

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Classical Languages of India:

Statement I: The Union Government recently accorded Classical Language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali, increasing the total number of Classical Languages in India to eleven.

Statement II: The Linguistic Expert Committee revised the eligibility criteria for Classical Language status by removing the earlier condition that a language must possess an entirely original literary tradition independent of other linguistic traditions.

Statement III: The recognition of Pali and Prakrit is particularly significant because they constitute the principal literary languages of the Buddhist Tripitaka and the Jain Agamas respectively.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (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 of them explains Statement I.
- (c) Only one of Statement II and Statement III is correct, and it explains Statement I.
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement I is Correct:

In October 2024, the Union Cabinet granted Classical Language status to **Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali**, taking the total number of Classical Languages in India to **eleven**. These were added to the previously recognized languages—Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odia.

Statement II is Correct:

The Linguistic Expert Committee revised the eligibility criteria by removing the earlier requirement that a language must possess an entirely **original literary tradition not influenced by another linguistic community**. The revision acknowledged that many ancient Indian languages evolved through extensive literary interaction and cultural exchange. Consequently, languages such as Marathi and Assamese, despite their interconnected literary histories, became eligible for Classical Language status.

Statement III is Correct:

Pali is the canonical language of the **Theravada Buddhist Tripitaka**, while Prakrit forms the principal language of the **Jain Agamas** and several early inscriptions, including many from the Mauryan period. Their recognition reflects their enduring contribution to India's philosophical, religious, and literary heritage.

Both Statements II and III collectively explain Statement I. The revision of eligibility criteria provided the procedural basis for recognition, while the historical and cultural significance of these languages justified their inclusion.

2. Consider the following terms associated with Digital Governance and their corresponding descriptions:

Column A (Term)	Column B (Description)
1. Safe Harbour	A. Conditional legal protection granted to intermediaries against liability for third-party content, subject to compliance with due diligence obligations.
2. AI Incident	B. An occurrence in which an Artificial Intelligence system results in actual harm, including violations of legal rights or fundamental human rights.
3. Deepfake	C. AI-generated synthetic media that manipulates or replaces an individual's likeness, often facilitating misinformation or non-consensual content.
4. Grievance Appellate Committee	D. A government-constituted appellate body empowered to hear appeals against decisions made by Grievance Officers of digital intermediaries.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

All four pairs are correctly matched.

- **Safe Harbour** refers to the conditional legal immunity available to intermediaries for user-generated content, provided they comply with statutory due diligence obligations, including responding to lawful takedown requests.
- **AI Incident** denotes an event in which an AI system causes actual harm, such as discrimination, infringement of legal rights, privacy violations, or other adverse consequences requiring accountability.
- **Deepfake** refers to AI-generated synthetic audio, video, or images that convincingly imitate real individuals, posing risks such as misinformation, identity misuse, electoral manipulation, and non-consensual intimate content.
- **Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC)** is a government-appointed appellate mechanism established to enable users to challenge decisions of intermediaries' Grievance Officers, thereby strengthening digital accountability and user protection.

3. Consider the following regions, the countries associated with them, and their strategic significance:

Column I (Region)	Column II (Countries)	Column III (Strategic Significance)
1. Lithium Triangle	(i) Argentina, Bolivia and Chile	(x) Hosts more than half of the world's known lithium reserves, making it critical for electric vehicle batteries and energy storage technologies.
2. Golden Crescent	(ii) Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan	(y) One of the world's principal regions for illicit opium cultivation, processing and trafficking.
3. Orinoco Belt	(iii) Venezuela	(z) Contains one of the largest known deposits of extra-heavy crude oil globally.

How many of the above combinations are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

All three combinations are correctly matched.

- The **Lithium Triangle**, comprising **Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile**, contains a substantial proportion of the world's lithium resources, particularly within high-altitude salt flats. It is strategically important for the global transition towards electric mobility and renewable energy storage.
- The **Golden Crescent**, encompassing **Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan**, has historically remained one of the world's major centres for illicit opium cultivation and heroin trafficking, with significant implications for regional security and transnational crime.
- The **Orinoco Belt** in **Venezuela** contains one of the world's largest accumulations of extra-heavy crude oil, making it a strategically significant hydrocarbon reserve despite the technological challenges associated with extraction.

4. The 'Monroe Doctrine', frequently referred to in discussions concerning strategic developments in the Western Hemisphere, was originally articulated as a foreign policy doctrine of which one of the following countries?

