Defence & Security

DAILY PRACTICE 29/11/2026 · UPSC CSE · Defence & Security

Q1.

Consider the following statements about the BrahMos missile:

1. It is a supersonic cruise missile developed through an India-Russia joint venture.
2. It uses ramjet propulsion during its cruise phase.
3. It is designed exclusively for deployment from land-based platforms.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option A — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

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

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** BrahMos is jointly developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's

NPO Mashinostroyenia through BrahMos Aerospace.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The missile uses a solid-propellant booster for initial acceleration and a ramjet engine for sustained supersonic cruise.

3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** BrahMos has land-, sea-, air- and submarine-launch variants or configurations, reflecting its multi-platform capability.

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Q2.

Consider the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R):

Assertion (A): The admission of women cadets to the National Defence Academy (NDA) marked an important step towards gender inclusion in India's armed forces.

Reason (R): The NDA began admitting women cadets in 2022, following judicial intervention and subsequent policy measures.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

C. A is true, but R is false.

D. A is false, but R is true.

Correct answer: Option A — Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

1. **Assertion (A) is correct:** Opening the NDA to women expanded their access to a major institution for training future officers of the Armed Forces.

2. **Reason (R) is correct:** Women were admitted to the NDA for the first time in 2022, following judicial intervention and the implementation of necessary admission arrangements.

3. **Relationship:** The admission of women through the NDA pathway represents an institutional step towards greater gender inclusion in military leadership and officer training.

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Q3.

Which of the following best explains the strategic significance of the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan?

A. It is an internationally recognised permanent boundary established through a bilateral treaty.

B. It is a military control line established under the 1972 Simla Agreement, separating areas administered by India and Pakistan in the former princely State of Jammu and Kashmir.

C. It is a maritime boundary separating the territorial waters of India and Pakistan.

D. It is a boundary created under the Indus Waters Treaty to regulate river-water sharing.

Correct answer: Option B — It is a military control line established under the 1972 Simla Agreement, separating areas administered by India and Pakistan in the former princely State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — The LoC is a military control line formalised under the 1972 Simla Agreement.

1. **Historical origin:** The 1949 Karachi Agreement established a Cease-Fire Line following the first India-Pakistan war.
2. **Simla Agreement, 1972:** Following the 1971 war, India and Pakistan agreed to respect the line of control resulting from the ceasefire of December 1971, without prejudice to their respective positions.

3. **Distinction:** The LoC is not an internationally recognised international boundary. It separates areas under Indian and Pakistani administration in the former princely State of Jammu and Kashmir.
4. **Security significance:** Surveillance, border management and counter-infiltration operations remain important along this sensitive military control line.

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Q4.

Consider the following pairs relating to the institutional framework for combating drug trafficking in India:

Institution	Primary role
1. Narcotics Control Bureau	Coordination of anti-narcotics enforcement
2. Central Bureau of Narcotics	Administration of licit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under relevant laws
3. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights	Investigation of all inter-State drug trafficking cases

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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A. Only one

B. Only two

C. All three

D. None

Correct answer: Option B — Only two

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Only pairs 1 and 2 are correctly matched.

1. **Pair 1 is correct:** The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), established in 1986, coordinates actions by various agencies involved in combating drug trafficking and enforcing the NDPS Act.

2. **Pair 2 is correct:** The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) regulates and administers specified licit activities involving narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including functions relating to licensing and control.
3. **Pair 3 is incorrect:** The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) safeguards children's rights. It is not the investigating agency for inter-State drug trafficking cases.

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Q5.

The strategic importance of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is primarily associated with which of the following factors?

1. It contains major international shipping routes connecting Europe, Africa and Asia.
2. It facilitates the movement of energy supplies and essential commodities.
3. It has no significant relevance to India's national security because maritime trade is governed exclusively by international institutions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option B — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

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

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The Indian Ocean connects important commercial regions and hosts major international shipping lanes.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** A substantial volume of global energy trade and essential commodity transportation takes place through maritime routes in the region.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Maritime security is directly relevant to India's national security, economic interests, energy security and strategic autonomy. International institutions do not eliminate the need for national maritime capabilities.

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Q6.

A bomb threat is received against a public concert in a major Indian city. Which of the following best describes the appropriate institutional response under India's disaster and public safety framework?

