International Relations

DAILY PRACTICE 28/11/2026 · UPSC CSE · International Relations

Q1.

Under international humanitarian law (IHL), which of the following principles must be observed by parties involved in an armed conflict when conducting airstrikes?

1. Distinction between civilians and combatants.
2. Proportionality between anticipated military advantage and expected civilian harm.
3. Precautions to minimise civilian casualties during military operations.

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 D — 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

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

1. **Distinction:** Parties must distinguish between civilians and combatants and direct attacks only against military objectives.
2. **Proportionality:** An attack is prohibited if expected incidental civilian harm would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.
3. **Precautions:** Parties must take feasible precautions to avoid or minimise civilian casualties, including verifying targets and choosing means and methods of attack carefully.

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Q2.

With reference to the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), consider the following statements:

1. It is a border security force responsible for guarding Bangladesh's international borders.
2. It operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs of Bangladesh.
3. Its deployment for internal law-and-order duties necessarily transfers the responsibility of maintaining public order from civilian authorities to the military.

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:** The BGB is Bangladesh's paramilitary border security force, responsible for safeguarding the country's international borders.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The BGB functions under the administrative control of Bangladesh's Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Deployment of a border security force in support of internal security does not automatically transfer the constitutional or administrative responsibility for public order from civilian authorities.

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Q3.

During an armed conflict, a hospital and its medical personnel are protected under international humanitarian law. Which of the following circumstances can result in the loss of special protection afforded to a medical facility?

A. The hospital treats wounded combatants belonging to different parties.

B. The hospital provides medical assistance to civilians in a conflict zone.

C. The hospital is used, outside its humanitarian function, to commit acts harmful to the enemy, subject to applicable legal conditions.

D. The hospital receives medical supplies from an international humanitarian organisation.

Correct answer: Option C — The hospital is used, outside its humanitarian function, to commit acts harmful to the enemy, subject to applicable legal conditions.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Use of a medical facility for acts harmful to the enemy, subject to applicable legal conditions, can result in the loss of its special protection.

1. **Medical neutrality:** Medical personnel and facilities must be respected and protected during armed conflicts.

2. **Treatment without discrimination:** Providing medical care to wounded combatants from different parties does not itself remove protection.
3. **Loss of protection:** A medical unit may lose its special protection if used to commit acts harmful to the enemy outside its humanitarian function. Generally, a warning setting a reasonable time limit must be given and remain unheeded before protection ceases.
4. **Civilian protection:** Even when special protection is lost, applicable international humanitarian law continues to regulate attacks, including distinction, proportionality and precautions.

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Q4.

India and Denmark seek to expand cooperation in green energy, maritime security and technology. Which of the following best explains the strategic significance of such a multi-sectoral partnership?

A. It replaces India's engagement with multilateral institutions with bilateral agreements.

B. It links economic cooperation with climate action, technological development and maritime security.

C. It establishes a common currency and a customs union between the two countries.

D. It requires both countries to adopt identical foreign and defence policies.

Correct answer: Option B — It links economic cooperation with climate action, technological development and maritime security.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — It links economic cooperation with climate action, technological development and maritime security.

1. **Economic cooperation:** Trade and investment partnerships can diversify markets, strengthen supply chains and encourage technology exchange.
2. **Green transition:** Cooperation in renewable energy and sustainable technologies can support decarbonisation and climate commitments.

3. **Maritime security:** Collaboration can contribute to maritime domain awareness, protection of sea routes and a rules-based maritime order.
4. **Strategic autonomy:** A bilateral partnership does not require either country to surrender its independent foreign or defence policy.

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Q5.

Consider the following statements regarding the legislative process in the United States:

1. A bill introduced in the US House of Representatives must ordinarily be approved by both the House and the Senate.
2. The President of the United States can veto a bill passed by Congress.
3. A presidential veto can be overridden by a two-thirds majority in both Houses of Congress.

