

GS PAPER 2-INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL GROUPINGS AND AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA AND/OR AFFECTING INDIA'S INTERESTS**Significance of India's PM recent visit to Brunei and Singapore**

The article discusses Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to Brunei and Singapore, emphasizing India's renewed focus on its "Act East" policy. It highlights India's trade and strategic goals with ASEAN countries, stressing the need for stronger partnerships and regional engagement.

What is the Significance of Prime Minister Modi's Recent Visits to Brunei and Singapore?

1. **Reviving "Act East" Policy:** Prime Minister Modi's visit to Brunei and Singapore emphasizes India's commitment to strengthening ties with Southeast Asia, which aligns with the "Act East" policy initiated in 2014.
2. **Strategic and Defense Discussions:** In Brunei, Modi's discussions on defense and geo-strategic issues signal a push to enhance security cooperation. Renewing space collaboration with the hosting of an ISRO station in Brunei underscores this effort.
3. **Economic Partnerships:** Modi's focus in Singapore on the semiconductor industry aims to leverage Singapore's capabilities to boost India's technological infrastructure. This partnership could mitigate risks associated with U.S.-China tensions and enhance India's production capabilities.

What Are the Challenges and Expectations?

1. **Challenges**
2. **Declining Trade with Brunei:** India's trade with Brunei has declined, especially since India increased its oil imports from Russia in 2022.
3. **Lack of Strategic Partnership:** India and Brunei do not have a strategic partnership, even though both nations discussed defense and geo-strategic issues.
4. **India's Exit from RCEP:** India's withdrawal from the ASEAN-led RCEP in 2019 has hindered its engagement with the region, excluding it from a large regional trade agreement.
5. **Expectations**
6. **Renewed Space Cooperation:** India and Brunei renewed their space cooperation with ISRO's presence in Brunei.
7. **Improved Semiconductor Ties:** Singapore and India are expected to enhance semiconductor cooperation to offset growing costs and de-risk from U.S.-China tensions.
8. **Updated Trade Agreements:** India is expected to update its trade agreements, like the 2009 AITIGA and the 2005 CECA with Singapore, to strengthen economic ties.

GS PAPER 2- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS- INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBORHOOD**India's Push for Local Manufacturing: Balancing Chinese Dominance and Domestic Growth**

The article discusses India's efforts to become a global manufacturing hub through the "Make in India" project and PLI scheme. It highlights Chinese smartphone companies' dominance in India and challenges in reducing their influence while developing local manufacturing expertise.

What is the government's plan for transforming India into a manufacturing hub?

1. The government launched the 'Make in India' project in 2014, aiming to turn India into a global manufacturing hub.
2. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme was later introduced to attract both domestic and foreign investments.
3. The Bharatiya Janata Party's 2024 election manifesto highlighted its focus on manufacturing across sectors.
4. In the Union Budget 2024-25, ₹6,125 crore was allocated to the PLI scheme for large-scale electronics manufacturing, an increase from ₹4,499.04 crore in the 2023-24 Budget.
5. Additionally, ₹1,148 crore was allocated to research and development in the electronics and IT sectors.

How have Chinese smartphone companies benefited from 'Make in India'?

1. Chinese smartphone companies, such as those with a market share of over 50%, have been major beneficiaries of the 'Make in India' project.
2. They have effectively capitalized on India's large Android smartphone user base, which held a 70% market share in 2023.
3. These companies have expanded their production with support from Indian governments, employed effective marketing strategies, and penetrated non-metropolitan regions.

How has India responded to Chinese dominance in the smartphone sector?

1. India has sought to 'Indianise' the operations of Chinese smartphone companies after the Galwan Valley incident in 2020.
2. This includes involving Indian equity partners, appointing Indian executives, and expanding exports from India.
3. Indian companies like Tata Electronics have also begun contract manufacturing smartphones, signaling increased local involvement.

What Challenges Remain?

1. **Infrastructure Deficits:** India lacks the necessary infrastructure to support large-scale manufacturing, such as uninterrupted power and water supply, which are critical for production continuity.
2. **Supply Chain Limitations:** The absence of a robust local supplier network and ancillary industries hampers the capability to manufacture all smartphone components domestically.
3. **Technology Sharing Hesitance:** Chinese companies are reluctant to share technology without clear agreements on their equity participation, affecting the development of local expertise.
4. **Workforce Conditions:** Better working and living conditions for the workforce are required to sustain manufacturing growth and attract skilled labor.

