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UPSC Prelims 2026

Question Bank

Geography

110 questions · with full explanations

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS PDF

Priority bucket	Description	Count
T1+focus	Must-know, focus events (highest priority)	38
T1	Must-know, non-focus events	3
T2+focus	Important, focus events	23
T2	Important, non-focus events	37
T3	Supporting / background events	9
TOTAL		110

HOW TO USE THIS BANK

Questions are grouped by priority bucket, with most-important (T1+focus) first. Within each bucket they are ordered by event date (newest first). Every question shows the source event, full options with the correct answer marked, a detailed explanation, the topic + concepts tested, and a link back to the original revision note on prepdose.in for deeper study.

About the Publishers



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Tier 1 - Must-Know (Focus Events)

38 questions

Q1. Parliamentary Panel Flags River Interlinking Project Delays

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2026-03-21

With reference to the Interlinking of Rivers scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Under the National Perspective Plan, the Himalayan river links have seen greater implementation progress than the Peninsular links due to their priority for flood control.
2. The lower command area development of the Ken-Betwa link has been disrupted by stagnation in state-level canal renovation works in Uttar Pradesh.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): Contrary to the intuitive assumption that Himalayan rivers would be prioritized for flood control in states like Bihar and Assam, the Peninsular component has seen far more progress. Projects like Ken-Betwa and MPKC-ERCP have been prioritized over the Himalayan links, which face complex international and ecological challenges.

Statement 2 (correct): The Parliamentary Standing Committee specifically recorded that delays in state-level canal renovation works in Uttar Pradesh have disrupted the lower command area development of the Ken-Betwa project.

Topic: Water Resources

Concepts: National Perspective Plan, River Interlinking, Ken-Betwa Link Project

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Parliamentary Panel Flags River Interlinking Project Delays](#)

Q2. Parliamentary Panel Flags River Interlinking Project Delays

T1+focus · match_pairs · MEDIUM · 2026-03-21

Match List-I (Initiatives/Structures) with List-II (Key Attributes/Developments) regarding the Interlinking of Rivers scheme in India: List-I A. National Perspective Plan B. National Water Development Agency C. Daudhan Dam D. Modified PKC-ERCPL List-II i. Established in 1982 to prepare feasibility and detailed project reports ii. Formed to resolve long-standing interstate disputes between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh iii. Formulated in 1980 by the Ministry of Irrigation to transfer water from surplus to deficit basins iv. Faced unforeseen construction roadblocks shifting the operationalization timeline of the Ken-Betwa link

- (A) A-iii, B-i, C-iv, D-ii ✓
- (B) A-i, B-iii, C-ii, D-iv
- (C) A-iii, B-i, C-ii, D-iv
- (D) A-i, B-iii, C-iv, D-ii

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Based on the source event: A matches (iii): The National Perspective Plan (NPP) was formulated in 1980 by the Ministry of Irrigation to identify river links to transfer water from surplus to deficit basins. B matches (i): The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was established subsequently in 1982 specifically to prepare feasibility and detailed project reports for these links. C matches (iv): The Daudhan Dam is the central structure of the Ken-Betwa Link Project, and its unforeseen construction roadblocks have shifted the timeline for the link's operationalization. D matches (ii): The Modified PKC-ERCPL link was formed by integrating the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project with the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link to resolve long-standing interstate disputes between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, the correct matching is A-iii, B-i, C-iv, D-ii.

Topic: Geography - Water Resources

Concepts: River Interlinking, Water Resource Management, Interstate Water Disputes

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Parliamentary Panel Flags River Interlinking Project Delays](#)

Q3. Parliamentary Panel Flags River Interlinking Project Delays

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2026-03-21

With reference to the river interlinking projects in India, consider the following statements:

1. Under the National Perspective Plan of 1980, the majority of the 30 identified river links belong to the Himalayan component.
2. The Peninsular component of the river interlinking project has seen far more progress in active implementation than the Himalayan component.
3. The operationalization of the Ken-Betwa Link Project is heavily centered around the construction of the Daudhan Dam.
4. The Modified PKC-ERCP link integrates the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project with the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link to resolve long-standing interstate disputes between Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The National Perspective Plan (NPP) formulated in 1980 identified 30 river links, comprising 16 Peninsular and 14 Himalayan components. Therefore, the majority belong to the Peninsular component.

Statement 2 (correct): Despite the Himalayan rivers carrying larger volumes of water, the Peninsular component has seen far more progress in active implementation (such as the Ken-Betwa and MPKC-ERCP projects) due to the complex international and ecological challenges associated with Himalayan links.

Statement 3 (correct): The Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is the first priority project to reach the implementation stage, and its operationalization is heavily centered around the construction of the Daudhan Dam.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The Modified PKC-ERCP link was formed to resolve long-standing interstate disputes between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, not Uttar Pradesh.

Topic: Geography - Water Resources

Concepts: National Perspective Plan, River Interlinking, Ken-Betwa Link Project, Interstate Water Disputes

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Parliamentary Panel Flags River Interlinking Project Delays](#)

Q4. Parliamentary Panel Flags River Interlinking Project Delays

T1+focus · assertion_reason · HARD · 2026-03-21

Statement-I: Under the National Perspective Plan, the Peninsular component of river interlinking has seen far more progress in active implementation than the Himalayan component. Statement-II: Himalayan river links involve complex international and ecological challenges, whereas Peninsular projects primarily focus on transferring surplus monsoon discharge from structurally stable rivers.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: Despite the intuitive assumption that Himalayan rivers (which carry large perennial flows and cause severe floods) would be prioritized, the source confirms that the Peninsular component has seen far more progress in active implementation (e.g., the Ken-Betwa and MPKC-ERCPC links). Statement-II is correct: The source explicitly states that Himalayan links face "complex international and ecological challenges," whereas Peninsular projects involve moving "surplus monsoon discharge from structurally stable peninsular rivers." Because these complex challenges in the Himalayas are the exact reason why the Peninsular projects have been prioritized and progressed further, Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

Topic: Geography - Water Resources

Concepts: River Interlinking, Drainage Systems, Water Resource Management

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Parliamentary Panel Flags River Interlinking Project Delays](#)

Q5. HC Orders Full Inclusion of Kappatagudda Sanctuary Area

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-03-05

Under the legal framework of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which of the following represents the correct statutory sequence for the creation of a wildlife sanctuary, as maintained in the Kappatagudda case?

- (A) **Notification of initial intention under Section 18, followed by the settlement of community rights by the Collector, culminating in the final notification under Section 26A. ✓**
- (B) Notification of initial intention under Section 26A, followed by the settlement of community rights by the State Wildlife Board, culminating in the final notification under Section 18.
- (C) Settlement of community rights by the Collector, followed by a preliminary notification under Section 26A, culminating in a final gazette publication under Section 18.
- (D) Notification of initial intention under Section 18, followed by the settlement of community rights by the National Board for Wildlife, culminating in the final notification under Section 26A.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the creation of a sanctuary requires the initial intention to be notified under Section 18. This is followed by the settlement of community rights by the Collector, and the process culminates in the final notification under Section 26A. Option 1 correctly identifies this sequence. Option 2 and Option 3 incorrectly swap the statutory sections (18 and 26A) and misattribute the settlement of rights. Option 4 incorrectly assigns the settlement of community rights to the National Board for Wildlife instead of the Collector.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity and Conservation

Concepts: Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Protected Areas, Statutory Processes

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: HC Orders Full Inclusion of Kappatagudda Sanctuary Area](#)

Q6. HC Orders Full Inclusion of Kappatagudda Sanctuary Area

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-03-05

In the context of the Karnataka High Court judgment on the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary, what specific legal precedent was established regarding the state government's power to issue final sanctuary notifications under Section 26A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972?

- (A) The state government holds absolute discretionary veto power over the final area once the Collector settles community rights.
- (B) The state government cannot arbitrarily override or modify the unanimous recommendations of the statutory State Board for Wildlife. ✓**
- (C) The state government must obtain formal recommendations from the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) before issuing the initial intention under Section 18.
- (D) The state government's final notification is strictly contingent upon the complete exclusion of areas vulnerable to commercial mining.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

The High Court established that final notifications under Section 26A must strictly align with the intent and approval of the Wildlife Boards, meaning the state cannot arbitrarily override or modify the unanimous recommendations of the statutory State Board for Wildlife (

Option 2 (correct):). Option 1 represents the misconception that states hold absolute discretionary veto power, which the court struck down. Option 3 conflates the NBWL's role (which is required for altering boundaries of an already established sanctuary) with the Section 18 initial intention process. Option 4 contradicts the judgment, which mandated the inclusion (not exclusion) of the 55 sq. km area vulnerable to commercial gold mining and wind power projects.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, Protected Area Governance, Judicial Interventions in Environment

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: HC Orders Full Inclusion of Kappatagudda Sanctuary Area](#)

Q7. HC Orders Full Inclusion of Kappatagudda Sanctuary Area

T1+focus · how_many_correct · EASY · 2026-03-05

Consider the following statements:

1. Kappatagudda is geographically a part of the tropical evergreen ecosystems of the Western Ghats.
2. Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, altering the boundaries of a wildlife sanctuary requires formal recommendations from the National Board for Wildlife.
3. State governments have absolute discretionary power to reduce wildlife sanctuary boundaries during final notification without adhering to State Wildlife Board approvals.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): Kappatagudda is an independent hill range in the arid Gadag district of northern Karnataka featuring dry deciduous forests, completely distinct from the tropical evergreen ecosystems of the Western Ghats.

Statement 2 (correct): Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, altering sanctuary boundaries requires formal recommendations from the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

Statement 3 (incorrect): The Karnataka High Court established that state governments cannot arbitrarily override or modify the unanimous recommendations of the statutory State Board for Wildlife when issuing final notifications under Section 26A.

Topic: Environment - Protected Areas

Concepts: Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Protected Areas, Judicial Pronouncements on Environment

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: HC Orders Full Inclusion of Kappatagudda Sanctuary Area](#)

Q8. HC Orders Full Inclusion of Kappatagudda Sanctuary Area

T1+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2026-03-05

Statement-I: The Karnataka High Court mandated that the final notification for the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary must strictly align with the 300 sq. km area unanimously approved by the Karnataka State Wildlife Board. Statement-II: Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, state governments lack the absolute discretionary power to arbitrarily modify the recommendations of the statutory State Board for Wildlife when issuing final notifications under Section 26A.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Both statements are correct, and Statement-II provides the legal reasoning for Statement-I. The Karnataka High Court overturned a 2019 state notification that had arbitrarily reduced the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary to 244.15 sq. km, excluding 55 sq. km that was vulnerable to gold mining and wind power projects. The court established the legal precedent (Statement-II) that while state governments issue the final gazette notifications under Section 26A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, they cannot arbitrarily override or modify the unanimous recommendations of the statutory State Board for Wildlife during formation. This legal principle directly explains the court's specific mandate (Statement-I) to notify the entire 300 sq. km area.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity and Conservation

Concepts: Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, Protected Area Network, Judicial Intervention in Environment

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: HC Orders Full Inclusion of Kappatagudda Sanctuary Area](#)

Q9. India and Brazil Sign Critical Minerals MoU

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-02-21

Which of the following is a specific characteristic or provision of the February 2026 India-Brazil Memorandum of Understanding on Critical Minerals?

- (A) It establishes a legally binding commercial execution framework between India's KABIL and Brazil's Vale S.A.
- (B) It formally integrates Brazil into the US-led 'Pax Silica' semiconductor initiative alongside India.
- (C) **It officially mandates the use of Artificial Intelligence for precision geoscientific data analysis. ✓**
- (D) It restricts bilateral mining engagement solely to the transactional trade of raw iron ore.

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Option 3 (correct): The MoU officially mandates the use of Artificial Intelligence for precision geoscientific data analysis, moving beyond traditional data sharing.

Option 1 (incorrect): because the MoU explicitly remains a non-binding framework; commercial execution still requires distinct, separate contracts negotiated by entities like KABIL or Vale S.A.

Option 2 (incorrect): because Brazil maintained its non-aligned stance by specifically not joining the US-led Pax Silica initiative.

Option 4 (incorrect): because the agreement explicitly expands engagement to cover the entire critical mineral value chain (including processing, refining, and recycling), moving away from the previous focus solely on raw iron ore.

Topic: International Relations - Bilateral Agreements

Concepts: Critical Minerals, Bilateral Trade, Geopolitics of Technology

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India and Brazil Sign Critical Minerals MoU](#)

Q10. India and Brazil Sign Critical Minerals MoU

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-02-21

In the context of the 2026 India-Brazil Critical Minerals MoU, how did Brazil's position regarding the US-led 'Pax Silica' initiative shape the nature of the agreement?

- (A) Brazil joined the initiative alongside India, formally converting the MoU into a trilateral semiconductor supply framework.
- (B) Brazil maintained a non-aligned stance by not joining the initiative, ensuring the MoU remains strictly a bilateral Global South endeavor. ✓**
- (C) Brazil mandated that India withdraw from the initiative to prevent the transfer of proprietary AI-driven geoscientific data to third parties.
- (D) Brazil agreed to export its rare-earth-oxide equivalents solely to Pax Silica member states via Indian processing facilities.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

The correct answer is Option 2. According to the source event, while India entered the US-led 'Pax Silica' initiative in February 2026, Brazil maintained its non-aligned stance and chose not to join. This decision ensured that the India-Brazil mineral pact remained strictly a bilateral Global South endeavor.

Option 1 (incorrect): because Brazil explicitly did not join the initiative.

Option 3 (incorrect): because India did not withdraw from Pax Silica; rather, it sought the Brazil pipeline to complement its Pax Silica membership.

Option 4 (incorrect): because Brazil did not agree to restrict its exports solely to Pax Silica members, nor is it a member itself.

Topic: International Relations - Bilateral Agreements

Concepts: Critical Minerals, Geopolitics, Global South, Strategic Autonomy

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India and Brazil Sign Critical Minerals MoU](#)

Q11. India and Brazil Sign Critical Minerals MoU

T1+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2026-02-21

Under the Critical Minerals Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Brazil in February 2026, which of the following technologies is officially mandated for precision geoscientific data analysis?

- (A) Artificial Intelligence ✓**
- (B) Quantum computing
- (C) Blockchain traceability
- (D) Satellite gravimetry

Answer: (A)

Explanation

The India-Brazil Critical Minerals MoU explicitly mandates the use of Artificial Intelligence for precision geoscientific data analysis, aligning with the 2nd AI

Impact Summit held in Delhi. This replaces the previous reliance on traditional data sharing. The other technologies listed are not provisions of the agreement.

Topic: International Relations

Concepts: Critical Minerals, Bilateral Agreements, Technology in Exploration

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India and Brazil Sign Critical Minerals MoU](#)

Q12. India and Brazil Sign Critical Minerals MoU

T1+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2026-02-21

Consider the following statements:

1. Rare Earth Elements (REEs) are termed 'rare' solely because they are scarce in the Earth's crust.
2. The bilateral agreements leverage Brazilian niobium and iron ore to support India's goal of expanding its steelmaking capacity to 218 million tonnes.
3. Both India and Brazil are participating members of the US-led 'Pax Silica' semiconductor initiative.
4. The India-Brazil Critical Minerals MoU is strictly a non-binding framework, meaning commercial execution always requires distinct contracts.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): REEs are relatively abundant globally but are termed 'rare' because they are rarely found in concentrated, economically viable ores, often occurring mixed with radioactive elements.

Statement 2 (correct): A dedicated steel MoU leverages Brazil's niobium and iron ore to support India's goal of expanding steelmaking capacity to 218 million tonnes using sustainable technologies.

Statement 3 (incorrect): While India entered the US-led 'Pax Silica' initiative in February 2026, Brazil maintained its non-aligned stance by explicitly not joining it.

Statement 4 (correct): Despite its comprehensive scope, the MoU is strictly a non-binding framework; commercial execution always requires distinct contracts negotiated by entities like India's KABIL or Brazil's Vale S.A. (This correctly weaponizes the extreme words 'strictly' and 'always'). Therefore, exactly two statements (2 and 4) are correct.

Topic: International Relations - Bilateral Agreements

Concepts: Critical Minerals, Geopolitics of Supply Chains, Rare Earth Elements

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India and Brazil Sign Critical Minerals MoU](#)

Q13. Mines Ministry Auctions Vanadium Exploration Blocks

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2026-02-13

Consider the following statements in respect of the Exploration Licence (EL) regime for critical minerals:

1. As the Union Mines Ministry centrally manages the EL auctions, the revenues generated from these auctions accrue to the Union Government.
2. An EL holder is solely permitted to conduct reconnaissance and prospecting, but receives a revenue share from the auction premium for 50 years once a mining lease is granted.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): While the 2023 MMDR Amendment empowered the Union Mines Ministry to centrally manage Exploration Licence (EL) auctions for deep-seated minerals to avoid state-level delays, the core federal structure regarding mineral wealth remains untouched. The revenues generated from these auctions still accrue to the respective State Governments, not the Union Government.

Statement 2 (correct): Historically, composite mining leases bundled exploration and extraction rights. The new EL regime intentionally decouples them. An EL holder is solely permitted to conduct reconnaissance and prospecting, and does not receive automatic mining rights. Instead, once a viable prospect is found, the government auctions the Mining Lease, and the EL holder receives a share of the auction premium for 50 years.

