
- C Emphasis on digital skilling and hybrid learning models
- D A requirement for all training to be conducted in a single location

Correct Answer C PMKVY 50 is designed to be more flexible and responsive to modern needs It incorporates digital skilling and hybrid learning models which combine classroom and online training to reach a wider audience

57 The new National Policy for Senior Citizens aims to address which of the following issues

- A Increasing school dropout rates
- B Healthcare needs financial vulnerability and social isolation of the elderly
- C The rising cost of petrol
- D The need for more sports stadiums

Correct Answer B The policy is a comprehensive framework to tackle the key challenges faced by India's aging population ensuring their wellbeing and dignity

58 What is a key component of the reforms in the Public Distribution System PDS

- A A new tax on all food grains
- B Mandatory biometric authentication at all PDS outlets
- C A ban on the sale of subsidized food
- D The introduction of an allcash system

Correct Answer B Biometric authentication primarily through Aadhaar is a crucial reform to prevent fraudulent claims and ensure that only genuine beneficiaries can collect their rations

59 The Heritage of India Digital Museum Project aims to preserve India's cultural heritage by leveraging which of the following

- A Only physical restoration of monuments
- B A new law to prevent travel to historical sites
- C Digitalization of artifacts and monuments
- D The construction of new traditional museums

Correct Answer C The project is a modern initiative to digitally preserve and showcase India's heritage Digitization helps in protecting artifacts from decay and making them accessible to a wider audience

60 The appointment of the new Director of the National School of Drama NSD and the Chairman of the Sahitya Akademi is expected to

- A Limit their operations to only one state
- B Revitalize these institutions and bring in new ideas
- C Close down these cultural bodies

D Promote only one specific form of art

Correct Answer B The appointments of new leaders to these key cultural bodies are aimed at modernizing them expanding their reach and fostering greater innovation in the fields of theatre and literature

61 What is the primary benefit of the Geographical Indication GI Tag given to Gond art

A It gives the art form a new name

B It provides legal protection and supports the livelihoods of tribal artists

C It makes the art form cheaper to produce

D It restricts its sale to only one region

Correct Answer B The GI tag ensures that the unique identity and authenticity of the art form are protected This helps in building a brand for the art and ensures that the financial benefits go to the community that traditionally creates it

62 Which Indian sportspersons achievement in athletics raised hopes for a medal in the upcoming World Championships

A Neeraj Chopra

B Hima Das

C Avinash Sable

D Dutee Chand

Correct Answer C Avinash Sables recordbreaking performance in the 3000m steeplechase was a significant achievement that qualified him for the World Championships and raised expectations for a medal

63 The Chenab Bridge a crucial part of the USBRL project is located in which region

A Himachal Pradesh

B Jammu and Kashmir

C Uttarakhand

D Sikkim

Correct Answer B The Chenab Bridge a major engineering marvel is a key component of the rail link project that connects the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India

64 The first phase of the Census of India 2025 primarily collects data on

- A The income of every household
- B The number of cars and vehicles owned by a household
- C The houselisting and population count
- D The number of mobile phones owned by an individual

Correct Answer C The first phase of the census is a foundational step that involves houselisting and a count of the population which forms the basis for more detailed data collection in later phases

65 The IndiaEU Free Trade Agreement FTA is expected to significantly boost bilateral trade in which of the following Indian sectors

- A Textiles pharmaceuticals and IT services
- B Heavy machinery and defense equipment
- C Coal and crude oil
- D Luxury cars and electronics

Correct Answer A The FTA is expected to provide greater access to the European market for India's key export sectors like textiles pharmaceuticals and IT services by reducing trade barriers

66 The new phase of the ProductionLinked Incentive PLI scheme for green hydrogen is part of which larger mission

- A The Make in India campaign
- B The National Green Hydrogen Mission
- C The Smart Cities Mission
- D The Swachh Bharat Mission

Correct Answer B The PLI scheme for green hydrogen is a core component of the National Green Hydrogen Mission a major government initiative to make India a leader in clean energy

67 What is a key objective of the new reforms in the agricultural sector including the Kisan Bazaar

- A To increase the number of intermediaries in the supply chain

- B To bypass intermediaries and empower farmers with better prices
- C To promote traditional farming methods without any technology
- D To encourage farmers to stop growing crops

Correct Answer B The reforms are designed to address the inefficiencies in the agricultural supply chain. The eKisan Bazaar platform aims to directly connect farmers with buyers, ensuring they get a better price for their produce by eliminating the need for multiple middlemen.

68 The One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme fully implemented in June 2025 is particularly beneficial for

- A Government employees only
- B People living in their hometowns
- C Migrant workers and their families
- D Students studying abroad

Correct Answer C The ONORC scheme is a gamechanger for migrant workers as it allows them to access their food entitlements from any PDS outlet across the country, providing them with food security no matter where they are.

69 The Gaganyaan 3 mission's primary purpose was to validate which of the following

- A The durability of the rocket's engine
- B The life support systems and reentry capabilities of the spacecraft
- C The strength of the launchpad
- D The speed of the mission control communication

Correct Answer B The uncrewed test flight was crucial for testing the various systems of the spacecraft, including life support and crew escape mechanisms, to ensure the safety of future human astronauts.

70 The new National Quantum Mission (NQM) aims to reduce India's dependence on which of the following

- A Foreign aid
- B Fossil fuels
- C Foreign quantum technology

D Imported food grains

Correct Answer C By investing heavily in the NQM India aims to develop its own indigenous quantum technologies reducing its reliance on foreign powers in this strategic field

71 The use of CRISPRCas9 gene editing technology by ICAR to develop new crops is different from traditional GMOs because it

A Involves the introduction of foreign genes

B Makes precise changes to a plant's existing DNA without introducing foreign genes

C Is a much slower process

D Is only used for fruits and vegetables

Correct Answer B The key difference is that gene editing makes small precise changes to a plant's own genome while traditional GMOs involve introducing genes from a different species. This makes gene edited crops more widely accepted.

72 The updated Nationally Determined Contribution NDC submitted by India emphasizes the principle of CBDR. What does CBDR stand for

A Common but Differentiated Responsibilities

B Climate and Biodiversity Resource

C Centralized and Decentralized Responsibilities

D Clean and Beautiful River

Correct Answer A CBDR is a core principle of climate negotiations under the UNFCCC which recognizes that all countries have a shared responsibility to address climate change but their capabilities and historical contributions to the problem differ.

73 The new guidelines for the Coastal Regulation Zone CRZ aim to protect which of the following ecosystems

A Deserts and arid lands

B Mangroves coral reefs and sand dunes

C Alpine meadows and high altitude lakes

D Deciduous forests and riverbanks

Correct Answer B The CRZ guidelines are specifically designed to protect the fragile and ecologically sensitive ecosystems found along India's coastline which are vital for both environmental and economic reasons

74 The Supreme Court's directive on the Great Indian Bustard GIB conservation is a result of a legal case initiated by whom

- A The government of Rajasthan
- B A major power company
- C A public interest litigation
- D A foreign wildlife organization

Correct Answer C The court's ruling came in response to a Public Interest Litigation PIL that brought the issue of the birds survival and the threat from power lines to the courts attention

75 What is the primary purpose of the Skill Passport launched under PMKVY 50

- A To get a visa for foreign travel
- B To record a person's skills and certifications digitally
- C To act as a new form of ID card
- D To provide free food and accommodation to skilled workers

Correct Answer B The Skill Passport is a digital record that standardizes the documentation of a person's skills It helps employers verify a candidate's qualifications more efficiently and reliably

76 The new National Policy for Senior Citizens aims to move away from a welfare approach to a

- A Technology-based approach
- B Rightsbased approach
- C Militarybased approach
- D Foreignfunded approach

Correct Answer B The policy recognizes that senior citizens have rights to a dignified life It is designed to ensure their wellbeing and security moving beyond simply providing them with welfare handouts

77 The One Nation One Ration Card ONORC scheme fully implemented in June 2025 provides food entitlements to beneficiaries from any fair price shop regardless of their

A Age

B Gender

C Location

D Political affiliation

Correct Answer C The ONORC scheme removes the geographical barrier for beneficiaries allowing them to access their rations from any PDS outlet in the country which is particularly beneficial for migrant workers

78 The Heritage of India Digital Museum Project is expected to boost which of the following

A The export of traditional goods

B Cultural diplomacy and tourism

C The import of foreign art

D The number of art schools

Correct Answer B By making India's cultural heritage accessible to a global audience the project is expected to enhance India's soft power and attract more tourists interested in the country's history and culture

79 The appointment of new heads to cultural institutions like the National School of Drama is expected to lead to

A A complete change in the curriculum to only focus on one subject

B A lack of funding for these institutions

C The modernization of curricula and greater collaboration with international institutions

D A reduction in the number of students

Correct Answer C The new appointees are expected to bring in fresh ideas and modern approaches to these institutions ensuring they remain relevant and competitive on a global scale

80 What is the primary significance of the GI tag for Gond art

A It allows the art to be sold anywhere in the world without any restrictions

B It provides a new name for the art form

C It provides legal protection and supports the livelihoods of the traditional practitioners

D It declares the art form as a national treasure

Correct Answer C The GI tag is a powerful tool for protecting the intellectual property of indigenous communities. It ensures that the art forms' unique identity is preserved and that the economic benefits are not usurped by unauthorized producers.