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

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

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

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Under the US bicameral legislative system, ordinary legislation generally requires approval by both the House of Representatives and the Senate in identical form.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The President can veto legislation passed by Congress and return it with objections.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Congress can override a presidential veto through a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate.

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Q6.

The ‘Viksit Bharat–Samunnat Nepal’ Joint Vision is primarily intended to strengthen which of the following dimensions of India–Nepal relations?

A. Defence cooperation through the creation of a unified military command.

B. Comprehensive bilateral cooperation covering economic development, connectivity, energy, climate, technology and social sectors.

C. Establishment of a monetary union and a common central bank.

D. Replacement of existing bilateral treaties with a single regional security agreement.

Correct answer: Option B — Comprehensive bilateral cooperation covering economic development, connectivity, energy, climate, technology and social sectors.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Comprehensive bilateral cooperation covering economic development, connectivity, energy, climate, technology and social sectors.

1. **Multi-sectoral cooperation:** The ten-pillar vision covers areas such as economy, connectivity, energy, climate, governance, space, innovation, education, health, agriculture, sports, culture and tourism.

2. **Development partnership:** The proposed Indian assistance of ₹15,000 crore reflects the economic and developmental dimension of bilateral engagement.

3. **Institutional monitoring:** A six-monthly monitoring mechanism is intended to review implementation and strengthen accountability.

4. **Strategic context:** India and Nepal share geographical, cultural, economic and security interests, making bilateral cooperation important for regional stability.

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Q7.

Consider the following statements regarding the geographical and political context of the Yemen conflict:

1. Sana’a is the capital of Yemen.
2. Riyadh is the capital of Saudi Arabia.
3. The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.
4. Yemen shares a land border with Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Which of the statements given above 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:** Sana’a is Yemen's capital, although the internationally recognised government has operated from other locations during the conflict.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Riyadh is the capital of Saudi Arabia and a major political and administrative centre.

3. **Statement 3 is correct:** The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and is a strategically important maritime chokepoint.

4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Yemen shares land borders with Saudi Arabia and Oman, not the UAE.

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Q8.

Consider the following pairs of countries and their regional organisations:

	Country	Regional organisation
1.	Saudi Arabia	Gulf Cooperation Council
2.	Egypt	Arab League
3.	Jordan	Gulf Cooperation Council
4.	UAE	Gulf Cooperation Council

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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:** Saudi Arabia is a founding member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
2. **Pair 2 is correct:** Egypt is a member of the Arab League.
3. **Pair 3 is incorrect:** Jordan is not a member of the GCC, although it has participated in regional diplomatic and security initiatives with Gulf countries.

4. **Pair 4 is correct:** The United Arab Emirates is a founding member of the GCC.

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Q9.

With reference to the 12th India-EU Foreign Policy and Security Consultations held in November 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The consultations were co-chaired by representatives of India's Ministry of External Affairs and the European External Action Service.
2. India and the EU discussed restoring freedom of navigation in the Black Sea, recognising its significance for global food security.
3. Both sides agreed that the next Foreign Policy and Security Consultations would be held in New Delhi.

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 12th consultations were co-chaired by Sibi George, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, India, and Olof Skoog, Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs of the European External Action Service.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Both sides discussed restoring freedom of navigation in the Black Sea to minimise its adverse impact on global food security.

3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The next round of consultations is scheduled to be held in Brussels, at a mutually convenient date in 2027.

Q10.

Consider the following statements regarding the Houthi movement in Yemen:

1. The Houthis are a Zaydi Shia political and armed movement.
2. The movement has received support from Iran.
3. Yemen shares a land border with Saudi Arabia.

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

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

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

1. **Statement 1:** Correct. The Houthi movement, also known as Ansar Allah, emerged from Yemen's Zaydi Shia community.
2. **Statement 2:** Correct. Iran has provided political, military and other forms of support to the Houthi movement.
3. **Statement 3:** Correct. Yemen shares its northern border with Saudi Arabia and its eastern border with Oman.