DECODE CIVILS

GPSC & OPSC

Prelims References

from Decode Current Affairs

"Hit-ratio 2nd to None"

Screenshots are from Files uploaded on Website & App on 10th April 2026

No backdate editing involved!

For 2 years in a row, I have been able to hit **direct questions from my Current Affairs Module in UPSC Prelims and State PCS**.

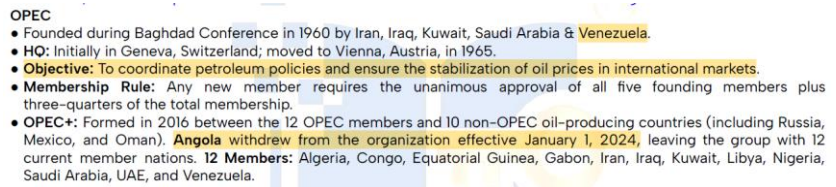
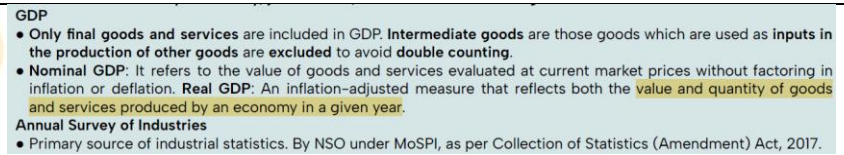
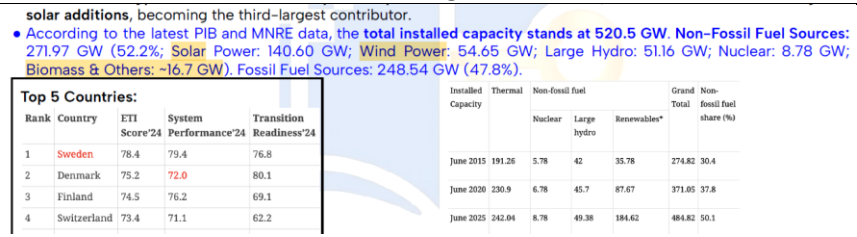
In 2025 UPSC Prelims, there were **28 fully solvable and 9 partially solvable questions** and in 2026 UPSC Prelims there were **30 fully solvable and 10 partially solvable questions** from Current Affairs Module.

In 2025, I primarily used TH Newspaper as source. For 2026, I also referred to IE Newspaper along with TH.

For 2027, sources of Current Affairs Module's Notes shall be The Hindu and Indian Express Newspapers and PIB. Notes will be as comprehensive as I have been providing since 2 years.

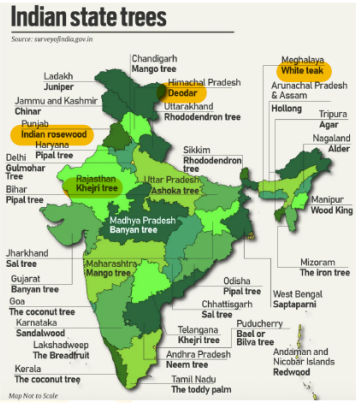
30 fully solvable questions in UPSC Prelims 2026 means that this **Module was very close to hit the expected cut-off.** Target for 2027 is to better the hit-ratio even further.

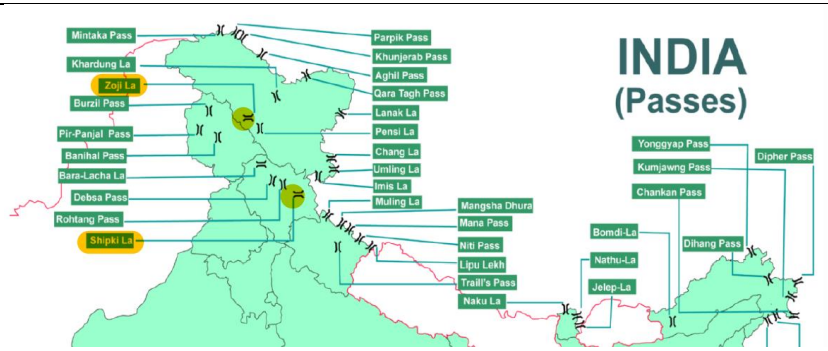
GPSC PRELIMS REFERENCES

S.No.	Q.No.	Question's Screenshot	"Decode Current Affairs" Reference Screenshot & File-Page No.
1	5	5. Consider the following statements regarding OPEC grouping: 1. OPEC mainly influences global oil markets through export quotas instead of production targets. 2. The United Arab Emirates was the first country to withdraw from OPEC. 3. OPEC membership has always been confined only to countries in Asia and Africa whereas the OPEC + group allows membership from other continents as well. How many of the above statements is/are correct? (A) Only one (B) Only two (C) All three (D) None of the above	 OPEC • Founded during Baghdad Conference in 1960 by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia & Venezuela. • **HQ:** Initially in Geneva, Switzerland; moved to Vienna, Austria, in 1965. • **Objective:** To coordinate petroleum policies and ensure the stabilization of oil prices in international markets. • **Membership Rule:** Any new member requires the unanimous approval of all five founding members plus three-quarters of the total membership. • **OPEC+:** Formed in 2016 between the 12 OPEC members and 10 non-OPEC oil-producing countries (including Russia, Mexico, and Oman). **Angola** withdrew from the organization effective January 1, 2024, leaving the group with 12 current member nations. **12 Members:** Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Venezuela. **File 2 Page 184**
2	8	8. _____ is defined as the measure in monetary terms of the volume of all goods and services produced within the geographical boundary of the State during a given period of time. (A) Gross per capita income (B) Gross state domestic product (C) Gross national income (D) Gross value added	 GDP • **Only final goods and services** are included in GDP. **Intermediate goods** are those goods which are used as **inputs in the production of other goods** are **excluded** to avoid **double counting**. • **Nominal GDP**: It refers to the value of goods and services evaluated at current market prices without factoring in inflation or deflation. **Real GDP**: An inflation-adjusted measure that reflects both the value and quantity of goods and services produced by an economy in a given year. **Annual Survey of Industries** • Primary source of industrial statistics. By NSO under MoSPI, as per Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Act, 2017. File 3 Page 35
3	9	9. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct regarding Renewable Energy Installed Capacity in India? 1. Wind energy is second only to solar energy in the Indian renewable sector. 2. Biomass power capacity accounts for around 30% of India's total renewable energy. 3. India ranks among the top three countries in the world in Hydropower Installed Capacity. Choose the correct option from the following. (A) Only 1 (B) Only 1 and 2 (C) Only 2 and 3 (D) 1, 2 and 3	 **solar additions**, becoming the third-largest contributor. • According to the latest PIB and MNRE data, the **total installed capacity stands at 520.5 GW. Non-Fossil Fuel Sources:** 271.97 GW (52.2%; Solar Power: 140.60 GW; Wind Power: 54.65 GW; Large Hydro: 51.16 GW; Nuclear: 8.78 GW; Biomass & Others: ~16.7 GW). Fossil Fuel Sources: 248.54 GW (47.8%). **Top 5 Countries:** Rank / Country / ETI Score'24 / System Performance'24 / Transition Readiness'24 1 Sweden 78.4 79.4 76.8 2 Denmark 75.2 72.0 80.1 3 Finland 74.5 76.2 69.1 4 Switzerland 73.4 71.1 62.2 Installed Capacity / Thermal / Non-fossil fuel (Nuclear, Large hydro, Renewables*) / Grand Total / Non-fossil fuel share (%) June 2015 191.26 5.78 42 35.78 274.82 30.4 June 2020 230.9 6.78 45.7 87.67 371.05 37.8 June 2025 242.04 8.78 49.38 184.62 484.82 50.1 File 3 Page 57

4	16	16. Which of the statement/s given below is/are correct? 1. Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) refers to the Reserve Bank's operations through which it injects/absorbs liquidity into/from the banking system. 2. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) is the penal rate at which banks can lend, on an overnight basis, from the Reserve Bank. 3. Unlike LAF, MSF can be obtained without pledging any collateral securities by the bank. Choose the correct option from the following. (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Only 1 and 3 (D) Only 1 and 2	• **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate**: Rate at which RBI accepts uncollateralised overnight deposits; 25 basis points below the policy repo rate; introduced in 2022 and replaced the fixed reverse repo rate as LAF floor. • **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate**: Penal rate for overnight borrowing by banks dipping into SLR portfolio up to 2% limit; 25 basis points above the repo rate. **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)**: RBI's mechanism to inject/absorb liquidity via overnight and term repo/reverse repo, SDF, MSF, OMOs, forex swaps, and MSS. • **Reverse Repo Rate**: Interest rate at which RBI absorbs liquidity from banks against government securities under LAF; its use is now at RBI's discretion post SDF introduction. **Bank Rate**: At which RBI buys or rediscounts commercial bills; aligned with MSF rate; published under Section 49 of the RBI Act, 1934. • **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)**: Average daily balance banks (Cash) must maintain with RBI as a percentage of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL). **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)**: Banks must maintain specified assets File 3 Page 26
5	17	17. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct about India's nuclear energy programme? 1. India's three-stage nuclear programme is centered on plutonium-based fast breeder reactors. 2. The thorium-based Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) is the main component of India's third stage. 3. Kaiga Atomic Power Station houses India's first Indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR). Select the correct option from the following. (A) Only 1 and 2 (B) Only 2 and 3 (C) Only 1 and 3 (D) 1, 2 and 3	water as coolant and moderator; supplemented by imported Light Water Reactors (LWRs). • **Stage 2:** Involves Fast Breeder Reactors like those at Kalpakkam, using plutonium-based fuel, which can breed U-233 from thorium, enhancing fuel sustainability. Reprocessing of spent fuel is essential in Stage 2 to utilise plutonium and fertile thorium efficiently. • **Stage 3:** Based on the Thorium-U-233 (Th–U233) cycle, aiming to use U-233 in advanced thermal and fast reactors like the Advanced Heavy Water Reactor. Molten Salt Reactors are also being explored as a Stage 3 alternative, enabling long-term energy security through thorium utilisation. File 3 Page 70
6	19	19. Consider the following statements about Ellora: 1. Ellora is a unique art-historical site because it features caves belonging to three religions: Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism. 2. The Kailash temple at Ellora was constructed by assembling large, finely cut stone blocks brought from distant quarries. Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct? (A) Both 1 and 2 (B) Neither 1 nor 2 (C) Only 1 (D) Only 2	**Ellora Caves** • **Ellora Caves**, located in **Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar**, form **one of the largest rock-cut cave complexes in the world**, with artwork dating from **600 AD to 1000 AD**. • Historian urged Maharashtra govt to showcase **lesser known sites at Ellora**, including empty tomb of last Ottoman Caliph, Malik Ambar's tomb, first Peshwa's tomb, and the Sufi and Naga traditions at the caves. • Ellora, **India's first UNESCO World Heritage site**, is renowned for **Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain structures**. • The complex includes the **Kailasa temple**, the **world's largest single monolithic rock excavation**, a **chariot-shaped monument** dedicated to **Lord Shiva**. • **Khultabad** is located on top of hill in the same campus. **Malik Ambar's tomb** is in **Khultabad** along with the **tomb of the first Peshwa**. The stretch between **Ajanta, Ellora, Daulatabad, and Khultabad** was suggested as a potential **"golden quadrangle"** to attract **international tourists**. • The **empty tomb of the last Ottoman Caliph** was built by his daughter who married the **Nizam's son**. File 1 Page 74