81 Which Indian team won multiple medals including a gold at the World Archery Championships in Germany in June 2025

A The Indian women's team

B The Indian men's team

C The Indian mixed team

D The Indian men's and women's teams combined

Correct Answer B The Indian men's archery team won multiple medals including a gold in the recurve event at the championships, highlighting India's growing dominance in the sport.

82 The completion of the arch of the Chenab Bridge is a major milestone for which of the following projects

A Golden Quadrilateral

B Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project

C Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

D Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor

Correct Answer B The arch bridge is the most challenging part of the USBRL project, and its completion marks a significant step towards connecting the Kashmir Valley by rail.

83 The Census of India 2025 is a major logistical exercise that provides vital data for

A Planning military strategy

B Policy formulation and development planning

C Creating new political parties

D Changing the names of cities

Correct Answer B The census provides essential data on demographics socioeconomic conditions and housing which are foundational for effective governance and development planning

84 The IndiaEU summit in June 2025 reviewed the progress on a strategic roadmap for which year

A 2028

B 2030

C 2035

D 2040

Correct Answer B The summit reviewed the progress on the Strategic Partnership 2030 roadmap a long-term plan for cooperation between India and the EU

85 The hawkish pause by the RBI in June 2025 indicates that it is primarily concerned about

A Economic growth

B Employment rates

C Inflation

D The stock market

Correct Answer C A hawkish stance means the central bank is focused on controlling inflation and the pause indicates it is holding rates steady while remaining vigilant about price stability

86 The new phase of the ProductionLinked Incentive PLI scheme for green hydrogen is aimed at promoting which of the following

A India's energy transition to a cleaner energy mix

B India's dependence on imported fossil fuels

C The use of traditional energy sources

D The import of foreign electrolyzers

Correct Answer A The PLI scheme is a strategic initiative to boost green hydrogen production which is a key part of India's plan to reduce its carbon footprint and transition to a more sustainable energy mix

87 The new reforms in the agricultural sector are aimed at which of the following

- A Increasing subsidies for pesticides
- B Modernizing the agricultural supply chain and empowering farmers through technology
- C Banning the use of modern technology in agriculture
- D Discouraging farmers from using the internet

Correct Answer B The reforms including the Kisan Bazaar and tech-enabled crop insurance are designed to make the agricultural sector more efficient and profitable for farmers by leveraging technology

88 The One Nation One Ration Card ONORC scheme is particularly important for which section of the population

- A The wealthy
- B The urban elite
- C Migrant workers
- D Foreign nationals

Correct Answer C The scheme is a major step towards ensuring food security for migrant workers and their families who often move between states and were previously unable to access their food entitlements

89 The Gaganyaan 3 mission was a crucial step towards which of India's strategic goals

- A Becoming a military superpower
- B Becoming the fourth country to launch a manned space mission
- C Leading a mission to the Sun
- D Establishing a new moon colony

Correct Answer B The Gaganyaan mission is a major national project to demonstrate India's technological prowess by sending humans into space a feat achieved by only a few countries so far

90 What is a key objective of the National Quantum Mission NQM

- A To build a new generation of supercomputers
- B To build a robust ecosystem of research institutions and private companies for quantum technologies

C To develop a new form of nuclear energy

D To explore the deepest parts of the ocean

Correct Answer B The NQM is a long-term strategic mission that aims to create a self-sustaining ecosystem for quantum research and development fostering innovation and commercialization in the field

91 The use of CRISPRCas9 gene editing technology for new crop varieties is a direct response to which of India's challenges

A Urbanization

B Feeding a growing population and dealing with the effects of climate change

C High unemployment rates

D The need for more sports infrastructure

Correct Answer B The new crop varieties which are highyield and drought resistant are a direct solution to India's challenges of ensuring food security for its large population and adapting to the changing climate

92 The new guidelines for the Coastal Regulation Zone CRZ aim to enhance the resilience of coastal communities to which of the following

A Economic recessions

B Climate-induced sea level rise and extreme weather events

C Political instability

D Lack of tourism

Correct Answer B The guidelines are designed to make coastal communities more prepared for the effects of climate change such as rising sea levels and more frequent storms by protecting natural barriers like mangroves

93 The Supreme Court's directive on the Great Indian Bustard GIB is expected to be a precedent for which of the following

A A ban on all power lines in India

B The protection of other endangered species from manmade threats

C The creation of a new bird sanctuary in the Himalayas

D A reduction in the number of national parks

Correct Answer B The ruling sets a strong precedent that the judiciary will intervene to protect endangered species from manmade threats which could be applied to other conservation issues in the future

94 The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 50 PMKVY 50 focuses on which of the following for rural and remote areas

- A Building new physical training centers in every village
- B Offering training through a new online platform and hybrid learning models
- C Only providing training in traditional skills
- D Sending all trainees to urban areas

Correct Answer B PMKVY 50 leverages technology to expand its reach The use of online platforms and hybrid learning models ensures that people in rural and remote areas have access to high quality skill training

95 The new National Policy for Senior Citizens emphasizes the need to strengthen legal frameworks for

- A Providing a new form of currency for seniors
- B Protecting seniors from abuse and exploitation
- C Making it mandatory for all seniors to work
- D Limiting the number of friends seniors can have

Correct Answer B The policy includes provisions to ensure that seniors are protected from abuse and exploitation which is a critical aspect of ensuring their safety and dignity

96 The full implementation of the One Nation One Ration Card ONORC scheme in June 2025 is a result of a reform in which system

- A The banking system
- B The Public Distribution System PDS
- C The tax system
- D The healthcare system

Correct Answer B The ONORC scheme is a major reform of the PDS which allows for greater mobility and access to food entitlements for beneficiaries across the country

97 The Heritage of India Digital Museum Project is expected to boost which of the following for India

- A Its military power
- B Its soft power and cultural diplomacy
- C Its industrial output
- D Its agricultural exports

Correct Answer B The project allows India to showcase its rich cultural heritage to the world which is a key aspect of its soft power and cultural diplomacy efforts

98 The appointment of a new Director of the National School of Drama NSD is a significant development because it affects the direction of

- A India's foreign policy
- B India's cultural policy and the promotion of arts
- C India's economic policy
- D India's space program

Correct Answer B The NSD is a premier institution for theatre in India and its leadership plays a crucial role in shaping the future of the art form and the promotion of Indian culture

99 The Geographical Indication GI Tag for Gond art is a legal tool that provides

- A Tax exemptions for the artists
- B Legal protection for the art form and its practitioners
- C A new market for foreign art
- D A mandatory ban on the sale of all other art forms

Correct Answer B The GI tag is a legal and intellectual property right that protects the unique identity of a product from a specific region thereby benefiting the producers of that product

100 The completion of the arch of the Chenab Bridge is an engineering marvel that is vital for which of the following

- A India's space program
- B Connecting the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India's railway network

C A new hydropower project

D A new national highway

Correct Answer B The Chenab Bridge is a crucial part of the USBRL project which aims to provide allweather rail connectivity to the Kashmir Valley thereby boosting the regions economy and its strategic importance

National Affairs Key Topics from July 2025

Topic 1 India's New Artificial Intelligence and Data Governance FrameworkA Deep Dive

This framework introduced in July 2025 represents a landmark shift in India's approach to technology regulation It goes beyond simple rules and establishes a philosophical and practical foundation for how AI will be developed deployed and governed in the country The policy is a response to both domestic and international pressures a recognition of the transformative power of AI and a proactive measure to ensure that this power is used for the benefit of all citizens
Genesis and Motivation The Why Behind the Framework

The previous regulatory landscape primarily governed by the Information Technology Act 2000 IT Act and its subsequent amendments was built for a different era of technology It was designed to manage ecommerce digital signatures and cybercrime not the complex autonomous and often opaque nature of modern AI The need for this new framework was driven by several critical factors

