

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

February, 2026 3rd Week

10 PM MCQs (16 Feb)

Q. Consider the following description:

These ants do not build permanent nests and are largely nomadic in nature. They are highly social and aggressive predators, known for conducting coordinated mass raids. They are mainly found in tropical ecosystems.

Which of the following species is described above?

- (a) Weaver Ant
- (b) Carpenter Ant
- (c) Army Ant
- (d) Fire Ant

Answer: (c) Army Ant

Source- [DH](#)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Scheme:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. The scheme exclusively targets women from minority communities for skill development.
3. The eligible age group for beneficiaries under the scheme is 18–45 years.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** PM-DAKSH is a Central Sector Scheme, not a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The scheme does not exclusively target women from minority communities. Its target groups include Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), De-notified Tribes (DNTs), and Safai Karamcharis/Waste Pickers.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** The eligible age group under the scheme is 18–45 years.

Source- [TH](#)

Q. With reference to the PM RAHAT Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to prevent fatalities from road accidents by ensuring immediate medical assistance to victims.
2. The scheme provides cashless treatment coverage of up to Rs. 5 lakh for accident victims.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The PM RAHAT Scheme is designed to reduce deaths caused by delay in emergency medical treatment following road accidents.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The scheme provides cashless treatment coverage of up to Rs. 1.5 lakh, not ₹5 lakh, for accident victims.

Source- [PIB](#)

Q. Which of the following states has become the first in India to designate an official “State Microbe”?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Karnataka
- C) Kerala
- D) Maharashtra

Answer: C) Kerala

Explanation: Kerala has become the first Indian state to officially designate a “State Microbe.” The state selected *Bacillus subtilis*, a beneficial, soil-dwelling bacterium known for its role in promoting plant growth, enhancing soil fertility, and its applications in biotechnology.

Source- [TH](#)

Q. With reference to the Lakhpati Didi Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. A Lakhpati Didi is defined as a Self-Help Group (SHG) member earning an annual household income of Rs. 2 lakh or more.
2. The initiative is implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
3. The government has recently revised the target to support 5 crore Lakhpati Didis by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (d) None of the above

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** A Lakhpati Didi is an SHG member with a sustainable annual household income of ₹1 lakh or more, not ₹2 lakh.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The initiative is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development under DAY-NRLM, not the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The target has been doubled to 6 crore by March 2029, not 5 crore by 2030.

Source- [PIB](#)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Break in the Monsoon:

Assertion (A): Breaks in the southwest monsoon are characterised by dry spells lasting for several days during the rainy season.

Reason (R): Such breaks occur when the monsoon trough shifts towards the Himalayan foothills, reducing rainfall over the northern plains of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true, but R is false.
- D) A is false, but R is true.

Answer: A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation: A break in the southwest monsoon refers to a temporary cessation of rainfall for several days or even weeks during the monsoon season. One major reason is the northward shift of the monsoon trough towards the Himalayas. This leads to increased rainfall along the foothills and northeastern India, while the northern plains experience dry conditions.

Source- [DTE](#)

Q. With reference to the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), consider the following statements:

1. It is an apex body for promotion of agricultural exports under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
2. Its headquarters is located in Mumbai.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, not under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare - hence Statement 1 is incorrect.
- Its headquarters is located in New Delhi, not Mumbai.

Source- [NOA](#)

Q. Consider the following pairs:

Person in News – Country (Associated)

1. Emomali Rahmon – Tajikistan
2. Tarique Rahman – Bangladesh
3. Narges Mohammadi – Iran

How many of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: C) All three

Explanation:

1. **Emomali Rahmon – Tajikistan** - Emomali Rahmon has been serving as the President of Tajikistan since 1994. He is one of the longest-serving leaders in Central Asia.
2. **Tarique Rahman – Bangladesh**- Tarique Rahman is a senior political leader from Bangladesh and the Acting Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).
3. **Narges Mohammadi – Iran** - Narges Mohammadi is an Iranian human rights activist and recipient of the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize for her fight against oppression of women in Iran.