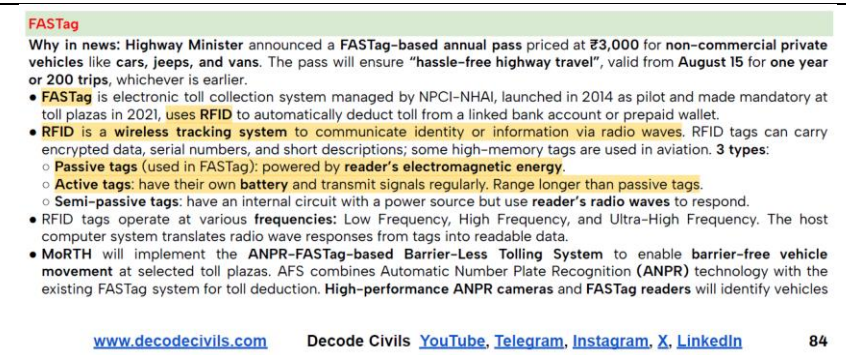
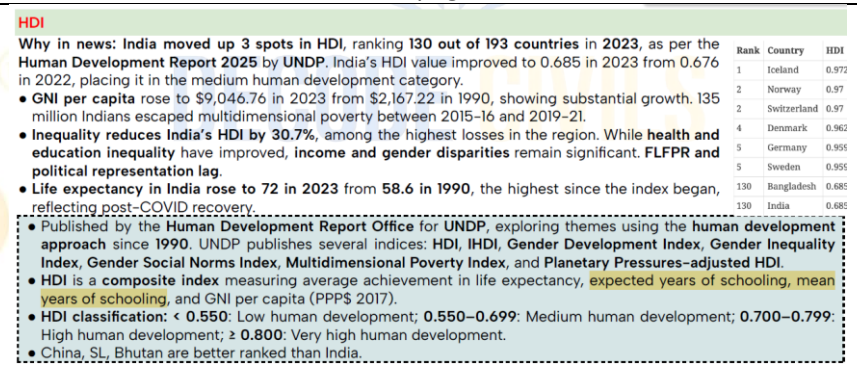
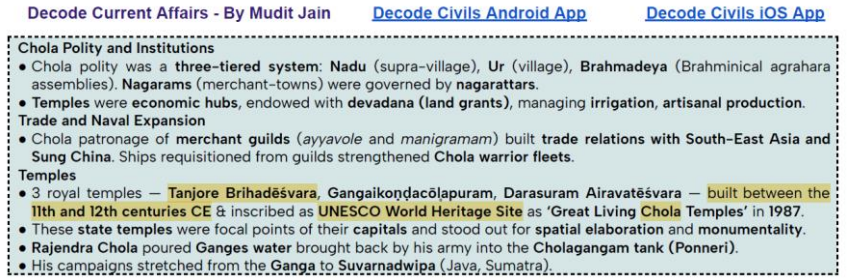
7	27	27. The 'Great Indian Bustard (GIB)' (Ghorad) is frequently seen in the news in the context of wildlife conservation efforts in western India. Consider the following statements regarding this species: 1. Currently, the highest surviving wild population of the Great Indian Bustard in India is located in the semi-arid grasslands of Gujarat. 2. It is a long-distance migratory bird that travels from Central Asia to the Indian subcontinent to escape harsh winters. Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct? (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2	Kutch are not forced to navigate through criss-crossing power lines. • There are fewer than 150 GIB, found only in India, with most in Rajasthan. (It is the state bird of Rajasthan.) • Due to its poor vision, the GIB is at high risk of injury and death from collisions with power lines. • In 2024, SC recalled a 2021 SC order requiring all power lines in GIB habitats to be buried underground. Decision followed concerns about the technical and economic feasibility of burying all power lines. • The Great Indian Bustard is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world and has disappeared from 90% of its habitat, surviving only in parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat. GIBs are the largest among the four bustard species found in India, the others being MacQueen's bustard, lesser florican, and Bengal florican. • GIBs prefer grasslands as their habitats. Being terrestrial birds, they spend most of their time on the ground with occasional flights within their habitat. GIBs feed on insects, lizards, grass seeds, etc. • They are considered the flagship bird species of grassland and barometers of the health of grassland ecosystems. • The IUCN has categorised the GIB as 'critically endangered'. Listed in WPA, 1972 under Schedule I. • Included in Convention on CMS under Appendix & CITES under Appendix I. File 3 Page 231
8	28	28. Consider the following statements regarding the Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32) and types of 'Writs': 1. The writ of 'Mandamus' can also be issued against private individuals. 2. Through the writ of 'Quo warranto', the court can ask by what authority a person holds an office. 3. The writ of 'Prohibition' can be issued only against judicial or quasi-judicial authorities. 4. The Supreme Court can issue writs only for fundamental rights, whereas High Courts can issue writs for other rights as well. Which of the above statements are correct? (A) Only 2, 3 and 4 (B) Only 1 and 2 (C) Only 1, 3 and 4 (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4	Writ jurisdiction and constitutional provisions • SC is vested with power to issue prerogative writs under Article 32, while HCs exercise similar jurisdiction under 226. • These writs trace their origins to English common law where they evolved as extraordinary remedies issued by the sovereign where ordinary legal remedies were unavailable or ineffective. • Constitution recognises five writs — habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari, and quo warranto. • Habeas corpus to secure release from unlawful detention. • Mandamus to compel a public authority to perform a statutory or public duty. • Prohibition to restrain a lower court or tribunal from acting beyond authority. • Certiorari to quash an order of a lower court or tribunal for illegality or lack of jurisdiction. • Quo warranto to question legality of a person's claim to a public office. Scope and limitations of writ powers File 2 Page 29

9	29	29. Consider the following pairs: Tree Species – Associated Forest Type 1. Rosewood (Dalbergia latifolia) – Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests 2. Teak (Tectona grandis) – Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests 3. Khejri (Prosopis cineraria) – Tropical Thorn Forests 4. Sundari (Heritiera fomes) – Littoral and Swamp Forests 5. Deodar (Cedrus deodara) – Mountainous Sub-Tropical Broad-leaves Forests Which of the above pairs are correctly matched? (A) Only 1, 2 and 4 (B) Only 1, 2 and 3 (C) Only 2, 3, 4 and 5 (D) Only 1, 2, 3 and 4	**State Trees** **Why in news:** Every Indian state has a state tree. • **National tree of India is the Banyan tree**, sacred in Hinduism, Buddhism (Kashyapa Buddha) and Jainism (Neminatha); it is also the state tree of **Gujarat** and **MP**. • **Pipal tree**, under which **Gautama Buddha** attained enlightenment and linked to **Parshvanath (23rd Jain Tirthankara)**, is the **state tree of Haryana, Bihar, and Odisha**. • **Sal tree** is the **state tree of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand**; mentioned in **Ramayana** and **Buddha's birth and death**; also linked to **Munisuvrata (20th Tirthankara)**. • **Ashoka tree**, sacred in the **Ramayana**, is the **state tree of UP**, and its flower is the **state flower of Odisha**. • **Khejri or Shami tree**, linked to **Mahabharata**, **warrior traditions**, and **Harappan seals**, is the **state tree of Telangana and Rajasthan**. **Mango tree**, used in rituals, is the **state tree of Maharashtra and Chandigarh**. • **Gulmohar tree**, though introduced only 200 years ago, is regarded as **Delhi's state tree**; in **Kerala Christianity**, its red flowers symbolize **Jesus' blood** (Kaalvarippoo). • **In South India:** ○ Neem tree (sacred to goddesses): Andhra Pradesh; Bael tree (sacred to Shiva): Puducherry; Toddy palm (linked to Balaram): Tamil Nadu; Coconut tree: Goa and Kerala; Sandalwood tree (used for Vishnu worship): Karnataka. • **In the Himalayan region:** Deodar (linked to Shiva): Himachal Pradesh; Chinara (sacred to Sufis): Jammu & Kashmir; Juniper (used in Tibetan Buddhism): Ladakh; Rhododendron (offered to Nandadevi): Sikkim and Uttarakhand • **In Northeast and Islands:** Hollong: Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, Alder: Nagaland, Wood King: Manipur, White Teak: Meghalaya, Redwood: Andaman, Iron tree (sacred in Buddhism): Mizoram, Agar (used for perfume): Tripura, Saptaparni (used for blackboards, linked to Santiniketan): West Bengal, Breadfruit tree (linked to Polynesian seafarers): Lakshadweep.  **Khejri Trees** • Successful agitation by saints and **Bishnoi** community members in Bikaner. Khejri is the official **State tree of Rajasthan**, designated in view of its immense value to the desert ecosystem and rural economy. • **Prosopis cineraria, known as the 'Wonder Tree of the Thar'**, is crucial for arid ecosystem survival. It acts as a **sand dune stabilizer, nitrogen-fixer, and source of fodder/food ("Sangri").** • It faces threats from **solar projects**. File 3 Page 236
10	34	34. With reference to the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in the Harish Rana vs. Union of India case, consider the following statements regarding euthanasia in India: 1. The fundamental right to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution encompasses dignity until death, consequently including the right to die with dignity. 2. While the law permits the withdrawal of life-support systems under strict medical guidelines, the deliberate administration of lethal substances to accelerate a patient's death remains a criminal offense. Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct? (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2	those on the Primary Medical Board. • There is **no dedicated legislation** in India on withholding/withdrawing life-sustaining treatment. But SC's judgment and these guidelines make it clear that **withholding/withdrawing life-sustaining treatment is legal**. • SC in **Common Cause vs Union of India (2018)** recognised **right to die with dignity under Article 21**. • Withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment takes place either through informed refusal by a patient with decision-making capacity or through an advance medical directive ('living will'). **SC in its 2018 judgment** also laid down **framework** for making advance medical directives or living wills and simplified it in 2023. • Living wills are written documents made **by a person of age 18 years or older** with decision-making capacity, expressing their will on how they would wish to be treated if they lose such capacity. • It should detail **at least two surrogate decision-makers** – anyone whom the person trusts, from family to neighbours, who can make decisions on behalf of the person if they lose decision-making capacity. It becomes legal when it is signed in presence of executor and 2 witnesses, and attested before a notary or gazetted officer. • Hospital must notify decisions on withdrawing life-sustaining treatment to the local judicial magistrate. • **Government Medical College Hospital in Kerala's Kollam** district opened a **'Living Will Information Counter'** to spread awareness & became the **first hospital** in the country to establish such a counter. • The distinction between **"active" and "passive" euthanasia** goes beyond the binary of **"act versus omission"**, said SC **judge.** The distinction lies in the **source of the harm that leads to death**, not merely the **nature of the conduct**. • **Active euthanasia** involves causing death by introducing a new, external agency of harm such as a lethal injection. In such cases, death is not the result of the patient's underlying illness but of an intervention. Illegal in India. • **Passive euthanasia** means allowing death to occur. By withdrawing or withholding life support, the physician is not File 2 Page 126