Topic: Mineral Resources

Concepts: Critical Minerals, Exploration Licence, Federalism in Mining

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Mines Ministry Auctions Vanadium Exploration Blocks](#)

Q14. Mines Ministry Auctions Vanadium Exploration Blocks

T1+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2026-02-13

Consider the following statements in respect of the Exploration Licence regime:

1. An Exploration Licence holder does not receive extraction rights upon discovering a viable prospect, but instead receives a share of the subsequent Mining Lease auction premium for 50 years.
2. Although the Central Government directly administers the auctions for these exploration blocks, the revenues generated accrue to the respective State Governments.

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

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Historically, traditional composite mining leases bundled exploration and extraction rights. The 2023 MMDR Amendment decoupled them. An Exploration Licence (EL) holder is only permitted to conduct reconnaissance and prospecting. Upon discovering a viable prospect, the government auctions the Mining Lease, and the EL holder receives a share of the auction premium for 50 years rather than automatic mining rights.

Statement 2 (correct): The amendment empowered the Central Government to directly auction EL blocks for deep-seated and critical minerals to avoid state-level delays. However, the core federal structure regarding mineral wealth was not changed; the revenues generated from these centrally administered auctions still accrue to the respective State Governments.

Topic: Geography - Minerals

Concepts: Critical Minerals, Mining Regulations, Federalism in Resource Allocation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Mines Ministry Auctions Vanadium Exploration Blocks](#)

Q15. Mines Ministry Auctions Vanadium Exploration Blocks

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-02-13

Under the Exploration Licence (EL) regime introduced by the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023, what is the statutory financial return mechanism for an EL holder upon discovering a viable mineral prospect?

- (A) They are automatically granted the Mining Lease to extract the discovered minerals.
- (B) **They receive a share of the auction premium for 50 years after the Mining Lease is auctioned. ✓**
- (C) They retain all revenues generated from the auction because the process is centrally administered.
- (D) They are compensated solely through a one-time reimbursement by the National Mineral Exploration Trust.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): Under the 2023 MMDR Amendment, an Exploration Licence (EL) holder who discovers a viable prospect receives a share of the auction premium for 50 years after the government successfully auctions the Mining Lease.

Option 1 (incorrect): because the EL only permits reconnaissance and prospecting; exploration and extraction rights were intentionally decoupled to attract specialized firms.

Option 3 (incorrect): because despite central administration of EL auctions, the core federal structure remains untouched and revenues still accrue to the respective State Governments.

Option 4 (incorrect): while the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) helps offset deep-seated drilling costs to mitigate risk, it is not the mechanism for compensating the discovery itself.

Topic: Economy - Infrastructure & Resources

Concepts: Mineral Exploration Policy, MMDR Amendment Act 2023

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Mines Ministry Auctions Vanadium Exploration Blocks](#)



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Q16. Mines Ministry Auctions Vanadium Exploration Blocks

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2026-02-13

Consider the following statements in respect of the Exploration Licence (EL) regime for critical minerals:

1. Although the Union Mines Ministry centrally manages Exploration Licence auctions, the revenues generated from these auctions accrue to the respective State Governments.
2. An Exploration Licence holder is granted automatic extraction rights once a viable prospect of a deep-seated mineral is established.
3. Upon the grant of a mining lease based on their discovery, the Exploration Licence holder receives a revenue share from the auction premium for 50 years.
4. To accelerate the discovery of strategic minerals, the statutory requirements for environmental clearances prior to physical exploration have been relaxed.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Under the 2023 MMDR Amendment, the Union Mines Ministry centrally manages Exploration Licence auctions to streamline permitting, but the core federal structure remains untouched and revenues still accrue to the respective State Governments.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The EL holder is only permitted to conduct reconnaissance and prospecting. They do not receive automatic mining rights; once a viable prospect is found, the government auctions the Mining Lease separately.

Statement 3 (correct): The 2023 amendment decoupled exploration and extraction. To incentivize private explorers, EL holders receive a revenue share from the auction premium for 50 years after a successful mining lease is granted based on their discovery.

Statement 4 (incorrect): Despite the centralisation and push for rapid exploration, statutory requirements for environmental clearances and community consent prior to commencing physical exploration activities were not relaxed.

Topic: Geography - Mineral Resources

Concepts: Critical Minerals, MMDR Amendment Act 2023, Exploration Licence, Centre-State Relations

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Mines Ministry Auctions Vanadium Exploration Blocks](#)

Q17. Discovery of *Neelus sikkimensis* in Sikkim

T1+focus · statement_based · EASY · 2025-12-01

With reference to *Neelus sikkimensis*, consider the following statements:

1. Prior to its discovery in Sikkim, its genus had never been documented within Indian territory.
2. It is a completely eyeless true insect that feeds on decaying organic matter in high-altitude soils.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The source event explicitly states that before this discovery by the Zoological Survey of India, the genus *Neelus* had never been documented within Indian territory.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While *Neelus sikkimensis* is indeed completely eyeless and feeds on decaying organic matter as a beneficial detritivore, it is taxonomically a springtail (class Collembola). The text notes that despite having six legs, it lacks wings entirely and is not classified as a true insect (class Insecta).

Topic: Biodiversity

Concepts: Species Discovery, Taxonomy, Bio-indicators

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Discovery of *Neelus sikkimensis* in Sikkim](#)

Q18. Discovery of Neelus sikkimensis in Sikkim

T1+focus · simple_mcq · HARD · 2025-12-01

The Zoological Survey of India recently documented the micro-arthropod *Neelus sikkimensis* in the high-altitude landscapes of Sikkim. Based on its taxonomic and ecological profile, which of the following statements is correct?

- (A) It is a true insect of the class Insecta that functions as a beneficial detritivore in high-altitude ecosystems.
- (B) **It is a wingless hexapod of the class Collembola that features internal mouthparts and is completely eyeless. ✓**
- (C) It is the seventh globally recognized species of the genus Neelus, distinguished primarily by its unique labral chaetotaxy.
- (D) It is a soil-dwelling pest that utilizes sensory bristles to navigate and feed on the roots of high-altitude flora.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): *Neelus sikkimensis* belongs to the class Collembola (springtails), which are wingless hexapods with internal mouthparts (Entognatha). It is completely eyeless, relying on sensory bristles instead of vision due to regressive evolution.

Option 1 (incorrect): because while it is a beneficial detritivore and has six legs, it is explicitly not classified as a true insect (class Insecta).

Option 3 (incorrect): because the discovery of *Neelus sikkimensis* brings the global species count of the genus *Neelus* to eight, not seven (seven were recognized prior to this discovery).

Option 4 (incorrect): because it is a common misconception that these micro-arthropods are root-damaging pests; they are actually beneficial detritivores that feed on decaying organic matter, fungi, and bacteria.

Topic: Biodiversity

Concepts: Taxonomy, Micro-arthropods, Collembola, Bio-indicators

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Discovery of Neelus sikkimensis in Sikkim](#)

Q19. New Edible Yam Species Discovered in Western Ghats

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-08-29

With reference to the newly discovered yam species *Dioscorea balakrishnanii*, consider the following statements:

1. It is exclusively endemic to the shola forests of Wayanad and is characterized by its dioecious nature.
2. Its formal taxonomic documentation establishes 'prior art' under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001, to protect the traditional knowledge of the Kattunayikar tribe.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The source explicitly states that the species is exclusively endemic to the shola forests of Wayanad and has a dioecious nature (separate male and female plants), which required ten years of observation to confirm.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The formal documentation establishes 'prior art' to legally protect the Kattunayikar tribe's traditional knowledge under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 framework, not the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001. The PPV&FR Act is mentioned only as previous legislation that Dr. V. Balakrishnan assisted with.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Endemism, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Biological Diversity Act 2002, Bioprospecting

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: New Edible Yam Species Discovered in Western Ghats](#)

Q20. New Edible Yam Species Discovered in Western Ghats

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-08-29

With reference to the newly classified yam species *Dioscorea balakrishnanii*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a dioecious species with separate male and female plants, a characteristic that necessitated a decade of observation to confirm its taxonomy.
2. Its formal documentation establishes 'prior art' under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, to protect the Kattunayikar tribe's traditional knowledge from biopiracy.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The formal taxonomic classification of *Dioscorea balakrishnanii* was hindered by its isolated habitat in the shola forests and its dioecious nature (having separate male and female plants), which required ten years of continuous observation of its distinct flowers.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The formal documentation of the species establishes 'prior art' under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 framework - not the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001 - to legally protect the traditional ecological knowledge of the Kattunayikar tribe from biopiracy. The PPV&FR Act is mentioned in the source as legislation that Dr. V. Balakrishnan (after whom the yam is named) previously assisted with, making it a logically adjacent distractor.

Topic: Biodiversity

Concepts: Plant Taxonomy, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Bioprospecting, Intellectual Property Rights in Biodiversity

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: New Edible Yam Species Discovered in Western Ghats](#)

Q21. New Edible Yam Species Discovered in Western Ghats

T1+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2025-08-29

Which of the following statements correctly describes the origin of the newly classified edible yam species *Dioscorea balakrishnanii*?

- (A) It is an exotic tuber species introduced to India by the Portuguese from the Americas.
- (B) It is an introduced yam species originally brought from Africa for mass cultivation.
- (C) **It is a wild yam species exclusively endemic to the evergreen shola forests of Wayanad. ✓**
- (D) It is a climate-resilient hybrid developed in a laboratory by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation.

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Option 3 (correct): *Dioscorea balakrishnanii* is recognized as exclusively endemic to the shola forests of Wayanad in the Western Ghats, where it has been traditionally consumed by the Kattunayikar tribe. Options 1 and 2 are incorrect; while commonly cultivated tubers like potatoes were introduced by the Portuguese from the Americas, the Western Ghats is a major hub of endemic wild yam species.

Option 4 (incorrect): the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation formally described the wild species after a decade of observation, but they did not develop it as a laboratory hybrid.

Topic: Flora and Fauna

Concepts: Endemism, Biodiversity Hotspots, Traditional Ecological Knowledge

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: New Edible Yam Species Discovered in Western Ghats](#)

Q22. New Edible Yam Species Discovered in Western Ghats

T1+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2025-08-29

With reference to the newly classified edible yam species *Dioscorea balakrishnani*, consider the following statements:

1. Its dioecious nature, characterized by having separate male and female plants, hindered its prior taxonomic documentation.
2. The species is exclusively endemic to the evergreen shola forests of Wayanad.
3. Its formal documentation establishes 'prior art' under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001, protecting indigenous knowledge from biopiracy.
4. The discovery validates the broadly utilitarian argument for biodiversity conservation by yielding a crop with a low glycemic index.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Prior documentation of the species was hindered by its isolated habitat and its dioecious nature (having separate male and female plants), requiring a decade of observation.

Statement 2 (correct): The species is recognized as exclusively endemic to the shola forests of Wayanad (testing the extreme word 'exclusively', which is factually accurate here).

Statement 3 (incorrect): Formal documentation establishes 'prior art' under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, not the PPV&FR Act, 2001 (the latter is legislation Dr. Balakrishnan previously assisted with).

Statement 4 (incorrect): Yielding a direct nutritional and medicinal benefit (a low glycemic index crop) validates the 'narrowly utilitarian' argument for biodiversity conservation, not the broadly utilitarian argument.

Topic: Biodiversity

Concepts: Endemism, Bioprospecting, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Biodiversity Legislation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: New Edible Yam Species Discovered in Western Ghats](#)

Q23. India Launches Mineral Exploration Project in Zambia

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-07-02

Consider the following statements:

1. The geological samples collected from the Zambian exploration block are primarily analyzed in Indian laboratories to determine their commercial viability.
2. The 2025 exploration agreement guarantees Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) commercial mining rights in the Zambian block immediately following the three-year exploration phase.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): As part of the exploration project, the analysis of the geological samples collected from the 9,000 square kilometre zone in Zambia is primarily conducted in Indian laboratories to ascertain their commercial viability.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The agreement only covers reconnaissance and exploration rights. Immediate extraction and commercial mining rights were not guaranteed by the Zambian government upfront; securing these rights will require a separate and potentially complex approval process after the exploration phase concludes.

Topic: Economic Geography - Mineral Resources

Concepts: Critical Minerals, Supply Chain Security, Overseas Asset Acquisition

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Launches Mineral Exploration Project in Zambia](#)

Q24. India Launches Mineral Exploration Project in Zambia

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-07-02

Consider the following statements:

1. Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) is a joint venture consisting solely of state-owned enterprises operating under the Ministry of Mines.
2. The recent mineral agreement with Zambia guarantees India immediate commercial extraction rights over the allocated zone upon completion of the exploration phase.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): KABIL is a purely state-owned joint venture (comprising NALCO, Hindustan Copper Ltd, and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd) operating under the Ministry of Mines. The use of the extreme word 'solely' is factually accurate here, countering common misconceptions that it is a private or public-private trading firm.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While the agreement provides exclusive reconnaissance and exploration rights over a 9,000 square kilometre zone, immediate extraction and commercial mining rights were not guaranteed upfront by the Zambian government. Commercial mining will require a separate and potentially complex approval process post-exploration.

Topic: Mineral Resources

Concepts: Critical Minerals, KABIL, Resource Security

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Launches Mineral Exploration Project in Zambia](#)

Q25. India Launches Mineral Exploration Project in Zambia

T1+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2025-07-02

Consider the following statements:

1. Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) is a public-private consortium established primarily to trade strategic minerals on the global commodity market.
2. The 2025 mineral exploration agreement with Zambia grants India exclusive reconnaissance rights for cobalt but does not guarantee upfront commercial extraction rights.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): KABIL is not a public-private consortium or a mere trading firm. It is a purely state-owned joint venture (comprising NALCO, HCL, and MECL) operating under the Ministry of Mines, mandated specifically to acquire overseas strategic mineral assets rather than just trading them.

Statement 2 (correct): While the 2025 agreement provides India with exclusive reconnaissance and exploration rights over Zambian cobalt reserves, immediate extraction and commercial mining rights were not guaranteed upfront by the Zambian government, requiring a separate post-exploration approval process.

Topic: Economic Geography - Mineral Resources

Concepts: Critical Minerals, Overseas Asset Acquisition, KABIL

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Launches Mineral Exploration Project in Zambia](#)

Q26. India Launches Mineral Exploration Project in Zambia

T1+focus · assertion_reason · EASY · 2025-07-02

Statement-I: India has deployed a state-backed geological exploration program in Zambia to directly acquire overseas copper and cobalt assets. Statement-II: India's domestic copper ore production and cobalt reserves are structurally deficient, necessitating heavy reliance on imports.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: India has dispatched a state-backed geological exploration program, led by Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) and the Geological Survey of India, to survey a 9,000 sq km zone in Zambia specifically targeting copper and cobalt deposits. Statement-II is correct: India is structurally deficient in cobalt and its domestic copper ore production falls massively short of demand, requiring heavy imports. Statement-II explains Statement-I because this geological deficit and reliance on open-market imports (especially from China) is the direct strategic driver behind India's policy response to acquire primary overseas mineral assets in regions like the African Copperbelt.

Topic: Economic Geography - Minerals

Concepts: Critical Minerals, Supply Chain Security, KABIL

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Launches Mineral Exploration Project in Zambia](#)

Q27. Karnataka Notifies Expansion of Bhadra Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone

T1+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2025-03-27

The March 2025 expansion of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve buffer zone was mandated as a strict statutory condition by the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) in order to approve the boundary re-notification of which adjacent protected area?