Source- [TH](#)

Q. Storm Marta recently caused heavy rainfall, storms, and severe crop losses in which of the following countries?

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- A) France and Italy
- B) Spain and Portugal
- C) Greece and Turkey
- D) Germany and Netherlands

Answer: B) Spain and Portugal

Explanation: Storm Marta recently struck parts of the Iberian Peninsula, particularly Spain and Portugal, bringing: Heavy rainfall, Strong winds and storm conditions and Significant agricultural and crop losses.

Source- [FP](#)

Q. With reference to the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
3. The Central Government provides 100% funding for selected projects under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B) 2 only

Explanation:

- The Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, not a Central Sector Scheme - hence Statement 1 is incorrect.
- It is implemented and monitored by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs - hence Statement 2 is correct.
- Under the scheme, the Centre provides 25% of the project cost (as catalytic assistance), not 100% funding - therefore Statement 3 is incorrect.

Source- [Pmindia](#)

10 PM Current Affairs MCQs (17 Feb)

Q. Consider the following pairs:

International Border Countries

1. 38th Parallel North – North Korea and South Korea
2. 49th Parallel North – USA and Canada
3. 22nd Parallel North – Egypt and Sudan

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

- **38th Parallel North – North Korea and South Korea-** It became the dividing line between North and South Korea after World War II and later formed the basis of the Korean DMZ.

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- **49th Parallel North – USA and Canada**- It forms most of the international boundary between the USA and Canada under the Oregon Treaty (1846).
- **22nd Parallel North – Egypt and Sudan**- It defines the political boundary between Egypt and Sudan, though the Hala'ib Triangle remains disputed.

Source- [TB](#)

Q. Consider the following lakes:

1. Futala Lake (Maharashtra)
2. Ana Sagar Lake (Rajasthan)
3. Hussain Sagar (Telangana)

How many of the above are considered man-made lakes?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

- **Futala Lake** – An artificial lake built by the Bhonsle rulers in Nagpur.
- **Ana Sagar Lake** – A man-made lake constructed by Arnoraja (12th century) in Ajmer.
- **Hussain Sagar** – An artificial lake built in 1563 by Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah in Hyderabad

Source- [TOI](#)

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Ol Chiki script was developed by Pandit Raghunath Murmu specifically for the Santhali language.
2. Santhali language was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India through the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** Ol Chiki was developed in 1925 by Pandit Raghunath Murmu exclusively for the Santhali language.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** Santhali was included in the Eighth Schedule through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, not the 91st Amendment.

Source- [PIB](#)

Q. With reference to the G4 Grouping, consider the following statements:

1. The G4 countries advocate for comprehensive reform and expansion of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
2. The G4 grouping comprises India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The G4 grouping pushes for reform and expansion of the UNSC, including permanent membership for its members.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The G4 consists of India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan — four aspirants for permanent UNSC membership.

Source- [ET](#)

Q. Reynisfjara Beach, recently in news due to rapid and unprecedented coastal erosion, is located in which of the following countries?

- (a) Norway
- (b) Denmark
- (c) Canada
- (d) Iceland

Answer: (d) Iceland

Explanation: Reynisfjara Beach is situated on the southern coast of Iceland and is famous for its black volcanic sand and basalt rock formations.

Source- [TOI](#)

Q. With reference to recent global AI Summits, consider the following statements:

1. The AI Safety Summit was first held in 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. The 2025 AI Summit was held in Seoul, South Korea.
3. The 2026 AI Impact Summit in India adopted the theme “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.”

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The first AI Safety Summit (2023) was held at Bletchley Park, United Kingdom, not Geneva.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The 2025 AI Summit was held in Seoul, South Korea.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** The 2026 AI Impact Summit adopted the theme “Sarvajana hitaya, sarvajana sukhaya,” not “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.”

Source- [Indiaaisummit](#)

Q. With reference to the Cheer Pheasant, consider the following statements:

1. It is mainly found in the mid-montane grasslands of the western Himalayas across Pakistan, India, and Nepal.
2. It is listed under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The Cheer Pheasant inhabits mid-montane grasslands of the western Himalayas in Pakistan, India, and Nepal.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The species is listed under Schedule I, not Schedule II, of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which provides the highest level of protection.

Source- [DTE](#)

Q. The Chincha Kingdom, recently in news, was a pre-Inca civilisation located in which of the following present-day countries?