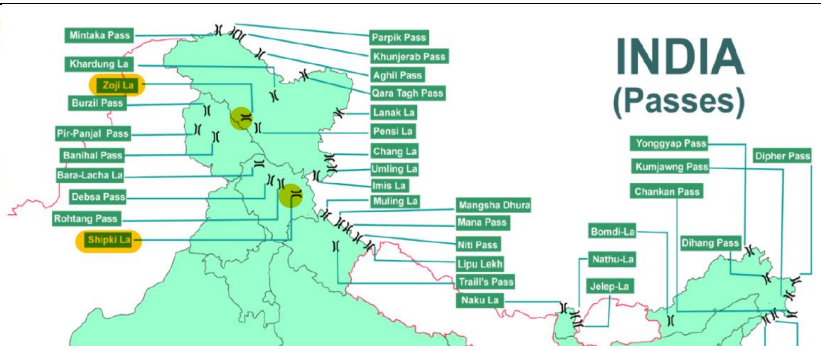
11	36	36. Which of the following mountain passes is/are located in the Zaskar Range of the Himalayas and historically served as a critical trade route connecting the Kashmir Valley with the cold desert of Ladakh? 1. Zoji La 2. Shipki La Choose the correct option from the following. (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) None of the above	 File 1 Page 28
12	53	53. Consider the following statements regarding the technical aspects of ethanol blending: 1. E20 means a blend of 20% ethanol by weight in petrol. 2. Higher ethanol blends may require modifications to the vehicle engine. 3. Ethanol has a lower energy value than petrol. Which of the above statements are correct? (A) Only 1 and 2 (B) Only 2 and 3 (C) Only 1 and 3 (D) 1, 2 and 3	Decode Current Affairs - By Mudit Jain Decode Civils Android App Decode Civils iOS App • **Sources**: C-heavy molasses (28–32%), B-heavy molasses (48–52%), sugarcane juice/syrup/sugar, damaged grains like broken rice/maize, and lignocellulosic biomass. • **Process**: **Fermentation of sugars → ethanol + CO_2** (via invertase and zymase enzymes). • Lower **calorific value** than petrol → less energy per litre. Higher **octane number** than petrol → better knock resistance. • **Ethanol blending** began after the **1970s oil shock**. Promoted as **carbon neutral**. • **India's Case: Import substitution** can save **$10 billion annually**. Gains offset by **$10 billion fertilizer imports**. **Technical and Vehicle Concerns** • **Mileage drop** from E10 → E20 is **minor**, becoming significant only at **higher blends**. • Ethanol is **hygroscopic**, absorbing **water** → causes **corrosion, rust, clogged fuel lines**. • Damages **rubber/elastomer parts** (pipes, tanks, injectors, filters), but not the **combustion chamber**. • **BS-IV/BS-VI vehicles** manage better; issues limited. • **Older carbureted vehicles (pre-2020, ~95%)** lack **ECUs** and cannot adjust to E20. • **ECU-equipped vehicles** adapt **air-fuel ratio** and **spark timing**, reducing **NOx, PM, CO emissions**. For E20, engines may need **spark timing advanced by 2–3°**. Government: replacing **rubber/gaskets** is a **one-time, low-cost fix**. **Impact in India So Far** • Ethanol blending **rose** from 1.5% (2014) to 20% (2025). • **New vehicles (since 2023)** carry E20 compatibility stickers; older ones need material replacement. • **Sugarcane** is **water-intensive** (60–70 tonnes water/tonne), stressing aquifers in Maharashtra and other low-rainfall areas. 30% of India's land degraded (Desertification Atlas 2021). • India adopted **two ethanol-specific norms**, planning **E27** like Brazil. **Types** • **E5:** Contains 5% ethanol and 95% petrol. This was the early standard in India's blending program. • **E10:** Contains 10% ethanol and 90% petrol. Most Indian vehicles manufactured after 2001 are compatible with E10. • **E20:** Contains 20% ethanol and 80% petrol. India achieved nationwide rollout by 2025, five years ahead of the original 2030 target under the **National Policy on Biofuels**. Requires **E20-compliant engines** to avoid long-term damage to rubber and plastic parts. E20 is produced from **sugarcane, rice, and maize**. File 3 Page 63
13	57	57. With reference to the 16th Finance Commission (FC) and its recommendations, consider the following statements: 1. The Finance Commission is a quasi-judicial body whose recommendations regarding the distribution of net proceeds of taxes are legally binding on the Union Government. 2. The Commission has introduced 'contribution to GDP' as a criterion for horizontal devolution, replacing the earlier tax and fiscal effort parameter. 3. Revenue deficit grants, sector-specific grants and state-specific grants have been continued to ensure the fiscal stability of weaker states. Which of the statements given above are incorrect? (A) Only 1 and 2 (B) Only 2 and 3 (C) Only 1 and 3 (D) 1, 2 and 3	• **FC-16** flags shrinking of the **effective divisible pool** due to **cesses and surcharges** but stops short of correcting this. **Horizontal Devolution Formula (16th FC vs 15th FC)** • **Income Distance**: 42.5% (Reduced from 45%). **Population (2011)**: 17.5% (Increased from 15%). • **Area**: **10%** (Reduced from 15%). **Forest & Ecology**: 10% (Retained). • **Demographic Performance**: 10% (Reduced from 12.5%). **Contribution to GDP**: 10% (Replaces Tax-Fiscal Effort) • **Maharashtra**, **Gujarat**, **Karnataka** benefit structurally. **Bihar**, **Jharkhand**, **Uttar Pradesh** do not benefit. • Distribution based on recommendations of the **Finance Commission** constituted under **Article 280**. **Trends in vertical and horizontal devolution** • Till the **13th Finance Commission (2010–15)**, vertical devolution fixed at **32%**. • Since the **14th Finance Commission (2015–20)**, vertical devolution increased to **42%**. • Revised to **41%** in the **15th Finance Commission (2020–26)** due to reorganisation of **Jammu and Kashmir**. • Horizontal devolution since **13th FC** gave higher weight to **equity** and **needs** compared to **efficiency**. • Share of **southern and western States** marginally increased & **big north and central States** decreased. **Changes in grants and debt projections** • **FC16** discontinued **revenue deficit grants**, **sector-specific grants**, and **State-specific grants**. • Projects combined **general government debt** to fall from **77.3% of GDP (2026–27)** to **73.1% (2030–31)**. File 2 Page 40 and 41

