

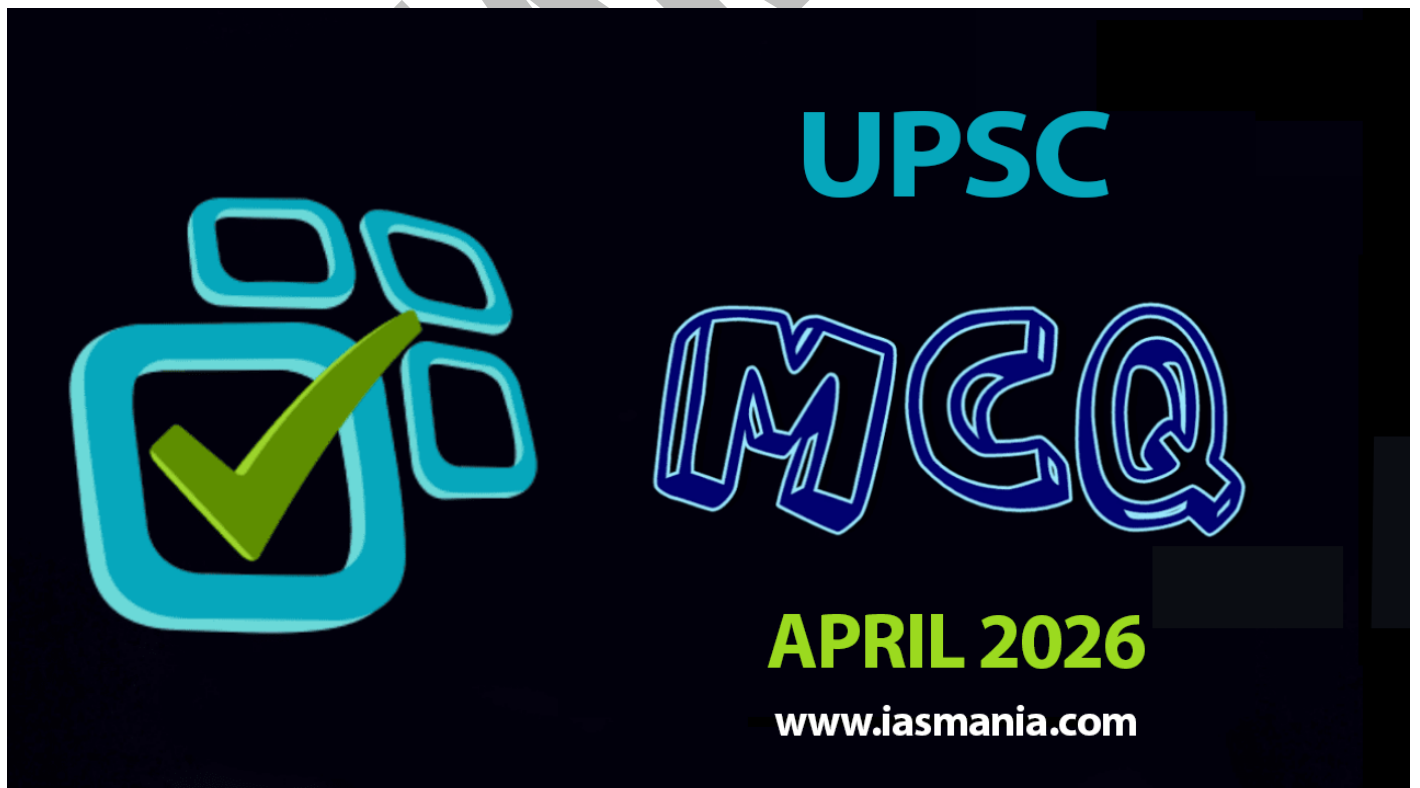
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The banner features a dark blue background. On the left, there is a stylized logo consisting of a large blue square with rounded corners containing a green checkmark, with three smaller blue squares above it. To the right of the logo, the text 'UPSC' is written in large, bold, light blue capital letters. Below 'UPSC', the letters 'MCQ' are written in a large, blue, outlined, bubbly font. At the bottom right, the text 'APRIL 2026' is written in bold, green capital letters, and below it, the website address 'www.iasmania.com' is written in white lowercase letters.

1) Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Motion of Thanks' on the President's Address in the Indian Parliament:

1. The President addresses Parliament under Article 87(1) at the beginning of every parliamentary session.
2. Discussion on the Motion of Thanks allows Parliament to examine and debate the government's policies and programmes.
3. Rejection of the Motion of Thanks in the Lok Sabha is treated as a loss of confidence in the Council of Ministers.
4. Adoption of an amendment to the Motion of Thanks by the Rajya Sabha obliges the Prime Minister to resign.

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 is incorrect. Article 87(1) mandates the President's Address only at the commencement of the first session after a general election and at the beginning of the first session of each year (Budget Session), not at the start of every session.
 - Statement 2 is correct. The debate on the Motion of Thanks provides a broad forum for members to discuss, criticise or endorse the government's policies and programmes outlined in the President's Address.
 - Statement 3 is correct. As the Address reflects the policy position of the Council of Ministers, the defeat of the Motion of Thanks in the Lok Sabha amounts to a loss of confidence in the government.
 - Statement 4 is incorrect. The government is not collectively responsible to the Rajya Sabha. Amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been passed in the Rajya Sabha in the past, but they do not require the Prime Minister to resign.
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2) Which one of the following correctly differentiates the Public Account of India from the Consolidated Fund of India?

- a) The Public Account contains all government borrowings, whereas the Consolidated Fund includes only tax receipts.
- b) Expenditure from the Public Account requires Parliamentary approval, while withdrawals from the Consolidated Fund do not.
- c) Funds in the Public Account are held by the Government in a custodial capacity, and therefore, withdrawals do not need Parliamentary sanction.
- d) The National Small Savings Fund forms part of the Consolidated Fund, whereas Provident Funds are maintained in the Public Account.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Option (a): Incorrect — the Consolidated Fund includes all revenues, loans raised, and loan recoveries; the Public Account holds other public moneys.
 - Option (b): Incorrect — Parliamentary approval is mandatory for withdrawals from the Consolidated Fund, not the Public Account.
 - Option (c): Correct — the Government acts as a trustee/banker for Public Account funds; repayment does not require a vote of Parliament.
 - Option (d): Incorrect — both NSSF and Provident Funds are part of the Public Account.
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3) With reference to the Pennaiyar River water dispute, the Supreme Court recently directed the constitution of a tribunal. Under which provision of the Constitution can a State directly institute a suit in the Supreme Court in such inter-State disputes?

- a) Article 123
- b) Article 131
- c) Article 262
- d) Article 356

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Article 131 confers original jurisdiction on the Supreme Court to adjudicate disputes between two or more States or between the Union and States. In the Pennaiyar River dispute, Tamil Nadu invoked Article 131 to approach the Supreme Court seeking appropriate relief, including the constitution of a tribunal.
- Article 262, although directly related to inter-State river water disputes, empowers Parliament to enact a law for their adjudication. Pursuant to this, the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 provides the mechanism for setting up river water tribunals. In practice, the Supreme

Court often entertains petitions under Article 131 and may subsequently direct the Union Government to act under the 1956 Act.

- Article 123 pertains to the President's ordinance-making power, while Article 356 deals with the imposition of President's Rule, and neither is relevant in this context.

The Pennaiyar dispute—relating to the Markandeya River, a tributary—highlights the continued relevance of Article 131 as the constitutional gateway for States to resolve federal disputes before the Supreme Court

4) Consider the following statements:

1. Statement I: Living Root Bridges are regarded as more resilient than modern steel bridges in the Meghalayan plateau.
2. Statement II: Living Root Bridges are capable of surviving intense floods and storms that often damage or destroy conventional bridges.
3. Statement III: These bridges generally take about 10–15 years to become usable, but once established, they can remain functional for several centuries.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement I is correct. In the high-rainfall environment of the Meghalayan plateau, conventional materials such as wood or steel are vulnerable to decay, corrosion, and flood damage, making Living Root Bridges comparatively more resilient.
 - Statement II is correct and explains Statement I. Because the bridges are formed from living, flexible roots anchored firmly into the soil, they can absorb the force of floods and storms without structural failure, unlike rigid man-made bridges.
 - Statement III is correct and also explains Statement I. Although Living Root Bridges require 10–15 years to become functional, their ability to strengthen over time and endure for centuries greatly enhances their resilience compared to modern bridges with limited lifespans.
 - Thus, both Statements II and III jointly explain why Living Root Bridges are considered more resilient than modern steel bridges in the Meghalayan plateau.
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5) Consider the following statements:

