



2025 Prelims Current Affairs Report Card

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**Total Questions = 21
Hits = 13
Missed = 8**

PrepMate IAS

Q1. With reference to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), consider the following statements:

1. All types of UAVs can do vertical landing.
 2. All types of UAVs can do automated hovering.
 3. All types of UAVs can use battery only as a source of power supply.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Sol. (d) None

Statement 1 is Incorrect: Not all UAVs are capable of vertical landing, some crash into their targets.

Statement 2 is also incorrect: Not all drones can do automated hovering, some are operated by operators.

Page 127, May 2025 beginning News, Proof for both the statements

HAROP INDIA'S SUICIDE DRONE

From surveillance to strike, these can eliminate threats across the LoC

Combination of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and a missile
Can hover over an area before attacking its target

ENDURANCE
6-9 hours

MAX SPEED
400 km/h

PAYLOAD
16-23 kg explosive warhead

GUIDANCE
Electro-optical, IR seeker

WINGSPAN
3 m

LENGTH
2.5 m

LAND AND NAVAL APPLICATIONS
ATTACK AND ABORT CAPABILITY

COMMUNICATION RANGE
200 km

OPERATIONAL RANGE
1,000 km

ALTITUDE
4,600 m

Source: Israel Aerospace Industries | Graphic: Muskan Arora & Subham Singh

What are HAROPs
HAROP is a kind of loitering munition. This category of weapons is named so because they loiter (to stand or walk around) in the air close to the designated target. They cause destruction by crashing into their targets with the explosive payload that they carry, earning names such as "suicide drones" and "kamikaze drones".

Usually, loiter munitions carry a camera which is nose-mounted and can be used by the operator to see the area of operation and choose targets. These munitions also have variants which can be recovered and reused in case they are not used for any strike. This is new compared to how older precision-guided weapons were traditionally used, because they required the exact location of the targets before launch.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: UAVs powered by solar power also exist.

Page 112, May 2024 Edition

7. Why India wants to develop high-altitude pseudo-satellite vehicles, powered by the Sun

Why in news?

Last week, the Bengaluru-based National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) successfully flew a prototype of a new-generation unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that is being seen as a huge technology breakthrough. It was no ordinary UAV. This one can fly at great heights, about 20 km from ground, runs entirely on solar power, and can remain in the air for months on end. Such UAVs belong to a class of flying objects called HAPS, or high-altitude pseudo-satellite vehicles, or HALE, that is high-altitude long-endurance vehicles.

The primary utility of HAPS vehicles is in the field of surveillance and monitoring, but there are other situations, like disaster management, wherein it can be very useful.

Q2. Consider the following statements:

- I. The Reserve Bank of India mandates all the listed companies in India to submit a Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR).
- II. In India, a company submitting a BRSR makes disclosures in the report that are largely non-financial in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. I only
- b. II only
- c. Both I and II
- d. Neither I nor II

Correct Option: (c)

Statement 1 is incorrect: SEBI, nor RBI

Statement 2 is correct.

What do rules say?

At its core, the GCP seeks voluntary participation of individuals, companies, industries, and other entities across seven different activities — such as tree plantation, waste management, and water conservation — that will lead to improvements in the environment. This participation will be incentivised by generating “green credits”, which can then be traded on a domestic market platform to potential buyers looking to meet sustainability targets, or existing legal obligations.

For instance, could be exchanged for meeting compliance of compensatory afforestation, in cases where forest land has been used for development projects.

The credits can also be used by listed companies as part of their environmental, social and governance disclosures under SEBI's Business Responsibility and Sustainability framework, indicating efforts taken by these companies on environmental sustainability.