14	59	59. Consider the following statements regarding the winter atmospheric circulation over India: 1. Western Disturbances are shallow cyclonic depressions originating over the eastern Mediterranean Sea and traveling eastward across the Middle East. 2. The steering mechanism that brings these Western Disturbances to the Indian subcontinent is the Tropical Easterly Jet Stream. 3. The precipitation brought by these disturbances is highly beneficial for the Rabi crops in the northwestern plains of India. Which of the above statements are correct? (A) Only 1 and 2 (B) Only 1 and 3 (C) Only 2 and 3 (D) 1, 2 and 3	Implications • Winter precipitation is vital for **rabi crops** in the plains. • Snow or rainfall at higher altitudes is key for **groundwater aquifer recharge**. • Lack of moisture has led to **forest fires**, including in the **Valley of Flowers range in Nanda Devi National Park**. • With Himalayan glaciers experiencing sustained **mass loss**, declining snow persistence and reduced winter precipitation could worsen the crisis. • **Western Disturbances** are **east-moving rain-bearing wind systems** that originate beyond **Afghanistan and Iran**, and pick up moisture from the **Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea and the Arabian Sea**. • These are examples of **extra-tropical cyclones** that are a result of **low-pressure areas formed due to the interactions between polar and tropical winds**. • Western Disturbances are embedded within the **subtropical westerly jet stream**: a **high-altitude, fast-moving air current that flows from west to east in the Earth's atmosphere** that lies over the **Himalayan and Tibetan highlands**. They are most common during the **boreal winter months (December to March)**. • They influence weather over **India**, particularly the **northwestern regions, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan**. File 1 Page 48
15	60	60. Consider the following statements about domestic capital formation: 1. Domestic capital formation depends on domestic saving and capital inflow 2. The rate of domestic capital formation in India is estimated as a percentage of GDP Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct? (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2	GDP Growth • Data released by the **MoSPI**. The sharply higher-than-expected GDP came on the back of a **very low deflator**. • The **lower nominal GDP growth** would make it more difficult for the government to achieve its **fiscal deficit target of 4.4%**, which had been pegged to a **nominal growth of 10.1%**. • There has been **no upswing in Gross Fixed Capital Formation**, and high GDP growth rates are **not sustainable** without renewed momentum in **private investmentf**. • The **unrealistically low GDP deflator**, implying **inflation of only 0.5%**, is at complete variance with the experience of households facing **crushing price rise**. • **Outdated base year** and high **weightage of food in CPI** have prevented India from accurately capturing **price movements**, impairing the **RBI's monetary policy**. • The biggest issue with national accounts statistics is the **inability to accurately capture the informal sector** because it consists of **unregistered and cash-based entities**. • **Services sector**, contributing **60% of GDP**, grew by **9.2%**. • **GDP Deflator** is the "ultimate" inflation gauge that shows how much the prices of everything produced in a country have risen. CPI (Retail Inflation) only tracks a "basket" of goods consumers buy (like milk, rent, and fuel). GDP Deflator tracks every single thing produced in the economy—including machinery, bridges, exports, and government services. GDP Deflator = (Nominal GDP/Real GDP)*100. • **GFCF** is a measure of the total investment made in an economy toward "fixed assets" i.e. buildings, infra etc. High GFCF indicates that businesses and the government are confident about the future. In India, GFCF has been the "heavy lifter" of GDP, currently hovering around 34-35% of GDP. File 3 Page 35
16	64	64. With reference to the four new 'Labour Codes' enacted by the Parliament of India, consider the following statements: 1. Since "Labour" is a subject enumerated in the Union List of the Seventh Schedule, the Central Government has uniformly implemented the Codes across all states via an executive order. 2. The Code on Wages, 2019, restricts the guarantee of a minimum wage to workers engaged exclusively in the organized sector and specific 'scheduled employments'. Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct? (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2	Decode Current Affairs - By Mudit Jain Decode Civils Android App Decode Civils iOS App • Although passed between **2019 and 2020**, implementation had been **held back due to protests from trade unions**. **Background** • **Second National Commission on Labour** recommended consolidation into broader functional codes. **Labour** is in the **Concurrent List**, requiring both **Centre and States** to frame Rules. • ~~The Centre published draft Rules in 2020. As of 2025, 32 States and Union Territories have pre-published draft Rules~~ **Worker-Centric Provisions** • Universal minimum wages, a national floor wage, and mandatory appointment letters for all workers. • Timely payment of wages and clarity on working hours, including a 48-hour work week. • Gender-neutral pay, equal remuneration, and prohibition of discrimination against women and transgender persons. • Provident Fund and State insurance coverage extended to all workers, including gig and platform workers. • The Code on Social Security provides universal ESIC coverage without geographic restriction, streamlined EPF procedures, simplified construction cess payments, and establishes a National Social Security Fund. The **Union** PF contributions by employers and employees in excess of the statutory monthly wage ceiling of ₹15,000 are voluntary. • The OSHWC Code strengthens safety through safety committees, free preventive health check-ups, and improved workplace standards. Women are permitted to work at night with consent and adequate safety measures. **Compliance Simplification and Enterprise Benefits** • Shift to single registration, single licence, and single return, reducing annual compliance, especially for MSMEs. • Uniform definition of wages reduces disputes. • Decriminalisation of minor offences promotes trust-based compliance. • Increased use of digital processes, including algorithm-based inspections. • Free market advocates have argued that earlier labour laws were a hindrance to India's growth potential. **Workforce Profile and Future of Work** • India has **643mn workers**, among **largest and youngest workforces**. • India is expected to contribute **66% of new global workforce entrants**. • Between **2017–24, 16.83 crore jobs** were created, and **unemployment declined from 6% to 3.2%**. • **Gig and platform workers** are covered PRE-LABOUR REFORMS / POST-LABOUR REFORMS Formalisation of employment: No mandatory appointment letters. / Mandatory appointment letters to all workers to ensure transparency, job security, and formalisation. Social Security Coverage: Limited social security coverage / Under the Code on Social Security, gig & platform workers will also get social security coverage Minimum wages: Minimum wages only for scheduled industries; large sections of workers not covered / Code on Wages introduced concept of floor wage, provides workers statutory right of minimum wage payment

			File 3 Page 49
17	67	67. The Union Budget 2026-27 introduces the concept of 'Orange Economy'. To which one of the following is this term related to? (A) Cultivation and exports of best quality oranges from Maharashtra (B) Creative industries like animation and comics (C) Manufacturing and maintenance of black box of aircraft which is orange in color (D) Cultivation and exports of sunflowers from North India	Schemes and Policies Orange Economy Why in news: Aka **Creative Economy**, it is **economic activity based on creativity, culture, and intellectual property**. • It **transforms ideas, talents, and cultural heritage into goods and services**. It includes Media & Entertainment, Advertising and Marketing, Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) etc. • UN declared 2021 as the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development. • Valued at **$35 billion**, employing **8% of its workforce**, second only to agriculture. Exports exceed $11 billion annually. • World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 was inaugural edition. Organized by the Ministry of I&B at Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. • India has over **300 universities** and **3,000 colleges** offering courses in **design, arts, and architecture**. Six of India's top 10 creative hubs are located in **non-metro regions**, showcasing cultural diversity. File 2 Page 137
18	73	73. Primary deficit is the difference between _____ (A) Revenue deficit and interest payments. (B) Total revenue receipts and total revenue expenditure. (C) Revenue deficit and non-debt creating capital receipts. (D) Fiscal deficit and interest payments.	Budget – Formulation • **Expenditure** ◦ **Capital Expenditure**: Used for **asset creation** (e.g., constructing schools, hospitals). ◦ **Revenue Expenditure**: Includes **salaries, subsidies, interest payments**, does not create assets. ◦ Classified into: **General services, Economic services** (transport, rural development, agriculture), **Social services** (education, health) and **Grants-in-aid & contributions.** • **Receipts** ◦ **Revenue Receipts**: Includes **tax and non-tax income**, does not increase liabilities. ◦ **Non-Debt Capital Receipts**: Includes **loan recovery, disinvestment proceeds**. ◦ **Debt-Creating Capital Receipts**: Leads to **higher liabilities and future payment commitments**. • **Deficit Indicators** ◦ **Fiscal Deficit** = Total Expenditure – (Revenue Receipts + Non-Debt Capital Receipts). ◦ **Primary Deficit** = Fiscal Deficit – Interest Payments. ◦ **Revenue Deficit** = Fiscal Deficit – Capital Expenditure. File 3 Page 98
19	79	79. Examine the following statements regarding the composition and jurisdiction of the Delimitation Commission: 1. The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission. 2. The orders of the Delimitation Commission regarding seat boundaries cannot be challenged in any court. 3. To date, the Delimitation Commission has been constituted 4 times in India (1952, 1963, 1973, 2002). 4. By the Constitutional Amendment, the number of Lok Sabha seats has been frozen until 2026. Which of the above statements are correct? (A) Only 1 and 2 (B) Only 2, 3 and 4 (C) Only 1 and 4 (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4	Delimitation: • **J&K Delimitation Commission**, in 2022, increased seats in Assembly by 7, taking total number of seats to 90, under **Delimitation Act, 2002** and **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019.** Jammu now has 43 seats, and Kashmir 47. • **Delimitation mandate**: Article 82 requires recalibration of Lok Sabha seats per State after each Census. www.decodecivils.com Decode Civils YouTube, Telegram, Instagram, X, LinkedIn 49 Decode Current Affairs - By Mudit Jain Decode Civils Android App Decode Civils iOS App • **Last delimitation**: Based on 1971 Census; suspended in 1976 by Indira Gandhi for 25 years, until 2001. Vajpayee government extended suspension by another 25 years, lapsing in 2026 (84th amendment) unless amended to avoid penalizing States successful in population control. • **Delimitation Commission:** Established under Delimitation Acts, not directly by Constitution; functions under Article 82 (Parliamentary seats) & Article 170 (State Assemblies); To redraw boundaries of Lok Sabha & SLA constituencies based on the latest Census; **Composition:** Retired SCjudge (Chair), Chief Election Commissioner, Respective State Election Commissioners; Decisions have force of law and cannot be challenged in court. Appointed by the President of India; Identifies seats to be reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In India, **gerrymandering** refers to the **manipulation of electoral constituency boundaries** to favor a particular political party or group. File 2 Page 49-50

20	82	82. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true regarding "Fast Tag" (RFID technology) used at toll plazas? 1. It utilizes Active RFID tags that require an internal battery source to transmit signals to the toll reader. 2. It operates on the principle of electromagnetic induction to exchange data between the vehicle's tag and the reader. Choose the correct option from the following. (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2	 File 3 page 84
21	95	95. The education dimension of Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite of two indicators. Which are these two indicators? (A) Mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling (B) Male literacy rate and female literacy rate (C) Number of schools and number of universities (D) Primary school enrollment and enrollment in universities	 File 3 Page 100
22	98	98. Consider the following statements regarding the famous Brihadeshwara Temple of Thanjavur: 1. The temple was constructed during the period of the Chalukya dynasty, showcasing their distinct architectural style. 2. Detailed descriptions of this magnificent temple are prominently found in ancient Sangam literature. 3. It is officially recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Which of the above statement/s is/are correct? (A) Only 1 and 2 (B) Only 3 (C) Only 2 and 3 (D) 1, 2 and 3	 File 1 Page 79