- (A) Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary ✓
- (B) Kakanahosodi Reserve Forest
- (C) Chornadehalli State Forest
- (D) Kaithotlu Minor Forest

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The NBWL approved the boundary re-notification of the Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary (to resolve a decades-old mapping anomaly involving Shivamogga city) on the strict statutory condition that Karnataka extend the buffer zone of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve to protect the vital Umblehale corridor. Options 2, 3, and 4 are incorrect because they are the specific forest parcels that were absorbed into the Bhadra Tiger Reserve during this expansion (Kakanahosodi into the core zone; Chornadehalli and Kaithotlu into the buffer zone), not the adjacent sanctuary whose boundaries were being re-notified.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Protected Areas, Wildlife Conservation, Environmental Legislation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Karnataka Notifies Expansion of Bhadra Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone](#)

Q28. Karnataka Notifies Expansion of Bhadra Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone

T1+focus · chronological · MEDIUM · 2025-03-27

Arrange the following events related to the expansion of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve and the Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary landscape in the correct chronological order, from earliest to latest:

1. The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) takes up the matter of re-notifying the boundaries of the Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. Nearly 10,000 acres of forest land are transferred under the unified administrative jurisdiction of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve directorship.
3. The NBWL approves the Shettihalli re-notification subject to a statutory condition that the state must extend the Bhadra Tiger Reserve buffer.
4. A mapping anomaly is recognized wherein 40% of the urban limits of Shivamogga city technically fall inside a wildlife sanctuary.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

The correct chronological sequence is 4, 1, 3, 2. Event 4 is the historical context: For decades, a mapping anomaly existed where 40% of the urban limits of Shivamogga city technically fell inside the Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary. Event 1 follows: To resolve this dispute, the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) took up the matter of re-notifying Shettihalli's boundaries during its 73rd meeting in July 2023. Event 3 occurs next: During its 80th meeting in October 2024, the NBWL approved the Shettihalli re-notification but imposed a strict statutory condition requiring the state to extend the Chornadehalli and Kaithotlu forests as a buffer to the Bhadra Tiger Reserve. Event 2 is the final outcome: Following the March 2025 gazette notification

under Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, nearly 10,000 acres of forest land were administratively re-aligned and transferred under the unified jurisdiction of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve directorship.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity Conservation

Concepts: Tiger Reserve Buffer Zones, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Karnataka Notifies Expansion of Bhadra Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone](#)

Q29. Karnataka Notifies Expansion of Bhadra Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone

T1+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-03-27

Statement-I: The expansion of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve's buffer zone in March 2025 was legally necessitated to resolve a decades-old boundary dispute involving the urban limits of Shivamogga city. Statement-II: The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) mandated the expansion of Bhadra's buffer zone as a strict statutory condition for approving the boundary re-notification of the Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): Statement-I is correct because the expansion of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve's buffer zone was legally necessitated to resolve a historical mapping anomaly that placed 40% of Shivamogga city's urban limits inside the Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary. Statement-II is correct because the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) approved the re-notification of Shettihalli's boundaries to exclude the city, but imposed a strict statutory condition that Karnataka must extend the Chornadehalli and Kaithotlu forests as a buffer to Bhadra to protect the Umblebyle corridor. Statement-II explains Statement-I because the NBWL's mandate (Statement-II) was the direct legal cause that necessitated the expansion of Bhadra's buffer zone in order to resolve the Shivamogga city boundary dispute (Statement-I). Options 2, 3, and 4 are incorrect because both statements are true and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

Topic: Biodiversity Conservation

Concepts: Tiger Reserves, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), Protected Area Zoning

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Karnataka Notifies Expansion of Bhadra Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone](#)

Q30. Karnataka Notifies Expansion of Bhadra Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone

T1+focus · assertion_reason · EASY · 2025-03-27

Statement-I: The Karnataka State Government notified the addition of the Chornadehalli and Kaithotlu forests to the buffer zone of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve. Statement-II: The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) imposed this buffer expansion as a strict statutory condition for approving the boundary re-notification of the Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: The Karnataka State Government officially notified the addition of the Chornadehalli State Forest and Kaithotlu Minor Forests to the buffer zone of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve. Statement-II is correct: The NBWL approved the Shettihalli re-notification but imposed a strict statutory condition that the state must extend these forests as a buffer to Bhadra to protect the vital Umblebyle corridor. Because the NBWL's condition directly caused the state government to issue the notification, Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I. Therefore,

Option 1 (correct):

Option 2 (incorrect): because Statement-II does explain Statement-I. Options 3 and 4 are incorrect because both statements are factually correct.

Topic: Biodiversity Conservation

Concepts: Protected Area Network, National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), Wildlife Corridors, Tiger Reserve Zonation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Karnataka Notifies Expansion of Bhadra Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone](#)

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Q31. GSI Discovers Natural Hydrogen Reserves in Andaman

T1+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2025-02-27

In which of the following geological formations and locations did the Geological Survey of India (GSI) discover India's first natural 'white' hydrogen reserves?

- (A) **Serpentinized pillow basalts in the South Andaman district ✓**
- (B) Geothermal hotspots in the Deccan Plateau
- (C) Coal and lignite seams in Assam
- (D) Ophiolite rock complexes in the Lorraine region

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The Geological Survey of India (GSI) identified India's first natural 'white' hydrogen reserves in the serpentinized pillow basalt rocks of the South Andaman district. Option 2 and Option 3 are incorrect: While earlier theoretical studies by IIT Dhanbad and IIT Gandhinagar indicated potential hydrogen hotspots in the Deccan Plateau and Assam, the actual discovery was made in Andaman. Furthermore, coal, lignite, and geothermal hotspots were GSI's primary energy exploration focuses before this shift.

Option 4 (incorrect): The Lorraine region is located in France, where massive viable reserves of natural hydrogen were confirmed in 2023-2024, not in India.

Topic: Energy Resources

Concepts: White Hydrogen, Geological Survey of India, Serpentinization

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: GSI Discovers Natural Hydrogen Reserves in Andaman](#)

Q32. GSI Discovers Natural Hydrogen Reserves in Andaman

T1+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2025-02-27

Consider the following statements:

1. White hydrogen is a finite resource that takes millions of years to form in the Earth's crust, similar to petroleum.
2. The exploration of naturally occurring hydrogen in India falls under the purview of the Ministry of Mines rather than the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
3. The natural hydrogen in the Andaman region is generated as a byproduct when water reacts with iron and magnesium-rich minerals in obducted oceanic crust rocks.
4. Following the Andaman discovery, the National Green Hydrogen Mission has redirected its subsidies to focus entirely on natural hydrogen mining.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): Unlike finite fossil fuels, white hydrogen is continuously generated in the Earth's crust through ongoing geological processes like serpentinization and radiolysis, acting as a continuously replenishing renewable resource.

Statement 2 (correct): Before the discovery, manufactured hydrogen was governed largely by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. However, naturally occurring (white) hydrogen falls under the purview of mineral exploration by the Ministry of Mines.

Statement 3 (correct): The Andaman reserves are located in serpentinized pillow basalts (ophiolites, which are oceanic crust rocks obducted onto land). The hydrogen is a geological byproduct of 'serpentinization', where water reacts with iron and magnesium-rich minerals (like olivine and pyroxene) in these ultramafic rocks.

Statement 4 (incorrect): Despite the discovery, the broader National Green Hydrogen Mission continues to allocate its massive subsidies toward electrolyzer-based green hydrogen manufacturing, rather than pivoting entirely to natural hydrogen mining.

Topic: Energy Resources

Concepts: White Hydrogen, Serpentinization, Ophiolites, Energy Governance

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: GSI Discovers Natural Hydrogen Reserves in Andaman](#)

Q33. GSI Discovers Natural Hydrogen Reserves in Andaman

T1+focus · chronological · MEDIUM · 2025-02-27

Arrange the following geological and historical developments related to natural 'white' hydrogen in the correct chronological order, from earliest to latest:

1. Obduction of oceanic crust rocks (ophiolites) onto land in the Andaman islands.
2. Eruption of mafic lava underwater at mid-ocean ridges to form pillow basalts.
3. Announcement of India's first natural 'white' hydrogen reserves in the South Andaman district.
4. Confirmation of massive viable natural hydrogen reserves in the Lorraine region of France.

(A) 2, 1, 4, 3 ✓

(B) 1, 2, 4, 3

(C) 2, 1, 3, 4

(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Based on the geological and historical context provided: First, pillow basalts form when mafic lava erupts underwater at mid-ocean ridges (Statement 2). Second, over geological time, these oceanic crust rocks (ophiolites) are obducted onto land, as seen in the Andaman islands (Statement 1). Third, in recent history, massive viable natural hydrogen reserves were confirmed in France (specifically the Lorraine region) in 2023-2024 (Statement 4). Finally, on February 27, 2025, the Geological Survey of India announced the discovery of India's first natural 'white' hydrogen reserves in the South Andaman district (Statement 3). Thus, the correct chronological sequence is 2, 1, 4, 3.

Topic: Energy Resources

Concepts: Geological Formations, Plate Tectonics, White Hydrogen, Resource Exploration

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: GSI Discovers Natural Hydrogen Reserves in Andaman](#)

Q34. GSI Discovers Natural Hydrogen Reserves in Andaman

T1+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-02-27

Statement-I: The natural 'white' hydrogen reserves identified in the Andaman Ophiolite complex act as a continuously replenishing resource rather than a finite fossil fuel. Statement-II: The serpentinization of pillow basalts continuously releases hydrogen gas as a byproduct when water reacts with iron and magnesium-rich minerals like olivine and pyroxene.

- (A) **Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓**
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: Unlike coal or petroleum which take millions of years to form, white hydrogen is continuously generated in the Earth's crust, acting as a replenishing renewable resource. Statement-II is correct and provides the exact mechanism (the reason) for Statement-I: the ongoing geological process of 'serpentinization' occurs when water reacts with iron and magnesium-rich minerals (like olivine and pyroxene) in ultramafic rocks such as pillow basalts, releasing natural hydrogen gas as a continuous geological byproduct.

Topic: Geography - Mineral Resources

Concepts: White Hydrogen, Serpentinization, Ophiolite Complex, Renewable Energy

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: GSI Discovers Natural Hydrogen Reserves in Andaman](#)

Q35. India Launches First Auction of Offshore Mineral Blocks

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2024-11-28

Consider the following statements:

1. To prevent monopolies in the offshore mining sector, the maximum area a single entity can acquire under all concessions is capped at 1 minute latitude by 1 minute longitude.
2. Despite the introduction of competitive e-auctions, private sector participation remains strictly prohibited for offshore atomic minerals such as monazite.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The maximum area a single entity can acquire under all offshore concessions is capped at 45 minutes latitude by 45 minutes longitude to prevent monopolies. The dimension of 1 minute latitude by 1 minute longitude refers to the newly reduced standard block size for precise targeting, not the overall acquisition cap.

Statement 2 (correct): While the 2023 amendment introduced mandatory competitive e-auctions to open the sector to private players, offshore atomic minerals (like monazite and thorium) are strictly prohibited for private entities and remain exclusively reserved for government entities and state-owned corporations.

Topic: Geography - Mineral Resources

Concepts: Offshore Mining Regulation, Strategic Minerals, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Launches First Auction of Offshore Mineral Blocks](#)

Q36. India Launches First Auction of Offshore Mineral Blocks

T1+focus · simple_mcq · HARD · 2024-11-28

Under the amended framework governing India's first auction of offshore mineral blocks, what is the defining feature of the newly introduced 'composite licence'?

- (A) It allows private entities to simultaneously extract both standard and atomic minerals from a single allocated offshore block.
- (B) **It provides an initial three-year exploration period that automatically converts to a production lease if resources are proven.** ✓
- (C) It permits a single corporate entity to acquire an unlimited number of offshore blocks by paying a consolidated royalty surcharge.
- (D) It mandates joint exploration with the Geological Survey of India before any commercial undersea mining can commence.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): The 2023 amendment to the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act introduced a 'composite licence' to allow a seamless transition from exploration to production. Licensees receive an initial three years for exploration (extendable by two), which automatically converts to a production lease once resources are proven.

Option 1 (incorrect): Private sector participation is strictly prohibited for offshore atomic minerals (such as monazite and thorium), which are reserved exclusively for government entities.

Option 3 (incorrect): The amendments introduced a strict area cap, limiting a single entity to a maximum of 45 minutes latitude by 45 minutes longitude across all concessions to prevent monopolies.

Option 4 (incorrect): While the Geological Survey of India (GSI) spent years delineating these blocks prior to the auction, the composite licence does not

mandate ongoing joint exploration with the GSI.

Topic: Geography - Mineral Resources

Concepts: Offshore Mining Policy, Resource Allocation, Exclusive Economic Zone

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Launches First Auction of Offshore Mineral Blocks](#)

Q37. India Launches First Auction of Offshore Mineral Blocks

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2024-11-28

Consider the following statements:

1. India's commercially viable reserves of polymetallic nodules are exclusively found in deep international waters regulated by the International Seabed Authority.
2. The mining of offshore atomic minerals such as monazite is exclusively reserved for government entities and state-owned corporations.
3. Under the newly introduced 'composite licence', the maximum permissible period for exploration of an offshore block, including extensions, is five years.
4. The Offshore Areas Mineral Trust is financed by a mandatory surcharge equivalent to one-half of the applicable royalty amount.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): Contrary to the common misconception that polymetallic nodules are only in international waters, India holds commercially viable reserves entirely within its domestic Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), specifically along the West Sewell Ridge.

Statement 2 (correct): Private sector participation is strictly prohibited for offshore atomic minerals (like monazite and thorium), which are exclusively reserved for government entities and state-owned corporations.

Statement 3 (correct): The 'composite licence' grants three years for exploration, which is extendable by two years (totaling a maximum of five years), before automatically converting to a production lease if resources are proven.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The Offshore Areas Mineral Trust, established under Section 16A, is funded by a surcharge on royalties of up to one-third, not one-half. Therefore, exactly two statements are correct.

Topic: Geography - Mineral Resources

Concepts: Polymetallic Nodules, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Offshore Mining Policy

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Launches First Auction of Offshore Mineral Blocks](#)

Q38. India Launches First Auction of Offshore Mineral Blocks

T1+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2024-11-28

Statement-I: Private sector entities are strictly prohibited from participating in the extraction of offshore atomic minerals such as monazite and thorium. Statement-II: The Offshore Areas Atomic Minerals Operating Rights Rules, 2025, exclusively reserve offshore strategic atomic minerals for government entities and public sector corporations.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: Despite the recent push to bring private investment into the offshore mining sector via competitive e-auctions, private sector participation is strictly prohibited for offshore atomic minerals like monazite and thorium. Statement-II is correct: The government issued the Offshore Areas Atomic Minerals Operating Rights Rules, 2025, which explicitly clarified that these strategic minerals remain exclusively reserved for government entities and state-owned corporations. Statement-II explains Statement-I because the 2025 Rules provide the legal framework that enforces the prohibition on private entities mentioned in Statement-I. Therefore,

Option 1 (correct):

Option 2 (incorrect): because Statement-II is the direct reason for Statement-I.

Option 3 (incorrect): because Statement-II is factually correct.

Option 4 (incorrect): because Statement-I is factually correct.

Topic: Mineral and Energy Resources

Concepts: Offshore Mining Regulations, Strategic Minerals, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Launches First Auction of Offshore Mineral Blocks](#)



Tier 1 - Must-Know (Non-Focus)

3 questions

Q39. INS Sutlej Completes Mauritius Hydrographic Survey

T1 · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-10-26

Consider the following statements:

1. The 2025 MAHASAGAR doctrine restricts its strategic focus solely to the immediate maritime neighbourhood, replacing the broader global scope of the 2015 SAGAR initiative.
2. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), hydrographic surveys are required to physically measure baselines for legally demarcating an Exclusive Economic Zone.
3. Despite India conducting the hydrographic mapping, sovereign ownership of the generated bathymetric data remains exclusively with Mauritius.
4. The recent mission by INS Sutlej was strictly limited to scientific seabed mapping and excluded joint anti-piracy patrols.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The scopes are reversed. The 2015 SAGAR doctrine focused on immediate neighbourhood security, whereas the 2025 MAHASAGAR vision expands this focus to include global maritime partnerships, trade, and the broader Global South.

Statement 2 (correct): Hydrographic surveys are the applied scientific method used to physically measure baselines and bathymetry, without which states cannot legally demarcate or exploit their EEZ under UNCLOS.

Statement 3 (correct): Despite India's extensive mapping as the cartographic partner, the sovereign ownership of the data and the exclusive rights to the resources within the Mauritian EEZ remain strictly with Mauritius.

Statement 4 (incorrect): While earlier hydrographic missions were often strictly scientific, the recent INS Sutlej mission integrated joint EEZ surveillance and anti-piracy patrols with the Mauritius National Coast Guard.

Topic: International Relations - Bilateral

Concepts: Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), UNCLOS, Maritime Security, India's Neighbourhood First Policy

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: INS Sutlej Completes Mauritius Hydrographic Survey](#)

Q40. INS Sutlej Completes Mauritius Hydrographic Survey

T1 · chronological · MEDIUM · 2025-10-26

Arrange the following events related to India's maritime cooperation and strategic doctrines in chronological order, from earliest to latest:

1. Unveiling of the 'MAHASAGAR' vision to integrate maritime security with trade and development across the Global South.
2. Signing of the initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Hydrography between India and Mauritius.
3. Handing over of the cartographic 'fair-sheet' following the completion of a major joint survey by INS Sutlej.
4. Introduction of the SAGAR doctrine focused on immediate neighbourhood security.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Based on the source event, the chronological order is as follows: - Event 2 occurred first: The initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Hydrography between India and Mauritius was signed in October 2005. - Event 4 occurred second: The SAGAR doctrine, focused on immediate neighbourhood security, was introduced in 2015. - Event 1 occurred third: The 'MAHASAGAR' vision, structurally upgrading SAGAR to integrate maritime security with trade across the Global South, was unveiled by PM Narendra Modi in March 2025. - Event 3 occurred last: INS Sutlej completed its major joint survey and handed over the 'fair-sheet' on October 26, 2025.