- (a) Peru
- (b) Mexico
- (c) Chile
- (d) Bolivia

Answer: (a) Peru

Explanation: The Chincha were a pre-Inca civilisation that flourished in the Chincha Valley on the southern coast of present-day Peru.

Source- [DTE](#)

Q. Consider the following:

1. Production of organic acids and bio-alcohols
2. Pharmaceutical synthesis through fermentation
3. Enzymes in food processing
4. Use in textiles and detergents
5. Sustainable plastics and biofuels

How many of the above are applications of bio-based chemicals and enzymes?

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

Answer: (d) All five

Explanation: Bio-based chemicals and enzymes are used across chemicals, pharmaceuticals, food processing, textiles, and clean-tech industries such as biofuels and biodegradable plastics.

Source- [TH](#)

Q. With reference to Shield Volcanoes, consider the following statements:

1. They are the largest type of volcanoes on Earth.
2. They are predominantly composed of fluid basaltic lava.
3. They are mainly formed along continental collision zones.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** Shield volcanoes are the largest volcanoes on Earth in terms of area and volume.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** They are composed mainly of highly fluid basaltic lava.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** They are typically formed over hotspots or divergent plate boundaries, not continental collision zones.

Source- [Volcanodiscovery](#)

10 PM MCQs (18 Feb.)

Q. With reference to Lake Michigan, consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest of the five Great Lakes of North America.
2. It lies partly in Canada and partly in the United States.
3. It is connected directly to Lake Huron.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The largest Great Lake is Lake Superior, not Lake Michigan.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake entirely within the United States.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is directly connected to Lake Huron through the Straits of Mackinac.

Source- [NDTV](#)

Q. With reference to Exercise MILAN, consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual bilateral naval exercise conducted between India and Sri Lanka.
2. The 2026 edition of Exercise MILAN is being held in Kochi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Exercise MILAN is a biennial multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy, not an annual bilateral exercise.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The 2026 edition is being held in Visakhapatnam, not Kochi.

Source- [PIB](#)

Q. SAHI and BODH initiatives, recently seen in news, were launched by:

- A) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- B) NITI Aayog
- C) Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare
- D) National Health Authority

Answer: C) Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare

Explanation: The initiatives - Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare for India (SAHI) and Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI (BODH) - were launched by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, at the India AI Summit held at Bharat Mandapam.

- SAHI provides a national framework for safe and ethical adoption of AI in healthcare.
- BODH, developed by IIT Kanpur in collaboration with the National Health Authority, is a privacy-preserving benchmarking platform under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

Source- [PIB](#)

Q. Consider the following pairs:

Missile in news country

1. Khorramshahr-4 Missile- Iran
2. Hwasong-19- China
3. Tomahawk- United States

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation: Khorramshahr-4 is an Iranian missile and Tomahawk is a US missile, while Hwasong-19 belongs to North Korea, not China—hence only two pairs are correct.

Source- [oneindia](#)

Q. With reference to Nitric Oxide (NO), consider the following statements:

1. It helps regulate blood pressure by dilating blood vessels.
2. It is produced only by biological processes and has no role in air pollution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation: Nitric oxide acts as a vasodilator in the human body, but it is also generated by automobile engines and thermal power plants, contributing to air pollution.

Source- [TH](#)

Q. Consider the following pairs:

Reservoir State

1. Gandhi Sagar — Madhya Pradesh

2. Indira Sagar — Andhra Pradesh
3. Maithon — Chhattisgarh

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation: Only Gandhi Sagar is correctly matched with Madhya Pradesh, while Indira Sagar is also in Madhya Pradesh and Maithon is in Jharkhand.

Source- [PIB](#)

Q. The term 'LHS 1903' recently seen in news refers to:

- (a) A newly discovered asteroid belt in the Solar System
- (b) A space telescope launched by NASA
- (c) A red dwarf star hosting a unique four-planet system
- (d) A black hole at the centre of the Milky Way

Answer: (c) A red dwarf star hosting a unique four-planet system

Explanation: LHS 1903 is a red dwarf star around which astronomers have discovered a unique four-planet system, challenging existing planet formation theories.

