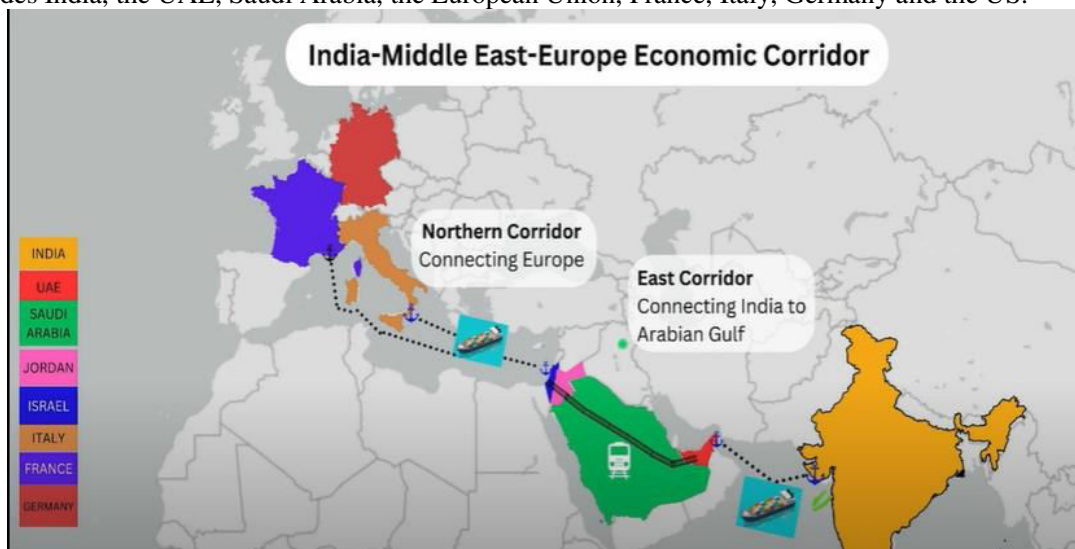


INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor:

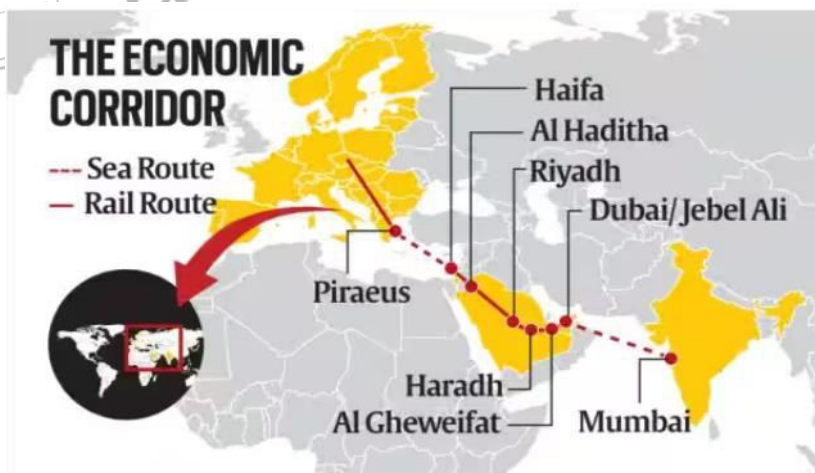
In context: PM Modi announced the launch of the India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor on the sidelines of the G20 summit. The project aims to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and includes India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany and the US.



About the project:

- ✓ Part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII)
- ✓ The rail and shipping corridor is part of the PGII.
- ✓ PGII is a collaborative effort by G7 nations to fund infrastructure projects in developing nations.
- ✓ This project is also called as a green and digital bridge across continents and civilizations.
- ✓ The corridor will include a rail link as well as an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a high-speed data cable.
- ✓ One proposed project would link railway and port facilities across the Middle East — including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel.
- ✓ This would speed up trade between India and Europe by up to 40 percent.

