Defence & Security

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Q1.

With reference to insurgency and internal security challenges in the Balochistan region, consider the following statements:

1. The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) is an armed separatist organisation operating in Pakistan.
2. Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province by geographical area.
3. The Durand Line separates Pakistan and Iran.
4. Cross-border militant activities in the region can have implications for regional security and diplomatic relations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 4 only.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The BLA is an armed separatist organisation active in Pakistan's Balochistan region.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province by area.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Durand Line separates Pakistan and Afghanistan; the Pakistan-Iran border is separate.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Militant activity across borders can affect regional stability and bilateral relations.

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Q2.

With reference to intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and nuclear deterrence, consider the following statements:

1. An intercontinental ballistic missile is generally designed to travel over very long distances, typically exceeding 5,500 kilometres.
2. Solid-fuel missiles generally require less preparation time before launch than liquid-fuel missiles.
3. MIRV technology enables a single ballistic missile to carry multiple independently targetable nuclear warheads.
4. Road-mobile missile launchers can improve survivability by making missile locations less predictable.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1, 2, 3 and 4

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 4 only

D. 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct answer: Option A — 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — All four statements are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** ICBMs are long-range ballistic missiles generally having a range exceeding 5,500 km.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Solid-fuel propulsion enables quicker launch readiness and easier storage.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** MIRV technology allows multiple warheads to strike different targets independently.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Mobility makes launchers harder to locate and can improve survivability.

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Q3.

With reference to India's border security and counter-terrorism framework, consider the following statements:

1. The Line of Control (LoC) separates areas of Jammu and Kashmir administered by India and Pakistan.
2. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 provides a legal framework to deal with unlawful and terrorist activities in India.
3. The Border Security Force (BSF) is primarily responsible for guarding India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
4. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for conducting military counter-terrorism operations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1, 2 and 3 only

B. 1 and 4 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option A — 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The LoC separates the respective areas administered by India and Pakistan in the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** UAPA provides legal provisions to address unlawful associations and terrorist activities.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** BSF primarily guards India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** FATF is an intergovernmental body that develops standards to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

Q4.

With reference to military transport aircraft and India's defence manufacturing ecosystem, consider the following statements:

1. The C-390 Millennium is a military transport aircraft developed by Brazil's Embraer.
2. The C-390 is designed exclusively for air-to-air combat and does not perform cargo transportation.
3. The Make in India initiative seeks to promote domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence on imports.
4. Defence manufacturing partnerships with foreign companies can facilitate technology transfer and strengthen domestic industrial capabilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1, 3 and 4 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option A — 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Embraer's C-390 Millennium is a Brazilian-developed military transport aircraft.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It performs transport, cargo, troop and humanitarian missions rather than exclusively air-to-air combat.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Make in India promotes domestic production and manufacturing capabilities.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** International defence partnerships can support technology transfer and domestic industrial development.

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Q5.

With reference to counter-terrorism and internal security in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, provides the legal framework for dealing with unlawful associations and terrorist activities.
2. The National Investigation Agency was established under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.
3. The Border Security Force is responsible for guarding India's international borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
4. The Multi Agency Centre (MAC) facilitates intelligence sharing among different security and intelligence agencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 1, 2, 3 and 4

D. 2 and 4 only

Correct answer: Option C — 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — All four statements are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** UAPA provides the legal framework to address unlawful and terrorist activities.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** NIA was established under the 2008 Act.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** BSF guards India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** MAC supports intelligence coordination and information sharing.

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Q6.

With reference to the Pralay missile, consider the following statements:

1. Pralay is an indigenously developed short-range ballistic missile developed by DRDO.
2. It uses a solid-propellant propulsion system.
3. It has a reported range of approximately 150–500 km.
4. It is designed exclusively to carry nuclear warheads.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Pralay is an indigenous short-range ballistic missile developed by DRDO.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** It uses solid-fuel propulsion.

3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Its reported operational range is approximately 150–500 km.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** It is designed to carry conventional warheads, not exclusively nuclear warheads.

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Q7.

With reference to the Agnipath Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Agniveers are recruited into the armed forces for an initial period of four years.
2. All Agniveers are automatically absorbed into the regular armed forces after completing four years of service.
3. The Agnipath Scheme provides for the recruitment of personnel below officer rank.
4. Agniveers receive a Seva Nidhi package upon completion of their four-year engagement, subject to applicable conditions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 3 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Agniveers are initially engaged for four years under the Agnipath Scheme.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Up to 25% of a batch may be selected for regular service, subject to organisational requirements and performance.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** The scheme recruits personnel below officer rank in the armed forces.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Eligible Agniveers receive a Seva Nidhi package after completing their engagement.

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Q8.

With reference to the security of railway infrastructure in India, consider the following statements:

1. Railways fall under the Union List of the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
2. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is responsible for the protection and security of railway property, passenger areas and passengers.
3. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) can investigate offences affecting national security when they fall within its statutory jurisdiction.
4. The Indian Railways is a subject under the State List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 3 only.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Railways is Entry 22 of the Union List.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The RPF has statutory responsibilities relating to railway security and passenger protection.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** The NIA investigates scheduled offences under the NIA Act, subject to its jurisdiction.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Railways is a Union List subject, not a State List subject.

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Q9.

With reference to China's HQ-9B air defence system, consider the following statements:

1. The HQ-9B is a surface-to-air missile-based air defence system.
2. It is designed to intercept aerial threats, including certain ballistic missile targets.
3. Advanced radar and automated decision-making can improve its ability to respond to rapidly manoeuvring threats.
4. The HQ-9B is primarily designed for offensive ground attacks rather than air defence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

orrect Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 3 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** HQ-9B is a Chinese surface-to-air missile system.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** It is designed to engage aerial threats, including certain ballistic missile targets.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Radar and automated systems support rapid detection and engagement decisions.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Its primary role is air defence, not offensive ground attack.

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Q10.

What is “Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)”, sometimes seen in the news?

A. An Israeli radar system

B. India's indigenous anti-missile programme

C. An American anti-missile system

D. A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea

Correct answer: Option C — An American anti-missile system

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — An American anti-missile system

THAAD is an American missile defence system designed to intercept and destroy incoming ballistic missiles during their terminal phase of flight.

Its important features include:

1. It is designed to intercept short-, medium- and limited intermediate-range ballistic missiles.
2. It uses kinetic energy to destroy incoming missiles through direct impact.
3. It is part of the United States' layered ballistic missile defence system.

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