Prelims 2025 Questions	PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits
<p>Q3. Which one of the following launched the 'Nature Solutions Finance Hub for Asia and the Pacific'?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) b. The Asian Infrastructure investment Bank (AIIB) c. The New Development Bank (NDB) d. The International Bank for reconstruction and Development (IBRD) <p>Correct Option: (a)</p>	

Q4. With reference to 'Direct Air Capture', an emerging technology, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- I. It can be used as a way of carbon sequestration.
- II. It can be a valuable approach for plastic production and in food processing.
- III. In aviation, it can be a source of carbon for combining with hydrogen to create synthetic low-carbon fuel.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a. I and II only
- b. III only
- c. I, II and III
- d. None of the above statements is correct

Correct Option: (c)

Under **Direct Air Capture (DAC)** methods, carbon dioxide is sucked out through large "artificial trees" from ambient air and **directed towards storage sites or utilisation**. Since these methods can potentially eliminate carbon dioxide accumulated over the years, the **benefits are larger compared to CCS**. But the challenges are bigger too. Some experimental projects are currently trying out these technologies.

Potential for Solar Radiation Management

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Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Direct Air Capture (DAC) is a technology that extracts carbon dioxide (CO₂) directly from the atmosphere at any location.

Statement 2 is correct. Direct Air Capture (DAC) can be a valuable approach for food processing and the plastic industry by providing a source of carbon dioxide (CO₂) that can be used in various processes, potentially reducing reliance on fossil fuels and improving sustainability. DAC can also contribute to net-zero emission goals by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere and utilizing it as a feedstock for various products.

Statement 3 is correct. direct air capture (DAC) technology can be used to produce low-carbon synthetic fuels by capturing atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) and combining it with hydrogen, often produced through renewable energy sources. This process, known as direct air carbon capture and utilization (DACCU), creates synthetic fuels like methanol, dimethyl ether, and methane, which can be used as alternatives to fossil fuels.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

- I. India has joined the Minerals Security Partnership as a member.
- II. India is a resource-rich country in all the 30 critical minerals that it has identified.
- III. The Parliament in 2023 has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowering the Central Government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite license for certain critical minerals.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a. I and II only
- b. II and III only
- c. I and III only
- d. I, II and III

Correct Option: (c)

Statement I is correct and Statement II is incorrect.

Page 44, March 2024 Edition

Minerals Security Partnership

Launched in 2023, the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) is a US-led collaboration of 14 countries that aims to catalyse public and private investment in critical minerals supply chains. In addition to the US, it includes India, Australia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the UK, and the European Union (represented by the European Commission).



semiconductors and AI hardware.

Why critical minerals are key in strategic sectors

Critical minerals and REEs are essential for strategic industries, including defence, semiconductors, quantum computing, energy, and space.

Elements such as neodymium, praseodymium, and samarium are crucial for high-performance magnets used in missiles, fighter jets, and radars.

Lithium, cobalt, and nickel power are used in advanced batteries for energy storage and electric vehicles, while gallium and indium are key in

Quantum computing relies on ultra-pure silicon and superconducting materials, while REEs like europium and terbium enhance biotech imaging and medical diagnostics.

In energy, rare earth magnets are vital for wind turbines, and space technology depends on heat-resistant alloys and lightweight materials like scandium.

China's dominance

With China controlling nearly 70% of global REE production and much of the processing infrastructure, securing diversified supply chains is critical for technological sovereignty and national security.

India, despite some reserves, remains dependent on imports, particularly for heavy rare earths.

Statement III is correct.

Page 88, August 2024 Edition

In late June, the Centre declared the winning bidders for mining rights in six blocks of critical minerals, including graphite, phosphorite and lithium, for which India largely relies on imports. These are the first private players awarded such rights under the revamped Mines and Minerals law.

Why are critical minerals important?

Minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt are known as critical minerals, as they along with some rare earth elements, are essential for the world's ongoing efforts to switch to greener and cleaner energy.

Q6. Consider the following statements:

- I. India accounts for a very large portion of all equity option contracts traded globally thus exhibiting a great boom.
- II. India's stock market has grown rapidly in the recent past even overtaking Hong Kong's at some point of time.
- III. There is no regulatory body either to warn the small investors about the risks of options trading or to act on unregistered financial advisors in this regard.

Which of the statements give above are correct?