Route



- ✓ The plan seeks to bolster trade between India, the Middle East as well as Europe.
- ✓ It will establish a modern-day Spice Route to bind regions that account for about a third of the global economy.

Significance of India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor

- ✓ The plan is expected to be a possible game changer for global trade, presenting an alternative to China's wide-ranging strategic infrastructure investments.
- ✓ The corridor would increase prosperity among the countries involved by increasing the flow of energy and digital communications.

- ✓ The project would help to address the lack of infrastructure needed for growth in lower- and middle-income nations.
- ✓ The enhanced infrastructure would boost economic growth, help bring countries in the Middle East together.
- ✓ It will help establish that region as a hub for economic activity instead of as a source of challenge, conflict or crisis.

Countering China

- ✓ This project comes at a time when Saudi Arabia and the UAE, both old allies of US, have been strengthening their ties with China.
- ✓ These countries seek to enhance relations with rapidly growing eastern economies.
- ✓ China has also boosted ties with the Middle East of late, helping to broker a deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran earlier this year.
- ✓ During BRICS Summit 2023, the oil-rich Gulf states announced their intention to join the grouping, with China playing a leading role in this move.
- ✓ The plan is being seen as an ambitious effort by Washington to counter China's Belt and Road initiative that sought to connect more of the world to the country's economy.
- ✓ Of late, China's BRI has been facing a series of troubles due to rising loan defaults and slowing down on investments.

Significance for India

- ✓ India was anxious about China's connectivity projects in the region under its decade-old Belt and Road Initiative.
- ✓ It was also frustrated by Pakistan's refusal to allow overland access.
- ✓ Its quest for credible connectivity through Iran into the Eurasian landmass did not yield much result.
- ✓ Tehran is more open to India, but its confrontation with the West has cast a shadow over the commercial utility of corridors across Iran into Eurasia.
- ✓ Against this backdrop, India finally found a formula to connect to both Arabia and Europa.
- ✓ Several new geopolitical trends underlined by India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor
- ✓ Breaks the myth that India-US cannot work together in Middle East
- ✓ The conventional wisdom in Delhi said India and the United States might work together in the Indo-Pacific but had little in common in the Middle East.
- ✓ That myth was broken when India and the United States joined hands with Israel and the United Arab Emirates to set up the I2U2 forum to develop a few joint economic projects.
- ✓ The India-Arabia-Europa corridor could turn out to be far more consequential.

Breaks Pakistan's veto

- ✓ Since the 1990s, Islamabad was adamant in its refusal to let India gain access to land-locked Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- ✓ India's strategic engagement with the Arabian Peninsula
- ✓ The Indian govt now has an opportunity to build enduring connectivity between India and Arabia.
- ✓ The current project will restore India's role as a driver in shaping regional connectivity.
- ✓ Mobilisation of Europe into the infrastructure development in the region
- ✓ The corridor also marks the mobilisation of Europe into the infrastructure development in the region.
- ✓ The European Union had earmarked 300 million Euros for infrastructure spending worldwide during 2021-27.
- ✓ Its support for the new corridor will make the EU a major stakeholder in integrating India with Arabia and Europa.

2. G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration:

In context: The leaders at India's G20 Summit 2023 arrived at a joint communique — called the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration. This is a significant victory for India's G20 presidency that came amid increasing tensions and divergent views over the Ukraine conflict.

THE NEW DELHI DECLARATION

ON UKRAINE WAR



ALL STATES must act in a manner consistent with purposes and principles of UN charter in its entirety.

THEY MUST REFRAIN from threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state; also from use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible.

PEACEFUL RESOLUTION of conflicts, and efforts to address crises as well as diplomacy and dialogue are critical.

"THERE WERE different views and assessments of the situation."

"TODAY'S ERA must not be of war."

ON GRAIN/FOOD/ENERGY SECURITY



CALLS ON Russia and Ukraine to ensure immediate and unimpeded deliveries of grain, foodstuffs, and fertilizers/inputs from Russia and Ukraine.