Topic: International Relations - Bilateral Agreements

Concepts: Maritime Security, Strategic Doctrines, Hydrography

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: INS Sutlej Completes Mauritius Hydrographic Survey](#)

Q41. INS Sutlej Completes Mauritius Hydrographic Survey

T1 · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-10-26

Statement-I: Despite the Indian Navy executing the hydrographic survey, the sovereign ownership of the bathymetric data and exclusive resource rights within the surveyed area remain strictly with Mauritius. Statement-II: The primary legal mandate of such hydrographic surveys is solely to facilitate the discovery of deep-sea petroleum reserves for the host nation's Blue Economy.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) **Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect ✓**
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: The source explicitly confirms that despite India's extensive mapping (via INS Sutlej), the sovereign ownership of the data and the exclusive rights to the resources within the Mauritian EEZ remain strictly with Mauritius. This breaks the common assumption that the surveying nation claims rights over the data. Statement-II is incorrect: While bathymetry does aid in resource discovery, the primary legal mandate of hydrography is not solely to find petroleum. Its primary mandate is producing accurate navigational charts to ensure maritime safety (under SOLAS conventions) and defining sovereign maritime borders to comply with UNCLOS.

Topic: Geography - Oceanography

Concepts: Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Hydrography, Blue Economy, Maritime Sovereignty

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: INS Sutlej Completes Mauritius Hydrographic Survey](#)

Tier 2 - Important (Focus Events)



23 questions

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Q42. SC-NBWL Approves Forest Diversion for Ken-Betwa Irrigation Dam

T2+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2026-01-19

Consider the following statements:

1. The Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Project, which benefits the drought-prone Bundelkhand region, aims to transfer surplus water from the Betwa basin to the deficit Ken basin.
2. The SC-NBWL recently approved the diversion of land from the core area of the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, a habitat originally notified to compensate for the submergence of the Panna Tiger Reserve.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Project aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken basin in Madhya Pradesh to the deficit Betwa basin, not the other way around.

Statement 2 (correct): During its 88th meeting, the SC-NBWL approved the diversion of 272 hectares of forest land from the strictly protected core area of the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve. This reserve was specifically notified in 2023 (by merging the Nauradehi and Rani Durgavati wildlife sanctuaries) to act as a compensatory habitat for the ecological loss caused by the submergence of the Panna Tiger Reserve under the same overarching river-linking project.

Topic: Environment and Ecology

Concepts: River Interlinking Projects, Wildlife Conservation, Compensatory Afforestation, Tiger Reserves

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: SC-NBWL Approves Forest Diversion for Ken-Betwa Irrigation Dam](#)

Q43. SC-NBWL Approves Forest Diversion for Ken-Betwa Irrigation Dam

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2026-01-19

Consider the following statements:

1. The Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve was notified by merging the Nauradehi and Rani Durgavati wildlife sanctuaries.
2. The Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Project is designed to transfer surplus water from the Betwa basin to the deficit Ken basin.
3. The forest land recently approved for diversion by the SC-NBWL is located in the buffer zone of the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.
4. The Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve was established as a compensatory habitat to offset the submergence of the Panna Tiger Reserve.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve was notified in 2023 by merging the Nauradehi and Rani Durgavati wildlife sanctuaries.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Project aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken basin to the deficit Betwa basin, not the reverse.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The 272 hectares of forest land approved for diversion by the SC-NBWL is located in the core area of the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, not the buffer zone.

Statement 4 (correct): The reserve was specifically notified as an untouched compensatory habitat to offset the ecological loss and submergence of a significant portion of the Panna Tiger Reserve. Since exactly two statements are correct, the answer is 'Only two'.

Topic: Environment and Ecology

Concepts: Protected Areas, River Interlinking Projects, Wildlife Conservation, Environmental Clearances

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: SC-NBWL Approves Forest Diversion for Ken-Betwa Irrigation Dam](#)

Q44. Geographical Indication Tag Granted to Ponduru Khadi

T2+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-01-16

Ponduru Khadi, a traditional hand-woven cotton fabric from Andhra Pradesh, was recently granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Which of the following entities was awarded this registration, empowering it to take penal action against unauthorized sellers and counterfeiters?

- (A) **The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) ✓**
- (B) The Geographical Indications Registry
- (C) The World Trade Organization (WTO)
- (D) The Srikakulam district administration

Answer: (A)

Explanation

The GI registration for Ponduru Khadi was awarded specifically to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). This status provides legal protection that allows KVIC to take penal action against unauthorized sellers and counterfeiters. The GI Registry is the authority that granted the tag, not the recipient. The WTO is associated with the TRIPS Agreement that prompted India's GI Act, and Srikakulam is the district where the fabric is crafted, but neither holds the registration.

Topic: Intellectual Property Rights

Concepts: Geographical Indications, Handloom Sector, Intellectual Property Rights

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Geographical Indication Tag Granted to Ponduru Khadi](#)

Q45. Geographical Indication Tag Granted to Ponduru Khadi

T2+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2026-01-16

In January 2026, the traditional hand-woven cotton fabric known as Ponduru Khadi was granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. To which of the following entities was this GI registration officially awarded?

- (A) **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) ✓**
- (B) The Geographical Indications Registry
- (C) The World Trade Organization (WTO)
- (D) Srikakulam District Administration

Answer: (A)


Explanation

The GI tag registration for Ponduru Khadi was awarded specifically to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). While the Geographical Indications Registry is the body that granted the tag, the WTO TRIPS Agreement is the international compliance framework, and Srikakulam is the fabric's district of origin, KVIC is the actual recipient of the registration, which empowers it to take penal action against unauthorized sellers.

Topic: Economic Geography

Concepts: Geographical Indication (GI), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Intellectual Property Rights

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Geographical Indication Tag Granted to Ponduru Khadi](#)



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Q46. Nature Sustainability Report on Invasive Plants

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-12-07

Consider the following statements:

1. Tamil Nadu has partnered with paper mills to convert the removed biomass of invasive species like *Senna spectabilis* into eco-friendly paper pulp.
2. *Prosopis juliflora* was historically promoted in arid states like Gujarat and Rajasthan to stabilize sandy soils and act as a bio-shield.
3. India's first State Policy for Invasive Plant Eradication and Restoration (PIPER) was pioneered by Gujarat to combat the spread of invasive weeds.
4. *Lantana camara* was originally introduced to India in the mid-20th century to prevent desertification.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Tamil Nadu is executing an eradication drive that actively partners with paper mills to convert removed invasive biomass (like *Senna spectabilis*) into eco-friendly paper pulp.

Statement 2 (correct): *Prosopis juliflora* was actively promoted in arid states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu to stabilize sandy soils and act as a bio-shield before being recognized as an aggressive invader.

Statement 3 (incorrect): India's first State Policy for Invasive Plant Eradication and Restoration (PIPER) was pioneered by Tamil Nadu, not Gujarat.

Statement 4 (incorrect): Lantana camara was brought by the British as an ornamental plant. It was Prosopis juliflora that was planted in the mid-20th century to prevent desertification.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Invasive Alien Species, Biodiversity Conservation, Ecological Restoration

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Nature Sustainability Report on Invasive Plants](#)

Q47. Nature Sustainability Report on Invasive Plants

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-12-07

Consider the following statements:

1. *Prosopis juliflora* was historically promoted in arid states to stabilize sandy soils and act as a bio-shield.
2. Tamil Nadu's State Policy for Invasive Plant Eradication and Restoration sets a strict March 2026 deadline to completely remove *Lantana camara* from the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.
3. Tamil Nadu is actively partnering with paper mills to convert the removed invasive biomass into eco-friendly paper pulp.
4. *Senna spectabilis* and *Prosopis juliflora* currently dominate nearly two-thirds of India's natural ecosystems.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Prosopis juliflora was actively promoted in the mid-20th century in arid states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu to prevent desertification and act as a bio-shield.

Statement 2 (incorrect): Tamil Nadu's State Policy for Invasive Plant Eradication and Restoration (PIPER) sets a strict March 2026 deadline to completely remove Senna spectabilis (not Lantana camara) from key forest divisions like the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

Statement 3 (correct): Tamil Nadu's systematic eradication drive involves actively partnering with paper mills to convert the removed invasive biomass into eco-friendly paper pulp.

Statement 4 (incorrect): According to the Nature Sustainability report, it is Lantana camara and Prosopis juliflora (not Senna spectabilis) that now dominate nearly two-thirds of the country's natural ecosystems. Therefore, exactly two statements (1 and 3) are correct.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Invasive Alien Species, Biodiversity Conservation, Ecological Restoration
[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Nature Sustainability Report on Invasive Plants](#)

Q48. Discovery of Six New Butterfly Species in Arunachal

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-11-07

Consider the following statements:

1. The Siang Valley serves as a critical biodiversity corridor facilitating species movement between India and Myanmar.
2. Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in the region operate under decentralized forest management frameworks without direct government control.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The Siang Valley, located in the Brahmaputra River basin, is scientifically validated as a critical biodiversity corridor facilitating species movement between India and Tibet, not Myanmar.

Statement 2 (correct): Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in this region are established under decentralized frameworks where indigenous clans actively protect local ecosystems without direct government control.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Community Conserved Areas, Biodiversity Corridors, Eastern Himalayas

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Discovery of Six New Butterfly Species in Arunachal](#)

Q49. Discovery of Six New Butterfly Species in Arunachal

T2+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2025-11-07

Consider the following statements:

1. The Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) established by the Litin clan exemplify an 'in situ' conservation approach managed without direct government control.
2. The Siang Valley has been scientifically validated as a critical biodiversity corridor facilitating species movement between India and Myanmar.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The Litin clan's Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) protect ancestral lands and local forest ecosystems under decentralized frameworks without direct government control, demonstrating successful 'in situ' conservation akin to the concept of sacred groves.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The Siang Valley, located in the Brahmaputra River basin, has been scientifically validated as a critical biodiversity corridor facilitating species movement between India and Tibet, not Myanmar.

Topic: Biodiversity and Conservation

Concepts: In situ conservation, Community Conserved Areas, Biodiversity Corridors, Eastern Himalayas

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Discovery of Six New Butterfly Species in Arunachal](#)

Q50. Irwin's Wolf Snake Discovered in Great Nicobar

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-11-02

Consider the following statements:

1. *Lycodon irwini* is a non-venomous snake species strictly confined to the moist evergreen forests of Great Nicobar Island.
2. Researchers have formally recommended a 'Critically Endangered' status for this species under IUCN criteria due to potential habitat loss.
3. The species is morphologically characterized by its uniformly glossy black body and lower scale counts compared to its relatives.
4. DNA sequencing of the species revealed a 6 to 17% genetic divergence from related species.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): *Lycodon irwini* is a newly discovered non-venomous wolf snake found in the moist evergreen forests of Great Nicobar Island and is strictly confined to this single island.

Statement 2 (incorrect): Researchers have formally recommended an 'Endangered' (not 'Critically Endangered') status under IUCN criteria due to having only four known records and a highly vulnerable restricted habitat.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The species is characterized by its uniformly glossy black body but has *higher* (not lower) scale counts compared to its relatives.

Statement 4 (correct): DNA sequencing showed a 6 to 17% genetic divergence from related species. Therefore, exactly two statements are correct.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Endemism, IUCN Red List Categories, Species Discovery

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Irwin's Wolf Snake Discovered in Great Nicobar](#)

Q51. Irwin's Wolf Snake Discovered in Great Nicobar

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-11-02

Consider the following statements regarding the newly discovered snake species *Lycodon irwini*:

1. It is a non-venomous species characterized by a uniformly glossy black body.
2. It is strictly confined to the moist evergreen forests of Great Nicobar Island.
3. Researchers have recommended its classification as 'Critically Endangered' under the IUCN Red List due to having only four known records.
4. DNA sequencing of the species reveals a genetic divergence of 6 to 17% from related species.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): *Lycodon irwini* is formally recognized as a distinct endemic species of non-venomous wolf snake, characterized by its uniformly glossy black body and higher scale counts.

Statement 2 (correct): The species serves as a practical example of a narrowly endemic species, being strictly confined to a single geographic area (the moist evergreen forests of Great Nicobar Island).

Statement 3 (incorrect): Researchers have formally recommended an 'Endangered' status (not 'Critically Endangered') under IUCN criteria due to having only four known records and a highly vulnerable, restricted island habitat facing potential loss from mega-infrastructure projects.

Statement 4 (correct): The discovery was confirmed after DNA sequencing showed a 6 to 17% genetic divergence from related species.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Endemism, IUCN Red List Categories, Species Discovery, Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Irwin's Wolf Snake Discovered in Great Nicobar](#)

Q52. Global Study Reveals \$2.2 Trillion Cost of Invasive Species

T2+focus · match_pairs · MEDIUM · 2025-08-25

With reference to the management and impact of invasive alien species (IAS), match List-I with List-II: List-I A. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework B. Madras High Court C. Lantana camara D. 'Evil Quartet' List-II i. Directed state governments to actively uproot and manage invasive ecological threats ii. Identifies 'Alien species invasions' as one of the four major causes of biodiversity loss iii. Contains Target 6, which prioritizes mitigating the impacts of invasive alien species iv. Historically introduced by colonial administrators for ornamental purposes or timber Select the correct answer using the options below:

- (A) A-iii, B-i, C-iv, D-ii ✓
- (B) A-ii, B-i, C-iv, D-iii
- (C) A-iii, B-iv, C-i, D-ii
- (D) A-ii, B-iv, C-i, D-iii

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Based on the provided source event, the correct pairings are: A matches with (iii): The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 6) prioritizes mitigating the impacts of invasive alien species (IAS). B matches with (i): The Madras High Court has intervened by directing state governments to actively uproot and manage these ecological threats. C matches with (iv): Lantana camara was historically introduced in the 1800s by colonial administrators for ornamental purposes or timber. D matches with (ii): The 'Evil Quartet' is a concept that identifies 'Alien species invasions' as one of the four major causes of biodiversity loss. Therefore, Option 1 (A-iii, B-i, C-iv, D-ii) is the only correct choice.

Option 2 (incorrect): because it swaps the matches for A and D.

Option 3 (incorrect): because it swaps the matches for B and C.

Option 4 (incorrect): because it contains incorrect pairings for all four items.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Invasive Alien Species, Biodiversity Conservation, Environmental Governance

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Global Study Reveals \\$2.2 Trillion Cost of Invasive Species](#)

Q53. Global Study Reveals \$2.2 Trillion Cost of Invasive Species

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-08-25

With reference to invasive alien species (IAS), consider the following statements:

1. Invasive flora have colonized more than 40% of India's tiger habitats.
2. The introduction of *Lantana camara* into India was historically carried out by colonial administrators for ornamental and timber purposes.
3. Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework prioritizes mitigating the impacts of invasive alien species.
4. Historically, the management of Indian tiger reserves predominantly focused on the large-scale removal of non-native flora to prevent prey-base collapse.

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

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): A recent global study documented that invasive flora such as *Lantana camara* and *Senna spectabilis* have colonized over 40% of India's tiger habitats.

Statement 2 (correct): Many invasive species, including *Lantana camara* in the 1800s, were historically introduced by colonial administrators for ornamental purposes or timber.

Statement 3 (correct): Globally, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework prioritize mitigating the impacts of invasive alien species.

Statement 4 (incorrect): Historically, the management of tiger reserves predominantly focused on anti-poaching measures and core-buffer zoning. The large-scale removal of non-native flora for habitat restoration is a recent strategic shift to prevent prey-base collapse.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Invasive Alien Species, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Habitat Restoration

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Global Study Reveals \\$2.2 Trillion Cost of Invasive Species](#)

Q54. Maratha Military Landscapes Inscribed as World Heritage Site

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-07-14

With reference to the Maratha Military Landscapes, consider the following statements:

1. The serial property comprises 12 historic fortifications established solely between the 17th and 19th centuries.
2. All the fortifications included in this World Heritage designation are located within the state of Maharashtra.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The Maratha Military Landscapes serial property consists of an extraordinary military network of 12 hill, island, and coastal forts established specifically between the 17th and 19th centuries.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While the vast majority (11) of the historic fortifications are located across Maharashtra, one fortification in the serial property is located in Tamil Nadu.

Topic: Geography - Human and Cultural Geography

Concepts: World Heritage Sites, Maratha Military Architecture, Cultural Geography

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Maratha Military Landscapes Inscribed as World Heritage Site](#)

Q55. Maratha Military Landscapes Inscribed as World Heritage Site

T2+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2025-07-14

With reference to the Maratha Military Landscapes, consider the following statements:

1. The serial property comprises 12 historic fortifications located exclusively within the state of Maharashtra.
2. The architectural planning of these forts was dictated by regional physiography, particularly the steep escarpments of the Eastern Ghats and the indented Konkan coast.
3. Prior to their inscription, global recognition of Indian military architecture was historically skewed toward Rajputana and Mughal forts.
4. The addition of these landscapes at the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee elevates India's total UNESCO World Heritage Sites to 44.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The 12 historic fortifications are not located exclusively in Maharashtra; 11 are in Maharashtra and one is located in Tamil Nadu.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The architectural planning and defense strategies were dictated by the steep escarpments of the Western Ghats (Sahyadri mountains), not the Eastern Ghats, along with the indented Konkan coast.

Statement 3 (correct): Before the inscription of the Maratha Military Landscapes, global recognition of Indian military architecture was historically skewed toward Rajputana and Mughal forts.

Statement 4 (correct): The final approval occurred at the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris, elevating India's total number of recognized World Heritage Sites to 44.