1. Statement I: Western Disturbances are crucial for maintaining water availability in North India during the summer season.
2. Statement II: Snowfall caused by Western Disturbances in the Himalayan region sustains perennial river systems.

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

- a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II correctly 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. Although Western Disturbances occur mainly during winter, their influence extends into summer by supporting river flow in the Indo-Gangetic plains, which is vital for irrigation and drinking water before the monsoon sets in.
- Statement II is correct and explanatory. Western Disturbances bring winter snowfall to the Western Himalayas, which accumulates as snow and glacier ice. The gradual melting of this stored water during spring and summer feeds perennial rivers such as the Indus, Ganga, and Yamuna.
- Thus, winter precipitation from Western Disturbances acts as a natural water reservoir, ensuring sustained river discharge during the dry summer months, directly explaining their role in North India's water security.

6) Which of the following are included in the calculation of National Income in India?

1. Exports of the IT sector
2. Salary of employees
3. Sale of land

How many of the above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- National Income measures the total monetary value of all goods and services produced in a country during a given period.
 - Exports of the IT sector: Included, as they represent the production of services.
 - Salary of employees: Included, as it is a part of factor incomes.
 - Sale of land: Not included, because it is a transfer of an existing asset, not production of new goods or services.
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7) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Special Safeguard mechanism in WTO?

1. It is a tool that will allow developing countries to raise tariffs temporarily to deal with import surges or price falls.
2. It has been included under the Nairobi Package negotiated under the WTO.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer- c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. WTO's Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) is a protection measure allowed for developing countries to take contingency restrictions against agricultural imports that are causing injuries to domestic farmers. It is a tool that will allow developing countries to raise tariffs temporarily to deal with import surges or price falls.
 - Statement 2 is correct. The "Nairobi Package" was adopted at the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference, held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2015. It contains a series of six Ministerial Decisions on agriculture, cotton and issues related to least-developed countries (LDCs). These cover public stockholding for food security purposes, a Special Safeguard Mechanism for developing countries and a commitment to abolish export subsidies for farm exports.
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8) For which of the following industries is industrial licensing compulsory?

1. Distillation and brewing of alcoholic drinks
2. Railway transport
3. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals
4. Atomic energy
5. Electronic aerospace and defence equipment

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 3 and 5 only
- b) 1 and 4 only
- c) 2, 4 and 5 only
- d) 3, 4 and 5 only

Answer: a)

Explanation

- Railway transport and atomic energy are reserved for the public sector, hence industrial licensing does not apply.
 - Compulsory licensing is required for select industries due to environmental, safety, and strategic concerns.
 - These include distillation and brewing of alcoholic drinks, drugs and pharmaceuticals, and electronic aerospace and defence equipment.
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9) Which of the following is/are part of transfer payments?

1. Payment for Services provided abroad
2. Donations from abroad
3. Remittance

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer - d)

Explanation:

- Transfer payments are receipts which the residents of a country receive 'for free', without having to make any present or future payments in return. They consist of remittances, gifts and grants. They could be official or private.
 - The payment for the service provided abroad is not part of transfer payments.
 - Transfer payments – is the payment by the government in grants, allowances, pensions etc to people such as pensioners, widows, sick or unemployed people or others with little or no income.
 - Transfer payment doesn't involve a return of any productive service from the beneficiaries to the government.
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10) Consider the following statements regarding the properties and industrial significance of coking coal:

1. Coking coal has low carbon content and is unsuitable for blast furnace operations.
2. It produces by-products like coke oven gas, tar, and ammonium sulphate, which are useful for various industries.
3. India is self-sufficient in coking coal production due to vast domestic reserves.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. Coking coal has high carbon content, making it ideal for blast furnace operations in steel production.
 - Statement 2: Correct. Coking coal yields valuable by-products such as coke oven gas, tar, benzole, and ammonium sulphate, which are widely used in the chemical and power industries.
 - Statement 3: Incorrect. India is not self-sufficient in coking coal and relies on imports to meet its industrial demand, especially for steel production.
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11) Which among the following is a characteristic of Eurythermal organisms?