EMPHASISING importance of sustaining food and energy security, called for cessation of military destruction or other attacks on relevant infrastructure.

POTENTIAL FOR high levels of volatility in food and energy markets remains.

ON ECONOMIES & FINANCIAL MARKETS



"WILL PROTECT the vulnerable, through equitable growth and enhancing macroeconomic and financial stability."

REAFFIRM April 2021 exchange rate commitment made by G20 finance

ministers and central bank governors.

ENDORSE financial stability board's high-level recommendations for regulation, supervision and oversight of crypto-assets, activities.

FINANCE MINISTERS and central bank governors will discuss taking forward the cryptocurrency roadmap at their meeting in October.

RENEW our commitment to ensure a level-playing field and fair competition by discouraging protectionism, market distorting practices.

ON CLIMATE CHANGE



NEED TO ACCELERATE efforts to phase down unabated coal power, in line with national circumstances.

WILL WORK towards facilitating low-cost financing for developing countries to support their transition to low carbon.

WILL PURSUE and encourage efforts to triple renewable energy capacity globally through existing targets and policies, in line with national circumstances by 2030.

REITERATE our commitment to take action to scale up sustainable finance.

REITERATE use of carbon pricing and non-pricing mechanisms and incentives toward carbon neutrality and net zero.

RECOGNISE need for increased global investments to meet our climate goals of the Paris agreement.

NOTE NEED OF \$5.8-5.9 trillion in pre-2030 period required for developing countries, in particular for their needs to implement their emission targets.

CALLS ON parties to set an ambitious, transparent, and trackable New Collective Quantified Goal of climate finance in 2024, from a floor of \$100 billion a year.

ON GLOBAL DEBT VULNERABILITIES



COMMIT TO promoting resilient growth by urgently and effectively addressing debt vulnerabilities in developing countries.

CALL FOR swift conclusion of the debt treatment for Ethiopia.

ON HEALTH



REMAIN COMMITTED to strengthening global health architecture.

WILL ENHANCE resilience of health systems and support development of climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems in collaboration with multilateral banks.

Uniqueness of the Declaration

- ✓ The communique is filled with deliverables on a range of issues. It is also crafted in a different way — not the usual paragraphs that are structured in a joint declaration.
- ✓ Instead, it starts with a preamble, and then has 10 chapters, and ends with a conclusion.

On Ukraine

- ✓ The big sticking point was the Ukraine-Russia conflict, which was addressed in detail in seven paragraphs.
- ✓ This is much more elaborate than the Bali Declaration, which had just two paragraphs.
- ✓ The Russia-Ukraine paragraphs did not condemn Russia for its actions, nor did it call it an aggression. But the West also got what it wanted.

Strong, Sustainable, Balanced, and Inclusive Growth

- ✓ It talks about the global economic situation, advancing financial inclusion, and fighting corruption.
- ✓ It vows to implement the Action Plan against Fugitive Economic Offenders that will help strengthen international cooperation and information sharing.

Accelerating Progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- ✓ This is about eliminating hunger and malnutrition, health collaboration and delivering quality education among others.
- ✓ One of the important elements is on how future pandemics can impact the economy, which also brings out the gaps in the existing pandemic response mechanism, including institutional and funding arrangements.
- ✓ On education, it talks about enhancing teachers' capacity, improved curricula, content in local language, and access to digital resources.
- ✓ This will ensure that all children, including the most marginalised, are provided with the essential building blocks for all future learning.

Green Development Pact for a Sustainable Future

- ✓ It stresses the need to implement clean, sustainable, just, affordable, and inclusive energy transitions.
- ✓ One important element is the mention of the need to build reliable, diverse, responsible, and sustainable value chains of critical minerals, semiconductors, and related technologies.