Topic: Art & Culture - Architecture

Concepts: UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Maratha Empire, Military Architecture, Western Ghats Physiography

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Maratha Military Landscapes Inscribed as World Heritage Site](#)

Q56. India Joins International Nickel Study Group

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-06-30

With reference to the International Nickel Study Group (INSG), consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous intergovernmental organization based in Lisbon, sharing its headquarters with the International Copper Study Group.
2. India's membership aligns with the National Critical Mineral Mission, an initiative launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The INSG is an autonomous, intergovernmental organization based in Lisbon, Portugal, and it shares its headquarters with the International Copper Study Group and the International Lead and Zinc Study Group.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While India's membership does align with the National Critical Mineral Mission to secure metals for EV batteries and the clean energy transition, this mission was spearheaded and launched by the Ministry of Mines, not the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Topic: Mineral Resources

Concepts: Critical Minerals, International Organizations, Mineral Security

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Joins International Nickel Study Group](#)

Q57. India Joins International Nickel Study Group

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-06-30

With reference to the International Nickel Study Group (INSG), consider the following statements:

1. Prior to 2025, India completely lacked a formal participatory role in the INSG's intergovernmental dialogues on nickel.
2. India's inclusion in the INSG was spearheaded by the Ministry of Mines through the National Critical Mineral Mission launched in 1990.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Before joining as a full member in June 2025, India lacked a formal participatory role in the INSG's intergovernmental dialogues

and relied on secondary data for global nickel trade metrics.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While India's inclusion was indeed spearheaded by the Ministry of Mines through the National Critical Mineral Mission, this Mission was launched in early 2025, not 1990. It was the INSG itself that was established in 1990 following United Nations conferences.

Topic: Geography - Mineral Resources

Concepts: Critical Minerals, International Organizations, Mineral Security

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Joins International Nickel Study Group](#)

Q58. Discovery of Blind Cave Loach in Meghalaya

T2+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2025-05-31

Recently, a new species of cave-dwelling stone loach named *Schistura densiclava* was discovered in the Krem Mawjymbuin cave of Meghalaya. Which of the following best describes its primary evolutionary characteristic as a 'troglophile'?

- (A) It is an obligate cave species that has completely lost its eyesight due to adaptation to darkness.
- (B) **It retains functional eyes and pigmentation, demonstrating adaptability to both subterranean and surface waters. ✓**
- (C) It survives solely by consuming dissolved limestone in nutrient-scarce subterranean cave waters.
- (D) It is the only cave-associated fish species ever recorded in the state's extensive karst cave networks.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): *Schistura densiclava* is classified as a troglophile, meaning it thrives in underground caves but remarkably retains functional eyes and a pale yellow-green pigmentation, showing adaptability to both subterranean and surface waters.

Option 1 (incorrect): this describes a 'troglobite' (like the previously discovered *Schistura papulifera*), which researchers initially expected to find.

Option 3 (incorrect): the fish feeds on copepods, tiny shrimp, insect fragments, and bat guano, not dissolved limestone.

Option 4 (incorrect): scientists had recorded five cave-associated fish species in Meghalaya prior to this discovery.

Topic: Biodiversity

Concepts: Endemic Species, Evolutionary Adaptation, Karst Topography

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Discovery of Blind Cave Loach in Meghalaya](#)

Q59. Discovery of Blind Cave Loach in Meghalaya

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-05-31

Consider the following statements regarding the newly discovered cave-dwelling fish *Schistura densiclava* and its habitat:

1. It is classified as an obligate cave species (troglobite) that has completely lost its eyesight and pigmentation due to evolutionary adaptation to darkness.
2. The Krem Mawjymbuin cave, where the species was discovered, is a prime example of Karst Topography formed by groundwater action on soluble limestone rock.
3. Prior to this discovery, scientists had recorded only five cave-associated fish species in the state of Meghalaya.
4. The species sustains itself in nutrient-scarce subterranean waters by feeding on copepods, tiny shrimp, insect fragments, and bat guano.

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

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): *Schistura densiclava* is classified as a troglophile, not a troglobite. Unlike obligate cave species that lose their eyesight, it remarkably retains functional eyes and a pale yellow-green pigmentation with black bars, showing adaptability to both subterranean and surface waters.

Statement 2 (correct): The Krem Mawjymbuin cave is a prime example of Karst Topography, created by the erosional and depositional action of groundwater on soluble limestone rock.

Statement 3 (correct): Prior to this discovery, scientists had recorded only five cave-associated fish species in Meghalaya, such as the blind *Schistura papulifera* found in 1998.

Statement 4 (correct): The species thrives in nutrient-scarce subterranean waters with temperatures around 18 degrees Celsius and low oxygen levels by feeding on a complex diet of copepods, tiny shrimp, insect fragments, and bat guano.

Topic: Biodiversity

Concepts: Karst Topography, Subterranean Ecosystems, Endemic Species, Evolutionary Adaptation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Discovery of Blind Cave Loach in Meghalaya](#)

Q60. Rajasthan's Ker Sangri Granted GI Tag

T2+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2025-05-29

Consider the following statements:

1. The wild 'Ker' berries used in the GI-tagged dish are harvested from the Khejri tree, a species characteristic of India's Tropical Thorn Forests.
2. The GI recognition, granted under legislation fulfilling India's WTO TRIPS obligations, mandates that only authorized producers from the designated geographical area in Rajasthan can legally market the product using the registered name.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The dish uses two distinct ingredients. The wild 'Ker' berries come from the Capparis decidua plant, while it is the 'Sangri' beans that are harvested from the Khejri tree (Prosopis cineraria), a characteristic species of Tropical Thorn Forests.

Statement 2 (correct): The GI tag was granted under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which fulfills India's obligations under the WTO's TRIPS Agreement. Under this protection, only authorized producers from the designated geographical area in Rajasthan can legally market the product using the registered GI name, preventing food manufacturers outside the region from exploiting the identity.

Topic: Biodiversity and Conservation

Concepts: Geographical Indications, Tropical Thorn Forests, WTO TRIPS Agreement, Traditional Knowledge

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Rajasthan's Ker Sangri Granted GI Tag](#)

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Q61. Rajasthan's Ker Sangri Granted GI Tag

T2+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-05-29

Regarding the Geographical Indication (GI) tag awarded to Rajasthan's "Ker Sangri", which of the following correctly describes its direct legal and commercial consequence?

- (A) Food manufacturers outside Rajasthan can legally market the product as 'Ker Sangri' solely if they source authentic ingredients directly from traditional desert foragers.
- (B) The legal right to market products using the registered 'Ker Sangri' name is solely restricted to authorized producers from the designated geographical area in Rajasthan. ✓**
- (C) The harvesting of Sangri beans from the Khejri tree is now legally restricted exclusively to the Bishnoi community to ensure ecological conservation.
- (D) Intellectual property protection for the dish is directly enforced by the WTO's TRIPS Agreement, which supersedes India's Geographical Indications of Goods Act, 1999.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): The source explicitly states that following the GI tag, "Only authorized producers from the designated geographical area in Rajasthan can legally market the product using the registered GI name." (Note the use of the extreme word 'solely' in the correct option, mirroring the absolute 'Only' in the source text).

Option 1 (incorrect): because manufacturers outside the designated area cannot legally market the product under the GI name, regardless of where they source the ingredients.

Option 3 (incorrect): while the Bishnoi community is historically recognized for protecting the Khejri tree (e.g., during the 1730 Khejarli massacre), the

GI tag does not grant them exclusive legal harvesting rights.

Option 4 (incorrect): because the protection is granted under India's domestic Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which fulfills (rather than being superseded by) WTO TRIPS obligations.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Geographical Indication (GI), Intellectual Property Rights, Traditional Knowledge

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Rajasthan's Ker Sangri Granted GI Tag](#)

Q62. India Expands Continental Shelf Claim in Arabian Sea

T2+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2025-04-03

With reference to India's Extended Continental Shelf claims, consider the following statements:

1. Under UNCLOS, an Extended Continental Shelf claim beyond the standard 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone is permitted solely if a nation proves the seabed is a natural geological extension of its landmass.
2. The UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) approved India's original 2009 comprehensive claim, but India voluntarily submitted modified claims in 2025.
3. India's 2025 submission split its Arabian Sea claims into two partial claims to isolate uncontested areas from the disputed Western offshore regions.
4. The 2025 boundary adjustments resulted in a decrease of India's total claimed seabed in the Central Arabian Sea by approximately 10,000 square kilometers.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Under UNCLOS, a nation can claim an Extended Continental Shelf beyond its standard 200-nautical-mile EEZ if it proves the seabed is a natural geological extension of its landmass. The extreme word 'solely' is factually accurate here.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The CLCS rejected India's original 2009 claim in 2023 due to Pakistan's 2021 objections regarding territorial overlaps near the Sir Creek region, though it permitted modified submissions.

Statement 3 (correct): In 2025, India split its original submission into two partial claims to separate the uncontested Central Arabian Sea from the disputed Western offshore regions, nullifying Pakistan's grounds for objection.

Statement 4 (incorrect): Utilizing updated scientific data and boundary adjustments, India successfully increased (not decreased) its total claimed seabed in the Central Arabian Sea by approximately 10,000 square kilometers.

kilometers.

Topic: India Physical Environment

Concepts: UNCLOS, Extended Continental Shelf, Maritime Boundaries, Sir Creek Dispute

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Expands Continental Shelf Claim in Arabian Sea](#)

Q63. Ministry of Mines Launches First Tranche of Exploration Licence Auctions

T2+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2025-03-13

Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Exploration Licence regime, private explorers are granted non-exclusive permits and receive a predetermined share of the final mining revenues.
2. The 2023 amendment enabled private exploration of lithium and titanium by allowing private entities to explore atomic minerals under the Exploration Licence.

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

Answer: (D)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The Exploration Licence (EL) grants private entities exclusive (not non-exclusive) rights for reconnaissance and prospecting. Additionally, the financial incentive provided is a predetermined share of the auction premium paid by the eventual mining lease holder, not a share of the final mining revenues.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While the 2023 MMDR Amendment Act did enable private exploration of critical minerals like lithium and titanium, it achieved this by removing them from the list of atomic minerals entirely, rather than permitting private exploration of atomic minerals.

Topic: Geography - Mineral Resources

Concepts: Mineral Exploration Policy, Critical Minerals, MMDR Amendment Act 2023

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Ministry of Mines Launches First Tranche of Exploration Licence Auctions](#)

Q64. Ministry of Mines Launches First Tranche of Exploration Licence Auctions

T2+focus · simple_mcq · HARD · 2025-03-13

Under the Exploration Licence (EL) regime introduced by the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023, which of the following accurately describes the rights and financial incentives granted to private exploration entities?

- (A) They receive exclusive rights for reconnaissance and prospecting, along with a predetermined share of the auction premium paid by the eventual mining lease holder. ✓
- (B) They receive non-exclusive reconnaissance permits, but are guaranteed the exclusive mining lease upon successful discovery of a commercially viable block.
- (C) They are granted exclusive mining rights for 29 specified critical minerals, provided they pay a predetermined auction premium to the government.
- (D) They receive exclusive rights to explore former atomic minerals like lithium, retaining full ownership of the mining revenues once extraction begins.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The 2023 MMDR Amendment Act grants private entities exclusive rights for reconnaissance and prospecting of specified critical minerals. As a financial incentive, the EL holder receives a predetermined share of the auction premium paid by the eventual mining lease holder.

Option 2 (incorrect): Under the old system, private players held non-exclusive permits without guaranteed returns; the new EL grants exclusive exploration rights, but does not guarantee the mining lease itself to the explorer.

Option 3 (incorrect): The EL is strictly for exploration (reconnaissance and prospecting), not for exclusive mining rights.

Option 4 (incorrect): While lithium was removed from the atomic minerals list to allow private exploration, EL holders do not retain full ownership of mining revenues; they only get a share of the auction premium paid by the eventual miner.

Topic: Geography - Mineral Resources

Concepts: Mineral Exploration, MMDR Act, Critical Minerals

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Ministry of Mines Launches First Tranche of Exploration Licence Auctions](#)



Tier 2 - Important

37 questions

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Q65. New Cockroach Species Discovered via DNA-Led Taxonomy

T2 · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2026-03-23

Consider the following statements:

1. Before the adoption of integrative taxonomy, species identification relied almost exclusively on physical morphological traits.
2. Cryptic species are defined as organisms that are genetically identical but physically distinct.
3. The Zoological Survey of India, established in 1916, discovered the new cockroach species *Neoloboptera peninsularis* in Pune.
4. Integrative taxonomy abandons traditional physical analysis in favor of DNA barcoding and phylogenetic assessment.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Prior to modern methods, species identification relied almost exclusively on physical morphological traits.

Statement 2 (incorrect): Cryptic species are physically identical but genetically distinct, which historically led to them being incorrectly grouped as a single species.

Statement 3 (correct): The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), established in 1916, announced the discovery of *Neoloboptera peninsularis* in Pune, Maharashtra.

Statement 4 (incorrect): Integrative taxonomy does not abandon traditional methods; rather, it combines traditional physical analysis with advanced DNA barcoding and phylogenetic assessment. Thus, exactly two statements (1 and 3) are correct.

Topic: Biodiversity

Concepts: Integrative Taxonomy, Cryptic Species, DNA Barcoding

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: New Cockroach Species Discovered via DNA-Led Taxonomy](#)

Q66. First Export of GI-Tagged Joha Rice to Europe

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-03-12

The GI-tagged Joha rice of Assam, which recently saw its first commercial export to European markets, is characterized by which of the following specific physical and cultivation traits?

- (A) It is a long-grain aromatic paddy cultivated during the Sali (winter) season.
- (B) It is a short-grain aromatic paddy cultivated during the Sali (winter) season. ✓**
- (C) It is a short-grain aromatic paddy cultivated during the summer season.
- (D) It is a long-grain non-aromatic paddy cultivated during the summer season.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): The source event explicitly identifies Joha rice as an indigenous, short-grain aromatic winter paddy that is cultivated in Assam during the Sali (winter) season.

Option 1 (incorrect): because Joha is a short-grain variety, not long-grain (a common distractor given India's prominent long-grain Basmati exports).

Option 3 (incorrect): as it identifies the wrong cropping season (summer instead of winter).

Option 4 (incorrect): on all three traits: grain length, aroma, and season.

Topic: Agriculture

Concepts: Cropping Patterns, Geographical Indications (GI), Agricultural Exports

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: First Export of GI-Tagged Joha Rice to Europe](#)

Q67. New Lichen Moth Species Discovered in Eastern Himalayas

T2 · simple_mcq · HARD · 2026-03-02

Which of the following best explains why the newly documented Eastern Himalayan moth species *Caulocera hollowayi* and *Asura buxa* act as vital biological indicators for air quality?

- (A) Their caterpillars feed exclusively on lichens, which are highly sensitive to atmospheric sulfur dioxide. ✓**
- (B) Their populations multiply rapidly in the micro-habitats of Sikkim and West Bengal when sulfur dioxide pollution increases.
- (C) They are the only documented Lepidoptera fauna that can directly metabolize atmospheric sulfur dioxide in fragile mountain ecosystems.
- (D) Their caterpillars feed solely on endemic Eastern Himalayan foliage that rapidly degrades in response to atmospheric pollution.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): According to the source event, these lichen moths act as biological indicators because their caterpillars feed exclusively on lichens, which are highly sensitive to atmospheric pollution, especially sulfur dioxide. This option deliberately uses the extreme word 'exclusively', which is factually correct in this context, rewarding candidates who do not blindly eliminate options with extreme phrasing.

Option 2 (incorrect): because lichens (their food source) are sensitive to and harmed by pollution; thus, an increase in pollution would not cause the moth populations to multiply.

Option 3 (incorrect): because the moths do not directly metabolize the sulfur dioxide; their indicator status is derived from their specialized diet of lichens.

Option 4 (incorrect): because they feed on lichens, not on the foliage of endemic trees.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Biological Indicators, Endemism, Species Discovery

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: New Lichen Moth Species Discovered in Eastern Himalayas](#)

Q68. First Direct Export of GI-Tagged Salem Sago

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-02-18

Which of the following accurately describes the role of SAGOSERVE in the February 2026 export of GI-tagged Salem Sago to Canada?

- (A) It acted as the GI Authorized User society executing its first direct international consignment, bypassing traditional intermediaries. ✓
- (B) It functioned as the regulatory authority under APEDA responsible for granting the Geographical Indication tag to Salem Sago.
- (C) It served as the primary intermediary merchant network that traditionally absorbed the export profit margins from local farmers.
- (D) It operated exclusively as a domestic warehousing agency, while APEDA directly executed the international shipment.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): According to the source event, the shipment was executed by SAGOSERVE, the GI Authorized User society, marking its first direct international consignment and bypassing traditional export intermediaries.

Option 2 (incorrect): because SAGOSERVE is a cooperative society holding the GI registration, not a regulatory authority that grants GI tags.

Option 3 (incorrect): because SAGOSERVE represents the producers, whereas the traditional intermediaries were the middlemen who previously absorbed profit margins and were bypassed in this event.

Option 4 (incorrect): because while SAGOSERVE previously focused primarily on domestic marketing and warehousing, it actively executed the international shipment itself under APEDA's guidance, rather than APEDA

executing it.