What Should be Done?

1. **Increase Funding for Local R&D:** Raise allocations beyond the 2024-25 budget increase to ₹1,148 crore to foster innovation in local electronics and IT industries, which saw a rise from ₹600 crore in the previous fiscal year.
2. **Promote Indian Equity and Management:** Encourage the induction of Indian stakeholders and executives into foreign companies operating in India to foster better local control and benefits.
3. **Balance Chinese Investments with Local Growth:** While the government seeks to limit Chinese involvement, the Economic Survey suggests promoting Chinese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). New Delhi must balance developing home-grown industries with the need for continued Chinese investments to achieve its manufacturing goals.

GS PAPER 2- GOVERNANCE-WELFARE SCHEMES FOR VULNERABLE SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION BY THE CENTRE AND STATES AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THESE SCHEMES**Success of the Swachh Bharat Mission**

The article highlights the success of India's Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in reducing infant deaths by improving sanitation. It notes that SBM and the Jal Jeevan Mission, aimed at providing safe drinking water, contribute to better health outcomes. Some government schemes have been successful, while others are still developing.

What Has the Swachh Bharat Mission Achieved?

1. The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), initiated by the Narendra Modi government in October 2014, has led to the construction of approximately 11 crore individual household latrines.
2. This significant effort has reduced infant deaths by 60,000-70,000 annually, as open defecation—a source of disease through water and food contamination—has been curtailed.
3. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data indicates a drop in households without toilets from 55% in 2005-06 to 19% in 2019-21.
4. Improved sanitation under SBM has not only decreased infant mortality rates but also holds the potential to reduce stunting (low height-for-age) and wasting (low weight-for-height) in children. These conditions are often caused by diseases like diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid, which are linked to contaminated food and water.

What Role Does the Jal Jeevan Mission Play?

1. Alongside SBM, the Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide safe drinking water to all rural households by 2024 through tap connections.
2. The *Nature* study found that in districts where toilet access is over 30%, there is a significant reduction in infant and child mortality.
3. The integration of these programs is crucial as improved sanitation and access to clean water together significantly lower the rates of infant and under-five mortality.

What Are the Broader Impacts of Government Schemes?

1. The government's approach to implementing large-scale programs like SBM and Jan Dhan (universal bank accounts) has seen mixed success.

2. While SBM has been effective in improving sanitation and reducing disease transmission, other initiatives like the **Soil Health Card** have not met expectations.
3. The effectiveness of these schemes largely depends on sustained efforts and the ability to meet and exceed initial targets.

GS PAPER 3- ECONOMY (FINANCIAL INCLUSION) AND GS PAPER 2-GOVERNANCE- E-GOVERNANCE

Role of Citizen Stack

The article discusses India's success in achieving financial inclusion through digital public infrastructure (DPI). It highlights the role of Citizen Stack, a regulatory body ensuring secure, reliable DPIs, based on five guiding principles for maintaining trust and integrity.

What is India's Achievement in Financial Inclusion?

1. **Rapid Progress:** India has achieved over 80% financial inclusion in just six years, significantly impacting over a billion people.
2. **Global Recognition:** This success was highlighted at the G20 summit in New Delhi in 2023, showcasing it as a model for the Global South.
3. **Digital Framework:** The foundation of this achievement is the India Stack, a comprehensive digital infrastructure that has proven its efficacy and security at a massive scale.

What is the Role of Citizen Stack?

1. Citizen Stack is based on the success of India Stack, which has already served over a billion people.
2. **It acts as a regulatory body, not a manufacturer of DPIs.**
3. Citizen Stack certifies and authenticates DPIs, ensuring they meet high standards of security, scalability, and inclusivity.
4. **It follows five guiding principles**, including privacy protection and interoperability.
5. The platform ensures that digital public infrastructure serves the public good, following India's model of digital and financial inclusion seen at the 2023 G20 summit.
6. **Standard of Excellence:** Citizen Stack sets a global benchmark for DPIs, ensuring public benefit, not corporate exploitation.

What Defines a Good DPI?

A good DPI harmonizes technology with societal needs, focusing on security, scalability, and inclusivity. Citizen Stack has set five guiding principles, or sutras, to define what makes a DPI beneficial:

1. **Maintain citizens' relationship with the market and the state** – Ensure digital infrastructure is free from distortions.
2. **Safeguard citizen empowerment and privacy** – Use a consent-based system for data sharing.
3. **Prevent monopolies** – Ensure interoperability to avoid monopoly lock-in.
4. **Techno-legal regulation** – Combine technology and law for ethical governance of tech.
5. **Public-private innovation** – Encourage collaboration without corporate dominance.