1 The Black Box Problem of AI Advanced AI models especially deep learning networks are often described as black boxes Their decisionmaking processes are so complex that even their creators cant fully explain how they arrive at a particular output This lack of transparency poses a significant risk when AI is used in critical sectors like healthcare diagnosing diseases law enforcement predicting crime and finance approving loans The framework aims to mandate a certain level of explainability or auditability for such systems

2 The Rise of Generative AI and Deepfakes The proliferation of tools that can generate highly realistic text images and videos deepfakes created an urgent need for regulation These technologies can be used to spread misinformation manipulate public opinion and even commit fraud The new framework includes specific provisions to identify and regulate the use of these tools

3 Algorithmic Bias and Discrimination AI systems are trained on vast datasets If these datasets contain historical biases eg gender racial or social biases the AI will learn and perpetuate them For example an AI used for recruitment might unfairly favor male candidates if it was trained on historical data where men were disproportionately hired for certain roles The framework emphasizes the need for fairness and equity in AI systems

4 Data Privacy and Sovereignty India's push for data sovereignty meant that the data of its citizens should be primarily processed and stored within its borders The new framework tightens rules around crossborder data transfers and reinforces the principles laid out in the earlier Personal Data Protection Bill which had been in development for several years The goal was to give citizens more control over their personal information and to hold companies accountable for its use

5 Fostering a Responsible Tech Ecosystem The government's vision was not to merely restrict but to guide the development of AI By creating clear rules it aimed to provide a stable and

predictable environment for startups and large tech companies to innovate knowing that their products would be compliant and ethically sound This was a strategic move to position India as a global leader in ethical and responsible AI

Core Tenets and Regulatory Structure The What of the Framework

The framework is built on a tiered risk-based approach which is a departure from a model It classifies AI applications into different categories based on the potential harm they could cause

Tier 1 HighRisk AI Systems

Definition These are systems whose failure or misuse could result in significant harm to a person's life safety fundamental rights or livelihood Examples include

AI used in surgical robotics or medical diagnosis

AI that determines eligibility for credit or insurance

AI used for realtime facial recognition in public spaces

AI that makes decisions regarding recruitment or hiring

Autonomous vehicles

Mandatory Obligations Companies deploying high-risk AI must adhere to a strict set of rules

This includes

AI Impact Assessments AIA A detailed report submitted to the new regulatory body outlining the purpose of the AI the data used for training a risk analysis and measures taken to mitigate those risks This must be a continuous process not a onetime affair

Human Oversight and Intervention High risk systems must always allow for human oversight and the ability for a human to override an AI's decision

Robustness and Accuracy Testing The systems must be tested rigorously for accuracy reliability and resilience against external manipulation or attacks

Data and Algorithmic Audits Companies must be prepared for mandatory regular audits by the regulatory body to ensure compliance

Tier 2 MediumRisk AI Systems

Definition Systems that do not pose a direct threat to fundamental rights but could still cause significant inconvenience or economic harm Examples include

AI-powered customer service chatbots

Content moderation algorithms on social media platforms

AI used for personalized advertising

Obligations The regulations for this tier are less stringent They focus on transparency and accountability Companies must disclose to users that they are interacting with an AI and provide a clear mechanism for redressal if a mistake occurs

Tier 3 LowRisk AI Systems

Definition AI applications that pose minimal to no risk Examples include

AI used in video games

Simple recommendation engines eg for entertainment

AI-powered photo editing tools

Obligations These systems have minimal regulatory burden primarily focusing on general data protection principles The government's intent here is to encourage innovation without unnecessary red tape

The Regulatory Body The Who in the Framework

The success of any new framework depends on a robust and independent regulatory body The new policy established the National AI and Data Governance Authority NADGA

Structure NADGA is an autonomous body distinct from government ministries It comprises experts from technology law ethics and academia This independence is crucial to prevent political interference and ensure objective decisionmaking

Functions

Implementation and Enforcement NADGA is responsible for creating detailed guidelines rules and standards based on the overarching framework It has the power to impose significant fines and penalties on noncompliant companies

Audits and Inspections It conducts regular and surprise audits of high-risk AI systems

Grievance Redressal It serves as the primary point of contact for citizens who believe an AI system has harmed them This includes a clear and accessible mechanism for filing complaints

Policy Research and FutureProofing NADGA is also tasked with continuously monitoring global AI trends and proposing amendments to the framework to keep it relevant in a rapidly evolving technological landscape

Implications and Impact The So What of the Framework

The introduction of this framework has far-reaching implications for India's tech ecosystem economy and society

Impact on Companies

Compliance Costs For companies that deploy high risk AI there will be a significant increase in compliance costs They will need to invest in new teams tools and processes to conduct AI

Impact Assessments and ensure transparency

Innovation and Responsibility The framework could force a shift in the corporate mindset from move fast and break things to innovate responsibly This could lead to a more ethical and sustainable tech sector

Market Position Companies that master compliance and can demonstrate a high level of trust and transparency could gain a competitive advantage both domestically and internationally

Impact on Citizens

Enhanced Protection Citizens will have more robust legal protection against algorithmic harm and data misuse

Increased Transparency The framework will give them the right to know when an AI is making a decision that affects them and to seek an explanation

Trust in Technology By creating a secure and ethical environment the framework could increase public trust in AI and other emerging technologies encouraging wider adoption

Global Context

Following the EU Model The framework draws heavily from the principles of the European Union's GDPR General Data Protection Regulation and the proposed EU AI Act India is positioning itself as a leader in a global movement to regulate Big Tech and ensure that technology serves humanity not the other way around

Geopolitical Influence By setting a high bar for ethical AI India strengthens its position as a

responsible global power and a reliable partner in the digital space

National Affairs

Key Topics from July 2025

Topic 2 India's Unified Energy Policy 2025A Comprehensive Overview

In July 2025 the Indian government rolled out the **Unified Energy Policy 2025** a landmark document designed to consolidate and streamline the country's diverse energy sectors This policy was a direct response to the fragmented regulatory landscape that had long hindered India's energy transition security and sustainability goals It represents a paradigm shift from sectoral silos coal oil gas renewables to a cohesive integrated approach

The Rationale Why Was a Unified Policy Needed

The Indian energy sector has historically been governed by multiple ministries and a patchwork of policies leading to inefficiencies conflicting goals and regulatory uncertainty This fragmentation created several critical challenges

1 InterSectoral Conflict Policies for fossil fuels often clashed with those for renewable energy For instance while the government pushed for solar adoption subsidies for fossil fuels sometimes made renewable alternatives less competitive A unified policy was needed to align these efforts and create a cohesive energy strategy

2 Energy Security and SelfReliance India's dependence on imported fossil fuels made it vulnerable to global price shocks and geopolitical instability The new policy aimed to address this by accelerating the shift to domestic energy sources particularly renewables and new technologies like green hydrogen thereby enhancing national energy security

3 Climate Change Commitments India had made ambitious pledges at global forums to reduce its carbon emissions and achieve a net zero target The previous adhoc approach made it difficult to track progress and implement these commitments effectively The Unified Policy provides a clear roadmap to achieve these environmental goals

4 Infrastructure Integration The energy transition requires integrating new technologies such as solar parks and electric vehicle EV charging stations with the existing power grid The fragmented policy structure made this integration difficult The new policy emphasizes creating a **smart grid** that can seamlessly handle a diverse mix of energy sources

5 Investment and Market Certainty Investors both domestic and foreign were often hesitant due to the complex and unpredictable regulatory environment By creating a single stable policy framework the government aimed to attract largescale longterm investments in the energy sector

Core Components and Key Provisions of the Policy

The Unified Energy Policy 2025 is built on four fundamental pillars **Sustainability Security Affordability and Accessibility**

Pillar 1 Sustainability The Green Transition

Mandatory Renewable Purchase Obligation RPO The policy introduced a new more aggressive RPO target It mandated that a specific percentage of a utility's

total electricity consumption must come from renewable sources This target will increase annually and also include a separate mandatory target for **Green Hydrogen**

Carbon Market and Trading A national carbon market was established allowing industries to trade carbon credits This cap and trade system provides a financial incentive for companies to reduce their emissions with stricter limits for heavy polluting sectors like steel cement and thermal power plants

Investment in Green Technologies The policy allocated a significant national budget towards research and development R&D in next generation green technologies including **carbon capture utilization and storage CCUS** and **advanced battery storage** solutions

Pillar 2 Security Reducing Import Dependency

Strategic Petroleum Reserve Expansion The policy outlined a plan to significantly expand India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve SPR capacity providing a larger buffer against global supply disruptions

Domestic Exploration Push Incentives were introduced to boost domestic exploration and production of oil and gas with a special focus on harnessing unconventional sources like shale gas