- a. I and II only
- b. II and III only
- c. I and III only
- d. I, II and III

Correct Option: (a)

Statement III is incorrect.
November 2024 Edition

3. New SEBI rules to curb F&O frenzy, aim to protect small investors

Introduction

The regulator has increased the 'tail risk' coverage by levying an additional 'Extreme Loss Margin' (ELM) of 2% for short options contracts. ELM is the margin that exchanges charge over and above the normal margin requirement. Tail risk is the chance of a loss due to a rare event. Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released a set of six measures to strengthen the equity index derivatives — also known as equity futures & options (F&O) — framework.



The F&O segment has been witnessing an exponential jump in trading volumes, with the majority of investors incurring losses. The increased activity in the derivatives market has become a cause of concern for the government and regulators, as surging F&O volumes have started to impinge on capital formation and pose a systemic risk to the country's economic growth.

Once we eliminate Statement III, answer is option (a).

Prelims 2025 Questions

Q7. Consider the following statements about turmeric during the year 2022-23:

- I. India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric in the world.
- II. More than 30 varieties of turmeric are grown in India.
- III. Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are major turmeric producing States in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a. I and II only
- b. II and III only
- c. I and III only
- d. I, II and III

Correct Option: (d)

PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits

Current Affairs, February 2025 Edition, Page 90

7. India Launches National Turmeric Board

A Major Step for India's Turmeric Industry

India, the world leader in turmeric production, accounting for over 75% of global output, has launched a National Turmeric Board with ambitious plans to boost turmeric exports to \$1 billion by 2030. This initiative aims to expand export markets and ensure fair prices for farmers while highlighting the medicinal and economic value of turmeric.

Inauguration by Union Minister Piyush Goyal

The Turmeric Board was inaugurated by Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, in Nizamabad, Telangana. Nizamabad, a significant turmeric hub in northern Telangana, will serve as the headquarters for this initiative. The board's establishment underscores the government's commitment to strengthening the turmeric sector and promoting its value globally.



NATIONAL TURMERIC BOARD

Building a Golden future
for India's Golden spice

THE WAY AHEAD

- 
 Boosting exports of about **30 varieties** grown in over 20 states
- 
 New product development, value addition & **skilling turmeric growers**
- 
 Increase consumption globally & grow our share in world trade from **62% now**
- 
Strengthen infrastructure & logistics for exports

Vision for a \$1 Billion Export Milestone

Turmeric exports from India are set to rise significantly, with the government targeting the \$1-billion milestone by 2030. The new Board is expected to play a pivotal role in achieving this target by promoting innovation, improving farming practices, and ensuring competitive pricing in international markets.

Prelims 2025 Questions**PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits**

Q8. Who amongst the following are members of the Jury to select the recipient of 'Gandhi Peace Prize'?

- I. The president of india
- II. The prime minister of india
- III. The chief justice of india
- IV. The leader of opposition in the lok sabha

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a. II and IV only
- b. I, II and III
- c. II, III and IV
- d. I and III only

Correct Option: (c)

Prelims 2025 Questions

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding AI action summit held in grand palais, paris in February 2025:

- I. Co-chaired with india, the event builds on the advances made at the Bletchley park summit held in 2023 and the seoul summit held in 2024.
- II. Along with other countries, US and UK also signed the declaration on inclusive and sustainable IA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- I. I only
- II. II only
- III. Both I and II
- IV. Neither I nor II

Correct Option: (a)

PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits

February 2025 Edition, Page 72

25. Paris AI summit, where PM Modi is co-chair

Introduction



How to leverage the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) while mitigating its risks: that seems to be the biggest challenge confronting policymakers across countries on the issue of AI regulation.

Amid growing concerns over how to develop regulatory oversight of artificial intelligence, without stifling the AI ecosystem, global

leaders are set to gather in Paris on February 10 for a two-day AI Action Summit. This builds on a AI Safety Summit held in Britain in Bletchley Park in 2023 and a smaller meeting in Seoul in 2024.

While the Bletchley summit was focused on the debate surrounding the 'doomsday' concerns posed by AI, and eventually resulted in all 25 states, including the US and China, signing the Bletchley Declaration on AI Safety, the Seoul summit last May saw 16 top AI companies making voluntary commitments to develop AI in a transparent manner.