- (a) United Kingdom
- (b) France
- (c) United States of America
- (d) Russia

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The **Monroe Doctrine**, proclaimed in **1823** by **President James Monroe** of the **United States of America**, declared that the Western Hemisphere was no longer open to European colonization and warned European powers against intervention in the affairs of newly independent states in the Americas.

In return, the United States pledged to refrain from interfering in European political affairs and existing colonial possessions. Over time, the doctrine evolved into a cornerstone of American foreign policy and continues to influence discussions on geopolitical developments in the Western Hemisphere.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):

Statement I: India, along with several developing countries, has challenged the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) at the World Trade Organization, arguing that it functions as a discriminatory trade measure inconsistent with principles of equitable global trade.

Statement II: Carbon leakage refers to the relocation of carbon-intensive production from countries with stringent climate regulations to jurisdictions with comparatively weaker emission-control measures, thereby undermining the effectiveness of climate mitigation efforts.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I.
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement I is Correct:

India and several other developing countries have consistently opposed the European Union's **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** in multilateral forums, including the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**. They contend that CBAM operates as a disguised trade restriction, undermines the principles of non-discrimination and **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)**, and imposes disproportionate compliance costs on developing economies.

Statement II is Correct:

Carbon leakage refers to the shifting of emission-intensive industries from countries with stringent climate policies to those with relatively weaker environmental regulations. Such relocation can offset

the intended environmental benefits of stricter domestic climate policies by merely transferring emissions rather than reducing them globally.

However, **Statement II does not explain Statement I**. While the European Union justifies CBAM as a measure to prevent carbon leakage, India's objections arise primarily from concerns relating to trade equity, developmental priorities, and compatibility with international trade rules rather than disagreement with the concept of carbon leakage itself.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution of India in the light of recent judicial interpretations:

Statement I: The doctrine of **Essential Religious Practices (ERP)** has been developed by the Judiciary to distinguish constitutionally protected religious practices from non-essential or secular activities under Article 25.

Statement II: A State Government may prohibit a religious practice solely on the basis of a perceived apprehension of a law-and-order problem, even in the absence of credible evidence demonstrating an actual threat.

Statement III: Conservation of protected monuments and heritage sites under the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** may constitute a valid ground for regulating secular aspects associated with the exercise of a religious practice, including public access and congregation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement I is Correct:

The **Essential Religious Practices (ERP)** doctrine, evolved by the Supreme Court beginning with the **Shirur Mutt judgment**, enables the judiciary to determine whether a particular practice forms an integral and indispensable part of a religion deserving constitutional protection under Article 25. In a recent case, the Madras High Court relied on this doctrine to hold that lighting the *Deepam* constituted an essential component of the temple's religious tradition.

Statement II is Incorrect:

Although the freedom of religion under Article 25 is subject to **public order, morality, and health**, the judiciary has consistently held that a mere apprehension of disturbance cannot justify the denial of a fundamental right. The State must establish a genuine and substantiated threat rather than rely on speculative concerns. The Madras High Court observed that maintaining law and order is the responsibility of the State and cannot be used as a pretext for curtailing religious freedoms.

Statement III is Correct:

The rights guaranteed under Article 25 are not absolute and may be reasonably regulated. The State,

acting through agencies such as the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, may regulate secular aspects associated with religious practices to protect monuments and heritage sites. Accordingly, while permitting the religious ritual, the Court upheld restrictions on public access to safeguard the protected monument.

7. Consider the following pairs regarding environmental concepts and terms featured in recent developments:

Term/Concept	Associated Context/Definition
1. "Think like a mountain"	An ecological philosophy emphasizing the interdependence of ecosystems, recently invoked in discussions relating to the conservation of the Aravalli Range.
2. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)	A carbon-pricing mechanism imposed on carbon-intensive imports with the objective of preventing carbon leakage.
3. Deepathoon	A large-scale afforestation technique based on seed-bombing, pioneered in the Western Ghats.
4. Green Protectionism	The use of environmental standards or climate regulations to protect domestic industries from international competition.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Pair 1 is Correct:

The phrase "**Think like a mountain**," popularized by conservationist **Aldo Leopold**, advocates an ecological perspective that recognizes the interconnectedness of landscapes, biodiversity, water systems, and ecological processes. It has recently been invoked in the context of conserving the **Aravalli Range**, emphasizing the long-term ecological consequences of fragmented interventions.