Arctic Sea Ice Levels and Changes in Monsoon Patterns in India

A recent study has shed light on the effects on Indian Monsoon by seasonal changes in the Arctic sea ice levels.

About the Study

- **Published In:** The Study is published in the **journal Remote Sensing of Environment**
- **Conducted By:** The research is a collaboration between **India's National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)**, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, and **South Korea's Korea Polar Research Institute.**
- **Subject:** To check how the **Arctic sea ice levels affect atmospheric circulations** that in turn influence the Indian Summer Monsoon Rainfall.
- **Data Source:** Observational data from the **period of 1980 to 2020** were used along with climate models (specifically Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phases 5 and 6)
- **Findings:**
 - **Role of Climate Change:** Climate Change **accelerates the reduction of Arctic sea ice** and exacerbates the variability and unpredictability of the ISMR
 - **Lower Arctic sea ice can lead to more frequent and severe droughts in western and peninsular India** regions while causing excessive rainfall and flooding in central and northern India.

- **Influence Monsoon Onset:** Lower sea ice levels in the **upper latitudes** (mainly in the Barents-Kara Sea region encompassing the Hudson Bay, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Sea of Okhotsk) **delay the monsoon's onset** rendering it more unpredictable.
- **Changes in Several Atmospheric Systems:**
 - **Increased Sea Ice Levels in the Central Arctic:** It results in the heat transfer from the ocean to the atmosphere **triggering a cyclonic circulation** at slightly lower latitudes (North Atlantic)
 - **Rossby Waves:** The cyclonic circulation bolsters the Rossby waves **resulting in high pressure over northwest India and low pressure over the Mediterranean region.**
- These are **fast-flowing streams of air high in the atmosphere created by the earth's rotation** and differences in temperature and weather systems that **move west to east.**
- **Strengthening Jet Stream:** The circulation **strengthens the Asian jet stream** over the Caspian Sea, causing the **subtropical easterly jet** (a jet stream blowing over the Indian subcontinent **during summer to shift northward**)
- **An anomalous high pressure region** is created over Central Asia as a result disrupting atmospheric stability over the Indian landmass and **bringing more rain over western and peninsular India.**
- **Low sea ice over the Barents-Kara Sea region:**
 - It triggers a series of air currents that produce an **anomalous high pressure over southwest China.**
 - The heat from the Barents-Kara sea **creates an anticyclonic circulation (calm, clear skies) over northwest Europe** disturbing the upper atmospheric region over subtropical Asia and India.
 - The instability along with high surface temperature of the Arabian Sea **promotes high rainfall over northeastern India** while leaving central and northwest regions of the country with deficient rainfall.

Indian Monsoon

Monsoon is a seasonal change in the direction of the prevailing, or strongest, winds of a region.

- **Indian Summer Monsoon Rainfall:** India gets **southwest monsoon winds in the summers** (formation of an **intense low-pressure system ie. ITCZ due to differential heating** over the Tibetan Plateau)
- **Coriolis Force:** The Coriolis Force **deflects the Trade winds towards the Indian landmass** after they cross the equator.
- The winds **blowing over the Arabian Sea picks up moisture** and deposit that as rain over India.
- **Branches:** The southwest monsoon **splits into two branches ie. The Arabian Sea arm** (brings rain to the west coast) and the **Bay of Bengal arm** (brings rain to India's eastern and northeastern parts) over the landmass.
- **Convergence:** The arms finally **converge over Punjab and Himachal Pradesh** as the Arabian Sea arm moves inward and the Bay of Bengal arm moves along the Himalaya.
- India Winter Monsoon Rainfall: The **northeast monsoons is the reversal phase of monsoon during the winters** (due to the high-pressure cells that are formed over the Siberian and Tibetan plateaus.)
- **Factors affecting the onset of monsoon**
- **Intense low-pressure formation over the Tibetan Plateau** due to intense heating of landmass during summers
- The **permanent high-pressure cell** in the South of the Indian Ocean **near madagascar**
- **Subtropical jet stream**
- African Easterly jet (Tropical easterly jet)
- **low-pressure systems** (or monsoon depressions), **presence of ITCZ** (InterTropical Convergence Zone)
- **Global Atmospheric Circulations:** The surface temperatures of the Indian, the Atlantic, and the Pacific Oceans affect the ISMR.
- **The Circum-Global Teleconnection (CGT):** It is a large-scale atmospheric wave flowing at the mid-latitudes, seems to significantly influence the monsoon as well.

