

GS PAPER 2- GOVERNANCE-ISSUES RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF SOCIAL SECTOR/SERVICES RELATING TO HEALTH

Global rise in diabetes

The article highlights the global rise in diabetes, especially in India, due to unhealthy lifestyles and improved diagnosis methods. It emphasizes the role of tobacco in increasing diabetes risk and stresses the need for better diagnosis and glycaemic control in India.

What is the global diabetes trend?

1. Global diabetes cases quadrupled from 200 million in 1990 to over 800 million in 2022.
2. Adult diabetes prevalence rose from 7% to 14% in the same period.

Why is diabetes increasing in India?

1. **High Prevalence:** India has the highest number of diabetics globally, with 212 million cases, compared to China's 148 million.
2. **Undiagnosed Cases:** 133 million Indians over 30 years remain undiagnosed, the highest worldwide.
3. **Diet and Lifestyle:** Unhealthy diets rich in carbohydrates and saturated fats, along with sedentary lifestyles, are major contributors.
4. **Tobacco Use:** Smoking increases diabetes risk by 30%-40%, as nicotine impairs insulin production and causes resistance.
5. **Improved Diagnosis:** New methods, including glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) tests, identify more cases, especially in South Asia, than earlier single-biomarker methods.

How can diabetes be managed?

1. Early diagnosis is critical. WHO's 2030 target aims for 80% diagnosis and good glycaemic control for diagnosed cases.
2. Managing gestational diabetes reduces the risk of diabetes in both mothers and children.
3. Avoiding tobacco lowers diabetes risk and improves heart health.

ECONOMICS GS PAPER III

Formalisation of Economy

India's economy is transitioning to formality, improving employment security, social benefits, and economic stability. This shift enhances workers' quality of life through access to social security, regulated conditions, and financial safety nets, with institutions like EPFO driving workforce formalization.

What is Formalization of the Economy?

Formalization is the process of shifting economic activities from the informal sector—characterized by unregistered businesses and daily-wage workers—into the formal sector, where jobs are legally regulated.

Features of a Formal Economy

- **Legal Protections:** Workers have contracts ensuring job security and legal rights.
- **Social Security:** Access to benefits such as retirement savings, health insurance, and paid leave.
- **Stable Income:** Workers receive fixed salaries through official channels.
- **Transparency:** Economic activities comply with tax laws and government regulations.
- **Economic Participation:** Greater access to financial services, credit, and government programs.

What is EPFO and How Does it Benefit Workers?

The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** is a government body managing long-term savings and social security benefits for salaried workers in India.

Benefits of EPFO:

1. **Retirement Fund:** Ensures financial security for employees' post-retirement.
2. **Insurance:** Life coverage under schemes like Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI).
3. **Pension:** Monthly income after retirement through the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS).
4. **Emergency Support:** Allows partial withdrawals for medical needs, education, or housing.
5. **Job Security:** Formal EPFO registration indicates compliance with labor laws, ensuring employee rights.

How EPFO Registration Reflects Increased Formalization:

EPFO registrations indicate a shift toward formal employment.

Key Data from EPFO (2022-2024):

- **6.91 crore members joined** EPFO from September 2017 to July 2024.
- In **2022-23, 1.38 crore new members registered.**
- **July 2024** saw a record **20 lakh new registrations**, indicating robust labor market growth.
- Rising participation from youth, women, and job-switching employees reflects the increasing formalization of the workforce.

Government Schemes for Formalization:

1. **Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY):** Provides employers' contribution to EPF for three years to encourage job creation and formalize employment.
2. **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY):** Incentivizes job creation during the COVID-19 recovery phase by reimbursing employers for EPF contributions.
3. **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi):** Provides affordable loans to street vendors for capital and business expansion, aiming to integrate them into the formal economy.

Challenges in Formalization:

1. **Increased Costs:** Compliance with labor laws raises operational costs, particularly for small businesses.
2. **Credit Access:** MSMEs face difficulty obtaining credit due to a lack of formal documentation.
3. **Bureaucracy:** Lengthy and complicated registration processes deter small enterprises.
4. **Displacement Risks:** Informal workers may lose jobs as employers adjust to formal sector requirements.
5. **Economic Vulnerabilities:** Informal sector workers are disproportionately affected by policies like GST or demonetization without adequate safeguards.

Way Ahead:

1. **Simplify Regulations:** Streamline registration and compliance processes for small businesses.
2. **Expand Credit Access:** Offer collateral-free loans and credit support for MSMEs and informal workers.
3. **Support Informal Workers:** Create self-help groups to address issues like working conditions and social security.
4. **Comprehensive Data Collection:** Build a robust statistical framework to monitor informal sector dynamics and tailor policies.
5. **Invest in Infrastructure:** Provide public amenities like water, waste collection, and workspace for informal workers to enhance productivity and accountability.