23	103	103. Which of the following best describes the core operational strategy of the Bhashini Mission launched by the Government of India? (A) It is a central database designed to replace English with Hindi as the primary language for all e-governance transactions. (B) It is an ecosystem that utilizes a crowdsourcing initiative called 'Bhasha Daan' to collect diverse language datasets to train AI models. (C) It is a hardware-based project aimed at distributing indigenous, low-cost smartphones pre-loaded with translation software to rural areas. (D) It is a regulatory body established to monitor and censor regional language content on social media platforms.	Act, 1993). India has **2,55,397 village panchayats** (MoPR data). (LSG = State List, Entry 5). • **BHASHINI** launched by **PM (2022)** under the **National Language Technology Mission**. Aims to provide **translation services in 22 scheduled Indian languages** to break **linguistic barriers** and improve **digital access**. • **AI-based language translation tool** enabling **real-time translation** across Indian languages. • Seeks to build a **National Public Digital Platform for languages** and increase **Indian language content online**. • Designed to **integrate technology in governance** with **multi-language support**. • Promotes **national integration, inclusivity, and digital empowerment** using **AI tools**. **Other digital initiatives for Gram Panchayats:** • **eGramSwaraj** is a **web-based portal** for **transparency in decentralized planning, progress reporting, financial management, work-based accounting, and asset details**. • **AuditOnline** launched to ensure **timely audit of Panchayat accounts** and for **maintaining audit records**. • **Common Service Centres (CSCs)** set up in rural areas and Gram Panchayats to provide **citizen-centric services online**. CSCs function through a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and IT**. File 2 Page 79
24	105	105. In the context of India, what do the terms 'Jarawa', 'Onge', 'Sentinelese' and 'Shompen' refer to? (A) Traditional musical instruments played by the Dang tribes. (B) Tribal communities found in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. (C) Major harvest festivals celebrated by the tribes in Nagaland. (D) Names of traditional tribal administrative councils in Jharkhand.	**Great Nicobar Project** • **EIA** study for ₹72,000-crore **Great Nicobar Project** downplays risk of future earthquakes and tsunamis. NGT has cleared the ₹92,000-cr. Great Nicobar project. • **Andaman-Sumatra fault line** remains vulnerable, and knowledge of which **stretches could rupture** is still insufficient. • **GNIP includes a transshipment port, international airport, township development, 450 MVA gas and solar power plant. Great Nicobar** is the **southernmost** and largest of **Nicobar Islands**. • The island overlooks the western entrance of the Strait of Malacca, a narrow shipping lane through which around 40% of the world's trade and most of China's energy imports pass. • Nearly 75% of India's transshipment cargo is currently handled by ports outside the country. • **Indira Point**, India's **southernmost point**, is only **90 nautical miles** from **Sabang**, northern **Sumatra**. • Great Nicobar has **2 national parks, biosphere reserve**, home to the **Shompen** (PVTG) and **Nicobarese** tribes (more assimilated), alongside a few thousand settlers. **16,510 coral colonies** near the project must be **translocated.** File 3 Page 206
25	106	106. Consider the following statements about Gaganyan Mission: 1. Gaganyan Mission aims at human lunar journey. 2. Gaganyan Mission aims at human space travel. 3. 'Hindustan Aeronautics Limited' is directly involved in the work of Gaganyan Mission. 4. Indian astronauts have made a journey into space under Gaganyan Mission. Which of the above statements is not correct? (A) Only 1 and 4 (B) Only 2 and 4 (C) Only 1 and 3 (D) Only 2 and 3	**Gaganyaan** **Why in news: ISRO expects Gaganyaan mission** to launch **Indian astronauts into space in the first quarter of 2027**. • The mission will be **preceded by three test launches** — two uncrewed and one with a robot. The revamped Gaganyaan programme includes eight missions, both crewed and uncrewed, to be completed by **2028**. • The first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission, with **robot Vyommitra on board**, is expected later this year; 90% of infrastructure and tests are ready, and all propulsion systems are in place. • **Gaganyaan** aims to **demonstrate human spaceflight capability** by launching a crew of **3 members** into a **400 km orbit** for a **3-day mission**. Crew will return to Earth, landing in **Indian sea waters**. • **Well Deck Trials:** ISRO & Navy, successfully conducted well deck trials of the Gaganyaan mission's crew module to ensure the crew module can be recovered quickly and with minimal discomfort once it touches down in the sea. **HLVM3**: • ISRO has begun assembling **Human Rated Launch Vehicle Mark-3** for maiden uncrewed flight of Gaganyaan. • Gaganyaan-G1, the **first of three uncrewed test missions**, aims to simulate an actual human spaceflight. It will place the orbital module in a **170 km x 430 km elliptical orbit**, which will later be circularized. • **Components**: S200 motors, L110 and C32 stages, Crew escape system elements, Crew Module, Service Module & Orbital Module. The **crew module** integration is progressing and will undergo thermo-vacuum tests at **U.R. Rao Satellite Centre** before final integration with the service module. • The mission will flight-test **Vyommitra**, a humanoid robot developed by the **ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU)**. • Two additional uncrewed missions, **G2 and G3**, are planned before the **manned mission**. File 3 Page 122

26	117	117. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true regarding the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) spearheaded by DRDO? 1. The program aimed at self-reliance in missile technology and resulted in the development of five missile systems: Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Akash and Nag. 2. Nag is a third-generation 'fire-and-forget' Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) that utilizes an Imaging Infra-Red (IIR) seeker for target acquisition. Choose the correct option from the following. (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2	trajectory, and **launches missiles** from a **command vehicle**. • **Akash SAM** was developed by **DRDO** starting in the **late 1980s** under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme**. **Akash** is a **Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (SRSAM)** system designed to protect **vulnerable areas** and **simultaneously engage multiple targets**. It has **Electronic Counter-Counter Measures (ECCM)** to resist electronic deception and is deployed on a **mobile platform**. • **MRSAM** (Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile) is **jointly developed by DRDO and Israel**. MRSAM is designed to NAMIS & GBMES **Why in news: Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** chaired by **Defence Minister** approved **capital acquisition proposals worth around ₹79,000 crore** aimed at strengthening the operational capabilities of the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**. • For the **Army**, the DAC accorded **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for the procurement of the **Nag missile system (tracked) Mk-II (NAMIS)**. It is indigenous "tank killer" for the Indian Army, a "Fire-and-Forget" Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) developed by DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). • The Army will also procure the **ground-based mobile ELINT System (GBMES)**. It will provide **round-the-clock electronic intelligence** on **enemy emitters** File 3 Page 262 and 269
27	132	132. Nathu La pass on the India-China border is located in which state? (A) Jammu and Kashmir (B) Uttarakhand (C) Himachal Pradesh (D) Sikkim	 File 1 Page 28
28	133	133. Consider the following in relation to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA): 1. It primarily deals with safety issues in civil aviation. 2. It is responsible for the regulation of air transport services. 3. Its headquarters are in Bengaluru. 4. It coordinates with the Indian Air Force for its day-to-day functions. Which of the above statements are correct? (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (B) Only 1, 2 and 3 (C) Only 1 and 2 (D) Only 1, 2 and 4	causes and preventing future accidents. **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS):** • It is a regulatory authority under the Ministry of Civil Aviation responsible for civil aviation security in India. • Formulates security standards, conducts audits & inspections, trains aviation security personnel, implements advanced security technologies at airports. Safeguards civil aviation against unlawful interference. • **DGCA** is the statutory (Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020) regulatory body for civil aviation, operating under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. It primarily oversees aviation safety, licensing, and airworthiness standards. **Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)** • Statutory body under India's Ministry of Civil Aviation responsible for conducting independent investigations into File 3 Page 87

29	148	148. Consider the following statements regarding Aravallis: 1. The region is home to important lakes and wetlands including Sambhar, Sultanpur, Pushkar, Fatehsagar and Jaisamand. 2. It is one of the main watersheds, separating the drainage of the Bay of Bengal, through rivers like Chambal and other tributaries of the Yamuna, from that of the Arabian Sea through the Mahi, Sabarmati, Luni and other rivers. 3. The mountain range is home to lead, zinc, copper, gold, tungsten and has reserves of critical minerals such as tin, graphite, molybdenum, niobium, nickel, lithium and rare earth elements (REEs). These are considered to be of strategic relevance for energy transition, high-technology manufacturing and national security. 4. Rocks in the Aravallis are highly fractured, weathered and porous, allowing rainwater to percolate deep into the ground instead of running off the surface. Any disruption to this recharge system, through mining, construction or deforestation poses a direct and serious threat to regional water availability. 5. The Aravalli hills and range are 'green lungs' of North-Western India and serve as the indispensable ecological and socio-economic backbone of the region, functioning as the primary geographical barrier separating the arid North-Western desert from the fertile Northern Indian plains. Which of the above statements are correct?	Aravali Hills • The **government declared** that **Aravalli hills with elevation below 100 metres** are **not subject to mining restrictions**. • **90% of the Aravalli range falls below the 100-metre threshold**. • Stretching from Gujarat through Rajasthan to Haryana & Delhi, it is nearly two billion years old, making it India's oldest mountain range and acts as an ecological barrier preventing desertification of the Indo-Gangetic plains. • It arrests the eastward spread of the Thar Desert into Haryana, Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh. • Plays a role in climate stabilisation, biodiversity conservation, and groundwater recharge. • Supports water-recharge systems and is the source of rivers such as Luni, Sabarmati, Banas, and Sahibi. www.decodecivils.com Decode Civils YouTube, Telegram, Instagram, X, LinkedIn 197 Decode Current Affairs - By Mudit Jain Decode Civils Android App Decode Civils iOS App • Rich in **sandstone, limestone, marble, granite**, and minerals such as **lead, zinc, copper, gold and tungsten**. Excessive quarrying for **stone and sand** has led to **declining groundwater recharge** and **deteriorating air quality**. **Definition of Aravalli Hills and Ranges** • **FSI (2010)** defined Aravalli hills using criteria such as **slope >3°, 100 m foothill buffer**, and **500 m inter-hill distance**. • **SC-appointed committee** ruled that only hills **100 metres or more above local relief** qualify as **Aravalli hills**. File 3 Page 197 and 198
30	149	149. What is the primary technical objective of the Second Stage of India's Three-Stage Nuclear Power Programme? (A) To utilize natural uranium to produce electricity and Plutonium-239. (B) To use Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) to burn Plutonium-239 and breed more fuel from a Thorium blanket. (C) To utilize India's vast Thorium reserves directly in Advanced Heavy Water Reactors (AHWR). (D) To focus exclusively on the enrichment of Uranium-235 for export to the global market.	water as coolant and moderator; supplemented by imported Light Water Reactors (LWRs). • **Stage 2:** Involves Fast Breeder Reactors like those at Kalpakkam, using plutonium-based fuel, which can breed U-233 from thorium, enhancing fuel sustainability. Reprocessing of spent fuel is essential in Stage 2 to utilise plutonium and fertile thorium efficiently. • **Stage 3:** Based on the Thorium-U-233 (Th–U233) cycle, aiming to use U-233 in advanced thermal and fast reactors like the Advanced Heavy Water Reactor. Molten Salt Reactors are also being explored as a Stage 3 alternative, enabling long-term energy security through thorium utilisation. File 3 Page 70
31	153	153. In which of the following cases did the Supreme Court hold that the right to privacy is a Fundamental Right? (A) M.C Mehta v. Union of India (B) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) v. Union of India (C) Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (D) Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India	Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 • The **Union government** notified large parts of the **DPDP Act, 2023**, a step forward in compliance with the **Supreme Court's 2017 K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India judgment**, affirming the **right to privacy**. • The law, passed in **2023** in **Parliament**, requires firms to **safeguard digital data** of citizens, provides **exemptions** for the **State and its instrumentalities**, and prescribes **penalties** for firms that breach these obligations. • **Data fiduciaries** will have time until **November 2026** to comply with some provisions, such as publishing details of their designated **Data Protection Officer (DPO)**. • Triggers the formation of the **Data Protection Board of India (DPBI)** and Closer to compliance With key parts of the DPDP Act now notified, the government edges closer to enforcing the 2017 Supreme Court privacy judgment and strengthening protections for Indians' personal data report and a draft data protection Bill Dec. 2022: A fresh File 2 Page 54