Topic: Agriculture

Concepts: Geographical Indication (GI), Agricultural Exports, Institutional Support in Agriculture

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: First Direct Export of GI-Tagged Salem Sago](#)

Q69. ZSI Discovers Two New Marine Worm Species

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-02-06

In 2026, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered two new species of marine polychaete worms, *Namalycastis solenotognatha* and *Nereis dhritiae*, along the West Bengal coast. Which of the following best describes a key characteristic or ecological significance of these species?

- (A) They serve as vital bioindicators by thriving in highly polluted, sulfide-rich mudflats. ✓
- (B) They lack specialized adaptations such as parapodia, enabling their survival in toxic water.
- (C) They actively neutralize industrial sulfide waste in coastal estuarine ecosystems.
- (D) They are the first marine annelids ever documented in the benthic layer of the Bay of Bengal.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The newly discovered polychaete worms survive in highly polluted, sulfide-rich mudflats and submerged wooden dock piles, making them crucial bioindicators for coastal ecosystem health.

Option 2 (incorrect): The source explicitly states they possess specialized adaptations like parapodia to adapt to these habitats.

Option 3 (incorrect): They are bioindicators that tolerate pollution, but there is no evidence in the source that they actively neutralize industrial waste.

Option 4 (incorrect): The source notes that the faunal records lacked documentation of 'these specific resilient polychaetes', not that they are the first marine annelids ever documented in the Bay of Bengal.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Marine Biodiversity, Bioindicators, Annelida

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: ZSI Discovers Two New Marine Worm Species](#)

Q70. Discovery of New Endemic Species in Indian Biodiversity Hotspots

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-01-09

Recent biodiversity surveys documented rare ant-eating hoverflies, which were previously expected to inhabit solely pristine forests. Alongside the Western Ghats, in which of the following specific locations were these specialized insects discovered, proving that highly modified urban habitats can harbor such ecological niches?

- (A) Arunachal Pradesh
- (B) The Eastern Himalayas
- (C) Mizoram
- (D) **The Delhi Ridge ✓**

Answer: (D)

Explanation

Option 4 (correct): The source event explicitly notes the discovery of rare ant-eating hoverflies in both the Western Ghats and the highly modified Delhi Ridge, proving that fragmented urban habitats can support specialized ecological niches.

Option 1 (incorrect): because Arunachal Pradesh is the location where the new *Leptobrachium* frog species (*L. somani* and *L. mechuka*) were discovered.

Option 2 (incorrect): as the Eastern Himalayas are mentioned as a general biodiversity hotspot, not the specific discovery site for these hoverflies.

Option 3 (incorrect): because Mizoram is where the new non-venomous reed snake (*Calamaria mizoramensis*) was identified.

Topic: Biodiversity

Concepts: Endemic species, Urban ecology, Habitat fragmentation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Discovery of New Endemic Species in Indian Biodiversity Hotspots](#)

Q71. Cyclonic Storm Ditwah Landfall over Tamil Nadu

T2 · how_many_correct · HARD · 2025-12-03

With reference to Cyclonic Storm Ditwah, consider the following statements:

1. The storm was initially fueled by warm sea surface temperatures in the southeast Bay of Bengal.
2. It caused severe urban flooding in Chennai after weakening into a remnant low-pressure area.
3. The name 'Ditwah' was contributed by Yemen, referring to a lagoon on Socotra Island.
4. India launched Operation Sagar Bandhu to deliver humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka in response to the storm's devastation.

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

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): Cyclonic Storm Ditwah was fueled by warm sea surface temperatures in the southwest (not southeast) Bay of Bengal, which is geographically adjacent to the Tamil Nadu coast.

Statement 2 (correct): Upon moving towards the Tamil Nadu coast, unfavorable atmospheric conditions caused the storm to weaken into a deep depression and then a remnant low. Despite losing cyclonic wind speeds, this stalled system acted as a massive moisture pump, triggering persistent extreme rainfall and severe urban flooding in Chennai.

Statement 3 (correct): The naming of tropical cyclones in the North Indian Ocean is coordinated by a WMO-ESCAP panel. The name 'Ditwah' was contributed by Yemen and translates to 'lagoon', referring to the Detwah Lagoon on Socotra Island.

Statement 4 (correct): The storm devastated Sri Lanka before tracking toward India, prompting the launch of Operation Sagar Bandhu by India to deliver humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka. Since exactly three statements (2, 3, and 4) are correct, the answer is 'Only three'.

Topic: Climatology

Concepts: Tropical Cyclones, Disaster Management, Monsoon Systems

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Cyclonic Storm Ditwah Landfall over Tamil Nadu](#)

Q72. GI Tags Granted to Indian Regional Sweets

T2 · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-12-01

Consider the following statements:

1. The proposal for the Darjeeling Mandarin Orange GI tag was initiated by the Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya before being transferred to a local farmers' organization.
2. Kavindapadi Nattu Sakkarai holds legal protection as a zero-sulphur traditional sweetener from Tamil Nadu.
3. The application for Meerut's Gajak and Rewri was led by the State Agricultural Marketing Board to safeguard the livelihoods of local artisans.
4. The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, operates independently of global intellectual property frameworks such as the WTO TRIPS Agreement.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The proposal for the Darjeeling Mandarin Orange was initiated in 2022 by the Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya and later transferred to a local farmers' organization to ensure community ownership.

Statement 2 (correct): Kavindapadi Nattu Sakkarai from Tamil Nadu holds legal protection as an authentic, zero-sulphur traditional sweetener, differentiating it from chemically refined sugars.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The application for Meerut's Gajak and Rewri was led by the Meerut Rewri Gajak Vyapari Welfare Association. It was the Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board that advocated for the local jaggery (Kavindapadi Nattu Sakkarai).

Statement 4 (incorrect): The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, explicitly aligns with global intellectual property frameworks like the WTO TRIPS Agreement, rather than operating independently of them.

Topic: Agriculture

Concepts: Geographical Indications, Intellectual Property Rights, Traditional Agriculture

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: GI Tags Granted to Indian Regional Sweets](#)

Q73. Formation of Cyclonic Storm Ditwah in Bay of Bengal

T2 · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-11-26

Consider the following statements:

1. The WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones initiated the naming system for North Indian Ocean cyclones in 2018 with 13 member nations.
2. The name 'Ditwah' was contributed by Yemen in honor of a Ramsar-protected lagoon in the Socotra Archipelago.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The naming system for North Indian Ocean cyclones began in 2004 with eight member nations. It was subsequently expanded in 2018 to include five more countries, bringing the total to 13.

Statement 2 (correct): The name 'Ditwah' was contributed by Yemen, honoring the Ramsar-protected Detwah Lagoon in the Socotra Archipelago.

Topic: Geography - Climatology

Concepts: Tropical Cyclones, WMO/ESCAP Panel, Meteorological Naming Conventions

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Formation of Cyclonic Storm Ditwah in Bay of Bengal](#)

Q74. GI Tag Granted to Darjeeling Mandarin Oranges

T2 · simple_mcq · HARD · 2025-11-24

During the process of securing the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Darjeeling Mandarin oranges, the official applicant status was modified in August 2024. Which of the following accurately describes this modification?

- (A) Ownership was transferred from the Patent Information Centre of West Bengal to Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya to centralize control within an academic institution.
- (B) **Ownership was transferred from Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya to the Darjeeling Organic Farmers Producer Organisation to grant intellectual property control directly to the grassroots farming community. ✓**
- (C) Ownership was transferred from the Darjeeling Organic Farmers Producer Organisation to the Geographical Indications Registry to ensure the proposal met all publication requirements.
- (D) Ownership was transferred from local growers to Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya to better leverage the government agricultural revival scheme 'Mission Suntala'.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): The GI application was initially filed by Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya (UBKV) in August 2022. However, in August 2024, the applicant status was modified, transferring ownership from the academic institution to a local farmers' cooperative, the Darjeeling Organic Farmers Producer Organisation. This was done to ensure that intellectual property control and economic benefits directly reach the grassroots farming community.

Option 1 (incorrect): as the Patent Information Centre of West Bengal only provided technical support.

Option 3 (incorrect): because the Registry is the granting authority, not the applicant.

Option 4 (incorrect): because the transfer was away from UBKV to the local growers, and it is the local growers' new status as authorized users that helps them leverage 'Mission Suntala'.

Topic: Agriculture

Concepts: Geographical Indications, Intellectual Property Rights, Farmers Cooperatives

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: GI Tag Granted to Darjeeling Mandarin Oranges](#)

Q75. IUCN Releases Fourth World Heritage Outlook Report

T2 · match_pairs · MEDIUM · 2025-11-13

Match List-I (Event/Entity) with List-II (Key Attribute/Description) regarding the IUCN World Heritage Outlook: List-I A. First IUCN World Heritage Outlook B. Third IUCN World Heritage Outlook C. Fourth IUCN World Heritage Outlook D. Khangchendzonga National Park List-II i. Integrates cultural preservation and natural biodiversity threats for mixed sites ii. Solitary Indian property to secure the 'Good' rating in the 2025 cycle iii. Launched to provide regular conservation assessments for natural World Heritage sites iv. Noted broad climate threats but lacked data on post-pandemic recovery efforts

- (A) **A-iii, B-iv, C-i, D-ii ✓**
- (B) A-iii, B-i, C-iv, D-ii
- (C) A-iv, B-iii, C-ii, D-i
- (D) A-i, B-iv, C-ii, D-iii

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): because it accurately matches all pairs based on the source event: A matches (iii) as the IUCN World Heritage Outlook was first launched in 2014 to provide regular conservation assessments. B matches (iv) because the third edition (2020) noted broad climate threats but lacked data on post-pandemic recovery efforts. C matches (i) as the fourth edition (2025) deeply integrates the assessment of mixed sites like Khangchendzonga. D matches (ii) because Khangchendzonga National Park was the solitary Indian property to secure the 'Good' rating in the 2025 cycle.

Option 2 (incorrect): because it wrongly pairs the third edition with integrating cultural preservation (which is the fourth edition) and the fourth edition with lacking post-pandemic data.


Option 3 (incorrect): because it wrongly pairs the first edition with lacking post-pandemic data and the third edition with being launched for regular assessments.

Option 4 (incorrect): because it wrongly pairs the first edition with integrating cultural preservation and Khangchendzonga with being launched for regular assessments.

Topic: Biodiversity and Conservation

Concepts: IUCN World Heritage Outlook, Mixed Heritage Sites, In-situ Conservation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: IUCN Releases Fourth World Heritage Outlook Report](#)



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Q76. GSI Discovers Gold Reserves in Banswara, Rajasthan

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-10-30

The Geological Survey of India recently confirmed the discovery of 1.20 tonnes of extractable gold, alongside critical minerals like copper, nickel, and cobalt, marking the third consecutive gold discovery in Rajasthan's Banswara region. Which of the following areas specifically hosts this newly confirmed deposit?

- (A) Bhukia-Jagpura belt
- (B) **Kankariyagarha block ✓**
- (C) Ghatol-Aravalli block
- (D) Banswara-Jagpura belt

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): The Geological Survey of India discovered the new reserves containing 1.20 tonnes of extractable gold in the Kankariyagarha

block of Ghatol tehsil in the Banswara district.

Option 1 (incorrect): because the Bhukia-Jaggpura belt represents Rajasthan's previously recognized gold inventory, not the site of this new third consecutive discovery. Options 3 and 4 are incorrect as they conflate the broader geographical and geological terms (Ghatol tehsil, Aravalli craton, Banswara district) mentioned in the event rather than identifying the specific newly confirmed block.

Topic: Geography - Mineral Resources

Concepts: Mineral Distribution in India, Economic Geography, Geological Survey of India

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: GSI Discovers Gold Reserves in Banswara, Rajasthan](#)

Q77. Landfall of Severe Cyclonic Storm Montha

T2 · *assertion_reason* · HARD · 2025-10-29

Statement-I: Upon making landfall near Narasapuram, Severe Cyclonic Storm Montha rapidly dissipated into a low-pressure area. Statement-II: Tropical cyclones rely entirely on the latent heat of condensation supplied by warm oceans.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): Statement-I is correct because Severe Cyclonic Storm Montha rapidly dissipated into a low-pressure area upon making landfall near Narasapuram. Statement-II is also correct because tropical cyclones rely entirely on the latent heat of condensation supplied by warm oceans. Statement-II explains Statement-I because once the cyclone makes landfall, it is cut off from its moisture source (the warm ocean), leading to its rapid dissipation.

Option 2 (incorrect): because Statement-II directly explains the phenomenon described in Statement-I.

Option 3 (incorrect): because Statement-II is a factually correct statement.

Option 4 (incorrect): because Statement-I is a factually correct statement.

Topic: Physical Geography

Concepts: Tropical Cyclones, Latent Heat of Condensation, Atmospheric Circulation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Landfall of Severe Cyclonic Storm Montha](#)

Q78. Discovery of Tilari Hairy Snail in Maharashtra

T2 · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-10-14

Consider the following statements:

1. The discovery of *Lagocheilus hayaomiyazakii* extends the known biogeographical range of its genus by 540 km southwards within the Western Ghats.
2. Prior to this discovery, the *Lagocheilus* genus was completely undocumented anywhere in the Western Ghats.
3. The Tilari hairy snail serves as a bioindicator for micro-ecosystem health, particularly in leaf litter and tree barks.
4. The formal classification of this new species was published in the Journal of Conchology.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The discovery extends the genus's known biogeographical range by 540 km northwards (into Kolhapur, Maharashtra), not southwards.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The *Lagocheilus* genus was already documented in the Western Ghats prior to this discovery; however, its known distribution was restricted to the southern peninsular regions.

Statement 3 (correct): The source notes that invertebrates like land snails often serve as excellent bioindicators for micro-ecosystem health, particularly in leaf litter and tree barks.

Statement 4 (correct): The new species with distinctive 'hairy' shell features was formally classified in the Journal of Conchology. Therefore, exactly two statements are correct.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Endemism, Bioindicators, Western Ghats

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Discovery of Tilari Hairy Snail in Maharashtra](#)

Q79. Launch of Critical Mineral Stockpile Programme

T2 · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-10-13

Consider the following statements:

1. The National Critical Mineral Stockpile (NCMS) programme mandates the creation of a two-month strategic buffer of rare-earth elements to build midstream supply chain resilience.
2. Due to the presence of radioactive thorium and uranium, the programme restricts the commercial extraction of rare earth elements from domestic monazite sands exclusively to state monopolies.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The NCMS programme mandates the creation of a two-month strategic stockpile of rare-earth elements, marking a shift toward direct government intervention in midstream supply chain resilience by holding physical inventory.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While domestic monazite sands do contain radioactive thorium and uranium which historically led to state monopolies, the new NCMS policy actively encourages private sector participation to scale up the processing and commercialization of these reserves.

Topic: Energy and Mineral Resources

Concepts: Critical Minerals, Supply Chain Resilience, Private Sector Participation in Mining

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Launch of Critical Mineral Stockpile Programme](#)

Q80. Six New Odonate Species Discovered in Silent Valley

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-10-12

Recent biological surveys in Silent Valley National Park have provided updated bioindicator data for its aquatic ecosystems. Based on the survey findings, what specific evidence offers current, high-resolution proof that the park's streams remain unpolluted?

- (A) **The newly recorded presence of sensitive damselflies and dragonflies.** ✓
(B) The baseline data derived from older macro-invertebrate surveys.
(C) The absence of species like the Long-legged Clubtail from the park's freshwater habitats.
(D) The preservation of the Kunthipuzha River from a proposed hydroelectric dam.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): Odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) are highly sensitive to water quality. Their newly recorded presence in the park offers current, high-resolution evidence that the streams remain unpolluted.

Option 2 (incorrect): The reliance on older or less comprehensive macro-invertebrate surveys was the previous standard before this updated survey provided new bioindicator data.

Option 3 (incorrect): Species like the Long-legged Clubtail were previously absent from the official inventory, but the new survey formally documented their existence in the park.

Option 4 (incorrect): While the halting of the hydroelectric dam on the Kunthipuzha River in the 1970s historically preserved the habitat, it is the current biological presence of sensitive odonates that serves as active proof of unpolluted water.

Topic: Biodiversity Conservation

Concepts: Bioindicators, Freshwater Ecosystems, Species Discovery

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Six New Odonate Species Discovered in Silent Valley](#)

Q81. Magnitude 5.8 Earthquake Strikes Udalguri in Assam

T2 · statement_based · HARD · 2025-09-14

With reference to the seismicity of Northeast India, consider the following statements:

1. The Bureau of Indian Standards classifies the entire Northeast region under Seismic Zone V due to the continuous subduction of the Indian Plate beneath the Eurasian Plate.
2. Shallow-focus earthquakes in the region cause greater surface shaking than deep-focus events because their seismic waves suffer higher attenuation.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The Bureau of Indian Standards places the entire Northeast region in Seismic Zone V (the highest risk zone) because of the massive geological stress created by the Indian Plate continuously subducting beneath the Eurasian Plate. The use of the extreme word 'entire' is factually correct here, breaking the common heuristic to eliminate extreme statements.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While shallow-focus earthquakes do cause greater shaking than deep-focus events, this is because their seismic waves suffer 'less' attenuation (loss of energy) before reaching the surface, not higher attenuation.