Paris AI Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to co-chair the Paris Summit and has accepted the invitation to travel to France.

March 2025 Edition, Page 39

The **Bletchley Park Declaration** (UK) signed at the AI Safety Summit, which was attended by 28 countries, affirmed that AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used in a manner that is safe, human-centric, trustworthy, and responsible.

The **Seoul Summit**, co-hosted by the UK, was attended by 27 nations. The Seoul Declaration reaffirmed their commitment to international cooperation on AI, and to addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the new technology. The Seoul Summit also proposed a network of AI Safety Institutes.

Theme of Paris Summit

The Paris Summit has five main themes: Public Interest AI, Future of Work, Innovation and Culture, Trust in AI, and Global AI Governance. It will aim to leverage existing initiatives and fora on AI, including by the United Nations.

The Summit will launch concrete initiatives to place AI at the service of the common good, with specific focus on the needs of the Global South.

New Delhi's focus

India has put forward the example of the IndiaAI Mission. The Rs 10,371 crore program of "Making AI in India and Making AI for India" aims to democratise AI innovation and ensure that its benefits are equitably distributed to all citizens.

On the global cooperation on AI, India is focused on three main areas:

GPAI: Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence is an OECD-supported multi-stakeholder initiative to guide the responsible development and use of AI. As a founding member and lead chair of GPAI for 2024, India has been working towards making GPAI the nodal partnership for global cooperation on AI.

BRIDGING THE AI DIVIDE: India is pushing for inclusive AI Governance focused on bridging the widening AI divide between countries, and democratising AI globally.

GLOBAL SOUTH PRIORITIES: India is advocating the empowerment of voices from the Global South in the discourse around cooperation on AI, spotlighting the unique challenges, opportunities, and requirements of the developing world.

Statement 2 is incorrect: US and UK refused to sign Paris summit declaration on 'inclusive' AI. However, the document was backed by 60 other signatories, including France, China, India, Japan, Australia and Canada.

Prelims 2025 Questions**PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits**

Q10. Consider the following pairs:

1. International year of woman farmer: 2026
 2. International year of sustainable and resilient tourism: 2027
 3. International year of peace and trust: 2025
 4. International year of asteroid awareness and planetary defence: 2029
- How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
- a. Only one
 - b. Only two
 - c. Only three
 - d. All the four

Correct Option: (d)

Prelims 2025 Questions

Q11. Consider the following statements with regard to BRICS”

- I. 16th BRICS summit was held under the Chairmanship of Russia in Kazan.
- II. Indonesia has become a full member of BRICS.
- III. The theme of the 16th BRICS summit was strengthening multiculturalism for just global development and security.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

- a. I and II
- b. II and III
- c. I and III
- d. I only

Correct Option: (a)

PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits

Statement I is correct.

22. PM Modi attends BRICS Summit in Russia: What is the group, its significance for India

Introduction

BRICS Summit 2024: Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for Kazan in Russia recently to attend the 16th BRICS Summit. The summit is the first after the grouping's expansion last year. For India, it is especially significant as Prime Minister Narendra Modi could meet China's President Xi Jinping here, soon after the two countries agreed on a disengagement along the LAC.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Indonesia's decision to join BRICS marks a new chapter in its diplomacy. Brazil, as the current BRICS Chair, announced Indonesia's BRICS membership effective January 2025. This decision was undoubtedly accelerated, with all BRICS member countries agreeing to Indonesia's inclusion in less than three months.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** 16th BRICS theme is '**Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security**'. This theme informs Russia's priorities for 2024 in the areas of policy and security, cooperation in economy and finance, and cooperation in the humanitarian and cultural spheres.