32	155	155. Regarding India's engagement with global nuclear regimes, which of the following statement(s) is/are true? 1. India is a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). 2. India is a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group. Choose the correct option from the following. (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2	• NPT came into force in 1968, recognising only five nuclear weapon states (US, UK, Russia, France, China). India did not sign the NPT, opposing its discriminatory nature, which bars others from acquiring nuclear weapons. • MTCR, established in 1987, is an informal political understanding among 35 member states to limit missile and missile technology proliferation; India joined in 2016, while China is not a member. • Australia Group is an informal forum that harmonises export controls to prevent spread of chemical & biological weapons; India became the 43rd member in 2018. • Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), formed in 1996, promotes transparency and responsibility in arms and dual-use technology transfers; India joined in 2017 as the 42nd Participating State and incorporated its lists into the Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment, and Technologies (SCOMET) framework. • Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), comprising 48 nations, was created post-India's 1974 nuclear tests to regulate nuclear exports and prevent weapons proliferation; members are admitted by consensus only. India has sought NSG membership since 2008 to participate in global nuclear commerce. Not a member yet. • NPT limits nuclear weapons state status to countries that tested before January 1, 1967, thereby excluding India, Israel, and Pakistan. Due to its non-NPT status, India was earlier denied nuclear technology until the US-India Civil File 3 Page 164
33	163	163. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Judiciary: 1. The procedure for the removal of a Supreme Court judge is mentioned in the Constitution. 2. The procedure for the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court is given in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. 3. The procedure for the removal of a Supreme Court judge is stated in the Collegium system. Which of the above statement(s) is/are true? (A) Only 2 (B) Only 1 and 2 (C) 1, 2 and 3 (D) Only 3	Judge Removal Why in news: Motion for removal requires the support of at least 100 MPs in the Lok Sabha or 50 MPs in Rajya Sabha. • The Constitution doesn't use the word impeachment but describes the process under Article 124(4) for SC judges and Article 218 for High Court judges. Removal of a judge is governed by Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. • Article 124(5) provides that Parliament may make law to regulate the procedure for the investigation of the charges against the judge. Accordingly, Parliament enacted the Judges (Inquiry) Act in 1968. • The term 'impeachment' is used only in the context of the removal of the President of India from office (Article 61). • Article 121 prohibits discussions in Parliament about the conduct of Supreme Court and High Court judges while they are in the discharge of their duties, with the exception of a motion for the removal of a judge. File 2 Page 65
34	174	174. Consider the following statements: 1. When the temperature decrease in the South Pacific Ocean, India receives deficient rainfall. 2. El Niño is an important factor in the drought situation in India. 3. El Niño is a warm current that flows along the coast of Peru in December. Which of the above statement/s is/are correct? (A) Only 1 (B) Only 1 and 2 (C) Only 2 and 3 (D) 1, 2 and 3	• Climate change impacts such as polar warming and cyclone trends affect timing and distribution of monsoon. • ENSO and IOD influence monsoon patterns through sea surface temperature variations. El Nino, with warmer eastern Pacific waters, usually leads to reduced rainfall over India, while La Nina supports better monsoon rains. • A positive IOD—when the Arabian Sea is warmer than the Bay of Bengal—is favourable for Indian monsoon. • North America influences and strengthens monsoon over South Asia. During summer, North America warms, altering global air circulation patterns. This warming enhances the North Pacific high-pressure system and shifts the Hadley circulation (Hadley circulation (Hadley cell) is a large-scale tropical circulation with warm air rising at the equator, moving poleward at 12–15 km altitude, cooling and descending near 25° latitude, and returning equatorward near the File 1 Page 46 • This is the third sighting this year — earlier seen in Gurez valley and Heerpora in Shopian district. • The Lidder River is a tributary of the Jhelum River. • The Lidder River originates from the Kolahoi Glacier in the upper Pir Panjal range, Jammu and Kashmir. • The Jhelum River (252 km) originates from a spring at Verinag, near the Pir Panjal range. • The Jhelum flows through Wular Lake in Srinagar before entering Pakistan. • It finally joins the Chenab River near Jhang in Pakistan. File 3 Page 219

35	193	193. With reference to the recently established 'Board of Peace' concerning the Gaza conflict, consider the following statements: 1. The 'Board of Peace' is a specialized international body chaired by the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General. 2. India attended the inaugural meeting of the 'Board of Peace' in Washington D.C. as an observer. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2	**Gaza Peace Plan** • **U.S. resolution**, passed by the **UNSC**, authorises an **international stabilisation force** to provide **security in Gaza**. • It also approves a **transitional authority** to be overseen by **President Trump** and envisions a **possible future path to an independent Palestinian state**. • The vote endorsed **Mr. Trump's 20-point ceasefire plan. Russia** and **China** abstained at UNSC. • From **Trump's 20-point peace plan for Gaza** to the **on-and-off ceasefire**, an unmarked boundary called the **Yellow Line** has gained attention. The **Yellow Line** is set out in the **agreement between Israel and Hamas**. • It is an **unmarked boundary** dividing the **Israeli-held part of Gaza** from the **rest**, described as a **"new border"**. • The **Yellow Line** has remained a **flashpoint**, with **violence and ceasefire violations** reported along the demarcation. • Trump invited India to Board of Peace for Gaza i.e. to provide governance structure for Gaza Strip. • Gaza will be administered by **"temporary transitional governance of Palestinian committee"**, which will consist of Palestinian and international experts. This transitional outfit will be supervised by the Board of Peace, to be **headed by Trump** and include "other members and heads of state", as well as UK's former **PM Tony Blair.** • Board of Peace is expected to handle funding for the **"redevelopment of Gaza"** till the Palestinian Authority has completed a "reform programme". U.S. is expected to work with international partners to develop a "temporary" **International Stabilisation Force (ISF)** to be deployed in Gaza. ISF is not a peacekeeping force under UN. • India participated in the first meeting of the Board of Peace for Gaza in Washington D.C. as an **"observer"**. • India has supported the efforts underway due to **UNSC resolution 2803** (endorses a US-backed "Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict"; November 2025. File 2 Page 167
36	196	196. With reference to the 'India Semiconductor Mission' (ISM), consider the following statements: 1. The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is established as an independent business division within the 'Digital India Corporation' to build a semiconductor and display ecosystem. 2. The mission aims to transition India's role from a traditional 'consumer' of semiconductors to a significant 'producer' and an integrated participant in the Global Semiconductor Value Chain. Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct? (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2	**India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** • Launched in December 2021 as part of the **Semicon India Programme**. **Nodal Agency:** It is a specialized, independent business division within the Digital India Corporation under **MeitY**. • The mission provides uniform **50% fiscal support** across most categories. • Support for setting up **silicon-based fabrication units** (focus on 28nm or below nodes). • **Display Fabs:** Incentives for establishing TFT LCD / AMOLED based display manufacturing. • 50% capital expenditure support for Compound Semiconductors, Silicon Photonics, Sensors (MEMS), and Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) units. • **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme:** Provides financial support (up to ₹15 crore per application) and design infrastructure for domestic startups and MSMEs. File 3 Page 160

37	198	198. Consider the following statements: 1. Tropical cyclones form in the summer when the temperature is more than 27 degrees Celsius. 2. The Coriolis force is mandatory for the formation of tropical cyclones. 3. The Coriolis force is found to be greater in the equatorial belt. Which of the above statement/s is/are correct? (A) Only 1 and 2 (B) Only 2 and 3 (C) Only 1 (D) Only 3	ific Oceans, and **typhoons** in the **western Pacific Ocean**. • A tropical cyclone begins as an **area of low pressure**, requires **warm sea surface temperature** (above **26.5°C** and up to a depth of **50 m**). • **Moist air** rises, releasing **latent heat**, which warms surrounding air and causes a **self-reinforcing cycle of convection**. Needs **unstable atmosphere** — rising air must continue to rise. • **Coriolis force** is essential to induce rotation (curving **right in the Northern Hemisphere** and **left in the Southern Hemisphere**). **Rarely form within 5° latitude** of the equator due to weak Coriolis effect. • **Low vertical wind shear** is necessary; **high wind shear** disrupts cyclone formation. • A **well-defined centre (eye)** forms — calm and clear, surrounded by **eyewall** with **intense winds** and **heavy rainfall**. • **Air spirals inward** at the surface, **rises near the eyewall**, and **flows outward at higher altitudes**, File 1 Page 52
38	199	199. Consider the following Assertion and Reason: Assertion (A): The advisory opinion of the Supreme Court is binding on the President. Reason (R): Constitution empowers the President to seek advisory opinion from the Supreme Court. Which of the following is correct with respect to the above? (A) Both Assertion(A) and Reason(R) are correct and Reason(R) is the correct explanation of Assertion(A). (B) Both Assertion(A) and Reason(R) are correct, but Reason(R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion(A). (C) Assertion(A) is correct, but Reason(R) is incorrect. (D) Assertion(A) is incorrect, but Reason(R) is correct.	**Constitutional Provisions** • **Article 141**: Law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts within the territory of India. This provision ensures that there is a uniform and consistent application of laws across the country. • **Article 143**: The President may refer any question of law or fact of public importance to the SC for an advisory opinion, based on Cabinet advice. The advisory jurisdiction under Article 143 is inherited from GoI Act, 1935, which allowed the Governor-General to refer questions to the federal court. A similar advisory mechanism exists in Canada, while the U.S. Supreme Court refrains from such opinions due to strict separation of powers. SC must **limit itself** to the questions referred and **cannot exceed the scope** of the Reference. **Advisory opinions** under Article 143 are **not binding**, but have persuasive value. File 2 Page 18