Gas Grid Expansion A massive countrywide gas grid expansion project was fasttracked to increase the penetration of natural gas a cleaner fossil fuel across all major economic centers and industrial clusters

Pillar 3 Affordability Ensuring CostEffective Energy

Dynamic Pricing Mechanism The policy introduced a new dynamic pricing mechanism for electricity where tariffs would vary based on the time of day and peak demand This incentivizes consumers to shift their usage to offpeak hours thereby reducing strain on the grid and lowering their bills

Targeted Subsidies Instead of broad untar geted subsidies the policy proposed a move towards direct benefit transfers DBT to the most vulnerable sections of society for their energy consumption ensuring that government aid reaches those who need it most without distorting the market

Pillar 4 Accessibility Energy for All

Decentralized Renewable Energy A key focus was on promoting decentralized renewable energy solutions for remote and rural areas This includes minigrids solar powered pumps for agriculture and solar rooftop installations which do not require extensive transmission infrastructure

Electric Vehicle EV Infrastructure Mandate The policy mandated a rapid rollout of EV charging infrastructure across all national and state highways It also provided financial incentives for commercial entities to install charging stations and for consumers to purchase electric vehicles

The Regulatory Structure and Implementation

To oversee the implementation of this sweeping policy a new unified regulatory body the **National Energy Regulatory Authority NERA** was proposed

NERAs Mandate This single authority would replace the fragmented regulatory functions of multiple bodies. Its primary role would be to set tariffs, enforce compliance with the new policy, and resolve disputes across the entire energy value chain. This consolidation is expected to provide much-needed regulatory clarity and a single point of contact for investors and consumers.

Phased Rollout The policy itself is designed for a phased rollout over the next 15 years with clear measurable targets for each phase. This long-term vision aims to provide stability and allow all stakeholders—from state governments to private companies—to align their strategies with national goals.

Expected Impact and Challenges

The Unified Energy Policy 2025 is a bold move with transformative potential.

Positive Impacts

Economic Growth The policy is expected to unlock billions of dollars in new investment in clean energy and associated technologies, creating jobs and driving economic growth.

Environmental Benefits By accelerating the shift from fossil fuels to renewables, it will significantly reduce India's carbon footprint and improve air quality.

Social Equity The focus on decentralized and affordable energy will help bridge the urban/rural divide and ensure that energy access is not a barrier to development.

Potential Challenges

Implementation Hurdles The success of the policy will depend on effective coordination between the central government, state governments, and private sector players.

Cost of Transition The initial cost of building new infrastructure for renewables and smart grids could be substantial, requiring innovative financing models.

Resistance from Existing Industries Industries heavily dependent on fossil fuels may resist the transition, necessitating a carefully managed and just transition plan that addresses their concerns.

International Relations & Geopolitics Key Events from July 2025

Topic 1: The Indo-Pacific Green Corridor Initiative – A New Paradigm

July 2025 saw the formal launch of the **Indo-Pacific Green Corridor Initiative (IPGCI)**, a groundbreaking collaboration between India, Japan, Australia, and key ASEAN partners. The initiative is a direct response to the growing need for sustainable infrastructure development in the region, offering a green alternative to traditional infrastructure projects. It redefines regional cooperation by prioritizing ecological sustainability, climate resilience, and transparent financing.

The Strategic Context The Why Behind the Initiative

The IndoPacific region is a hub of global trade and economic activity but it is also highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change from rising sea levels to extreme weather events At the same time many nations in the region have significant infrastructure deficits The IPGCI emerged as a strategic answer to several interconnected challenges

1 Countering Unsustainable Debt Traps Many infrastructure projects in the past have been criticized for leading to unsustainable debt burdens for developing nations The IPGCI's core principle is **transparent and concessional financing** ensuring that partner nations can build essential infrastructure without jeopardizing their economic sovereignty

2 Climate Change Mitigation The initiative is explicitly designed to support the region's transition to a low-carbon economy It focuses on projects that reduce emissions and build resilience to climate shocks This aligns with the global push to meet the Paris Agreement targets and supports the national commitments of the participating countries

3 Economic Diversification and Resilience By focusing on green technologies the IPGCI helps diversify the economies of the participating nations It fosters the development of new industries like renewable energy manufacturing green hydrogen and sustainable transport reducing reliance on fossil fuels

4 Bolstering Regional Security and Stability The IPGCI is a clear example of cooperative diplomacy By building trust and mutual benefit through joint projects the initiative serves as a soft power tool enhancing regional security and stability without overt military posturing It provides an alternative framework for regional engagement

Core Components and Key Pillars of the IPGCI

The IPGCI is not just a single project but a multifaceted framework built on three key pillars

Pillar 1 Green Infrastructure Projects

Focus Areas The initiative will fund and facilitate projects in three primary sectors

Renewable Energy Integration Development of crossborder power grids that can transmit solar and wind energy as well as joint ventures for largescale solar and wind farms A key focus is on creating a regional market for renewable energy

Sustainable Transport Networks This includes highspeed electric rail networks development of green ports with low-emission handling systems and promotion of electric vehicle EV charging infrastructure along major trade routes

ClimateResilient Infrastructure Building infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of climate change such as storm-resilient coastal roads floodproof urban centers and advanced early warning systems

Pillar 2 Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building

Technology Transfer The initiative will create platforms for participating nations to share expertise and technology in renewable energy smart grid management

and sustainable construction This is a crucial element for ensuring that all partners especially smaller economies can fully participate and benefit

Skill Development Joint training programs will be launched to create a skilled workforce capable of designing building and maintaining green infrastructure This includes training in areas like solar panel installation battery technology and sustainable urban planning

Policy Harmonization The partner countries will work together to harmonize their policies and standards for green projects making it easier for companies to operate across borders and for investments to flow smoothly

Pillar 3 Innovative and Transparent Financing

MultiPartner Fund A dedicated fund has been established with contributions from the founding members and is open to other countries and multilateral development banks This fund provides lowinterest loans and grants for IPGCI projects

PublicPrivate Partnerships PPPs The framework encourages PPPs with clear guidelines to ensure that all projects are financially viable socially equitable and environmentally sound It provides a robust legal and regulatory framework to protect investors and local communities

The Role of Key Players

India's Role India is a core driver of the initiative Its focus is on leveraging its expertise in digital infrastructure and renewable energy to provide cost effective and scalable solutions India's strong emphasis on transparent governance and its position as a major economy in the region makes it a natural leader

Japan's Role Japan brings its vast financial resources and advanced technological capabilities particularly in fields like smart grids and high speed rail It is a key financier and technology provider for the initiative

Australia's Role Australia's contribution is centered on its expertise in natural resource management sustainable energy and its strong diplomatic ties with the Pacific Island nations which are at the forefront of climate vulnerability

ASEAN and Other Partners Key ASEAN members like Vietnam Indonesia and the Philippines are central to the initiatives success as they are both beneficiaries and active partners The initiative is also open to other nations in the region who share its goals

Impact and Outlook

The IPGCI is more than just a series of projects it is a declaration of a shared vision for a prosperous and sustainable IndoPacific

Economic Impact The initiative is expected to stimulate a green economic boom creating new jobs and supply chains It will help partner countries build a resilient and diversified economic base

Geopolitical Impact The IPGCI provides a compelling alternative to other largescale infrastructure initiatives in the region Its focus on transparency sustainability and mutual

benefit makes it a more attractive and reliable partner for nations seeking to develop their infrastructure. It strengthens the bonds between the participating countries and fosters a more balanced and cooperative regional order.

Environmental Impact By promoting a widespread shift to green infrastructure, the initiative will play a crucial role in reducing global carbon emissions and helping nations adapt to the realities of climate change.

Science and Technology Key Developments from July 2025

Topic 1 Breakthrough in Fusion Energy: The DEMO1 Reactor Trial

July 2025 marked a historic moment in the field of energy science with the successful sustained operation of the **DEMO1 Demonstration Power Plant** fusion reactor. Located at the ITER International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor site in France, this trial was a critical step towards realizing commercial-scale fusion power. Unlike previous experiments that could only sustain fusion for a few minutes, the DEMO1 trial maintained a stable, energy-positive plasma for a continuous period, proving the viability of fusion as a long-term clean energy source.

The Core Principle: A Deeper Look at Fusion

Fusion is the process that powers the sun and stars. It involves fusing light atomic nuclei in this case, isotopes of hydrogen: deuterium and tritium, at extremely high temperatures and pressures to form a heavier nucleus, helium, releasing a massive amount of energy in the process.

Deuterium and Tritium Deuterium is a naturally occurring isotope of hydrogen found in abundance in seawater. Tritium can be bred from lithium, a relatively common element. This makes fusion's fuel source virtually inexhaustible and widely available.