PRELIM FACTS

1. Swiss Peace Process

The **Swiss-mediated peace process between Ukraine and Russia** has brought the spotlight on India's diplomatic position.

About Swiss Peace Process for Ukraine:

- It refers to **diplomatic efforts** aimed at resolving the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine by utilising Switzerland's neutral status as a platform for dialogue and negotiation.

- **Objective:** To facilitate dialogue and negotiations aimed at ending the war between Russia and Ukraine, which has been ongoing since February 2022.
- **Key Summits and Declarations:** A significant event was the Bürgenstock Summit (June , 2024), which followed a series of four earlier international meetings.
- **Focus Areas:** The Swiss Peace Process has concentrated on several critical areas such as Nuclear Safety, Food security, Humanitarian issues etc.
- **Participants:** The summit brings together representatives from around 80 countries, international organisations, and peace advocacy groups.
- **India's position:** After the Swiss Peace Summit in June, India had disassociated itself from its outcome as it did not involve **Russia** at the table.

2.Night-Time Light Pollution and Alzheimer's Risk

A new study links night-time light pollution to an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease.

Researchers from Rush University Medical Center found that artificial light at night may disrupt circadian rhythms and contribute to cognitive decline. This environmental factor, though less influential than conditions like diabetes or hypertension, shows a notable correlation, especially for early-onset Alzheimer's. The study highlights the need to address light pollution as a potential risk factor for Alzheimer's.

About Light Pollution:

Light pollution is excessive outdoor artificial light that affects stargazing, human health, and wildlife. It disrupts circadian rhythms and sleep, potentially increasing the risk of Alzheimer's disease (AD).

About Alzheimer's Disease (AD):

AD is a common type of dementia causing a progressive decline in memory, thinking, learning, and organization. Contributing factors include genetics, medical conditions, and environmental stresses.

3.Helium Gas and its use in Rocket

Helium is a colourless, odourless, non-toxic gas with atomic number 2. It is the second most abundant element in the universe and is created through nuclear fusion in stars. First detected in sunlight in 1868, it was later discovered in uranium ore. Helium is used in cryogenics, MRI scanners, and as a lifting gas. It's rare on Earth, mainly produced through the radioactive decay of elements like uranium, and extracted from natural gas. Once released into the atmosphere, it escapes into space, making it a non-renewable resource.

Why is it used in rockets?

- Helium is used in rockets because it is inert, non-reactive, and has a very boiling point (-268.9°C), allowing it to remain a gas in extremely cold conditions. It pressurizes fuel tanks, ensuring smooth fuel flow to the engines, and is safe to use with residual fuel. Its small size helps detect leaks, making it valuable for maintaining rocket systems.
- Alternatives like argon and nitrogen have been tested, but helium remains common due to its efficiency in the space industry.

4.Planetary Protection

Planetary protection aims to prevent contamination of Earth's biosphere and other planetary bodies by alien microbial life during space missions. It ensures that missions to the Moon, Mars, or other celestial bodies do not compromise their environments or introduce harmful elements.

This principle, established under Article IX of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, requires spacecraft to be thoroughly cleaned and sterilized to maintain pristine conditions. For instance, China's Tianwen-3 Mars mission, set for 2028, will adhere to these guidelines.

India's involvement in planetary protection includes:

1. **Mars Missions:** India's Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) in 2014 was designed with planetary protection measures to avoid contaminating Mars.
2. **Policy Adherence:** India follows planetary protection guidelines in accordance with the Outer Space Treaty, ensuring missions adhere to contamination prevention protocols.
3. **Spacecraft Cleaning:** ISRO implements stringent sterilization processes for spacecraft to comply with planetary protection standards.
4. **International Collaboration:** India collaborates with global space agencies to share best practices and enhance planetary protection efforts.

India is a signatory to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty (OST). India ratified the treaty in March 1967, 15 years after the United States, the Soviet Union, and 63 other UN participants signed it on January 27, 1967.

The OST is a treaty that commits countries to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. India is also a signatory to several other international treaties related to space, including the Rescue Agreement (1968), the Liability Convention (1972), the Registration Convention (1976), and the Moon Agreement (1979)

5. Supreme Court Ruling on Judges' Elevation

The Supreme Court has ruled that the elevation of judges must be decided collectively by the High Court Collegium, not by an individual Chief Justice.