Multilateral Institutions for the 21st Century

- ✓ It speaks of reforming international financial institutions.
- ✓ One of the most important elements is that:
 - Reform of the UN Security Council was agreed to for the first time in the G20;
 - And there was a strong push towards reforms for better, bigger, and more effective Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).
- ✓ They also called for managing debt vulnerabilities of low and middle-income countries and the start of exchange of tax-relevant information on crypto assets by 2027.

Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure:

- ✓ This chapter contains elements of building digital public infrastructure, crypto-assets, and harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) responsibly.
- ✓ On AI, they agreed to pursue a pro-innovation regulatory/governance approach that maximises the benefits and takes into account the risks associated with the use of AI.
- ✓ The G20 leaders agreed on a G20 framework for digital public infrastructure and Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository (GDPIR).
- ✓ The framework calls for building interoperable solutions and formulating laws that can ensure that DPIs are safe, secure, trusted, and governed transparently.
- ✓ It also talks about a comprehensive toolkit which is aimed at improving cyber education and cyber awareness for the protection and empowerment of children and youth.
- ✓ Another key win for the India's G20 presidency was to gather consensus around creating a global regulatory framework for crypto-assets.
- ✓ They endorsed the Financial Stability Board's (FSB's) high-level recommendations for the regulation, supervision and oversight of crypto-assets activities.

Gender Equality and Empowering all Women and Girls

- ✓ It promotes equal rights to economic resources, property ownership, financial services, and inheritance for women.
- ✓ It also supports women's organisations and networks, and closing gender gaps in agricultural access.
- ✓ Under India's G20 Presidency, a decision to create a full-fledged working group on women's empowerment has been made.
- ✓ The group will prioritise gender equality, women's empowerment, and leadership, and bring convergence across sectors at all levels.

On Countering Terrorism and Money Laundering

- ✓ It contains a strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and a positive message towards international peace and security.

Creating a More Inclusive World

- ✓ India's G20 Presidency has paved the way for the African Union's permanent membership in the G20.
- ✓ This will make G20 more inclusive, deepen cooperation with Africa, and help realise its developmental aspirations.
- ✓ Also, there is a commitment to promote respect for religious and cultural diversity,
- ✓ It deplors all acts of religious hatred, including against religious symbols and holy books.

From Delhi, a vision for Brazil, South Africa, US

- ✓ In conclusion, there were a few broader takeaways that this Summit projected:
- ✓ A strong commitment for future Presidencies including for the new cycle beginning in 2026 — Brazil in 2024, South Africa in 2025, and the US in 2026.
- ✓ There was recognition of all Engagement Groups and Initiatives of India's G20 Presidency.

- ✓ By conducting over 200 meetings in 60 cities across India, New Delhi has set a new template — and a high bar — of taking G20 to the people.
- ✓ The democratisation of diplomacy is a key take away from this successful exercise

ENVIRONMENT

Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2023

In Context: According to the Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2023, Chandigarh ranks 22nd out of 47 cities with a population of above 10 lakh.

Summary of the Report

- ✓ According to the research, Indore ranked first among cities with more than 10 lakh people, followed by Agra and Thane.
- ✓ Chandigarh received 174 points out of a possible 200, while Indore received 187, Agra received 186, and Thane received 185.5. Chandigarh failed to make the top 10, and Delhi got ninth place with a score of 177.
- ✓ In the category of towns with fewer than 3 lakh people, Parwanoo in Himachal Pradesh took first place with a score of 193.6, followed by Kala Amb (193).
- ✓ Baddi in Himachal Pradesh was ranked 12th with a score of 171.2, while Nalagarh was ranked 14th with a score of 165. Similarly, Dera Bassi in the Mohali district remained 37th with a score of 93.3 out of 40 cities in the category.
- ✓ 'Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan- Ranking of Cities' is administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change as part of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- ✓ The "Swachh Vayu Survekshan" program is covered by the sub-component-3 "National and State level interventions and public outreach activities" of the Component "National Mission for Clean Air" (NMCA) of the central sector scheme "Control of Pollution".