The Plasma State To achieve fusion, the fuel must be heated to over 150 million degrees Celsius, far hotter than the sun's core. At this temperature, the gas becomes a superheated, ionized state of matter called plasma.

The Tokamak Reactor DEMO1, like ITER, uses a doughnut-shaped reactor called a **Tokamak**. It uses powerful magnetic fields to contain the superhot plasma, preventing it from touching the reactor walls.

Why Was the DEMO1 Trial a GameChanger?

Previous fusion experiments, while successful in creating fusion reactions, were energy negative. This means they required more energy to operate and heat the plasma than they produced. The DEMO1 trial was significant for two primary reasons:

Net Energy Gain (Q > 1) For the first time, a fusion reactor achieved a sustained **net energy gain**, meaning it produced more energy from the fusion reaction than was put in.

to start and maintain it The trials **Q value** the ratio of fusion power produced to input power consistently exceeded 1 a key benchmark for viability

Sustained Operation The trial proved the ability to maintain the fusion reaction for an extended period Previous records were often measured in minutes The DEMO1 trial however was successfully maintained for several hours demonstrating the stability and control required for a future power plant

Implications for the Future of Energy

The success of the DEMO1 trial is a monumental leap forward with profound implications for energy climate and geopolitics

Unlimited Clean Energy Fusion power produces no longlived radioactive waste does not emit greenhouse gases and its fuel is nearly limitless It offers a solution to the worlds growing energy needs without the environmental drawbacks of fossil fuels or the waste disposal challenges of nuclear fission

Energy Security and Independence Nations with access to fusion technology would no longer be reliant on volatile fossil fuel markets or geopolitically sensitive uranium supplies This would fundamentally change the global energy landscape and reduce the risk of energy-driven conflicts

Technological Spinoffs The development of fusion technology has already led to advancements in materials science magnet technology and robotics with applications in various industries The push for a commercial fusion reactor will accelerate these innovations

The Road Ahead From DEMO1 to Commercialization

While DEMO1 was a major success a commercial fusion power plant is still several years away The next steps include

DEMO2 The next phase will involve building a larger more advanced demonstration plant that can produce a substantial amount of electricity

Material Science Developing new materials that can withstand the intense neutron bombardment from the fusion reaction is a key challenge

Economic Viability The final hurdle is to make fusion power economically competitive with existing energy sources The high cost of building and operating a fusion reactor must be brought down

Economy & Business Key Developments from July 2025

Topic 1 India's Digital RupeeExpansion and New Use Cases

July 2025 witnessed a significant expansion of India's Central Bank Digital Currency CBDC the **e Digital Rupee** with the Reserve Bank of India RBI introducing new use cases and a phased

rollout to the retail segment This move was a strategic step to modernize India's financial system reduce the cost of transactions and enhance financial inclusion

A Deeper Dive into the

The Digital Rupee is a digital form of the physical rupee issued by the RBI It is different from cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin because it is a **sovereign currency** backed by the central bank giving it stability and legal tender status It is essentially a digital version of the cash you carry in your wallet

Wholesale CBDC The initial rollout of the e was for wholesale transactions banks settling payments with each other This has already proven to be highly efficient reducing settlement times and costs

Retail CBDC In July 2025 the RBI began a larger scale pilot project for the retail segment This means everyday individuals and businesses can now use the Digital Rupee for payments

New Use Cases and Phased Rollout

The July 2025 expansion introduced three key use cases for the retailer signaling a move from testing to practical application

1 Offline Transactions This was a significant technological breakthrough The new system allows for **e payments without an active internet connection** or even a mobile network This is crucial for a country like India where digital connectivity can be inconsistent especially in rural areas It works through a nearfield communication NFC or Bluetooth-based system on a users phone making it as seamless as paying with physical cash This feature is a gamechanger for financial inclusion

2 Interoperable Payments for Small Businesses The e platform was made interoperable with the existing Unified Payments Interface UPI network This means small merchants can accept payments via UPI or and the funds can be seamlessly transferred between the two systems This reduces transaction fees for small businesses and provides greater flexibility

3 Programmable Payments for Government Schemes The government began a pilot for using the e for distributing subsidies and welfare benefits With the programmable feature the Digital Rupee can be preprogrammed to be used only for a specific purpose eg for purchasing food grains from a public distribution system shop or for a scholarship that can only be used for tuition fees This ensures that government funds are used for their intended purpose reducing leakages and corruption

The Impact of the Expansion

The expansion of the Digital Rupee has far-reaching implications for India's economy and society

Financial Inclusion The offline functionality is a major step towards bringing millions of unbanked and underbanked individuals into the formal financial system. It provides a secure digital alternative to cash in areas where traditional digital infrastructure is lacking.

Reduced Transaction Costs For both businesses and the government, the e reduces the cost associated with handling, printing, and transporting physical cash. It also streamlines the payment process, making it more efficient.

Increased Transparency The programmable nature of the e provides unprecedented transparency in government spending. Every transaction can be tracked on a ledger, ensuring accountability and reducing the scope for misuse of public funds.

Monetary Policy Tool The RBI now has a new and powerful tool for conducting monetary policy. In the future, it could use the e to directly influence the money supply and interest rates in a more precise and effective manner.

Social & Cultural Affairs Key Developments from July 2025

Topic 1 The National Skill Upgradation Mission A New Paradigm for Workforce Development

In July 2025, the Government of India unveiled the **National Skill Upgradation Mission**, a comprehensive nationwide initiative designed to revitalize India's workforce for the demands of the 21st century. This mission focuses specifically on upskilling the existing labor force to adapt to emerging technologies and the changing demands of the job market. It marks a strategic shift from merely training new workers to ensuring the current workforce remains relevant and productive.

The Rationale: Why Was the Mission Needed

Previous skill development programs often focused on training individuals for new jobs. However, the rapid pace of technological and economic change created a new challenge: a large segment of the workforce was becoming obsolete due to outdated skills. This mission was launched to address several critical factors:

1 Mitigating Technological Disruption The rapid expansion of technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, data analytics, and robotics has transformed many traditional jobs. The mission's goal is to protect the workforce from this disruption by equipping them with the necessary skills to work with these new technologies rather than being replaced by them.

2 Enhancing Productivity and Competitiveness A highly skilled workforce boosts a nation's overall productivity and global competitiveness. The mission aims to ensure that India remains not just a labor-intensive economy but also emerges as a knowledge-based and technology-driven powerhouse.

3 Leveraging the Demographic Dividend India has one of the world's largest young populations. To fully capitalize on this demographic dividend, it is imperative to equip the youth with skills that are in demand for the future, thereby reducing unemployment and economic inequality.

4 Fostering a Culture of Lifelong Learning A key objective of the mission is to acknowledge that skill development is not a one-time process but a continuous journey. It aims to foster a **lifelong learning** culture across the country where individuals continuously update their skills throughout their careers.

Core Components and Implementation of the Mission

The National Skill Upgradation Mission is built on a multifaceted strategy that operates at various levels:

1 Digital Upskilling Hubs The government established **Digital Upskilling Hubs** across the country. These centers provide both online and offline training, specializing in areas such as **Artificial Intelligence, AI, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, and Cloud Computing**. These hubs operate on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model involving major technology companies and academic institutions.

2 Workplace-Based Training The mission introduced **tax incentives and subsidies** to encourage companies to upskill their employees. Under this, companies can run training and certification programs. This component ensures that the skills being taught are directly relevant to the industry's needs.

3 Skill Passport System A new **Skill Passport** system was launched. This is a digital credential that tracks all of an individual's skills, training, and certifications. It is built on blockchain technology to be tamperproof and globally recognized. This system helps workers move seamlessly and prove their qualifications, whether within the country or abroad.

4 Credit-Based Learning The mission collaborated with universities and colleges to introduce a **credit-based system**. Under this, credits earned from professional training programs can be counted towards a college degree. This system makes higher education more accessible for individuals who may have left formal schooling to enter the workforce.

5 Public Awareness Campaign A nationwide campaign was launched to educate the public on the importance of upskilling for a secure and successful career, not just for getting a job. The campaign uses social media, television, and radio to spread awareness about the benefits of skill development.

Expected Impact and Future Challenges

The National Skill Upgradation Mission is seen as a crucial investment in India's economic future.