Source- [TH](#)

Q. Consider the following countries:

1. Belgium
2. Luxembourg
3. Germany
4. Switzerland
5. Italy
6. Spain
7. Andorra

How many of the above countries share a land border with France?

- (a) Only four
- (b) Only five
- (c) Only six
- (d) All seven

Answer: (d) All seven

Explanation: France shares land borders with all the listed countries—Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, and Andorra.

Source- [TH](#)

Q. The Strait of Hormuz connects which of the following water bodies?

- (a) Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- (b) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman
- (c) Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal
- (d) Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea

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Answer: (b) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman

Explanation: The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow waterway linking the Persian Gulf (west) with the Gulf of Oman (east).

Source- [TOI](#)

Q. With reference to the H-125 Helicopter, consider the following statements:

1. The Final Assembly Line of the H-125 Light Utility Helicopter was inaugurated in Maharashtra.
2. The H-125 helicopter is manufactured by Boeing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation: The Final Assembly Line was inaugurated in Karnataka, and the H-125 helicopter is manufactured by Airbus, not Boeing.

Source- [PIB](#)

10 PM MCQs (19 Feb)

Q. Consider the following pairs:

Ancient Site State (Located In)

1. Bhirrana – Haryana
2. Adichanallur – Kerala
3. Brahmagiri – Maharashtra

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

Answer: (A) Only one

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correct:** Bhirrana is an important Harappan site located in Haryana.
- **Pair 2 is incorrect:** Adichanallur is located in Tamil Nadu, not Kerala. It is a significant Iron Age burial site.
- **Pair 3 is incorrect:** Brahmagiri is located in Karnataka, not Maharashtra. It is associated with the megalithic culture and Ashokan inscriptions.

Source- [IT](#)

Q. Consider the following description:

This marine creature possesses an oversized claw that can generate powerful shockwaves underwater through a process called sonoluminescence. The resulting sound can reach extremely high decibel levels and is used primarily to stun or catch prey. It is commonly found in reefs and seagrass beds in temperate and tropical regions.

Which of the following species is referred to above?

- (A) Mantis Shrimp
- (B) Pistol Shrimp
- (C) Horseshoe Crab
- (D) Giant Isopod

Answer: (B) Pistol Shrimp

Explanation: The description refers to the Pistol Shrimp, also known as the snapping shrimp, which produces one of the loudest sounds in the ocean by snapping its specialized claw to create a high-energy bubble used to stun prey.

Source- [TOI](#)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Finland:

1. It shares its longest land border with Russia.
2. It is a member of both the European Union (EU) and NATO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (C) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Finland's longest land border is with Russia, stretching over 1,300 km along its eastern boundary.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Finland is a member of the European Union (since 1995) and became a member of NATO in 2023.

Source- [NOA](#)

Q. Consider the following pairs:

Ancient port city Country (located)

1. Charax Spasinou – Iraq
2. Cadiz – Spain
3. Muziris – India

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

Answer: (C) All three

Explanation:

- Charax Spasinou was an ancient port city located near the head of the Persian Gulf, in present-day Iraq.
- Cadiz is an ancient port city in Spain, founded by the Phoenicians.
- Muziris was an ancient port on the Malabar Coast in present-day Kerala, India, known for Indo-Roman trade.

Source- [TOI](#)

Q. Articles 105 and 194 of the Indian Constitution, recently seen in news, are related to:

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- (A) Salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament and State Legislatures
- (B) Legislative procedures for passing ordinary and money bills
- (C) Disqualification and resignation of members of legislatures
- (D) Powers, privileges and immunities of legislatures and their members

Answer: (D) Powers, privileges and immunities of legislatures and their members

Explanation: Article 105 defines the powers, privileges and immunities of Parliament and its members, while Article 194 provides similar provisions for State Legislatures and their members.

Source- [IE](#)

Q. Consider the following description:

This tiger reserve, located in the state of Madhya Pradesh, lies in the Vindhya hills. It is associated with Lord Rama and contains ancient caves with Pali inscriptions, as well as stupas and statues dating back to the 1st century BCE. The vegetation mainly comprises Sal forests and bamboo.

Which of the following is correctly described above?