Topic: Physical Geography - Geomorphology

Concepts: Plate Tectonics, Seismic Waves and Attenuation, Earthquake Zones of India

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Magnitude 5.8 Earthquake Strikes Udalguri in Assam](#)

Q82. Discovery of Two Fungi Species in Western Ghats

T2 · statement_based · EASY · 2025-09-11

Consider the following statements:

1. The newly identified *Aspergillus dhakephalkarii* is a species of fungi discovered in the Western Ghats.
2. The MACS-Agharkar Research Institute, responsible for this discovery, is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): *Aspergillus dhakephalkarii* is one of the two newly identified fungi (black aspergilli) species discovered during surveys of the Western Ghats.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The MACS-Agharkar Research Institute is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, not the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Topic: Biodiversity

Concepts: Fungi Taxonomy, Western Ghats Biodiversity, Scientific Institutions in India

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Discovery of Two Fungi Species in Western Ghats](#)

Q83. New Gecko Species Discovered in Barail Hills

T2 · assertion_reason · HARD · 2025-09-10

Statement-I: The recent surge in herpetological discoveries within the *Cyrtodactylus* genus in Northeast India reflects a growing scientific focus on the region's largest and most extensively surveyed protected areas.
Statement-II: The Barail Range acts as a crucial biogeographical bridge between the Brahmaputra and Barak basins, serving as an ecological transition zone with high species endemism.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) **Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct ✓**

Answer: (D)

Explanation

Statement-I is incorrect: The source explicitly states that the surge in herpetological discoveries (such as the bent-toe gecko) reflects a growing scientific focus on the region's 'under-explored microhabitats', rather than its largest protected areas. Furthermore, the text contrasts these zones, noting that microhabitats in the Dima Hasao district were historically under-surveyed compared to larger protected areas in Assam. Statement-II is correct: The Barail Range functions as a crucial biogeographical bridge connecting the Brahmaputra and Barak river basins. This specific geographical positioning establishes the region as a critical ecological transition zone characterized by immense biodiversity and high levels of species endemism.

Topic: Biodiversity and Conservation

Concepts: Endemism, Biogeographical Zones, Herpetofauna, Microhabitats

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: New Gecko Species Discovered in Barail Hills](#)

Q84. DPIIT Notifies Draft Amendments to GI Registration Rules

T2 · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-08-11

Consider the following statements:

1. The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 came into force in 2003 to ensure India's compliance with the WTO TRIPS Agreement.
2. The draft Geographical Indications of Goods (Amendment) Rules, 2025 introduce a compounded fee structure for applications filed across multiple classes.
3. The 2025 regulatory framework explicitly aligns with a quantifiable national policy target to secure 10,000 GI tags by 2030.
4. The new rules mandate that only regional collectives, rather than individual artisans or farmers, can register as authorised users.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 came into force in 2003, making India compliant with the WTO TRIPS Agreement.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The draft 2025 Rules rationalise and standardise the fee structure across multiple classes to reduce overall compliance costs, replacing the previous system where fees varied and compounded.

Statement 3 (correct): The 2025 framework explicitly aligns with the national policy target of securing 10,000 GI tags by 2030, addressing the previous lack of a quantifiable, time-bound mission.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The amendments heavily simplify the registration process specifically to encourage mass enrollment of individual artisans and farmers as authorised users, rather than restricting registration to collectives.

Topic: Intellectual Property Rights

Concepts: Geographical Indications, TRIPS Agreement, Intellectual Property Rights

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: DPIIT Notifies Draft Amendments to GI Registration Rules](#)

Q85. Sarnath Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage List

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-08-08

What specific change occurred regarding Sarnath's UNESCO World Heritage status for the 2025-26 cycle?

- (A) It became India's singular official candidate for the World Heritage List after waiting on the Tentative List since 1998. ✓**
- (B) It was officially inscribed onto the World Heritage List following a 27-year evaluation by the World Heritage Centre.
- (C) It was added to the UNESCO Tentative List for the first time to initiate technical evaluation by international bodies.
- (D) It was transferred from the domestic jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India to the administrative control of ICOMOS.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The source states that Sarnath had been waiting on the UNESCO Tentative List since 1998 (27 years) and has now become India's official, singular candidate for the 2025-26 World Heritage List cycle.

Option 2 (incorrect): because Sarnath has only been officially nominated, not yet inscribed onto the World Heritage List.

Option 3 (incorrect): because it was first placed on the Tentative List in 1998, not recently.

Option 4 (incorrect): because while the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is conducting a rigorous technical evaluation of the site's dossier, Sarnath remains under the domestic jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Topic: Art and Culture - Heritage Sites

Concepts: UNESCO World Heritage List, Cultural Diplomacy, Archaeological Survey of India

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Sarnath Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage List](#)

Q86. Catastrophic Debris Flow Disaster Hits Dharali Village

T2 · simple_mcq · HARD · 2025-08-05

Based on the post-disaster analysis of the August 2025 Dharali village event, which of the following statements is correct?

- (A) The catastrophic debris flow was solely the result of a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) triggered by extreme monsoon rainfall.
- (B) **Relying solely on traditional lower-valley river gauges failed to detect the localized upper-catchment sediment instability that caused the disaster. ✓**
- (C) Disaster mitigation planning for the region now models landslides and flash floods solely as isolated, non-cascading events.
- (D) The event was triggered by the rapid fluvial erosion and mobilization of consolidated bedrock rather than unconsolidated paraglacial sediments.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): The disaster highlighted that traditional lower-valley river gauges fail to detect upper-catchment sediment instability in time, necessitating a shift away from relying solely on them. (Note: This option correctly weaponizes the extreme word 'solely' to test conceptual clarity).

Option 1 (incorrect): Geomorphological satellite analysis explicitly ruled out a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), identifying the trigger instead as a shallow landslide transitioning into a debris flow.

Option 3 (incorrect): Authorities now recognize these as complex cascading hazards, whereas previously they were modeled as isolated events.

Option 4 (incorrect): The disaster was triggered by the destabilization of 'unconsolidated' glacial depositional landforms (like moraines and paraglacial sediments), not consolidated bedrock.

Topic: Disaster Management

Concepts: Geomorphological Hazards, Early Warning Systems, Glacial Landforms, Cascading Hazards

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Catastrophic Debris Flow Disaster Hits Dharali Village](#)

Q87. New Lichen Species *Allographa effusoredica* Discovered

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-07-18

The discovery of the crustose lichen **Allographa effusoredica** in the Western Ghats marks a milestone in Indian lichenology primarily because:

- (A) **it is the first Indian *Allographa* species to be sequenced using multiple molecular markers.** ✓
- (B) it brings the total number of *Allographa* species recorded specifically in the Western Ghats to 53.
- (C) it is the first species in its family to be classified solely based on classical morphology.
- (D) it is unique for lacking the rare chemical compound norstictic acid.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The discovery is a milestone because *Allographa effusoredica* is the first Indian *Allographa* species identified using an integrative polyphasic taxonomic approach, including DNA sequencing across multiple fungal and algal genetic markers.

Option 2 (incorrect): The discovery brings the total number of *Allographa* species to 53 in India as a whole, with only 22 specifically recorded from the Western Ghats.

Option 3 (incorrect): Previous classifications relied heavily on classical morphology, whereas this new species represents a shift away from that method toward modern molecular data.

Option 4 (incorrect): The species is unique for carrying (not lacking) the rare chemical compound norstictic acid.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Molecular Taxonomy, Lichen Symbiosis, Western Ghats Biodiversity

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: New Lichen Species *Allographa effusoredica* Discovered](#)

Q88. Four New *Idris* Parasitoid Wasps Discovered

T2 · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-07-14

Consider the following statements:

1. The newly discovered *Idris* wasp species act as primary egg parasitoids that specifically target the egg sacs of jumping spiders.
2. These species exhibit 'gregarious parasitism', a phenomenon where only a single dominant wasp develops within the host egg sac.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The newly discovered Idris species (such as Idris bianor and Idris furvus) from West Bengal are primary egg parasitoids that specifically target jumping spiders by laying eggs inside their egg sacs, acting as natural population regulators.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The phenomenon of 'gregarious parasitism' highlighted by these species involves multiple wasps developing simultaneously within a single jumping spider egg sac, not just a single dominant wasp.

Topic: Biodiversity

Concepts: Parasitism, Biocontrol mechanisms, Population Interactions

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Four New Idris Parasitoid Wasps Discovered](#)

Q89. Discovery of Deep-Sea Eel *Facciolella smithi*

T2 · statement_based · HARD · 2025-06-30

Consider the following statements:

1. Prior to recent deep-water initiatives, India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) biodiversity assessments were heavily skewed towards non-commercial benthic species.
2. The unique duckbill-like snout of *Facciolella smithi* is an evolutionary adaptation driven by physical characteristics such as pressure, temperature, and light penetration in deeper oceanic layers.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): Historically, India's EEZ biodiversity assessments were heavily skewed towards commercially viable fisheries in shallower pelagic zones. It is only with recent pushes, such as the Deep Ocean Mission, that the scientific framework has expanded to actively catalog non-commercial, deep-sea benthic and demersal species.

Statement 2 (correct): *Facciolella smithi* is a deep-sea eel found in the benthic zone (260-460m depth). Its unique duckbill-like snout is a functional trait adapted for deep-water feeding, driven by the extreme physical characteristics of deeper oceanic layers, including pressure, temperature, and limited light penetration.

Topic: Biodiversity

Concepts: Oceanic depth profiling, Evolutionary adaptations in deep-sea organisms, EEZ biodiversity assessments

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Discovery of Deep-Sea Eel *Facciolella smithi*](#)

Q90. GSI and IndiaAI Launch Mineral Targeting Initiative

T2 · simple_mcq · EASY · 2025-05-14

Which of the following accurately describes the immediate focus of the collaborative mineral targeting initiative launched by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and IndiaAI?

- (A) **Locating deep-seated critical minerals like REEs and Ni-PGE across a 39,000 sq. km zone in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. ✓**
- (B) Mapping surface-level coal and iron ore deposits across a 39,000 sq. km zone in Odisha and Jharkhand.
- (C) Identifying concealed marine polymetallic nodules across a 39,000 sq. km offshore zone in the Arabian Sea.
- (D) Processing legacy geodata solely to locate shallow precious metal reserves in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

According to the source event, the immediate focus of the GSI and IndiaAI initiative is a 39,000 sq. km zone across Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to locate deep-seated critical minerals like Rare Earth Elements (REEs), Ni-PGE, and copper. It marks a shift away from traditional surface exploration, making options regarding surface-level coal, marine nodules, or shallow precious metals incorrect.

Topic: Geography - Mineral Resources

Concepts: Critical Minerals, Artificial Intelligence in Exploration, Geological Survey of India

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: GSI and IndiaAI Launch Mineral Targeting Initiative](#)

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Q91. Discovery of Six New Scarab Beetle Species

T2 · match_pairs · EASY · 2025-05-03

With reference to the recent documentation of invertebrate biodiversity in India, match List-I (Entity) with List-II (Description): List-I A. Serica subansiriensis B. Zootaxa C. Scarab beetles D. Zoological Survey of India List-II

1. Act as crucial detritivores aiding in soil aeration
2. Established in 1916 under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
3. Newly discovered species added to India's endemic faunal inventory
4. Global journal where the recent taxonomic discovery was published

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The correct pairings are: - A matches 3: Serica subansiriensis is one of the six newly discovered scarab beetle species added to India's faunal inventory. - B matches 4: Zootaxa is the global journal where the scientists from ZSI published their study detailing the discovery. - C matches 1: Scarab beetles act as crucial detritivores, playing a vital role in nutrient cycling and soil aeration within forest ecosystems. - D matches 2: The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) was established in 1916 under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Option 2 (incorrect): because it wrongly pairs Zootaxa with being a detritivore (B-1) and Scarab beetles with the journal (C-4).

Option 3 (incorrect): because it wrongly pairs Serica subansiriensis with the general description of detritivores (A-1), Scarab beetles with the 1916 establishment (C-2), and ZSI with the newly discovered species (D-3).

Option 4 (incorrect): because it wrongly pairs Serica subansiriensis with the global journal (A-4) and Zootaxa with the newly discovered species (B-3).

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Taxonomy, Biodiversity Hotspots, Species Discovery

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Discovery of Six New Scarab Beetle Species](#)

Q92. Geographical Indication Tag Granted to Warangal Chapata Chilli

T2 · match_pairs · EASY · 2025-03-15

Match List-I with List-II: List-I A. Warangal Chapata Chilli B. GI Act 1999 C. Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks D. GI Certification List-II i. Enacted to comply with the WTO TRIPS Agreement ii. Administers the GI registry iii. Mandates strict geographic boundaries and cultivation standards iv. Celebrated for deep red color and mild pungency Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) A-iv, B-i, C-ii, D-iii ✓
- (B) A-iii, B-i, C-ii, D-iv
- (C) A-iv, B-ii, C-i, D-iii
- (D) A-iii, B-ii, C-i, D-iv

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Based on the provided source event: A matches with (iv): The Warangal Chapata Chilli is celebrated for its deep red color, mild pungency, and distinct flavor profile. B matches with (i): India enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act in 1999 to comply with the WTO TRIPS Agreement. C matches with (ii): The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks administers the GI registry. D matches with (iii): The GI certification mandates strict geographic boundaries and cultivation standards, ensuring traceability and quality control. Therefore, Option 1 (A-iv, B-i, C-ii, D-iii) is correct.

Option 2 (incorrect): because it incorrectly matches Warangal Chapata Chilli with strict geographic boundaries (iii) instead of its physical traits (iv).

Option 3 (incorrect): because it incorrectly matches the GI Act 1999 with administering the registry (ii) instead of TRIPS compliance (i).

Option 4 (incorrect): because it contains multiple incorrect pairings, such as matching Warangal Chapata Chilli with (iii) and the GI Act with (ii).

Topic: Agriculture

Concepts: Geographical Indications, Intellectual Property Rights, Commercial Crops

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Geographical Indication Tag Granted to Warangal Chapata Chilli](#)

Q93. Centre Approves Kosi-Mechi River Interlinking Project Under PMKSY-AIBP

T2 · how_many_correct · HARD · 2025-03-15

With reference to the Kosi-Mechi Intra-State River Link Project, consider the following statements:

1. The project diverts surplus monsoon water from the Kosi, an antecedent river, to the Mahananda basin via the Mechi river.
2. It is India's second major river interlinking project overall and the country's first intra-state river link.
3. The project involves extending the Eastern Kosi Main Canal, which was originally created under a 1954 joint project between India and Nepal.
4. Inclusion under the PMKSY-AIBP scheme guarantees that the Central Government will cover the entire ₹6,282 crore cost of the project.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The project connects to Himalayan drainage concepts by diverting surplus monsoon water from the Kosi (an antecedent river known for shifting courses) to the Mahananda basin via the Mechi river.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While it is India's second major river interlinking project (after Ken-Betwa), it is specifically Bihar's first intra-state river link, not India's first.

Statement 3 (correct): The project remodels and extends the Eastern Kosi Main Canal (from 41.30 km to 117.50 km), which was originally created under the 1954 joint Koshi Project between India and Nepal.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The total project cost is ₹6,282 crore, but inclusion under PMKSY-AIBP guarantees ₹3,652 crore in Central assistance, meaning the Centre does not cover the entire cost.

Topic: Geography - Water Resources

Concepts: River Interlinking, Himalayan Drainage System, PMKSY-AIBP

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Centre Approves Kosi-Mechi River Interlinking Project Under PMKSY-AIBP](#)

Q94. New Epidelaxia Jumping Spiders Discovered in India

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-02-25

In February 2025, researchers discovered two new jumping spider species, *Epidelaxia falciformis* and *Epidelaxia palustris*, in the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary. Which of the following statements correctly describes the primary biogeographical significance of finding this specific genus (*Epidelaxia*) in India?

- (A) **The genus was previously considered strictly endemic to Sri Lanka, and this discovery marks its first ever record in India. ✓**
- (B) The genus has never been recorded outside the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve, proving its strict endemism to the Western Ghats.
- (C) The genus was previously considered strictly endemic to the Eastern Himalayas, and this marks its first record in peninsular India.
- (D) The genus is solely found in the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, demonstrating a complete lack of habitat overlap with Sri Lanka.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): Prior to this discovery, the jumping spider genus *Epidelaxia* was considered strictly endemic to Sri Lanka. Finding *E. falciformis* and *E. palustris* in the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) marks the first time the genus has been recorded in India, providing concrete proof of shared ecological niches between the two landmasses.

Option 2 (incorrect): because the genus is not strictly endemic to the Western Ghats; it is also found in Sri Lanka.

Option 3 (incorrect): because its prior known endemism was Sri Lanka, not the Eastern Himalayas.

Option 4 (incorrect): because the discovery actually proves habitat overlap and shared evolutionary history between the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka, rather than a lack thereof.