Prelims 2025 Questions**PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits**

Q12. Consider the following statements in respect of the first Kho Kho World Cup:

- I. The event was held in delhi, india
- II. Indian men beat Nepal with a score of 78-40 in the final to become the world champion in men category.
- III. Indian women beat Nepal with a score of 54-36 in the final to become the world champion in women category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. I only
- b. II and III only
- c. I and III only
- d. I, II and III

Correct Option: (a)

Prelims 2025 Questions

Q13. Consider the following statements:

I. In the finals of the 45th chess Olympiad held in 2024, Gukesh Dommaraju became the world's youngest winner after defeating the Russian player Jan Nepomniachtchi.

II. Abhimanyu Mishra, an American chess player, holds the records of becoming world's youngest ever grandmaster.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. I only
- b. II only
- c. Both I and II
- d. Neither I nor II

Correct Option: (b)

PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits

Statement 1 is incorrect.

January 2025 Edition, Page 185

8. Gukesh is youngest world chess champion

Introduction



History was made in the small island of Sentosa as D. Gukesh became the youngest World chess champion ever after defeating Ding Liren of China in the final game of their match. The 18-year-old from Chennai broke the record held by the Russian Garry Kasparov for nearly four decades.

With his victory against the defending champion, which came after 58 moves, Gukesh took his points tally to 7.5 points. That was the requirement for a player to win the World title.

Contested between India and China

This was the first-ever World championship match contested by two Asian players. And it was a match between the players from India and China, the world's two most populous countries and the continent's superpowers.

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India's Gukesh Dommaraju became the world's youngest chess champion after defeating China's Ding Liren in the final match of their series in Singapore.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Abhimanyu Mishra is the world's youngest chess grandmaster. His home country is the USA. He broke the record that had stood for 19 years.

Prelims 2025 Questions

Q14. Consider the following statements:

I. Indian railways have prepared a national rail plan (NRP) to create a future ready' railway system by 2028.

II. 'Kavach' is an automatic train protection system developed in collaboration with Germany.

III. 'Kavach' system consists of RFID tags fitted on track in station section.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

- a. I and II only
- b. II and III only
- c. I and III only
- d. I, II and III

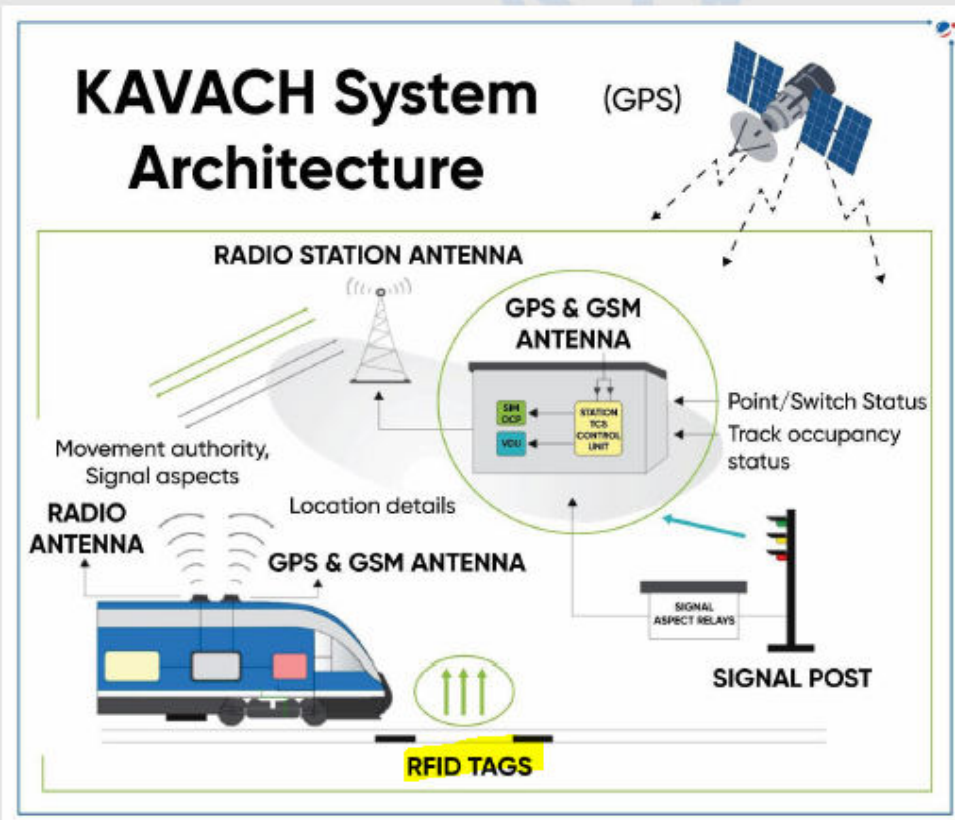
Correct Option: (a)

PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits

September 2024 Edition, Page 141

What is 'Kavach'?

A spate of train accidents in India recently put the spotlight on the sluggish implementation of 'Kavach', the homegrown CAS for the Indian Railways. In their fundamentals, Kavach's components perform the same functions that CAS does in cars, but the railway system is more complicated.



Prelims 2025 Questions

Q15. Consider the following space missions:

1. Axiom-4
2. SpaDex
3. Gaganyaan

How many of the space missions given above encourage and support micro-gravity research?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All the three
- d. None

Correct Option: (c)

PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits

Statement 1 is correct.

Current Affairs, May 2025 Edition, Page 134

9. Water Bears or Tardigrades in Space

Why now?



INTERESTING FACTS

Tardigrades (Water Bears), tiny microscopic creatures, are nearly indestructible. They can survive extreme temperatures, radiation, dehydration, and even the vacuum of space. In 2007, tardigrades were sent into space and survived exposure to outer space for 10 days.

The Axiom Mission 4 will see India, Poland, and Hungary's first government-sponsored human spaceflight in more than 40 years next month. With the addition of an American astronaut, the four-person crew will conduct various studies and activities in Space while docked at the International Space Station (ISS) for two weeks.

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, a distinguished pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF), has been selected for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Among the studies set to be carried out is ISRO's Voyager Tardigrades project, which

Statement 2 is correct.

February 2025 Edition, Page 126

8. ISRO to attempt 'docking' satellites in space: What it means, why it matters for future missions

ISRO SpaDeX Docking Mission

Over the next few days, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will bring two small satellites closer together and then join them in space, demonstrating "docking" for the first time. A successful docking will make India the fourth country in the world — after the United States, Russia, and China — to have the capability.

Statement 3 is correct.

March 2024 Edition, Page 121



Prime Minister Narendra Modi hands over wings to astronauts-designate Shubanshu Shukla, Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Angad Prathap and Ajit Krishnan who have been selected to be the astronauts on India's **first crewed mission to space 'Gaganyaan Mission'**, at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), in Thiruvananthapuram

Why in news?

Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Prathap, and Wing Commander Shubanshu Shukla are India's astronauts-designate for Gaganyaan, India's first crewed space mission, announced by PM Modi.

All four Indian Air Force officers have had extensive experience as test pilots and are currently in training for the mission. Modi, who bestowed them with the prestigious astronaut wings, described them as "four forces" who represent the aspirations and optimism of 1.4 billion Indians.

Prelims 2025 Questions	PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits
<p>Q16. Which organization has enacted the Nature restoration law (NRL) to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The European unionb. The world bankc. The organization for economic cooperation and developmentd. The food and agriculture organization <p>Correct Option: (a)</p>	

Prelims 2025 Questions	PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits
<p>Q17. Consider the following statements: Statement I: Of the two major ethanol producers in the world, i.e., Brazil and the United States of America, the former produces more ethanol than the latter.</p> <p>Statement II: Unlike in the United States of America where corn is the principal feedstock, sugarcane is the principal feedstock for ethanol production in Brazil.</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>a. Both statement I and Statement II are correct and statement II explains statements I</p> <p>b. Both statement I and statement II are correct but statement II does not explain statement I</p> <p>c. Statement I is correct but statement II is not correct</p> <p>d. Statement I is not correct but statement II is correct.</p> <p>Correct Option: (d)</p>	

Prelims 2025 Questions

Q18. Which of the following statements with regard to recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission of India are correct?