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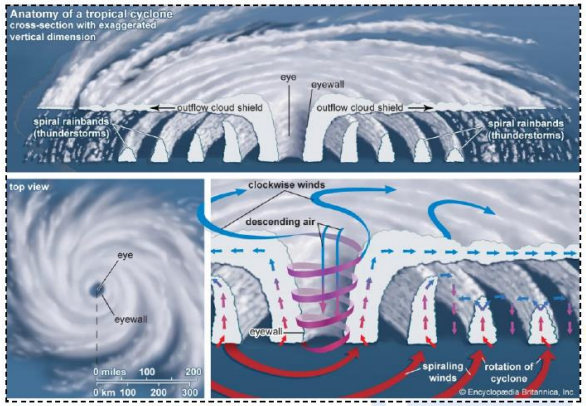
SET – A

S.No.	Q. No.	Question's Screenshot	"Decode Current Affairs" Reference Screenshot & File-Page No.
1	2	2. Which of the following initiatives launched recently by the Government of India is NOT *directly associated* with carbon trading or emissions reduction mechanism? (A) Indian Carbon Market Portal (B) Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme (C) Prakriti (D) National Carbon Registry	(non-profit organization that promotes market-based approaches like **carbon trading**) **or Gold Standard** (certification body that ensures **high-quality carbon credits** with verified environmental and sustainable development benefits), to create a high-integrity market. • A body called the **National Steering Committee for Indian Carbon Market (NSC-ICM),** which is co-chaired by Secretary, MoEFCC and Ministry of Power, is tasked with having **"direct oversight"** of the functioning of the Indian carbon market. India's emission caps for industries will build on existing **Perform, Achieve, Trade Scheme**. • Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) guidelines define **greenwashing** as "**any deceptive or misleading practice**" that conceals, omits, or hides relevant information or exaggerates environmental claims. • Paris Agreement Article **6.2 facilitates the transfer of Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) between host and partner country** to help countries meet their NDCs & **supports emissions reductions in the host country (developing country)**, fosters technology exchange, promotes capacity building etc. • A similar approach is seen in the **Joint Crediting Mechanism where credit allocation is decided through mutual consultation** based on contributions to GHG reductions. • **National registry and trading platform** will manage transactions, with draft methods released for **biomass, compressed biogas, low-emission rice cultivation**. • Globally, **agriculture-based projects lag** despite high potential. Of **64 Indian agricultural projects** listed under Verra, **only 4 are registered** and **none has issued credits**. **File 3 Page 172**

2	6	6. Consider the following match with respect to "*Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar*" campaign to reclaim the unclaimed financial assets. I. Bank Deposit - UDGAM Portal II. Insurance Proceeds - Bima Kiran Portal III. Mutual Fund Investment - MITRA Portal IV. Dividends and shares - SEBI Portal How many of the above is/are correctly matched? (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Only 3 (D) All 4	**Aapki Poonji Aapka Adhikar** • The **Ministry of Finance** is working with **RBI** to develop a **unified portal** to help **savers and retail investors** claim **unclaimed assets**. The portal will cover **bank deposits, pension fund, shares,** and **dividends**. • **Mega camp on "Aapki Poonji Aapka Adhikar" (WASSEMoney Your Right)** organised by PNB. **Master Directions** • **RBI** issued **244 consolidated Master Directions** after reviewing **around 3,500 directions, circulars and guidelines** to **reduce compliance burden** on **Regulated Entities (REs)**. The **11 regulated entities** include: commercial banks, small finance banks, payments banks, local area banks, RRBs, urban cooperative banks, rural cooperative banks, all India financial institutions, NBFCs, asset reconstruction companies, and credit information companies. **File 3 Page 27**

DECODE CIVILS

3	10	10. Consider the following major Ports of the World (List-I) and match them with their correct functional classification (List-II): **List - I (Port)** / **List - II (Functional Type)** (a) Maracaibo, Venezuela — 1. Entrepot Port (b) Rotterdam, Europe — 2. Oil Port (c) Kochi, India — 3. Ports of Call (d) Aden, Yemen — 4. Naval Port Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) (b) (c) (d) (A) 3 1 4 2 (B) 3 4 1 2 (C) 4 1 2 3 (D) 2 1 4 3	**Monroe-Donroe Doctrine** • President **Monroe's Doctrine** established **U.S. hegemony** in its backyard, carving out a **sphere of influence**. • In his second term, **Trump has supported far-right figures** in the continent, from Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil to Javier Milei in Argentina. In Honduras, Nasry Asfura, won the presidency last month. • **China accounts for nearly 80% of Venezuela's oil purchases**. China National Petroleum Corporation is the largest foreign company with investments and operations in Venezuela's oil sector. In 2024, China Concord Resources Corporation, a private company, signed agreement with PDVSA, Venezuela's state oil company, to develop **two oilfields in Lake Maracaibo** (South America's largest lake and a major petroleum-producing basin. Known as the "lightning capital of the world," it experiences the unique Catatumbo lightning phenomenon. The lake connects to the Caribbean Sea via the Tablazo Strait and is technically an estuary). • Venezuela has about **17% of the world's known oil reserves, or more than 300 billion barrels** but accounts for **less than 1 per cent of global production.** • From Donald **Trump** comes unapologetic primacy and readiness to use force. This fusion produces the **Donroe Doctrine**: An explicit claim to **guardianship**. File 2 Page 182

4	18	18. With reference to cyclones, consider: 1. Cyclones form when sea temperature exceeds -27°C 2. High-pressure zones initiate cyclones 3. Wind spirals inward towards low-pressure centre 4. Cyclones move toward regions of higher pressure 5. Cyclones derive energy from ocean heat Which of the above are true? (A) 1, 3 and 5 only (B) 1, 2 and 4 only (C) 2, 3 and 5 only (D) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only	**Cyclones** **Cyclone Formation and Measurement** **Why in news:** Known as **hurricanes** in **Atlantic** and **eastern Pacific Oceans**, and **typhoons** in the **western Pacific Ocean**.  • A tropical cyclone begins as an **area of low pressure**, requires **warm sea surface temperature** (above **26.5°C** and up to a depth of **50 m**). • **Moist air** rises, releasing **latent heat**, which warms surrounding air and causes a **self-reinforcing cycle of convection**. Needs **unstable atmosphere** — rising air must continue to rise. • **Coriolis force** is essential to induce rotation (curving **right in the Northern Hemisphere** and **left in the Southern Hemisphere**). Rarely **form within 5° latitude** of the equator due to weak Coriolis effect. • **Low vertical wind shear** is necessary; **high wind shear** disrupts cyclone formation. • A **well-defined centre (eye)** forms — calm and clear, surrounded by **eyewall** with **intense winds** and **heavy rainfall**. • **Air spirals inward** at the surface, **rises near the eyewall**, and **flows outward at higher altitudes**, completing circulation. **Classification of Cyclones** • Classified by **maximum sustained wind speed** and **central pressure**. • **IMD** classification (North Indian Ocean): **Depression:** 31–49 km/hr; **Super Cyclonic Storm:** >222 km/hr. • **Measurement tools:** **Who names cyclones & why?** Cyclone names are decided by **WMO/ESCAP**, a group of **13** countries including **India, Bangladesh, Oman, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand** and **the Maldives.** Names are chosen in rotation. **Montha** was suggested by **Thailand** to help in clearcommunication and preparedness. **Why the Bay of Bengal?** Its funnel-like shape and warmer waters make the Bay more prone to cyclones. Complex coastal features like **estuaries** and **deltas** amplify storm surges and flooding risks. File 1 Page 52

5	19	19. Consider the following statements regarding outcomes of COP30: 1. The Belém Package focuses primarily on setting new binding emission targets. 2. The Global Mutirão Agreement prioritises implementation over ambition. 3. The Just Transition Mechanism includes legally guaranteed financial commitments. 4. The Global Implementation Tracker is intended to assess alignment with the 1.5°C pathway. Which of the statements given above are correct? (A) 1 and 4 only (B) 1, 2 and 3 only (C) 2, 3 and 4 only (D) 2 and 4 only	**COP30 in Brazil** • Brazil hosted the **Earth Summit in 1992**. **COP30** hosted in **Belém**, a strategic entry point to the **Amazon rainforest**. • **Amazon** is among world's largest **carbon sinks (150–200 billion tonnes)**. • COP30 is described as the **"Implementation COP"**, focused on converting commitments into **action**, guided by the **Global Stocktake (GST)**. **Just Transition and Labour** • India and other developing countries sought a **Just Transition Mechanism**. **Just Transition Work Programme** was established at **COP27** and operationalised at **COP28**. India stated just transition must include **employment creation, livelihood protection, poverty eradication, food security, resilience**, and **social protection**. **Draft Texts, Negotiations and Outcomes** • Developing countries and petro-states opposed timelines for **eliminating fossil fuels**. • Developed countries pushed for stronger mitigation language and finance commitments. • COP30 adopted a consensus agreement titled **Global Mutirão**. **Mutirão agreement** addresses **Article 9 of the Paris Agreement**, finance mobilisation, trade-restrictive measures, NDCs, the **1.5°C goal**, and the **implementation gap**. • COP President committed to **two road maps** — one to halt and reverse deforestation, and another to transition away **Climate Targets Transparency** • **Monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems** have become central to climate transparency. COP30 reinforced this through the Global Implementation Tracker, the Belém Mission to 1.5°C, and voluntary indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). • MRV systems still rely heavily on remote sensing, administrative datasets, and external expertise, leaving **little room for community-generated insights**. • Tamil Nadu's community-based environmental MRV (CbMRV) initiative makes **community-generated environmental intelligence a formal part of climate governance**. It frames governance as a partnership between communities and institutions, rather than a top-down exercise. The initiative **began in 2023 under the UK PACT programme**. • The **Global Implementation Tracker** is a primary mechanism for monitoring the real-world execution of NDCs. It utilizes interactive dashboards and independent scientific analyses like the Climate Action Tracker. File 3 Page 177, 178 and 179

6	21	21. Which of the two Articles of Indian Constitution override Fundamental Rights in respect of Article 14 Right to Equality and State level Economic Redistribution _____ (A) Art. 300 (a) & (d) (B) Art. 39 (b) and (c) (C) Art. 18 (2) & (4) (D) Art. 19(c) and(d)	Right to Property • **Part III vs Part IV:** Fundamental Rights (Part III) are enforceable, while DPSPs (Part IV) are aspirational goals. • In **Mohd. Hanif Quareshi vs Bihar (1958)**, SC asserted FRs cannot be compromised to implement DPSPs. ***Golak Na (1967):*** Fundamental rights cannot be abridged to implement DPSP. • **Article 39(b)** in **Part IV** provides that 'ownership and control of material resources of the community are distributed as best to subserve the common good.'