- SC also clarified that although the 'content of consultation' is beyond Judicial review 'effective consultation' falls within its ambit.

Background of the case:

The Court directed the Himachal Pradesh High Court Collegium to reconsider District Judges Chirag Bhanu Singh and Arvind Malhotra for promotion. It emphasized that the process must involve collective deliberation and cannot be decided solely by the High Court Chief Justice.

About Collegium:

The Collegium system recommends appointments for Supreme Court (SC) and High Court (HC) judges.

- Supreme Court: The Collegium includes the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and four senior-most SC judges.
- High Court: The HC Collegium consists of the HC Chief Justice and two senior HC judges.

Appointments are made by the President under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution.

6. NIDHI i-TBIs

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh emphasized that women-led startups will place India on the global stage in the future. He inaugurated 8 new NIDHI i-TBIs across India and launched the DST-GDC IIT Madras INCUBATE Program for deep tech startups.

About NIDHI:

- Established: in 2016 by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).
- Objective: Transform ideas and innovations into successful startups.
- Funding: Managed by the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) under DST.
- Implementation: Funds are distributed through NSTEDB-associated incubators across India.
- Key Component: NIDHI-iTBI (Inclusive-TBI) focuses on converting innovations into startups.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Analyze the strategic importance of India's 'Act East' policy in the context of its relations with ASEAN countries. How has this policy influenced India's geopolitical and economic engagements in the region?

India's Act East Policy was launched in 2014 to strengthen its ties with the ASEAN countries and the broader Indo-Pacific region. The policy evolved from the Look East Policy of the 1990s, reflecting India's proactive approach towards enhancing economic, strategic, and cultural engagements. It aims to counterbalance China's influence and foster regional security through increased cooperation in areas such as trade, connectivity, and defence.

Strategic Importance of India's 'Act East' Policy:

- **Geopolitical Counterbalance to China:** India's Act East Policy counters China's influence in Southeast Asia, particularly in the South China Sea, by strengthening ties with ASEAN nations and bolstering regional security alliances like the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)**.
- **Strengthening Regional Security Alliances:** India's increased **defence cooperation** with ASEAN, including joint military exercises like **SIMBEX** (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise), demonstrates the strategic alignment aimed at maintaining regional peace.
- **Boosting Connectivity Initiatives:** Initiatives like the **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway** enhance regional connectivity, which is vital for both economic development and strategic mobility across borders.

For example: The **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** aims to improve connectivity between India's northeast and ASEAN markets, reducing transit time.

- **Energy Security Collaboration:** Through Act East, India seeks to diversify its **energy sources** by exploring partnerships in ASEAN nations, particularly **Brunei** for its oil and gas resources.
- **Enhancing Soft Power Diplomacy:** Cultural ties, educational exchanges, and people-to-people contact have been integral to strengthening India's presence in the region. Institutions like **Nalanda University** symbolise India's role in cultural diplomacy.

For instance: India's **Buddhist diplomacy** has resonated with ASEAN countries, fostering deeper cultural bonds, especially in **Thailand** and **Vietnam**.

Geopolitical Engagements:

- **Countering Chinese Aggression:** India's collaboration with ASEAN helps limit China's assertive postures in the Indo-Pacific. It also strengthens India's involvement in regional frameworks like the **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**.
- **Enhanced Naval Cooperation:** Through initiatives such as the **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**, India collaborates with ASEAN members to ensure maritime security, freedom of navigation, and open sea lanes.
- **Role in Myanmar's Stability:** India's Act East Policy emphasises stability in **Myanmar**, a gateway to ASEAN, by engaging in both **infrastructure** and **peace-building** initiatives.
For instance: India's **Kaladan project** enhances Myanmar's development and stabilises India's northeast.
- **Strengthening Defence Diplomacy:** India has signed numerous **defence agreements** with ASEAN countries like **Singapore** and **Indonesia**, reinforcing defence ties through bilateral exercises.
For instance: The **India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** fosters defence technology transfers and joint military drills.
- **Cultural Diplomacy and ASEAN Summit Leadership:** India regularly participates in **ASEAN Summits** to promote shared cultural values and traditions, solidifying its position as a responsible regional actor.
For instance: The **India-ASEAN Cultural Exchange Programme** encourages people-to-people connections, promoting harmony in the region.