- (A) Kanha Tiger Reserve
- (B) Pench Tiger Reserve
- (C) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
- (D) Satpura Tiger Reserve

Answer: (C) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Source- [livelaw](#)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding AI-Preneurs of India, a flagship coffee table book:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
2. It was unveiled at the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (B) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** AI-Preneurs of India was launched under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog, not by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It was unveiled at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Source- [ForumIAS](#)

Q. Consider the following:

1. Asaf Ali
2. Bhulabhai Desai
3. Jawaharlal Nehru
4. Tej Bahadur Sapru

Who among the above took up the defence of the INA prisoners (Shah Nawaz Khan, Gurubaksh Singh Dhillon and P.K. Sehgal) during the Red Fort Trials?

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

Answer: (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation: The defence of the Indian National Army (INA) officers during the Red Fort Trials (1945–46) was taken up by a distinguished legal team that included:

- Asaf Ali
- Bhulabhai Desai (who played a leading role in the defence)
- Jawaharlal Nehru, who appeared in his barrister's gown after many years
- Tej Bahadur Sapru, a prominent jurist

Source- [TH](#)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the World Food Programme (WFP):

1. It is a branch of the United Nations.
2. Its headquarters is located in Rome, Italy.
3. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize twice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food assistance branch of the United Nations.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Its headquarters is located in Rome, Italy.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The WFP has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize once (2020), not twice.

Source- [PIB](#)

Q. VoicERA, an open-source, end-to-end Voice AI stack recently seen in the news, was launched by which of the following?

- (A) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (B) Department of Telecommunications
- (C) NITI Aayog
- (D) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Answer: (D) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Explanation: VoicERA was unveiled by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology at the India AI Impact Summit 2026. It is deployed on the BHASHINI National Language Infrastructure.

Source- [PIB](#)

10 PM MCQs (20 Feb)

Q1. With reference to Municipal Bonds, consider the following statements:

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1. Municipal bonds are marketable debt instruments issued by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to finance capital projects and other expenditure needs.
2. Municipal bonds in India were first issued by Mumbai.
3. They are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

Answer: (A) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** Municipal bonds are debt instruments issued by ULBs to finance infrastructure and other expenditure needs.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The first municipal bond in India was issued by Bengaluru in 1997, not by Mumbai.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** Municipal bonds are regulated by SEBI under the Issue and Listing of Municipal Debt Securities Regulations, 2015, not by the RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Source- [AIR](#)

Q2. With reference to the Beat the Heat Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It was announced under the COP28 UAE Presidency.
2. It is supported by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) through its Global Framework for Climate Services.
3. As of 2026, the majority of Indian cities participating in this initiative are located in Maharashtra.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

Answer: (A) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The Beat the Heat Initiative was announced under the COP30 Brazil Presidency, not COP28 UAE.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The initiative is supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through its Cool Coalition platform, not by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** As of 2026, a majority of the Indian cities participating in the initiative are located in Maharashtra (30 out of 44 Indian cities).

Source- [IE](#)

Q3. With reference to the Naneghat Caves, consider the following statements:

1. They contain inscriptions in Kharosthi script related to the Gupta dynasty.
2. They served as an important corridor linking the Deccan Plateau with the western coast in ancient times.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only

- (C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The Naneghat Caves contain early Brahmi inscriptions, not Kharosthi script. These inscriptions are associated with the Satavahana dynasty (1st century BCE), not the Gupta dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** Naneghat was an important ancient trade route connecting the Deccan Plateau with the western coast, facilitating inland-coastal commerce. The caves are archaeologically significant for understanding this trade corridor.

Source- [IE](#)

Q4. The Characterising Exoplanet Satellite (CHEOPS) mission, recently seen in the news, was launched by:

- (A) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
(B) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
(C) European Space Agency (ESA)
(D) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

Answer: (C) European Space Agency (ESA)

Explanation: CHEOPS is a space telescope mission of the European Space Agency (ESA). It is dedicated to studying known exoplanets around bright, nearby stars by making high-precision measurements of their sizes as they transit their host stars.