		rights including right to property
31B	1st amendment, 1951	Made laws placed under the Ninth Schedule immune from judicial review on the grounds of violating any fundamental right. In Coelho case (2007), the SC held that laws placed in Ninth Schedule after April 1973 would be subject to judicial review
31C	25th amendment, 1971	Provided primacy to the DPSP under Articles 39(b) and (c). Laws made to fulfil these principles shall not be void on the ground that it violated fundamental rights including right to property

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DECODE CIVILS

7	30	30. Consider the following statements regarding the statutory definition of "disaster" as provided under the Disaster Management Act, 2005: 1. It covers events arising from both natural and anthropogenic causes, including those due to accidents or negligence. 2. It necessarily entails a large-scale loss of human life for an event to be classified as a disaster. 3. It includes damage to property, the environment and resultant human suffering. 4. It is characterised by an occurrence of such nature or magnitude that it exceeds the coping capacity of the affected community. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (A) 1 and 2 only (B) 1, 3 and 4 only (C) 2, 3 and 4 only (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4	High-Level Committee **Disaster Management Act, 2005:** • Act was passed in 2005, aiming for the efficient management of disasters and related issues. According to **Section 2(d)**, a disaster is defined as catastrophe, mishap, calamity caused by natural or man-made factors. • **Nodal Agency:** MHA. **National Level Entities:**

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8	55	55. The HPV Vaccination drive launched by the Prime Minister in February, 2026. I. It is aimed at combating cervical cancer, the foremost common cancer in Indian women. II. The target group is girls of 14 years of age. III. Gardasil 9 is a HPV vaccine. IV. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance provided US $250 million in funding for vaccinating children. How many of the above statement(s) is/are INCORRECT ? (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2 (C) Only 3 (D) None	• Gavi's Pledging Summit brings together global leaders, donors, and partners to mobilize funding for immunization, with the 2025 summit seeing record commitments for vaccine financing and partnerships. About CoWIN: a • CoWIN (Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network) is a government-owned web platform under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, facilitating registration, scheduling, verification, vaccination, and certification. • The CoWIN system was built on five modules — orchestration, vaccination cold chain, citizen registration, vaccinator, and certificate-feedback-adverse event reporting. • Eight vaccines, including Covishield, Covaxin, Corbevax, and Sputnik-V, were integrated into the platform. • In 2021, India offered the CoWIN as a digital public good to the world to aid in the global COVID-19 response. Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria Vaccine • Indigenously manufactured tetanus and adult diphtheria (Td) vaccine at Central Research Institute in Kasauli, HP. • It has been introduced for supply under UIP. • CRI is the first government institute to manufacture vaccines under Good Manufacturing Practices. HPV Vaccine • PM launched campaign to vaccinate 1.15 crore 14-year-old girls with Gardasil-4 in Ajmer, Rajasthan. File 2 Page 101 and 102

9	58	58. Which of the following statements about NATO is NOT correct? (A) NATO was created by 12 countries from Europe and North America. (B) NATO was created on 4th April 1949. (C) As of March 2026, NATO has 34 member states. (D) Albania joined NATO in 2009.	**North Atlantic Treaty Organization** • **NATO** is the most potent military alliance since its creation in **1949**. • **Original Members:** (1949) United States, United Kingdom, Canada, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Portugal, Norway, Denmark, Iceland. **Latest Members:** Finland (2023), Sweden (2024). • **Total:** USA, UK, Canada, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Portugal, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Greece, Turkey, Germany, Spain, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Finland, Sweden. • **The three central goals of NATO were:** File 2 Page 186

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10	59	59. Consider the following statements about Passive Euthanasia; 1) The Supreme Court never allowed passive euthanasia in India. 2) The Supreme Court of India allowed passive euthanasia under strict guidelines. 3) Passive euthanasia was legalised in India by the Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India case. 4) Article 21 is associated with the right to die with dignity. Select the correct answer from the codes given below; (A) ~~1 only~~ (B) ~~2 and 3~~ (C) 2 and 4 only (D) ~~1 and 4 only~~	**Euthnasia** **Why in news: U.K.** introduced the **Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill**, also known as the **Assisted Dying Bill**. • Allows **terminally ill adults in England and Wales** with less than **six months to live** to choose **assisted death** under strict safeguards. It would require validation by **two doctors, a psychiatrist, a senior lawyer, and a social worker**. • **Ministry of Health** released **draft Guidelines for Withdrawal of Life Support in Terminally Ill Patients** to operationalise the Supreme Court's 2018 and 2023 orders on **right to die with dignity for all Indians.** • **Guidelines include:** ○ Setting up of **Primary and Secondary Medical Boards** at level of hospital, which will determine when further medical treatment may not be beneficial to a terminally ill patient; ○ Nomination of doctors by district CMO or equivalent to hospital-level Secondary Medical Boards, which will confirm or reject opinion of Primary Medical Boards. **Secondary Medical Board** members must be different from those on the Primary Medical Board. • There is **no dedicated legislation** in India on withholding/withdrawing life-sustaining treatment. But SC's judgment and these guidelines make it clear that **withholding/withdrawing life-sustaining treatment is legal**. • SC in **Common Cause vs Union of India (2018)** recognised **right to die with dignity under Article 21**. • Withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment takes place either through informed refusal by a patient with decision-making capacity or through an advance medical directive ('living will'). **SC in its 2018 judgment** also laid down **framework** for making advance medical directives or living wills and simplified it in 2023. File 2 Page 126

11	85	85. PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles are widely used for carbonated drinks and water. Why are these bottles generally intended for 'single-use" rather than long-term refilling? (A) The plastic is porous and can trap bacteria if not cleaned with high heat. which melts the bottle. (B) PET becomes brittle and releases microplastics into the liquid after just one use. (C) PET reacts with water to turn it into an acidic solution over time. (D) PET bottles are not designed to seal manually. They can be sealed only in a factory.	**Microplastics in Bottled Water** • Microplastics are **smaller than five millimetres** & carry toxic additives and pollutants. **Nanoplastics** are even smaller particles, fall below current detection thresholds, and remain outside existing safety regulations. • Bottled water is also vulnerable to **chemical leaching** from plastic containers. Additives such as **antimony, phthalates and other plasticisers** can migrate into water, particularly when bottles are exposed to heat or stored for prolonged periods. Packaged drinking water is **regulated primarily by FSSAI**, which oversees licensing, testing and compliance under updated norms following the removal of mandatory BIS certification. File 3 Page 190

DECODE CIVILS

12	86	86. Consider the following statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and select the correct option using the codes given below: Assertion (A): El Niño events are often associated with weaker southwest monsoon rainfall over India. Reason (R): El Niño leads to warming of sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific, which disturbs the normal Walker circulation. (A) Both A and R are correct and R is the correct explanation of A (B) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A (C) A is correct, but R is incorrect (D) A is incorrect, but R is correct	Decode Current Affairs - By Mudit Jain Decode Civils Android App Decode Civils iOS App • Scientific disagreement over which ocean basin plays the dominant role in ENSO evolution. **CLIVAR Pacific Region Panel** suggests **Recharge Oscillator model** can effectively simulate ENSO by representing it as an interaction between **sea-surface temperatures** in the central-eastern Pacific and **subsurface warm water volume** in the western Pacific. **Monsoon's Factors** • **Late pre-monsoon cyclones** are increasingly **pulling the trough forward**, contributing to early onsets. • The **low-pressure system along the west coast** likely aided 2025's early onset. • **Arctic warming and wind shifts** in the Arabian Sea may influence cyclone behaviour. • **Typhoons in the Pacific** can also delay the Indian monsoon by diverting moisture. • **Withdrawal patterns are changing**, with the merging of **southwest and northeast monsoons** in some regions. • Climate change impacts such as **polar warming and cyclone trends** affect **timing and distribution** of monsoon. • **ENSO** and **IOD** influence monsoon patterns through **sea surface temperature variations**. **El Nino**, with warmer eastern Pacific waters, usually leads to **reduced rainfall** over India, while **La Nina** supports **better monsoon rains**. File 1 Page 46

13	90	90. Consider the following statements regarding the 16th Finance Commission's (FC 16) recommendations for the period 2026-31 : 1. FC 16 retained the vertical share of states in the divisible pool of central taxes at 41%, the same as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. 2. The Commission introduced a new "Contribution to GDP" criterion with a weight of 10%, replacing the "tax and fiscal efforts" criterion used by the 15th Finance Commission. 3. FC 16 discontinued revenue deficit grants (also known as revenue need grants) under Article 275, which were recommended by previous Finance Commissions. 4. The Commission recommended that states should reduce the fiscal deficit to 2.5% of GSDP by 2030-31, while the Centre should target 3.5% of GDP.	**16th FC** **Why in news: 16th FC** recommended that Centre retain **41% share of tax devolution** to States as in force since **2021**. • **₹1.4 lakh crore States Grant** include **Rural and Urban Local Body** and **Disaster Management Grants**. • It tweaked **formula** that decides the division of the share among the States. **5 southern States** assigned a collectively higher share under the **distribution scheme** of the **16th FC** than in the past. • **Kerala's** degree of rise is only next to **Haryana's 24.52%**, while the third slot goes to **Karnataka**. **Changes in Devolution Formula** • **FC-16** has reworked the earlier **"tax effort"** criterion into a broader **"contribution to GDP"** measure. Weight raised from **2.5% (FC-15)** to **10%**. This is intended to reward **productive** and **efficient States**. **Changes in grants and debt projections** • **FC16** discontinued **revenue deficit grants**, **sector-specific grants**, and **State-specific grants**. • Projects combined **general government debt** to fall from **77.3% of GDP (2026-27)** to **73.1% (2030-31)**. • End of **GST compensation (June 2022)** left **residual asymmetry**. States lost guaranteed **14% annual growth** in **SGST revenues**. **Tamil Nadu** estimated shortfall of nearly **₹20,000 crore (2024-25)**. • Recommended discontinuation and amendment of **Fiscal Responsibility Legislation (FRL)**. File 2 Page 40 and 41