A. Treating the threat as a private matter between the organiser and the performer

B. Relying exclusively on the venue's private security personnel

C. Coordinated threat assessment, police investigation, venue security and emergency preparedness

D. Cancelling all public gatherings across the country as a mandatory response

Correct answer: Option C — Coordinated threat assessment, police investigation, venue security and emergency preparedness

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Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Coordinated threat assessment, police investigation, venue security and emergency preparedness.

1. **Threat assessment:** Police and intelligence agencies assess the credibility and nature of the threat.
2. **Security arrangements:** Venue access control, surveillance, crowd management and anti-sabotage checks help reduce risks.
3. **Emergency preparedness:** Medical assistance, evacuation plans and communication systems are important for public safety.
4. **Institutional coordination:** Event organisers, local administration, police and emergency services must coordinate their response.

Q7.

With reference to the military applications of space technology, consider the following pairs:

Technology	Military application
1. Space-Based Surveillance	Monitoring military movements and strategic installations
2. Satellite navigation	Supporting positioning, navigation and precision-guided operations
3. Satellite communication	Enabling secure communication between geographically dispersed forces
4. Anti-satellite weapons	Providing continuous weather forecasting for military operations

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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A. Only one

B. Only two

C. Only three

D. All four

Correct answer: Option C — Only three

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Only three pairs are correctly matched.

1. **Pair 1 is correct:** Space-based surveillance supports intelligence gathering, monitoring of military movements and observation of strategic installations.

2. **Pair 2 is correct:** Satellite navigation systems provide positioning and timing information that supports military navigation and precision-guided operations.

3. **Pair 3 is correct:** Satellite communication enables connectivity between military units operating across distant or inaccessible locations.

4. **Pair 4 is incorrect:** Anti-satellite weapons are designed to disrupt, damage or destroy satellites. Weather forecasting is primarily supported by meteorological satellites.

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Q8.

A consignment of codeine-based cough syrup is intercepted during a joint operation by the Border Security Force (BSF) and State Police. Which of the following best describes the institutional significance of such an operation?

A. The BSF has exclusive jurisdiction to investigate all drug-related offences across India.

B. The operation illustrates coordination between a Central Armed Police Force and State law-enforcement agencies in combating cross-border and organised drug trafficking.

C. State Police can investigate narcotics offences only after receiving prior approval from the BSF.

D. The BSF is responsible for regulating the manufacture and sale of pharmaceutical products in India.

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Correct answer: Option B — The operation illustrates coordination between a Central Armed Police Force and State law-enforcement agencies in combating cross-border and organised drug trafficking.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — The operation illustrates coordination between a Central Armed Police Force and State law-enforcement agencies in combating cross-border and organised drug trafficking.

1. **BSF:** The Border Security Force is a Central Armed Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Its responsibilities include guarding India's designated international borders and assisting in preventing trans-border crimes.

2. **State Police:** State Police investigate offences, make arrests and undertake law-enforcement action within their jurisdiction under applicable laws.

3. **Institutional coordination:** Intelligence-sharing and joint operations can help identify trafficking networks, intercept illegal consignments and strengthen border-area security.

4. **Legal framework:** The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 provides the principal statutory framework for controlling and regulating narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

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Q9.

With reference to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), consider the following statements:

1. The NIA was established under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.
2. It is empowered to investigate and prosecute offences listed in the Schedule of the Act.
3. The NIA requires prior consent of the concerned State Government in every case before taking up an investigation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option A — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

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

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The NIA was established through the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, following the 26/11

Mumbai terrorist attacks.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The agency investigates and prosecutes offences specified in the Schedule of the Act, including various terrorism-related offences.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Under Section 6(4), the Central Government can direct the NIA to investigate a scheduled offence without requiring prior consent from the concerned State Government.

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Q10.

With reference to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, consider the following statements:

1. The Act provides a legal framework to deal with unlawful activities and terrorist activities.
2. The Central Government can declare an organisation as a terrorist organisation under the Act.
3. Only Indian citizens can be prosecuted under the provisions of the Act.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

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Correct answer: Option A — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

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

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** UAPA provides a legal framework to prevent and prosecute unlawful activities and terrorist activities threatening India's sovereignty, security and integrity.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Under Section 35, the Central Government can add an organisation to the First Schedule as a terrorist organisation.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Act is not restricted to Indian citizens. Its provisions can also apply to persons and activities falling within its prescribed territorial and extra-territorial jurisdiction.

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