- I. It has recommended grants of ₹ 4,800 crores from the year 2022-23 to the year 2025-26 for incentivizing States to enhance educational outcomes.
- II. 45% of the net proceeds of Union taxes are to be shared with States.
- III. ₹ 45,000 crores are to be kept as performance-based incentive for all States for carrying out agricultural reforms.
- IV. Its reintroduced tax effort criteria to reward fiscal performance.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a. I, II and III
- b. I, II and IV
- c. I, III and IV
- d. II, III and IV

Correct Option: (c)

PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits

October 2024 Edition, Page 107

We can then ask the simple question: how much should tax devolution rise over and above that recommended by the past Finance Commissions to equalise the ratio to 1? Equating the ratio to 1 would eliminate VFI. In the attached table, we show that the average share of net proceeds devolved to the States between 2015-16 and 2022-23 should have been 48.94% to eliminate the VFI. But the shares of tax devolution recommended by the 14th and 15th Finance Commission were only 42% and 41%, respectively, of the net proceeds.

Raising tax devolution

Many States have raised the demand that the share of tax devolution from the net proceeds must be fixed at 50% by the 16th Finance Commission. They add force to this demand by pointing to the exclusion from the net proceeds of the substantial amounts of cesses and surcharges, which truncates the net proceeds within the gross tax revenue.

Our analysis in this article lends empirical support to this demand. Here, we have assumed the present levels of expenditures of the States as a given. At the aggregate level, these actually incurred expenditures have not only conformed to but also underutilised the borrowing limits specified in the fiscal responsibility legalisations. Even then, we find that the share of net proceeds devolved to the States must rise to about 49% to eliminate VFI. Such an increase in devolution would place more untied resources in the hands of the States to spend on their citizens. It would also ensure that States' expenditures better respond to jurisdictional needs and priorities, and that the efficiency of expenditures is enhanced. Overall, it will be a move towards a healthy system of cooperative fiscal federalism.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Economics

Source: The Hindu

Once we identify Statement II is incorrect, answer is option (c).

Prelims 2025 Questions	PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits
<p>Q19. Consider the following countries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. United Arab Emirates 2. France 3. Germany 4. Singapore 5. Bangladesh <p>How many countries amongst the above are there other than India where international merchant payments are accepted under UPI?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Only two b. Only three c. Only four d. All the five <p>Correct Option: (b)</p>	<p>Explanation:</p> <p>Exp: India's digital payments movement is gaining global attention, with UPI and RuPay expanding across borders. UPI is now operational in seven countries: UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, and Mauritius.</p>

Prelims 2025 Questions

Q20. Consider the following statements about 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana':

I. It targets installation of one crore solar rooftop panels in the residential sector.

II. The ministry of New and Renewable Energy aims to impart training on installation, operation, maintenance and repairs of solar rooftop systems at grassroot levels.

III. It aims to create more than three lakhs skilled manpower through fresh skilling, and up-skilling, under scheme component of capacity building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a. I and II only
- b. I and III only
- c. II and III only
- d. I, II and III

Correct Option: (d)

PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits

Statement I is correct.

April 2024 Edition, Page 1

1. Cabinet approves PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana for installing rooftop solar in One Crore households

PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

The Union Cabinet has approved PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana with a total outlay of Rs.75,021 crore for installing rooftop solar and providing free electricity up to 300 units every month for One Crore households. The Prime Minister had launched the scheme on 13th February, 2024.

Statements II and III are also correct.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) intends to impart training on installation, operation, maintenance and repairing of solar roof top systems at grass root level.

To create more than 3 lakh skilled manpower, through fresh skilling, and up-skilling, under scheme component of capacity building, out of which at least 1,00,000 will be Solar PV Technicians.

Prelims 2025 Questions**PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits**

Q21. With reference of India, consider the following pairs:

	Organization	Union Ministry
I.	The National Automotive Board	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
II.	The Coir Board	Ministry of Heavy Industries
III.	The National Centre for Trade Information	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All the three
- d. None

Correct Option: (d)