Source- [SCI](#)

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Loggerhead Sea Turtle:

1. It is endemic to the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.
2. It is classified as 'Critically Endangered' under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The Loggerhead Sea Turtle is widely distributed across the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, as well as the Mediterranean Sea. It is not endemic to the Mediterranean and Atlantic regions alone.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** It is listed as 'Vulnerable' under the IUCN Red List, not 'Critically Endangered'.

Source- [TH](#)

Q6. With reference to the Pax Silica Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is a collaborative effort aimed at strengthening trusted and resilient semiconductor supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region.
2. India is a founding member alongside Japan, South Korea, and Australia.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation: 1 only

Statement 1 is correct: The Pax Silica Initiative is a strategic, cooperative framework discussed among like-minded countries (including India) to promote secure, resilient, and trusted semiconductor supply chains, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. The term “Pax Silica” symbolically reflects peace and stability built around semiconductor (“silicon”) ecosystems.

Statement 2 is incorrect: India was notably excluded from the founding group, which includes Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Netherlands, UK, Israel, UAE, and Australia. But it has recently joined the group formally.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) of India:

- 1. It was established as an attached office under the Ministry of Civil Aviation to investigate civil aircraft accidents and incidents in India.
- 2. The AAIB investigations do not assign blame or liability to anyone.
- 3. All aircraft accidents and serious incidents in Indian airspace, regardless of the aircraft’s weight or type, are mandatorily investigated by the AAIB.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct

Statement 1 is correct: The AAIB was established in 2012 under the Ministry of Civil Aviation to investigate civil aviation accidents and incidents.

Statement 2 is correct: The sole objective of AAIB investigations is the prevention of accidents and incidents, not to apportion blame or liability.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The AAIB is mandated to investigate all accidents and serious incidents involving aircraft with an all-up weight above 2,250 kg or turbojet aircraft, not every aircraft regardless of weight or type.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q8. With reference to the tapioca sago, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a starchy staple derived from cassava roots.
- 2. Tamil Nadu is the largest producer of tapioca sago in India.
- 3. It is popularly known as sabudana in India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation: All are correct

- Tapioca sago, popularly known as sabudana in India, is a starchy staple derived from cassava roots, with Tamil Nadu (specifically Salem) being the largest producer and a GI-tagged hub. It is a vital energy-boosting, gluten-free, and vegan food widely consumed during fasting (vrat) to make dishes like khichdi, vada, and kheer.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q9. Which one of the following best describes a “Snowball Earth”?

- A) A period in Earth’s history when the entire planet, including oceans, was almost completely covered by ice.
- B) A phase when only the polar regions of the Earth were glaciated while the tropics remained ice-free.
- C) A geological epoch marked by intense volcanic eruptions leading to global warming.
- D) A short-term climatic event caused by asteroid impact resulting in temporary cooling.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Snowball Earth hypothesis suggests that during the Proterozoic Eon, especially in the Cryogenian Period, Earth experienced extreme global glaciation where ice sheets may have extended from the poles to near the equator.

Source: [TH](#)

Q10. With reference to Panama Disease, consider the following statements:

1. It is a fungal disease that primarily affects banana plants and is caused by Fusarium species.
2. The Tropical Race 4 (TR4) strain of this disease poses a serious threat to the globally dominant Cavendish banana variety.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation: Both 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct: Panama disease, also known as Fusarium wilt of banana, is caused by the soil-borne fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. cubense.

Statement 2 is correct: The TR4 strain has spread across Asia, Africa, and Latin America and threatens the Cavendish variety, which dominates global banana exports.

Source: [DTE](#)

10 PM MCQs (21 Feb.)

Q1. Consider the following pairs:

1. Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary – Uttarakhand
2. Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary – Odisha
3. Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary – West Bengal

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two

- (C) All three
- (D) None

Answer: (B) Only two

Explanation:

- Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Uttarakhand.
- Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Odisha.
- Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Jharkhand, not West Bengal.

Source- [NIE](#)

Q2. Consider the following description:

It grows best in slightly alkaline soils with a pH range of about 6.7 to 7.5 and requires well-drained land, as it cannot tolerate waterlogging. The plant thrives in hot and humid climates, with an ideal temperature range between 12°C and 35°C. It is a long-duration crop, taking nearly 20 years to develop quality heartwood.

The above description refers to which of the following?