Economic Engagements:

- **Trade and Investment Growth:** The **ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA)** has bolstered trade relations, making ASEAN India's fourth-largest trading partner.
- **Digital Cooperation:** India has prioritised cooperation in **digital technology** with ASEAN, aiming to build a robust digital economy in the region.
- **Infrastructure and Connectivity Projects:** India's investments in cross-border infrastructure like the **Mekong-Ganga Cooperation** enhance logistical efficiency and improve market access.
For instance: The **Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Initiative** boosts connectivity and economic integration between India and mainland Southeast Asia.
- **FDI from ASEAN:** Increased **Foreign Direct Investment** from ASEAN nations, particularly from **Singapore**, has contributed to India's economic growth and manufacturing sector.
For instance: Singapore was the second-largest source of **FDI** into India in 2023, with investments exceeding **\$11 billion**.
- **Energy Collaboration and Diversification:** ASEAN countries like **Malaysia** and **Indonesia** provide India with alternative energy resources, reducing its dependence on other regions.
For instance: India's **strategic partnership with Malaysia** ensures the import of palm oil, fulfilling its energy and food security needs.

India's Act East Policy is crucial for ensuring regional stability, economic integration, and strategic influence in the Indo-Pacific. As India continues to strengthen its engagements with ASEAN, it must focus on sustaining strategic partnerships, improving regional connectivity, and promoting economic cooperation. The future lies in India's ability to leverage this policy for fostering sustainable and peaceful development across the region.

MCQ

1. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Assistive Technology':
1. It includes Products and their related systems (mechanical or electronic) which aid any individual's functioning with respect to his cognition, hearing, mobility, vision, communication.
2. It is used only by old people with long-term health issues such as diabetes, dementia.

3. Common examples of assistive devices are hearing aids, wheelchairs, therapeutic footwear, etc. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only b) 2 and 3 only
c) **1 and 3 only** d) 1, 2 and 3
2. Consider the following pairs

Ports	Well Known as
Mundra	Largest container Port in India

Galathea Bay	“Major port” for international transshipment in Lakshadweep
Vadhavan Port	An all-weather Greenfield deep draft major port Palghar District, Maharashtra.
Kamarajar Port	First major port in India registered as a company

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- a) Only one pair **b) Only two pairs**
c) Only three pairs d) All Four Pairs
3. With reference to ‘Gulf Cooperation Council’, consider the following statements:
- The Gulf Cooperation Council is a political and economic union of six countries in the Gulf region.
 - Iraq and Iran are the founding members of the Organization.
- Which of the statements given above is/are not incorrect?
- a) 1 only **b) 2 only**
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. With reference to ‘BepiColombo’, consider the following statements:
- It is the most complex mission ever to orbit Saturn.
 - It is a joint mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
- 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**
5. Why is helium considered a non-renewable resource on Earth?
- It is chemically reactive and bonds with other elements easily
 - It is continuously consumed in nuclear fusion on Earth
 - Once released into the atmosphere, it escapes into space**
 - It is only found in meteorites
6. Consider the following statements about Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) and light pollution:
- Alzheimer’s Disease is a form of dementia that causes progressive memory and cognitive decline.
 - Light pollution has been linked to an increased risk of Alzheimer’s Disease due to its impact on sleep quality.
- Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 **d) Neither 1 nor 2**
7. What is the primary goal of planetary protection in space missions?
- To prevent contamination of Earth and other planetary bodies by alien microbes**
 - To improve the efficiency of spacecraft
 - To increase the lifespan of space missions
 - To ensure fuel conservation during long space voyages
8. Consider the following statements about the Collegium system:
- The Collegium system was established through judgments of the Supreme Court.
 - The Collegium system introduced open competition for the appointment of judges.
 - The appointment of the Chief Justice of India considers the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) Only one **b) Only two**
c) All three d) None
9. Consider the following statements regarding judicial appointments in India:
- The content of the consultation process in the Collegium system is open to judicial review.
 - The Supreme Court Collegium plays a role in recommending appointments of High Court judges.
 - The President of India is bound by the Collegium’s recommendations for judicial appointments.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) Only one** b) Only two
c) All three d) None
10. Consider the following statements regarding NIDHI (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations):
- NIDHI was launched by the Ministry of Finance to boost startups across India.
 - NIDHI is implemented through incubators associated with the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB).
 - A key component of NIDHI is NIDHI-iTBI, which focuses on converting innovations into startups.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) Only one **b) Only two**
c) All three d) None