SWACHH VAYU SARVEKSHAN 2023				City Name	Assesment by city	Assesment by CPCB	Rank
				Category I: Population above 10L			
				Indore	191	187	1
				Bhopal	187	181	5
				Jabalpur	172	172	12
				Gwalior	171	114	41
				Category II: Population ranging from 3 to 10L			
				Ujjain	189	182	5
				Sagar	188.2	170.7	9
				Category III: Population less than 3L			
				Dewas	181	180	6
				Source: CPCB			

Objectives

- ✓ To raise awareness among all segments of society
- ✓ To raise awareness among all parts of society
- ✓ To inform citizens about the health consequences of exposure
- ✓ To compare air quality situations in different locations/cities; and
- ✓ To accomplish the NCAP goal of "Clean air for all."

Cities included

- ✓ The Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan promotes the ranking of 131 cities in the country for following City Action Plans developed as part of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) with the goal of reducing air pollution by 40% by 2025-26.

Evaluation standards

- ✓ The population of 131 cities is divided into three groups. 47 cities with populations greater than 10 lakh are included in the first group. The second group includes 44 cities with populations ranging from 3 to 10 lakh. The third group is made up of 40 cities.
- ✓ Cities must conduct self-assessment using the framework supplied on the PRANA web portal. This evaluation is done once a year. Cities must report on the implementation of activities and measures taken in the areas of solid waste management, road dust management, construction and demolition waste management, vehicular emissions control, and industrial pollution.
- ✓ This encourages constructive rivalry in the spirit of competitive federalism to enhance air quality. This Survekshan gives cities a tool for planning activities to improve air quality.
- ✓ The ranking of cities is not dependent on the assessment of air quality measures. It is based on activities performed by cities to improve air quality in several fields.
- ✓ The steps made by cities would result in better air quality. It thus provides a planning and execution tool for improving air quality, as well as an assessment of how well cities have synchronized their actions to improve air quality.

Award

- ✓ Better performing cities, i.e. the top three cities in each category, will be rewarded with a monetary prize, a trophy, and recognition from the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
- ✓ A certificate with the title "National Clean Air City" issued by the National Mission for Clean Air on September 7th, the "International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies."

PRELIM FACTS

1. Banglar jol, Banglar mati

- ✓ The West Bengal Assembly adopted a resolution recognizing Poila Baishakh (April 15) as statehood day and Banglar mati, Banglar jol as the state anthem.
- ✓ Rabindranath Tagore wrote Banglar mati and Banglar jol during the partition of Bengal in 1905.
- ✓ The song invokes the beauty of Bengal — its natural surroundings, language, people, and soul — to ask for unity among all Bengalis.

The partition of Bengal

- ✓ Curzon partitioned Bengal along communal lines in 1905. The rearrangement divided the predominantly Muslim eastern portions from the predominantly Hindu western areas.
- ✓ Reason: Bengal was the nerve core of India's emerging nationalist movement at the time, and Curzon's move attempted to sow seeds of division and hatred among the heterogeneous Bengali speaking population.

Tagore's Legacies

- ✓ Through his songs and poems, Tagore supported the Swadeshi movement. He wrote the anthem of the time, Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol. It was chanted during raucous processions and demonstrations to highlight Bengali solidarity.
- ✓ Tagore's composition Alao Amar sonar Bangla (My Golden Bengal) was later adopted as Bangladesh's national anthem.
- ✓ This period's Tagore songs represent his goal of international brotherhood and religious oneness. Even today, they ring true for Bengalis on both sides of the border.

2. The first topic is the Incremental-Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR).

In context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it would phase out the incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR).

Important information:

- ✓ The RBI recently implemented the I-CRR to absorb excess liquidity generated by numerous sources, including the return of Rs 2,000 notes to the banking system.
- ✓ The regulator stated that I-CRR was only a temporary remedy.

