Defence & Security

DAILY PRACTICE 06/11/2026 · UPSC CSE · Defence & Security

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 India-Nepal relations, consider the following statements:

1. India and Nepal share an open border that facilitates movement of people and economic interactions.
2. The Mahakali Treaty between India and Nepal concerns cooperation in water resources and hydropower development.
3. Nepal is a member of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).
4. India and Nepal do not have any institutional mechanisms for discussing bilateral water-resource issues.

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 and 4 only

D. 1, 3 and 4 only

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

Explanation

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

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** India and Nepal share an open border that supports cross-border movement and trade.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mahakali Treaty provides a framework for cooperation in water resources and hydropower.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Nepal is one of the founding members of BIMSTEC.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Both countries have bilateral mechanisms for discussing water resources and related cooperation.

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Q3.

With reference to the impact of extreme heat on maternal and public health, consider the following statements:

1. Extreme heat exposure during pregnancy can increase the risk of preterm birth.
2. Maternal dehydration and thermal stress may affect placental blood flow.
3. Heatwaves have no significant implications for vulnerable populations such as pregnant women, infants and older persons.
4. The National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) aims to address health risks associated with climate change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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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:** Extreme heat exposure during pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of preterm birth.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Dehydration and thermal stress may impair maternal circulation and placental blood flow.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Pregnant women, infants and older persons are particularly vulnerable to extreme heat.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** NPCCHH addresses the health impacts of climate change in India.

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Q4.

With reference to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, consider the following statements:

1. UN peacekeeping operations are deployed only with the consent of the Security Council's permanent five members.
2. The three basic principles of UN peacekeeping include consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.
3. The UN Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
4. UN peacekeeping operations are funded exclusively through voluntary contributions from member states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1, 3 and 4 only

D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Correct answer: Option B — 2 and 3 only

Explanation

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

1. **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Peacekeeping mandates are authorised by the Security Council; unanimous consent of all five permanent members is not a deployment requirement.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** These are the three foundational principles guiding UN peacekeeping.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Article 24 of the UN Charter gives the Security Council primary responsibility for international peace and security.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** UN peacekeeping is mainly financed through assessed contributions from member states.

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Q5.

With reference to mega-hydropower projects and environmental governance in India, consider the following statements:

1. Hydropower projects can affect riverine biodiversity by altering natural flow regimes and sediment transport.
2. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 provides the framework for prior environmental clearance of specified development projects.
3. Gram Sabhas have no role in decisions concerning forest rights and diversion of forest land in Scheduled Areas.
4. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 recognises the rights of eligible forest-dwelling communities over forest resources.

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, 2, 3 and 4

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

Explanation

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

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Dams can alter river flows, sediment movement and aquatic habitats.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The EIA Notification, 2006 mandates prior environmental clearance for specified projects.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Gram Sabhas have important roles under forest-rights and related legal frameworks.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** The Forest Rights Act, 2006 recognises individual and community forest rights of eligible communities.

Q6.

With reference to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and nuclear security, consider the following statements:

1. The IAEA was established in 1957 as an autonomous international organisation related to the United Nations system.
2. The IAEA safeguards system aims to verify that nuclear material is not diverted from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.
3. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) recognises five nuclear-weapon states.
4. The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) is responsible for military operations across the entire European continent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 2 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:** The IAEA was established in 1957 and operates as an autonomous organisation within the UN system.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** IAEA safeguards verify that nuclear material is used for peaceful purposes.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** The NPT recognises China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States as nuclear-weapon states.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** CENTCOM's area of responsibility covers parts of the Middle East, Central and South Asia, rather than Europe.

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Q7.

With reference to international peace negotiations and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
2. NATO's Article 5 provides for collective defence, treating an armed attack against one member as an attack against all.
3. Ukraine became a full member of NATO following the commencement of the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022.
4. Security guarantees are intended to provide assurances regarding a country's security against potential external threats.

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, 2, 3 and 4

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

Explanation

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

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 24 of the UN Charter assigns the Security Council primary responsibility for international peace and security.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** NATO Article 5 establishes the principle of collective defence among member states.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Ukraine is not a full NATO member.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Security guarantees aim to provide protection or assurances against external security threats.

Q8.

With reference to ethanol blending in petrol in India, consider the following statements:

1. Ethanol blending in petrol is part of India's strategy to reduce dependence on imported crude oil.
2. Ethanol is primarily produced through the fermentation of biomass containing sugars and starch.
3. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) develops standards relating to fuel quality in India.
4. The E20 programme refers to petrol containing 20% ethanol by volume, subject to applicable fuel specifications.

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. 1, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

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

Explanation

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

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Ethanol blending aims to reduce crude oil imports and improve domestic energy security.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Ethanol can be produced through fermentation of sugar- and starch-rich feedstocks.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** BIS formulates and publishes standards for petroleum products and other commodities.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** E20 denotes petrol blended with 20% ethanol by volume.

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Q9.

With reference to Information Technology (IT) hubs and innovation ecosystems in India, consider the following statements:

1. Hyderabad is an important centre for India's information technology and pharmaceutical industries.
2. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are intended to promote exports through fiscal and other policy incentives.
3. The Startup India initiative was launched to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and startup development.
4. State governments have no role in developing technology parks, startup ecosystems or digital infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 2 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:** Hyderabad has developed as a major IT and pharmaceutical industry centre.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** SEZs aim to promote exports through fiscal incentives and a supportive regulatory framework.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Startup India promotes innovation, entrepreneurship and startup growth.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** State governments actively support technology parks, digital infrastructure and startup ecosystems.

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Q10.

With reference to industrial robotics and strategic technology governance, consider the following statements:

1. Industrial robots are used in manufacturing for tasks such as welding, assembly, material handling and precision operations.
2. Robotics integrates disciplines such as mechanical engineering, electronics, control systems and artificial intelligence.
3. Foreign investment screening may be used by governments to examine acquisitions involving national security or strategic technologies.
4. Cross-border acquisitions of technology companies are universally exempt from regulatory scrutiny under international trade rules.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 2 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:** Industrial robots perform repetitive, precision-based and hazardous manufacturing tasks.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Robotics combines mechanical, electronic, computational and intelligent control technologies.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Investment screening can assess national security and strategic technology risks associated with foreign acquisitions.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Cross-border acquisitions may be subject to domestic competition, investment and national security regulations.