Pair 2 is Correct:

The **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** seeks to impose a carbon-equivalent cost on imports originating from jurisdictions with comparatively weaker climate policies. Its stated objective is to prevent **carbon leakage** while ensuring a level competitive playing field for domestic industries complying with stringent emission standards.

Pair 3 is Incorrect:

Deepathoon does not denote a scientifically recognized mass afforestation technique involving seed

bombs pioneered in the Western Ghats. Instead, the term is associated with localized traditional or ecological practices and not with any established afforestation methodology of this nature.

Pair 4 is Correct:

Green Protectionism refers to the use of environmental regulations or sustainability standards as instruments to provide competitive advantages to domestic industries by restricting imports, often under the justification of environmental protection.

8. Which one of the following best explains the principal technological advantage of Vanadium Redox Flow Batteries (VRFBs) over conventional Lithium-ion batteries for large-scale electricity storage?

- (a) VRFBs employ solid-state electrolytes, making them lighter and better suited for portable electronic devices.
- (b) In VRFBs, energy storage capacity and power output can be expanded independently according to operational requirements.
- (c) VRFBs possess a significantly higher energy density, enabling more compact installations than Lithium-ion batteries.
- (d) VRFBs operate through ion intercalation mechanisms that enable faster charging than electrochemical redox reactions.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The defining advantage of **Vanadium Redox Flow Batteries (VRFBs)** lies in the separation of **energy capacity** and **power output**, making them highly suitable for grid-scale energy storage.

Energy is stored in liquid electrolytes containing different oxidation states of vanadium and kept in external storage tanks. The **energy storage capacity** depends on the size and concentration of these electrolyte tanks, whereas the **power output** depends on the dimensions and number of electrochemical cell stacks. Consequently, utilities can increase storage duration without proportionately increasing power-generation components, a flexibility unavailable in conventional Lithium-ion batteries.

- **Option (a)** is incorrect because VRFBs use **liquid electrolytes**, not solid-state electrolytes.
- **Option (c)** is incorrect because VRFBs generally possess **lower energy density** and occupy larger physical space than Lithium-ion batteries.
- **Option (d)** is incorrect because **ion intercalation** is the operating principle of Lithium-ion batteries, whereas VRFBs function through reversible **redox reactions** of vanadium ions.

9. According to the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, which one of the following represents the prescribed approach for the management of stray dog populations by Urban Local Bodies?

- (a) Relocating stray dogs to wildlife sanctuaries to minimize human-animal conflict within urban settlements.
- (b) Conducting selective culling of stray dogs in areas where their population exceeds the ecological carrying capacity.
- (c) Sterilizing and vaccinating stray dogs against rabies, followed by their release into the same locality from which they were captured.
- (d) Permanently housing all stray dogs in shelters administered by the Animal Welfare Board of India.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The **Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023** prescribe the **Catch–Neuter–Vaccinate–Release (CNVR)** approach as the statutory mechanism for controlling stray dog populations.

Under these Rules, stray dogs are to be **captured, sterilized, vaccinated against rabies, and subsequently released back into the same locality** from which they were captured. This approach is based on the territorial nature of dogs; removing them permanently creates vacant territories that are rapidly occupied by other unsterilized and unvaccinated dogs, thereby undermining population control and disease management efforts.

The Supreme Court has reaffirmed that local authorities must adhere to this statutory framework while addressing issues relating to stray dog management.

10. Consider the following statements regarding Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and related international initiatives:

Statement I: The **One Health** approach promoted by the World Health Organization focuses exclusively on regulating antibiotic use within human tertiary healthcare institutions.

Statement II: The **Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS)** has been established primarily to monitor the illicit international trade in counterfeit antimicrobial drugs.

Statement III: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a natural evolutionary process through which microorganisms develop the ability to survive exposure to antimicrobial medicines, thereby reducing the effectiveness of standard treatments.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement I is Incorrect:

The **One Health** approach is a collaborative and multisectoral framework that recognizes the interdependence of **human health, animal health, plant health, and the environment**. It seeks to address antimicrobial resistance across all these sectors rather than limiting its focus to human healthcare facilities.

Statement II is Incorrect:

The **Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS)** is a World Health Organization initiative designed to collect standardized data on antimicrobial resistance patterns and antimicrobial consumption across countries. It is a public health surveillance mechanism and not a system for monitoring counterfeit medicines or illegal cross-border trade.