I-CRR is required:

- ✓ I-CRR was introduced by the RBI as a temporary solution to absorb excess liquidity in the banking sector.
- ✓ Surplus liquidity in the system increased as a result of the following factors: the return of Rs 2,000 banknotes to the banking system, the RBI's surplus transfer to the government, an increase in government spending, and capital inflows.
- ✓ The effect of the I-CRR on liquidity conditions
- ✓ Following the RBI's I-CRR rule, the banking system's liquidity went into deficit for the first time in the current fiscal year.
- ✓ Outflows due to the goods and services tax (GST) and the central bank selling dollars to arrest the rupee's depreciation also contributed to the tight liquidity situation.

Concerning the Cash Reserve Ratio:

- ✓ The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is the percentage of total deposits that banks must keep in cash with the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ It is a necessary instrument for keeping the banking system healthy.
- ✓ This sum cannot be used for lending or investment by banks.
- ✓ CRR is currently at 4.5 percent.

3. Hunga-Tonga volcano

In context: A new study shows that the rock and ash ejected during the Hunga-Tonga volcano eruption collapsed vertically and directly into the ocean and travelled as an extremely fast-moving and highly destructive underwater debris flow.

About Hunga-Tonga volcano:

- ✓ Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai is a volcanic island in Tonga.
- ✓ It is located about 30 km south of the submarine volcano of Fonuafo'ou and 65 km north of Tongatapu, the country's main island.

- ✓ The volcano is part of the highly active Tonga–Kermadec Islands volcanic arc, a subduction zone extending from New Zealand north-northeast to Fiji.
- ✓ The island arc is formed at the convergent boundary where the Pacific Plate subducts under the Indo-Australian Plate.
- ✓ It is along with the caldera rim of a much larger submarine edifice in the western South Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ It has erupted regularly over the past few decades.

4. **Salem Sago**

In context: Salem Sago from Tamil Nadu has been designated as a Geographical Indication (GI).

About:

- ✓ Sago Manufacturers Service Industrial Co-operative Society of Salem
- ✓ SagoServe Limited, popularly known as Limited, recently received the Geographical
- ✓ Salem Sago has a Geographical Indication (GI) designation.
- ✓ Sago, which is made from uncooked tapiocas, comes in the form of little hard globules or grains.
- ✓ It is made of pearls and is pearl white in color.
- ✓ Tapioca is a prominent horticultural crop grown on almost 3 lakh hectares in India.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu, with a crop yield of 60 lakh tonnes.
- ✓ The Salem district of Tamil Nadu has previously acquired the GI designation for raw silk.
- ✓ Malgoava mango, so contributing to the region's recognition.
- ✓ Other prominent products from various locations include Tirupati Laddu and
- ✓ Palani Panchamirtham has also been assigned a GI tag.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu makes major contributions to the national economy.
- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, Salem is the leader in sago production.
- ✓ Sagosarva is a cooperative society that was founded in 1981.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Do you think that consistency and continuity are the most remarkable attributes of ethical principles? Should future generations refine or replace norms, principles, and moral criteria with newer experiences and insights? Support your stand by examples.

“The man who never alters his opinion is like standing water, and breeds reptiles of the mind.” – **English poet William Blake.**

Introduction: Consistency means the absence of discontinuity. It is associated with being continuous in actions and principles. Continuity is being regular in action. Ethical people who are dutiful reflect these principles in actions. For example, a spiritual person always works to achieve truth and justice. An administrator with high moral values holds honesty and integrity always to work for the common good. His actions never get influenced by any political interference or influence of power or money.

On one hand, where consistency and continuity of actions is essential. On the other hand, it is not always necessary to be consistent and continuous in every sense. For example, while talking about a social practice such as Child marriage, though it is still a part of society in some of the most backward regions in India such as Rajasthan. But this does not need to be consistent in any way. Rather our actions should be consistent in removing such unethical and regressive practice.