- (A) Teak
- (B) Rosewood
- (C) Indian Sandalwood
- (D) Eucalyptus

Answer: (C) Indian Sandalwood

Source- [TH](#)

Q3. With reference to 'Bharat GI', consider the following statements:

1. Bharat GI serves as an umbrella brand to promote Indian Geographical Indication (GI) products exclusively within domestic markets.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of MSME to promote traditional village industries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Bharat GI is designed to showcase and promote Indian GI products on international platforms, not exclusively within domestic markets.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Bharat GI was launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, not by the Ministry of MSME.

Source- [PIB](#)

Q4. Mount Kanlaon, recently seen in the news due to volcanic eruption, is located in which of the following countries?

- (A) Indonesia
- (B) Japan
- (C) Philippines
- (D) Papua New Guinea

Answer: (C) Philippines

Explanation: Mount Kanlaon is an active stratovolcano located on Negros Island in the Philippines. It is one of the most active volcanoes in the country and frequently monitored for eruptions.

Source- [TN](#)

Q5. With reference to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. The Chairperson holds the rank of a Minister of State in the Union Government.
3. Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (B) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** NCST is a constitutional body established under Article 338A of the Constitution.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Chairperson holds the rank of a Union Cabinet Minister, not a Minister of State.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The headquarters of the NCST is located in New Delhi.

Source- [PIB](#)

Q6. With reference to the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), consider the following statements:

1. The Vibrant Villages Programme aims to develop villages located along India's northern land borders to improve infrastructure, livelihood opportunities and prevent out-migration.
2. The programme is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs and initially covers villages along the border with China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation: Both 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct: The Vibrant Villages Programme was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 to ensure comprehensive development of villages in border areas, particularly to check migration and enhance security.

Statement 2 is correct: It is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and initially focuses on villages along the India-China border in states/UTs such as Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Ladakh.

Source: [Print](#)

Q7. With reference to the Himalayan Salamander, consider the following statements:

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1. The Himalayan Salamander is the only salamander species found in India and is primarily distributed in the Eastern Himalayas.
2. It is an amphibian that breeds in high-altitude streams and is highly sensitive to habitat disturbance and climate change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation: 2 only

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Himalayan Salamander (*Tylotriton verrucosus*) is one of only two salamander species in India, the other being *Tylotriton verrucosus*.

Statement 2 is correct: Being an amphibian, it depends on moist forest habitats and clean hill streams for breeding, making it vulnerable to deforestation, pollution, and climate change.

Source: [Mongabay](#)

Q8. The Suav River, seen in the news recently, is a tributary of

- a) Rapti river
- b) Gomati river
- c) Hindon river
- d) Saryu river

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to correct official records and restore the Suav's status from a "drain" to a "river" in the revenue records and gazetteer, warning that failure to comply could attract punishment under the law. The order follows a petition challenging the classification of the Suav — a major tributary of the Rapti river in Balrampur district — as a nullah (drain).

Source: [DTE](#)

Q9. With reference to the Tirukkural, consider the following statements:

1. The Tirukkural is a classical Tamil text attributed to the poet-saint Thiruvalluvar and consists of 1330 couplets.
2. The text is divided into three sections dealing with virtue (Aram), wealth (Porul), and love (Inbam).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation: Both 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct: The Tirukkural, authored by Thiruvalluvar, is one of the most revered works of classical Tamil literature.

Statement 2 is correct: It contains 133 chapters comprising 1330 couplets (Kurals), organized into three major sections — Aram (virtue), Porul (wealth), and Inbam (love).

Source: [IE](#)

Q10. With reference to the SANKALP Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is aimed at improving the quality and effectiveness of short-term skill training in India.
2. The Ministry of Education is the nodal ministry of this scheme.
3. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and is implemented in mission mode through World Bank support.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation: 1 and 3

Statement 1 is correct: SANKALP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) is a flagship skill development programme aimed at improving the quality and effectiveness of short-term skill training in India.

Statement 2 is incorrect: SANKALP is an outcome-oriented programme of Ministry of Skills Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) with a special focus on decentralized planning and quality improvement.

Statement 3 is correct: The project is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and is implemented in mission mode through World Bank support.

Source: [TH](#)