Topic: Biodiversity and Conservation

Concepts: Endemism, Biogeography, Western Ghats Biodiversity, Species Discovery

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: New Epidelaxia Jumping Spiders Discovered in India](#)

Q95. Magnitude 4.0 Intraplate Earthquake in New Delhi

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-02-17

Following the February 2025 intraplate earthquake in New Delhi, preliminary reports by the National Center for Seismology required geologists to update local fault reactivation models for the Aravalli-Delhi Fold Belt. Which of the following was newly identified as a trigger mechanism for this specific event?

- (A) Long-distance amplification from major Himalayan thrust earthquakes
- (B) Dry tectonic stress accumulation along active fault lines
- (C) **Fluid-induced pressure changes associated with hydro-fracturing** ✓
- (D) Deep-focus reverse faulting beneath the urban center

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Option 3 (correct): The National Center for Seismology's preliminary report identified hydro-fracturing and normal faulting as the trigger mechanisms, requiring geologists to account for fluid-induced pressure changes in local fault reactivation models.

Option 1 (incorrect): long-distance amplification from Himalayan thrusts was the previous predominant focus of seismic risk mitigation in Delhi, not the trigger for this localized intraplate event.

Option 2 (incorrect): dry tectonic stress accumulation was the primary basis for previous models of fault movements in the Aravalli-Delhi Fold Belt, which now must be updated.

Option 4 (incorrect): the event was characterized by shallow-focus (5 km deep) normal faulting, not deep-focus reverse faulting.

Topic: Physical Geography

Concepts: Earthquakes, Geomorphology, Seismology

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Magnitude 4.0 Intraplate Earthquake in New Delhi](#)

Q96. M 7.1 Nepal-Tibet Border Earthquake

T2 · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-01-07

Statement-I: The January 2025 M 7.1 Nepal-Tibet border earthquake potentially increased the tectonic loading on adjacent fault segments along the Tibetan plateau. Statement-II: The earthquake caused only a partial release of accumulated tectonic stress, altering the local stress distribution.

- (A) **Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I** ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: The earthquake altered local stress distributions, which potentially loads adjacent fault segments along the fault lines of the Tibetan plateau and Himalayan frontal thrusts. Statement-II is correct and explains Statement-I: The potential loading of adjacent fault segments occurs precisely because the earthquake resulted in only a 'partial release of stress' from the continuous tectonic collision (where the Indian plate underthrusts the Eurasian plate at 40-50 mm per year). This partial release shifts the accumulated strain, altering the local stress distribution and transferring pressure to nearby faults rather than completely dissipating it.

Topic: Physical Geography

Concepts: Plate Tectonics, Seismology, Fault Line Dynamics

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: M 7.1 Nepal-Tibet Border Earthquake](#)

Q97. INS Sarvekshak Deployed to Mauritius

T2 · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2024-12-26

With reference to the deployment of INS Sarvekshak to Mauritius, consider the following statements:

1. Prior to this joint deployment, the optimal economic exploitation of the Mauritian Exclusive Economic Zone was hindered by a reliance on outdated navigational charts.
2. The SAGAR vision, which this deployment executes, was originally proposed in 2015 as a military alliance framework for the Indian Ocean Region.

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The source event explicitly notes that before this joint deployment, Mauritius relied on outdated navigational charts, which posed risks to maritime safety and hindered the optimal economic exploitation of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Statement 2 (incorrect): The SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision was proposed in 2015 as a 'diplomatic framework', not a military alliance framework. The deployment of specialized vessels like INS Sarvekshak translates this diplomatic vision into on-the-ground operational cooperation.

Topic: International Relations - Maritime Security

Concepts: SAGAR Vision, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Hydrographic Survey

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: INS Sarvekshak Deployed to Mauritius](#)

Q98. ZSI Discovers New Parasitic Wasp Species

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2024-12-14

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) recently discovered new species of parasitic wasps, such as 'Ceraphron initium', which are classified under 'dark taxa'. In taxonomic studies, which of the following accurately describes a 'dark taxon'?

- (A) **They are hyper-diverse groups of organisms that remain poorly understood due to their microscopic size and difficult identification.** ✓
- (B) They are exclusively nocturnal insect species that play a critical role in pollinating night-blooming flora in biodiversity hotspots.
- (C) They are invasive pest species that lack natural predators and rapidly decimate agricultural crops in endemic regions.
- (D) They are unpigmented organisms adapted entirely to subterranean habitats and deep cave ecosystems.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): In taxonomy, 'dark taxa' refers to groups of organisms that are hyper-diverse but remain poorly understood and under-documented due to their microscopic size and complex morphology (difficult identification).

Option 2 (incorrect): 'dark' refers to the lack of scientific documentation, not nocturnal behavior.

Option 3 (incorrect): the newly discovered wasps act as natural biocontrol agents that regulate pest populations, rather than being invasive pests themselves.

Option 4 (incorrect): the term does not denote subterranean or cave-dwelling adaptations, but rather taxonomic obscurity.

Topic: Biodiversity and Conservation

Concepts: Taxonomy, Dark Taxa, Species Discovery, Biodiversity Hotspots

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: ZSI Discovers New Parasitic Wasp Species](#)

Q99. Ratapani Notified as MP's 8th Tiger Reserve

T2 · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2024-12-02

With reference to the Ratapani Tiger Reserve, consider the following statements:

1. Prior to its 2024 notification, the sanctuary already possessed legally delineated core and buffer zones but lacked dedicated funding under Project Tiger.
2. The reserve spans across the Raisen and Sehore districts and encompasses the UNESCO World Heritage site of Bhimbetka Rock Shelters.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): Before its 2024 notification as a Tiger Reserve, Ratapani operated solely as a Wildlife Sanctuary and explicitly lacked legally delineated core and buffer zones for exclusive tiger conservation. It is only with the new notification that the area is demarcated into strict inviolate core zones and regulated buffer zones.

Statement 2 (correct): The newly notified reserve spans across the Raisen and Sehore districts of Madhya Pradesh and notably encompasses the UNESCO World Heritage site of Bhimbetka Rock Shelters.

Topic: Environment - Protected Areas

Concepts: Project Tiger, Protected Areas, UNESCO World Heritage Sites

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Ratapani Notified as MP's 8th Tiger Reserve](#)

Q100. Fire-Resilient Plant Species Discovered in Western Ghats

T2 · statement_based · EASY · 2024-11-12

Consider the following statements in respect of Dicliptera polymorpha:

1. It is a fire-resilient plant species discovered in the Northern Western Ghats that relies on grassland fires for its secondary bloom phase.
2. It is the first documented Indian plant to possess a spicate inflorescence structure.

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

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Dicliptera polymorpha was discovered in the Talegaon-Dabhade grasslands of the Northern Western Ghats and demonstrates a pyrophytic (fire-adapted) habit, producing dwarf shoots to

trigger a secondary blooming phase in response to summer droughts and local grassland fires.

Statement 2 (correct): It is the first documented Indian plant with a spicate inflorescence structure, a rare floral structure whose closest botanical relatives are found in Africa.

Topic: Biodiversity

Concepts: Endemism, Western Ghats, Plant Adaptations

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Fire-Resilient Plant Species Discovered in Western Ghats](#)

Q101. Mycotrophic Orchid *Gastrodia Lohitensis* Found in Arunachal Pradesh

T2 · how_many_correct · HARD · 2024-11-06

Consider the following statements regarding the newly discovered plant species **Gastrodia lohitensis**:

1. It is a mycotrophic angiosperm that completely lacks chlorophyll and survives without sunlight.
2. It is an endemic species distinguished by unique white flowers with parallel oblong-linear calli.
3. Its exclusive micro-habitat consists of shaded, dense bamboo canopies in the Eastern Himalayas.
4. It has been preliminarily classified as a Critically Endangered species due to threats from local bamboo harvesting.

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

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): **Gastrodia lohitensis** is a highly specialized mycotrophic angiosperm that completely lacks chlorophyll and survives without sunlight, relying instead on a symbiotic/saprophytic relationship with fungi in decaying leaf litter.

Statement 2 (correct): It is a newly documented endemic species in India, morphologically distinguished by its unique white flowers with parallel oblong-linear calli and ridged lower lips.

Statement 3 (correct): The shaded, dense bamboo canopies near Tezu in the Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh (Eastern Himalayas) are identified as the exclusive micro-habitat for this species.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The species has been preliminarily classified as Endangered, not Critically Endangered, due to its highly restricted ecological niche and direct threats from local land use and bamboo extraction.

Topic: Biodiversity and Conservation



Concepts: Endemic Species, Mycotrophic Plants, IUCN Conservation Status

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Mycotrophic Orchid Gastrodia Lohitensis Found in Arunachal Pradesh](#)

Tier 3 - Supporting

9 questions

Q102. GI Tags for Sikkim Lepcha Musical Instruments

T3 · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-11-14

Consider the following statements:

1. The 'Pumtong Pulit' is a traditional three-stringed musical instrument of the Lepcha tribe of Sikkim.
2. The 'Tungbuk' is a traditional bamboo flute of the Lepcha tribe that was recently awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
3. The GI tag certificates for these instruments were presented at the 1st Tribal Business Conclave held in New Delhi.
4. The application process for securing the GI tags for these indigenous crafts was supported by NABARD.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The 'Pumtong Pulit' is a traditional bamboo flute of the Lepcha tribe, not a three-stringed instrument.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The 'Tungbuk' is a three-stringed instrument, not a bamboo flute.

Statement 3 (correct): The GI tag certificates for the Lepcha musical instruments were presented at the 1st Tribal Business Conclave in New Delhi.

Statement 4 (correct): The application process for securing the GI tags for these instruments was supported by NABARD.

Topic: Art & Culture - Handicrafts & GI Tags

Concepts: Geographical Indications, Lepcha Tribe, Traditional Crafts, Tribal Affairs

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: GI Tags for Sikkim Lepcha Musical Instruments](#)

Q103. First UK Export of GI-Tagged Indian Limes

T3 · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-10-28

With reference to the recent export of GI-tagged Indian limes, consider the following statements:

1. The first air export of GI-tagged Indian limes to the United Kingdom was facilitated by APEDA.
2. Indi Lime is a GI-tagged agricultural product originating from Karnataka.
3. Puliyanakudi Lime is a GI-tagged product from Kerala.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): APEDA facilitated the first air export of GI-tagged limes to the United Kingdom in October 2025.

Statement 2 (correct): The export shipment included Indi Lime, which is from Karnataka.

Statement 3 (incorrect): Puliyanakudi Lime is a GI-tagged product from Tamil Nadu, not Kerala.

Topic: Agriculture

Concepts: Geographical Indications, Agricultural Exports, APEDA

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: First UK Export of GI-Tagged Indian Limes](#)

Q104. Launch of Regional GI Facilitation Centre in Gujarat

T3 · how_many_correct · EASY · 2025-09-15

Consider the following statements regarding the Regional Geographical Indication (GI) Facilitation Centre:

1. India's first such centre was inaugurated at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India in Gujarat.
2. The establishment and operations of the centre are supported by NABARD.
3. It provides GI registration and commercial support solely for agricultural products, excluding local handicrafts.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): India's first Regional GI Facilitation Centre was inaugurated at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India in Gujarat.

Statement 2 (correct): The centre is supported by NABARD.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The centre assists both local artisans and farmers, providing support for agricultural products (like Gir Cow Ghee) as well as local crafts (like Dahod Bead Work).

Topic: Economy - Intellectual Property Rights

Concepts: Geographical Indications, NABARD, Traditional Knowledge

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Launch of Regional GI Facilitation Centre in Gujarat](#)

Q105. Jhajjar Earthquake Highlights NCR Seismic Vulnerability

T3 · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-07-10

Consider the following statements:

1. The July 2025 Jhajjar earthquake was a deep-focus seismic event originating along the Delhi-Haridwar Ridge and the Mahendragarh-Dehradun subsurface faults.
2. The National Capital Region is classified under India's Zone IV for seismic vulnerability.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The July 10, 2025, Jhajjar earthquake was a 'shallow' earthquake, not a deep-focus one, although it was indeed caused by structural shifts along the Delhi-Haridwar Ridge and the Mahendragarh-Dehradun subsurface faults.

Statement 2 (correct): The event reinforces the high seismic vulnerability of the densely populated National Capital Region, which falls under India's Zone IV.

Topic: Physical Geography

Concepts: Earthquakes, Seismic Zones, Fault Lines

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Jhajjar Earthquake Highlights NCR Seismic Vulnerability](#)



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Q106. Discovery of Cyprinid Fish *Pethia dibrugarhensis*

T3 · simple_mcq · HARD · 2025-06-23

Recently discovered in the Brahmaputra River by scientists from ICAR-CIFRI and Manipur University, the cyprinid fish species *Pethia dibrugarhensis* is morphologically characterized by which of the following specific features?

- (A) A complete lateral line and a distinct black blotch near its dorsal fin.
- (B) **An incomplete lateral line and a distinct black blotch near its tail.** ✓
- (C) An incomplete lateral line and a distinct red blotch near its gills.
- (D) A complete absence of a lateral line and a distinct black blotch near its tail.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

According to the source, the newly discovered cyprinid fish species *Pethia dibrugarhensis* is characterized specifically by an incomplete lateral line and a distinct black blotch near its tail. The other options serve as logically adjacent distractors by incorrectly altering the state of the lateral line (complete or entirely absent) or the color and location of the blotch (red, dorsal fin, gills).

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Species Discovery, Morphology, Freshwater Ecosystems

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Discovery of Cyprinid Fish *Pethia dibrugarhensis*](#)

Q107. Ozzo Feni Gets Geographical Indication Tag

T3 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-06-11

In June 2025, the Geographical Indication Registry in Chennai granted a GI tag to Goa's Ozzo Feni. Which of the following accurately describes the specific raw material and traditional production technique associated with this spirit?

- (A) It is produced from cashew nuts using a unique heritage single-distillation method.
- (B) It is produced from cashew apples using a unique heritage double-distillation method. ✓**
- (C) It is produced from cashew apples using a modern continuous-distillation method.
- (D) It is produced from coconut sap using a unique heritage double-distillation method.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

The source event explicitly states that Goa's Ozzo Feni is produced from cashew apples using a unique heritage double-distillation method.

Option 1 (incorrect): because it mentions cashew nuts and single-distillation.

Option 3 (incorrect): as it cites a modern continuous-distillation method.

Option 4 (incorrect): because it identifies coconut sap as the raw material instead of cashew apples.

Topic: Geography - Intellectual Property

Concepts: Geographical Indication, Traditional Knowledge

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Ozzo Feni Gets Geographical Indication Tag](#)

Q108. Bihar's Patharkatti Stone Art Receives GI Tag

T3 · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-02-20

Statement-I: The Geographical Indication (GI) tag awarded to Patharkatti stone art provides legal protection and economic leverage to traditional Bihar stone-carvers in global markets. Statement-II: The Patharkatti stone art is a 300-year-old craft from Gaya district that utilizes a unique local red sandstone found in the region.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect ✓**
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct because the source confirms that the GI tag recognition provides legal protection and economic leverage to traditional Bihar

stone-carvers in global markets. Statement-II is incorrect because the 300-year-old Patharkatti stone art from Gaya district utilizes a unique local black granite found in the region, not red sandstone.

Topic: Art and Culture

Concepts: Geographical Indication, Traditional Crafts, Cultural Heritage

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Bihar's Patharkatti Stone Art Receives GI Tag](#)

Q109. Target of 10,000 GI Tags by 2030

T3 · how_many_correct · EASY · 2025-01-22

Consider the following statements in respect of the Geographical Indication (GI) tags target:

1. The target to register 10,000 Geographical Indication (GI) tags by 2030 was announced by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. A dedicated committee will be formed to oversee the expansion and streamline the GI registration process.
3. The initiative is designed solely to safeguard India's traditional intellectual property, with no focus on rural livelihoods.

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

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced the target to register 10,000 GI tags by 2030 during the GI Samagam in New Delhi.

Statement 2 (correct): A dedicated committee will be formed to oversee this expansion and streamline the registration process.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The initiative aims to safeguard India's traditional intellectual property while significantly boosting rural livelihoods and the export potential of local indigenous products, not solely safeguarding IP.

Topic: Economy - Intellectual Property

Concepts: Geographical Indications, Intellectual Property Rights, Government Targets

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Target of 10,000 GI Tags by 2030](#)

Q110. Gharchola and Narsapur Lace Crafts Receive GI Tags

T3 · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2024-11-27

With reference to the crafts awarded Geographical Indication (GI) tags at the GI and Beyond 2024 Summit, consider the following statements:

1. Gharchola is a traditional wedding sari craft originating from Khambhat, Gujarat.
2. Narsapur Crochet Lace is an intricate 19th-century threadwork technique from Andhra Pradesh.

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

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Gharchola is a traditional wedding sari craft from Khambhat, Gujarat, which was awarded a GI tag at the GI and Beyond 2024 Summit in New Delhi.

Statement 2 (correct): Narsapur Crochet Lace is an intricate 19th-century threadwork technique from Andhra Pradesh that also received a GI tag at the same summit. These tags aim to preserve regional heritage and empower local artisans by preventing the sale of counterfeit products in global markets.

Topic: Art and Culture

Concepts: Geographical Indications, Traditional Indian Crafts, Cultural Heritage

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Gharchola and Narsapur Lace Crafts Receive GI Tags](#)