Future generations, norms, principles, and moral criteri;

- People’s values tend to change over time as well. Material development makes us more self-centric and goals oriented. In pursuit of success, people compete with each other and often adopt unethical practices. For example, to get a government tender or international tender, people or government bribes officials. Recently, the Indian government was accused of giving power tender to Adani group.
- To gain electoral success, politicians bribe people with money or play politics of appeasement. Politicians in Andhra and Tamil Nadu have been accused of influencing voters during elections. Progress of science is also making people more selfish. Scientists, policy makers and suppliers often neglect the impact of genetically modified crops and are often found guilty of mixing modified seeds in the generic seeds without approval.
- In doing so, we often forget about the ethical and moral principles and values which are essential for categorizing humans as human beings and not just a being. In pursuit of success we cannot live the ethical principles behind. We cannot accept to be unethical. The values of honesty, compassion, mercy, self-control and restraint have always been in existence and need to be continuous and consistent irrespective of where we head or where we stand.

MCQs

1. **Considered the following statement:**

1. The 21st edition of Varuna (Varuna-23) bilateral exercise was conducted in the Arabian Sea.

2. It is an Indian & French Navy bilateral naval exercise.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) Only 1

- b) Only 2
c) **Both 1 and 2**
d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Considered the following statement regarding Salem Sago:
- Salem Sago has a got Geographical Indication (GI) designation.
 - Sago, which is made from cooked tapiocas, comes in the form of little hard globules or grains.
 - Tapioca is a prominent horticultural crop. Which of the above statement is/are correct?
a) Only 1 and 2
b) Only 2
c) **Only 1 and 3**
d) All of the above
3. Considered the following statement regarding 'Nation First Transit Card'.
- It is launched by State Bank of India.
 - The 'Nation First Transit Card' is powered by RuPay and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) technology.
 - Its aims to simplify digital ticket fare payments within a single card for various transport modes including metro, buses, water ferries, parking.
- How many of the above statement is/are correct?
a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) **Only 3**
d) none
4. Which state will host the Zayed Charity Marathon in 2024?
(a) Maharashtra (b) Tamil Nadu
(c) Odisha (d) **Kerala**
5. Recently The West Bengal Assembly adopted a resolution recognizing Poila Baishakh or April 15 as statehood day. Considered the following statement:
- The West Bengal Assembly adopted a resolution recognizing Banglar mati, Banglar jol as the state anthem.
 - Rabindranath Tagore wrote Banglar mati and Banglar jol during the partition of Bengal in 1905.
- Which of the above statement is/are correct?
a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) **Both 1 and 2**
d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. Recently, At the ASEAN-India summit, Prime Minister Modi has announced the decision to establish an Indian Embassy in Timor-Leste. Considered the following statement:
- ASEAN agrees to admit Timor- Leste as its 11th member.
 - It is la land locked country.
- Which of the above statement is/are correct?
a) **Only 1**
- b) Only 2
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. Considered the following statement regarding the incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR).
- I-CRR was introduced by the RBI.
 - It is a permanent solution to absorb excess liquidity in the banking sector.
 - It also use for the return of Rs 2,000 notes to the banking system.
- Which of the above statement is/are correct?
a) Only 1 and 2
b) Only 2
c) **Only 1 and 3**
d) All of the above
8. Recently, Hunga-Tonga volcano erupted. Considered the following statement:
- Hunga Tonga– Hunga Ha'apai is a volcanic island in Tonga. An subduction zone extending from New Zealand north-northeast to Fiji.
 - The island arc is formed at the convergent boundary where the Pacific Plate subducts under the Indo-Australian Plate.
- Which of the above statement is/are correct?
a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) **Both 1 and 2**
d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Which of the following nations is part of India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor?
- India
 - USA
 - Saudi Arabia
 - France
- Select the correct answer using code given below.
a) 2 and 3 only
b) 1, 2 and 4 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) **1, 2, 3 and 4**
10. Consider the following statements regarding One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) Initiative:
- It is being spearheaded by the Governments of India and the USA in partnership with the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
 - It aims at connecting energy supply across borders by connecting different regional grids through a common grid.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) **2 only**
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2