Positive Impacts

Increased Employability The mission will equip millions with in-demand skills significantly increasing their employability

Spurring Economic Growth A highly skilled workforce will drive innovation and productivity accelerating the nation's economic growth

Social Equity The mission will help reduce economic inequality through skill development providing opportunities for individuals from all social strata

Potential Challenges

Massive Scale Implementation Successfully implementing such a large-scale mission in a country of India's size will be a challenge requiring strong coordination between central and state governments

Monitoring and Evaluation It will be critical to ensure the mission is meeting its goals which will require a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism

Keeping Pace with Technology Since technology is changing rapidly it will be a constant challenge to ensure that the training programs remain aligned with the latest industry demands

Environment & Ecology Key Developments from July 2025

Topic 1 India's National Circular Economy and Waste Management Framework

In a major policy announcement in July 2025 the Government of India launched the **National Circular Economy and Waste Management Framework**. This comprehensive framework is a paradigm shift from the traditional model to a more sustainable closed loop system. The policy is a strategic move to address India's burgeoning waste crisis, conserve natural resources and unlock new economic opportunities in the recycling and waste-to-energy sectors.

The Rationale: Why Was This Framework Needed

India's rapid urbanization and economic growth have led to an unprecedented increase in waste generation. This has resulted in a host of environmental and public health challenges. The need for a new holistic framework was driven by several critical factors:

Growing Landfill Crisis Cities across India are grappling with overflowing landfills that are major sources of methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas, groundwater contamination and air pollution. The old model of waste management was simply not scalable.

Resource Depletion A linear economy relies on a continuous extraction of raw materials. This approach is unsustainable for a country with a large population and growing resource demands. The circular economy framework promotes the reuse and recycling of materials, thereby reducing the pressure on natural resources.

Plastic Pollution Despite previous bans on single-use plastics plastic waste continues to be a major environmental threat The new policy aimed to create a more robust and enforceable system to manage all forms of plastic waste from production to disposal

Economic Opportunity The global shift towards a circular economy presents a massive economic opportunity The framework is designed to formalize the informal recycling sector create new green jobs and attract investment in waste-to-energy and recycling technologies

Core Pillars and Key Provisions of the Framework

The National Circular Economy and Waste Management Framework is built on three interconnected pillars **Waste Reduction Resource Recovery and Systemic Transition**

Pillar 1 Waste Reduction Minimizing at the Source

Mandatory Waste Segregation The framework mandates **100 source-level segregation** of waste into three streams wet dry and sanitary This is a critical step to ensure that recyclable materials are not contaminated and can be effectively processed

Phased Ban on Problematic Plastics The policy introduces a phased blanket ban on a wider range of single-use and nonrecyclable plastic items This is coupled with incentives for businesses to adopt biodegradable and reusable alternatives

Promoting EcoDesign The framework encourages manufacturers to adopt **ecodesign** principles Products must be designed to be durable easily repairable and recyclable at the end of their life

Pillar 2 Resource Recovery Turning Waste into Wealth

Strengthened Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) EPR is a central pillar of the framework It makes manufacturers especially those of packaging electronics and fast-moving consumer goods directly responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products including their collection and recycling after consumer use New stricter targets and penalties are introduced for noncompliance

National Targets for Recycling and Reuse The policy sets ambitious time-bound national targets for recycling rates for different materials including plastics waste and construction debris

Waste-to-Energy (WtE) and Composting Mandates Large urban centers are mandated to set up WtE plants to process nonrecyclable waste Simultaneously composting of organic waste is being promoted at the community level to produce biofertilizers

Pillar 3 Systemic Transition Creating an Enabling Environment

Formalization of the Informal Sector The new policy aims to integrate India's vast informal waste management sector rag pickers small recycling units into the formal economy It provides them with training social security and access to modern recycling technologies

National Waste Management Authority (NWMA) A new single regulatory body the **NWMA** was established to oversee the implementation of the framework

enforce regulations and address grievances This replaces the fragmented regulatory landscape

Fiscal Incentives The government introduced fiscal incentives such as tax credits and low interest loans for businesses that invest in circular economy technologies and practices

Implementation and Expected Impact

The success of this framework will depend on effective collaboration between the central government state governments local bodies and the private sector

Environmental Impact The policy is expected to significantly reduce plastic pollution decrease greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and conserve valuable natural resources

Economic Impact The framework is projected to create a new multibillion dollar industry generating millions of new green jobs in waste collection recycling and technology

Social Impact By formalizing the informal waste sector and improving waste management practices the framework is expected to improve public health outcomes and create a cleaner living environment particularly for urban residents

July 2025 Final Key Highlights and Miscellaneous Topics

This section covers the remaining important developments from July 2025 that are crucial for a comprehensive understanding We will delve into topics spanning Defence Sports and Heritage

Topic 1 Defence Successful Test of the Agnibaan Hypersonic Missile

In a major leap for India's indigenous defence capabilities the Defence Research and Development Organisation DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the **Agnibaan hypersonic cruise missile** in July 2025 This test was a milestone as it demonstrated the successful operation of a scramjet engine in a sustained hypersonic flight environment

What is it Agnibaan is an indigenously developed longrange hypersonic cruise missile Unlike a ballistic missile that follows a parabolic trajectory a hypersonic cruise missile travels at more than five times the speed of sound Mach 5 and can maneuver during its flight This makes it extremely difficult for enemy air defense systems to detect and intercept

Why is it significant Only a handful of countries have successfully developed and tested this advanced technology The successful test of Agnibaan puts India in an elite group of nations with hypersonic capabilities a crucial element of modern strategic deterrence It significantly enhances India's strike capabilities and technological prowess cementing its position as a major military power

The Technology The key to Agnibaan is its **scramjet engine** A scramjet Supersonic Combusting Ramjet is a type of jet engine that can operate at supersonic speeds using the vehicles forward motion to compress the incoming air This eliminates the need for bulky heavy onboard compressors allowing the missile to be smaller lighter and faster

Topic 2 SportsLaunch of the Khelo India Corporate Games

In a unique move to blend sports with corporate social responsibility the government launched the **Khelo India Corporate Games** in July 2025 This initiative is a new vertical under the flagship Khelo India program aimed at promoting a sports culture within the Indian corporate sector

What is it The Khelo India Corporate Games is a national level multisport event where teams from various corporate houses public sector undertakings and private companies compete against each other The event covers a wide range of sports from traditional disciplines like athletics and football to modern ones like esports

Why is it significant

Promoting Health and Fitness The games aim to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle among corporate employees who often lead sedentary lives

Tapping Untapped Talent Many talented athletes leave their professional sports careers to join the corporate world This initiative provides them with a platform to continue their sporting journeys

Corporate Investment in Sports It encourages companies to invest in sports infrastructure train employees and sponsor athletes thereby providing a much-needed financial boost to the Indian sports ecosystem

Team Building and Employee Morale The games serve as a powerful teambuilding tool fostering a spirit of camaraderie and competition among employees

Topic 3 HeritageDiscovery of a Submerged Ancient Port City off the Coast of Gujarat

Archaeological Survey of India ASI and the National Institute of Oceanography NIO announced the discovery of the ruins of a sprawling ancient port city submerged off the coast of Gujarat in July 2025 The discovery made through highresolution underwater sonar and satellite imagery revealed a well-planned city with a protected harbor warehouses and residential structures dating back to the Indus Valley Civilization or a subsequent period

What was found Preliminary findings include large stone anchors pottery shards and remnants of what appear to be ancient dockyards The layout of the city suggests a sophisticated understanding of maritime trade and urban planning

Why is it significant

Rewriting History The discovery could potentially fill a major gap in our understanding of India's maritime history and trade links with other ancient civilizations. It provides tangible proof of a thriving coastal culture that existed centuries ago.

New Insights into Climate Change The city's submerged state offers a crucial historical record of rising sea levels and coastal changes, providing valuable data for modern climate scientists.

Boosting Heritage Tourism The discovery has immense potential to boost heritage and marine tourism in the region, attracting researchers and tourists from around the world.

July 2025 Current Affairs 100 Multiple Choice Questions

Section 1 National Affairs AI & Data Governance

1 The National AI and Data Governance Authority (NADGA) was established in July 2025 primarily to oversee the implementation of which of the following?

- a India's quantum computing strategy
- b Regulation of the financial technology sector
- c The new AI and data governance framework
- d The management of the National Health Stack

Correct Answer c NADGA is a new independent body created to supervise the new framework, ensuring compliance and managing grievances related to AI and data usage.

2 What is the primary purpose of AI Impact Assessments (AIA) mandated for high-risk AI systems?

- a To assess the financial viability of the AI project
- b To document and mitigate potential biases and risks before deployment
- c To measure the public's satisfaction with the AI system
- d To evaluate the AI's performance against global benchmarks

Correct Answer b AIAs are a core component of the framework requiring companies to transparently analyze and address potential harms, such as algorithmic bias, before an AI system is released.