Statement III is Correct:

Antimicrobial Resistance is a naturally occurring evolutionary phenomenon in which microorganisms survive exposure to antimicrobial agents through genetic adaptation. Although this process occurs naturally, inappropriate and excessive use of antimicrobial medicines significantly accelerates the development and spread of resistance.

11. Consider the following statements regarding the traditional craft of Thewa Art:

Statement I: Thewa Art is a distinctive traditional craft that involves the intricate fusion of finely hand-carved gold sheets onto richly coloured glass using a specialized thermal process.

Statement II: The craft has been accorded **Geographical Indication (GI)** status and is traditionally associated with the **Pratapgarh** region of Rajasthan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement I is Correct:

Thewa Art is a highly specialized form of jewellery-making and decorative craftsmanship in which delicate **23-carat hand-carved gold foil** is permanently fused onto coloured molten glass through a unique thermal process traditionally preserved by artisan families. The technique creates richly ornamented designs while using only a minimal quantity of gold.

Statement II is Correct:

Thewa Art is historically associated with the **Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan**, where the craft has been preserved for generations. Recognizing its unique cultural heritage and safeguarding local artisans from commercial imitation, the craft was granted **Geographical Indication (GI)** status during **2013–14**.

12. Consider the following statements regarding the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Statement I: The Panel has been constituted under the aegis of the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** to function as an independent global scientific advisory body on Artificial Intelligence.

Statement II: Members of the Panel serve a fixed **non-renewable** term with the primary responsibility of defining the technical frontiers of Artificial Intelligence.

Statement III: The Panel is mandated to examine both the scientific dimensions of Artificial Intelligence and the geopolitical negotiations among Member States concerning AI governance.

Statement IV: The Panel is entrusted with assessing the dual-use risks associated with advanced Artificial Intelligence systems, including their potential role in facilitating the development of chemical or biological weapons.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) All four statements are correct.
- (b) Only two statements are correct, including Statement I.
- (c) None of the statements is correct.
- (d) Only one statement is correct.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement I is Correct:

The **Independent International Scientific Panel on AI** has been established under the auspices of the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** as an independent scientific body responsible for providing evidence-based assessments of developments in Artificial Intelligence.

Statement II is Incorrect:

Although members of the Panel serve a **fixed three-year term**, there is **no provision requiring the term to be non-renewable**. Therefore, the statement is factually incorrect.

Statement III is Incorrect:

The Panel's mandate is confined to **scientific and technical assessments** of Artificial Intelligence. It does **not** participate in geopolitical negotiations or intergovernmental policy discussions, which remain the responsibility of Member States through the Global Dialogue process.

Statement IV is Correct:

A key responsibility of the Panel is to evaluate the **dual-use implications** of advanced AI systems, including the possibility that highly capable AI models could accelerate the design or synthesis of chemical and biological weapons and other high-risk technologies.

13. Consider the following statements regarding the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) Rules administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs:

Statement I: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) registered under the FCRA are exempt from disclosing their official websites, social media accounts, and online publications in order to safeguard their right to privacy.

Statement II: Registered associations may utilize foreign contributions to conduct awareness programmes on constitutional rights even when such programmes explicitly promote political or ideological viewpoints.

Statement III: Associations having foreign nationals as key office bearers are ordinarily granted preferential approval under the FCRA to encourage international civil society collaboration.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) All three statements are correct.
- (b) None of the statements is correct.
- (c) Only two statements are correct, including Statement III.
- (d) Only one statement is correct.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement I is Incorrect:

The FCRA Rules require registered organizations to disclose their **official websites, social media handles, and publications**, including books, journals, and annual reports, in the interest of transparency and public accountability. Therefore, no such exemption exists.

Statement II is Incorrect:

Foreign contributions cannot be utilized for programmes that promote **political or ideological agendas**. Educational or awareness activities funded through foreign contributions must remain non-political and comply with the restrictions prescribed under the FCRA framework.

Statement III is Incorrect:

Associations having **foreign nationals** (other than specified exempt categories such as certain Persons of Indian Origin where applicable) as key functionaries are **ordinarily ineligible** for FCRA registration or prior permission unless the Central Government grants a specific exemption. Consequently, they are not accorded preferential or accelerated approval.