- a) They can tolerate and thrive in a wide range of temperatures.
- b) They can only live-in places with extremely low temperatures.
- c) They can tolerate a very narrow range of temperatures.
- d) They go into hibernation during winters.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- **Option a)** is correct: A few organisms can tolerate and thrive in a wide range of temperatures, they are called Eurythermal.
- A vast majority of organisms are restricted to a narrow range of temperatures, such organisms are called stenothermal.
- The levels of thermal tolerance of different species determine to a large extent their geographical distribution.

12) With reference to the SabhaSaar Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is a generative AI platform developed for real-time translation of proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.
2. The initiative is implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj with technical support from the IndiaAI Mission.
3. It aims to automatically generate structured Minutes of Meetings (MoM) from Gram Sabha proceedings.

How many of the above statements are incorrect?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: SabhaSaar is not related to Parliament or the Rajya Sabha. It is an AI-enabled platform meant for Gram Sabhas and Panchayat-level meetings, focusing on grassroots governance.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is the nodal ministry, while the IndiaAI Mission (under MeitY) provides AI and digital infrastructure support.

- Statement 3 is correct: A key objective of SabhaSaar is to convert audio/video recordings into structured Minutes of Meetings (MoM), capturing decisions and resolutions automatically.
 - The initiative strengthens transparency, multilingual accessibility (via Bhashini), and standardised record-keeping in local self-government.
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13) With reference to Satellite Internet technology, consider the following statements:

1. Geostationary (GEO) satellites are well suited for low-latency applications because they remain fixed relative to the Earth.
2. Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites need to operate in large constellations to ensure uninterrupted global coverage due to their limited coverage area and high orbital speed.
3. The requirement of seamless handover between satellites is most critical in Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) satellite systems for continuous connectivity to a stationary user.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Although GEO satellites remain fixed relative to the Earth and cover large areas, their very high altitude (~35,786 km) causes significant signal latency, making them unsuitable for real-time, low-latency services.
 - Statement 2 is correct. LEO satellites operate at much lower altitudes and move rapidly relative to the Earth, resulting in small coverage footprints. To maintain continuous connectivity, they must function as large, interconnected constellations with frequent satellite replacement over a given location.
 - Statement 3 is incorrect. Seamless handover is most critical for LEO systems, where satellites pass over users very quickly. In MEO systems, satellites move more slowly and remain in view longer, reducing the urgency and frequency of handovers.
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14) With reference to Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM), consider the following statements:

1. PAM is a communicable disease that spreads through human-to-human contact.
2. Naegleria fowleri, the causative organism, flourishes in warm freshwater bodies.

3. The infection mainly occurs due to consumption of contaminated water.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation

- Statement 1 is incorrect: PAM is not contagious and does not spread between individuals.
 - Statement 2 is correct: Naegleria fowleri is a thermophilic amoeba found in warm freshwater sources such as lakes, rivers, and inadequately chlorinated pools.
 - Statement 3 is incorrect: Infection occurs when contaminated water enters through the nose during swimming or diving, not by drinking water.
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15) Consider the following statements regarding the “Shanghai Spirit”:

1. It constitutes the core guiding philosophy of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (**SCO**).
2. It stresses principles such as mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, and respect for civilizational diversity.
3. It encourages cooperation aimed at achieving common development among member states.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The “Shanghai Spirit” forms the ideological and normative foundation of the SCO and guides its functioning.
- Statement 2 is correct. It explicitly emphasizes mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality among states, and respect for the diversity of civilizations and development paths.

Statement 3 is correct. The concept also highlights cooperation for shared prosperity and common development, moving beyond zero-sum approaches to international relations.

Thank You

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