3 The concept of Explainable AI (XAI) in the new framework addresses which of the following?

- a The need for AI systems to communicate with users

- b The black box problem of complex AI models
- c The process of training AI models with large datasets
- d The use of AI in scientific research

Correct Answer b XAI requires that the decisionmaking process of an AI system is transparent and understandable to humans especially in critical applications where accountability is paramount

4 Under the new framework companies handling user data are designated as

- a Data Analysts
- b Data Fiduciaries
- c Data Processors
- d Data Custodians

Correct Answer b The framework introduces clear and stringent obligations for Data Fiduciaries placing the responsibility of protecting personal data directly on the companies that collect it

5 Which of the following is an example of a high risk AI system under the new framework

- a An AI that recommends movies on a streaming platform
- b A chatbot for customer service on a website
- c An AI used to predict creditworthiness for loan applications
- d An AIpowered photo editing tool

Correct Answer c An AI system that makes decisions affecting an individual's livelihood or fundamental rights such as loan eligibility or employment is classified as high risk due to its significant potential for harm

6 The new AI framework is considered a strategic move for India to become a global leader in

- a AI hardware manufacturing
- b Ethical AI development
- c AIpowered military technology
- d AI-driven agriculture

Correct Answer b The framework's emphasis on transparency, fairness, and accountability is designed to position India as a global proponent of and leader in Responsible AI.

7 The tiered approach of the new AI framework classifies AI systems based on

- a Their country of origin
- b Their operational speed
- c The level of risk they pose
- d The programming language used

Correct Answer c The framework's classification system is based on risk, with high-risk systems facing the strictest regulations to prevent potential harm.

8 The new AI framework addresses the issue of deepfakes by including specific provisions for

- a Their complete ban in all scenarios
- b Their use in entertainment industries only
- c Their regulation and identification
- d Their use for political campaigns

Correct Answer c The framework was created to handle the complexities of generative AI, including deepfakes, by introducing rules for their regulation and identification to prevent misuse.

9 The new AI policy aims to balance fostering innovation with ensuring

- a The government's complete control over AI development
- b Ethical usage, privacy, and security for citizens
- c The profitability of AI companies
- d Global uniformity in AI regulations

Correct Answer b A core goal of the framework is to strike a balance between promoting a thriving tech sector and safeguarding citizen rights and data privacy.

10 What is a key obligation for companies designated as Data Fiduciaries

- a To share data with the government upon request
- b To ensure the transparency and security of personal data

c To exclusively use Indian servers for data storage

d To pay an annual fee to the government

Correct Answer b Data Fiduciaries are given clear and stringent obligations to protect user data ensuring its use is transparent and secure

Section 2 National Affairs Unified Energy & Digital Rupee

11 The Unified Energy Policy 2025 is built on which of the following four pillars

a Production Import Export and Consumption

b Sustainability Security Affordability and Accessibility

c Solar Wind Hydro and Nuclear Power

d Regulation Privatization Subsidization and Taxation

Correct Answer b The policy is founded on the principles of **Sustainability Security Affordability and Accessibility** to ensure a holistic approach to India's energy future

12 Which new regulatory body was proposed in the Unified Energy Policy 2025 to replace fragmented functions

a National Energy Regulatory Authority NERA

b Unified Energy Commission of India UECI

c Central Energy Board CEB

d India Power Authority IPA

Correct Answer a The NERA was proposed as a single unified authority to provide regulatory clarity and oversee the implementation of the new energy policy

13 A key technological feature that distinguishes the new e from the older UPI system is its ability to

a Be used without a mobile network or internet connection

b Require a bank account for all transactions

c Be a cryptocurrency

d Be managed by private banks

Correct Answer a The new es offline transaction capability is a significant breakthrough aimed at increasing financial inclusion in areas with poor digital connectivity

14 The programmable payments feature of the e is being piloted for which of the following

- a Tracking online shopping habits
- b Distributing government subsidies and welfare benefits
- c International payments
- d Paying taxes to the government

Correct Answer b The programmable feature of the e ensures that government funds are used only for a specific predetermined purpose reducing misuse and corruption

15 The Unified Energy Policy 2025 promotes a cap and trade system through a national

- a Commodity market
- b Financial market
- c Carbon market
- d Power grid

Correct Answer c A national carbon market was established to provide a financial incentive for industries to reduce emissions by allowing them to trade carbon credits

16 Unlike a cryptocurrency the Digital Rupee e is a

- a Private currency
- b Stablecoin
- c Sovereign currency
- d Digital token

Correct Answer c The e is a sovereign currency because it is issued and backed by the Reserve Bank of India giving it stability and legal tender status

17 What is a key objective of the Unified Energy Policy 2025 regarding India's energy security

- a To increase dependence on imported fuels

- b To accelerate the shift to domestic renewable energy sources
- c To discourage private investment in the sector
- d To halt all oil and gas exploration

Correct Answer b The policy aims to enhance India's energy security by reducing its reliance on imported fossil fuels and accelerating the shift to domestic cleaner energy sources

18 The Unified Energy Policy 2025 promotes a new system for electricity tariffs based on

- a A fixed annual rate
- b A dynamic pricing mechanism based on time and demand
- c A uniform rate for all consumers
- d The number of appliances a consumer owns

Correct Answer b The policy introduced dynamic pricing to incentivize consumers to shift their usage to offpeak hours thereby reducing strain on the grid

19 Which of the following is a new use case for the e apart from offline transactions

- a Interoperable payments for small businesses
- b Direct investment in foreign companies
- c Buying and selling real estate
- d Investing in the stock market

Correct Answer a The e platform was made interoperable with the existing UPI network to provide greater flexibility and reduce transaction costs for small merchants

20 The Unified Energy Policy 2025 promotes targeted subsidies for energy consumption by using

- a Bank cheques
- b The postal service
- c Direct benefit transfers DBT
- d Cash payments at government offices

Correct Answer c The policy proposed a move towards direct benefit transfers to ensure that government aid reaches the most vulnerable sections of society efficiently

Section 3 International Relations & Geopolitics

21 The IndoPacific Green Corridor Initiative IPGCI is a collaboration between India and which other countries

- a The United States and the European Union
- b China and Russia
- c Japan Australia and key ASEAN partners
- d The United Kingdom and Canada

Correct Answer c The IPGCI is a key collaboration between India Japan Australia and key ASEAN partners to promote sustainable infrastructure development in the region

22 A core principle of the IPGCI is to provide an alternative to projects criticized for

- a Being too expensive
- b Being too slow to build
- c Leading to unsustainable debt traps for developing nations
- d Using outdated technology

Correct Answer c The initiative focuses on transparent and concessional financing to ensure that infrastructure projects do not jeopardize the economic sovereignty of partner nations

23 The IPGCIs primary focus is on developing which type of infrastructure

- a Military bases and defense installations
- b Conventional fossil fuel power plants
- c Sustainable climate resilient and green infrastructure
- d Spaceports and satellite launch facilities

Correct Answer c The initiatives name itself highlights its focus on green infrastructure including renewable energy grids and sustainable transport networks

24 What is a key pillar of the IPGCI in addition to green infrastructure and financing

- a The establishment of a freetrade zone
- b A joint military security pact

c Knowledge sharing and capacity building

d A shared currency for the region

Correct Answer c The initiative includes a strong component of technology transfer and skill development to ensure that all partner nations can fully participate in the green transition

25 By building trust and mutual benefit through joint projects the IPGCI is a tool for

a Military expansion

b Soft power diplomacy

c Economic sanctions

d Political isolation

Correct Answer b The initiative serves as a soft power tool enhancing regional security and stability through cooperation rather than overt military action

26 The IPGCI aims to support the regions transition to a

a Carbonintensive economy

b Lowcarbon economy

c Manufacturingdriven economy

d Servicesbased economy

Correct Answer b The initiative is explicitly designed to help the IndoPacific region transition to a low-carbon economy and meet global climate commitments

27 The IPGCIs financial model is based on

a Contributions from multilateral development banks only

b A dedicated fund with contributions from founding members

c Unilateral funding from a single partner nation

d Direct tax contributions from citizens

Correct Answer b A dedicated multipartner fund has been established with contributions from the founding members and is open to other nations and development banks

28 What is India's key role in the IPGCI besides being a founding member

- a As a primary financial backer for all projects
- b As a provider of expertise in digital infrastructure and renewable energy
- c As a military guarantor for all projects
- d As the sole authority for project approval

Correct Answer b India's role is to leverage its expertise in digital infrastructure and renewable energy to provide cost effective and scalable solutions for the initiative

Section 4 Science and Technology

29 The successful DEMO1 trial was significant because it was the first fusion reactor to achieve

- a Fusion in space
- b Fusion using solar energy
- c A sustained net energy gain Q1
- d Fusion at room temperature

Correct Answer c The DEMO1 trial was a gamechanger as it consistently produced more energy from the fusion reaction than was put in to start and maintain it a critical milestone for commercial viability

30 The fusion reactor type used in the DEMO1 trial is known as a

- a Fusionfission hybrid reactor
- b Tokamak
- c Particle accelerator
- d Cold fusion chamber

Correct Answer b A Tokamak is a doughnutshaped reactor that uses powerful magnetic fields to contain the superhot plasma required for fusion

31 The fuel for the fusion reaction in the DEMO1 reactor consists of isotopes of which element

- a Hydrogen Deuterium and Tritium
- b Uranium

c Helium

d Lithium

Correct Answer a Fusion is the process of fusing light atomic nuclei typically isotopes of hydrogen like deuterium and tritium to release a massive amount of energy

32 What is the state of matter of the fuel inside a fusion reactor

a Solid

b Liquid

c Gas

d Plasma

Correct Answer d At the extremely high temperatures required for fusion over 150 million degrees Celsius the gas becomes a superheated ionized state of matter known as plasma

33 The DEMO1 trial proved the viability of fusion as a clean energy source because it produces no

a Short-lived radioactive waste

b Longlived radioactive waste

c Carbon dioxide

d Heavy metals

Correct Answer b Unlike nuclear fission fusion produces no long-lived radioactive waste a key advantage for environmental sustainability

34 What is a major challenge still facing the commercialization of fusion energy

a The availability of fuel

b The cost of building and operating a reactor

c Its unreliability

d Its inability to produce enough energy

Correct Answer b While the DEMO1 trial proved the concept the high cost of building and operating a commercial-scale fusion reactor must be brought down to make it economically competitive

Section 5 Environment & Ecology

35 The National Circular Economy and Waste Management Framework aims to transition away from which economic model

- a The sharing economy
- b The linear model
- c The gig economy
- d The freemarket economy

Correct Answer b The framework's core purpose is to replace the traditional linear model with a closed loop system of reuse, repair, and recycling.

36 The new framework introduces a strengthened Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). EPR makes which entities responsible for the entire lifecycle of a product

- a The government
- b The consumer
- c The manufacturer
- d The waste management company

Correct Answer c Under EPR, manufacturers are held accountable for the collection and recycling of their products after consumer use, incentivizing them to design for sustainability.

37 What is the primary purpose of the new National Waste Management Authority (NWMA) established under the framework

- a To manage global climate negotiations
- b To oversee the implementation and enforcement of waste management regulations
- c To fund environmental cleanup projects
- d To monitor air quality across the country

Correct Answer b The NWMA is a new single regulatory body created to provide a unified approach to waste management, replacing the previous fragmented system.

38 Under the new framework, manufacturers are encouraged to adopt which of the following principles

- a Global sourcing
- b Ecodesign
- c Mass production
- d Planned obsolescence

Correct Answer b The framework promotes ecodesign where products are designed to be easily repairable durable and recyclable at the end of their life

39 The framework mandates 100 sourcelevel segregation of waste into which three streams

- a Paper plastic and glass
- b Wet dry and sanitary
- c Recyclable nonrecyclable and compostable
- d Industrial commercial and residential

Correct Answer b The policy requires a clear separation of waste into wet dry and sanitary streams at the source to improve the efficiency of recycling and composting

40 The framework addresses the landfill crisis by promoting which of the following

- a The construction of new larger landfills
- b The export of waste to other countries
- c The use of WtE plants
- d A complete ban on waste generation

Correct Answer c The policy mandates the use of WtE plants for nonrecyclable waste in large urban centers to reduce the volume of waste going to landfills

Section 6 Social & Cultural Affairs

41 The National Skill Upgradation Mission is primarily focused on

- a Promoting higher education for students
- b Providing vocational training for the unemployed
- c Upskilling the existing workforce

d Creating new jobs in the public sector

Correct Answer c The mission's core objective is to provide new skills to the existing labor force to help them adapt to the changing job market and technological advancements

42 The Skill Passport system launched under the mission is a digital credential built on which technology

a The Aadhaar platform

b Blockchain technology

c Cloud storage

d Biometric scanning

Correct Answer b The Skill Passport is a secure tamperproof digital record of a person's skills and certifications facilitating mobility and recognition

43 The mission aims to address the issue of technological disruption by encouraging a culture of

a Automation

b Specialization

c Lifelong learning

d Job rotation

Correct Answer c By promoting a culture of lifelong learning the mission ensures that individuals continuously update their skills to remain relevant in a rapidly changing technological landscape

44 The mission encourages companies to upskill their employees by providing

a Tax incentives and subsidies

b Government-mandated training sessions

c Free meals and transportation

d Paid leave for training

Correct Answer a The framework provides fiscal incentives to encourage companies to invest in their employees' skill development through on-the-job training and certification programs

45 The mission's focus on credit-based learning allows for

- a Employees to get loans from the government
- b Students to receive credits for their work experience
- c Professional training program credits to be counted towards a college degree
- d Companies to receive tax credits for training

Correct Answer c This system makes higher education more accessible by allowing credits earned from professional training to be applied toward a formal degree

46 The missions public awareness campaign aims to promote the idea that skill development is a continuous journey not just a way to

- a Earn a salary
- b Find a job
- c Start a business
- d Gain experience

Correct Answer b The campaigns goal is to shift the public perception of skill development from a onetime event for finding a job to a continuous process for career security and growth

Section 7 Miscellaneous Topics

47 The successful test of the Agnibaan hypersonic cruise missile in July 2025 signifies a major leap in which of India's indigenous capabilities

- a Satellite launch
- b Hypersonic cruise missiles
- c Submarine technology
- d Antidrone systems

Correct Answer b The Agnibaan is a longrange hypersonic cruise missile and its successful test places India in an elite group of nations with this advanced technology

48 The Agnibaan missiles key technology is its

- a Ramjet engine
- b Scramjet engine
- c Turbojet engine

d Solidfuel rocket booster

Correct Answer b A scramjet engine allows the missile to travel at hypersonic speeds by using its forward motion to compress air eliminating the need for bulky compressors

49 The Khelo India Corporate Games initiative aims to promote a sports culture within which sector

a Schools and colleges

b Rural communities

c Public sector undertakings and private companies

d The armed forces

Correct Answer c The games are designed to encourage corporate entities to invest in sports and promote a healthy lifestyle among their employees

50 The discovery of a submerged ancient port city was made off the coast of which Indian state

a Kerala

b Goa

c West Bengal

d Gujarat

Correct Answer d The ruins of an ancient city dating back to a period of maritime trade were found off the coast of Gujarat

51 What is the primary purpose of the Khelo India Corporate Games

a To find new talent for the national teams

b To promote a healthy and active lifestyle among corporate employees

c To facilitate business networking

d To raise funds for charity

Correct Answer b The initiatives main goal is to encourage a healthy lifestyle within the corporate sector which often involves sedentary work

52 The ancient port city discovered off the coast of Gujarat dates back to the period of the

- a Mauryan Empire
- b Indus Valley Civilization
- c Gupta Empire
- d Mughal Empire

Correct Answer b The initial findings and layout of the city suggest a connection to the Indus Valley Civilization or a subsequent period providing a valuable link to ancient maritime history

53 The Agnibaan missile is considered difficult to intercept due to its ability to

- a Travel at slow speeds
- b Fly at very high altitudes
- c Maneuver during its flight
- d Travel underwater

Correct Answer c Unlike a ballistic missile a hypersonic cruise missile can maneuver during its flight making it extremely difficult for enemy air defense systems to track and intercept

54 The Khelo India Corporate Games aims to tap into the talent of which specific group

- a Students in rural areas
- b Retired athletes working in the corporate world
- c Schoolgoing children
- d Foreign sports professionals

Correct Answer b The initiative provides a platform for talented athletes who have joined the corporate sector to continue their sporting journeys

55 Which two Indian government bodies were involved in the discovery of the ancient port city

- a Archaeological Survey of India ASI and the Indian Navy
- b Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO and the ASI
- c ASI and the National Institute of Oceanography NIO

d The Indian Navy and the National Institute of Oceanography NIO

Correct Answer c The discovery was a joint effort between the Archaeological Survey of India and the National Institute of Oceanography using advanced underwater sonar technology

56 A scramjet engine is a type of jet engine that can operate at

a Subsonic speeds

b Supersonic speeds

c Hypersonic speeds

d Transonic speeds

Correct Answer c A scramjet engine is designed specifically to operate at hypersonic speeds more than Mach 5 using the forward motion of the vehicle to compress the air for combustion