SOCIETY GS PAPER I

Empowering Tribal Society

India's tribal communities, 8.6% of the population, are vital to the nation's diversity and development. The government has launched initiatives to address their socio-economic challenges and promote cultural heritage, healthcare, education, and self-reliance.

Tribes in India:

- **Who They Are:** Tribes in India, also referred to as Adivasis, are indigenous communities with distinct cultures, languages, and traditions.
- **Types:**
 - **Scheduled Tribes (STs):** Identified under Article 366(25) of the Constitution, defined by distinct characteristics such as geographical isolation, economic backwardness, and cultural uniqueness.
 - **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):** A subgroup of STs identified by pre-agricultural technology, low literacy, and economic backwardness. There are 75 PVTGs across 17 states and one Union Territory.
- **Data:**
 - **Population:** 104.2 million (8.6% of India's population).
 - **States/UTs with Major Tribes:**
 - **Jammu & Kashmir:** Sippi, Beda.
 - **Arunachal Pradesh:** Kuki, Mikir.
 - **Madhya Pradesh:** Gond, Kol.
 - **Rajasthan:** Bhil, Dhanka.

Schemes for the Welfare of Tribes:

1. **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan:**
 - **Launched:** October 2, 2024.
 - **Budget:** Rs.79,156 crore.
 - **Focus:** Infrastructure, education, health, and livelihoods in 63,843 tribal villages.
2. **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN):**
 - **Launched:** November 15, 2023.
 - **Target:** Improve housing, water, education, and connectivity for PVTGs.
3. **Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY):**
 - **Focus:** Basic infrastructure in 36,428 villages with significant tribal populations.
4. **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):**

- **Aim:** Quality education for tribal students.
- **Progress:** 728 schools approved; Rs.2,800 crore invested in 2024.

Key Government Scholarships for Tribal Empowerment

1. **Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships:** For ST students from Class IX to post-graduation.
2. **National Overseas Scholarship:** Supports ST students for postgraduate and doctoral studies abroad.
3. **National Fellowship for ST Students:** Digital processing ensures timely assistance for higher education.

Financial Support and Self-Employment Schemes:

1. **National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC):** Offers concessional loans for self-employment projects.
2. **Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY):** Loans up to Rs.2 lakh per unit for tribal women.
3. **Micro Credit Scheme for SHGs:** Loans up to Rs.5 lakh per SHG and Rs.50,000 per member.
4. **Adivasi Shiksha Rin Yojana (Education Loan):** Financial aid up to Rs.10 lakh for professional education.

Initiatives for Better Health Outcomes:

1. **Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission:** Focus on screening and affordable care for tribal populations.
2. **Mission Indradhanush:** Ensures immunization for children and pregnant women, including free COVID-19 vaccines.
3. **Nikshay Mitra Initiative:** Aims to improve TB treatment and outcomes for tribal communities.

Research and Cultural Preservation Initiatives:

1. **Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs):** Focus on research in welfare, languages, and traditions.
2. **Development of PVTGs:** Dedicated to addressing socio-economic gaps for 75 PVTGs.
3. **Tribal Research Information, Education, Communication, and Events (TRI-ECE):** Organizes cultural festivals, exhibitions, and awareness campaigns.

Conclusion:

The government’s multidimensional approach aims to empower tribal communities through targeted welfare schemes, education, healthcare, and cultural preservation. These efforts ensure that India’s tribal population is integrated into the broader national development narrative, embodying the vision of “**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.**”

COOPERATIVES GS PAPER III

India’s Cooperative Movement

India’s cooperative movement, rooted in the ethos of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (“the world is one family”), has played a transformative role in fostering inclusive growth, empowering marginalized communities, and driving rural development.

What are Cooperative Societies?

Cooperative societies are voluntary organizations where individuals with shared interests collaborate to achieve common economic goals. They operate on principles of self-help, mutual assistance, and prioritizing community welfare over profit. Members pool resources, collectively use them, and derive shared benefits.

Types of Cooperatives in India

1. **Consumers’ Cooperative Societies:** Provide goods at reasonable prices, bypassing middlemen.
 - Examples: Kendriya Bhandar, Apna Bazar.
2. **Producers’ Cooperative Societies:** Support small producers with resources like raw materials.
 - Examples: Haryana Handloom, APPCO.
3. **Marketing Cooperative Societies:** Help market products of small producers collectively.
 - Example: AMUL.
4. **Credit Cooperative Societies:** Offer financial assistance to members at reasonable interest rates.
 - **Examples:** Urban Cooperative Banks, Village Service Cooperative Societies.
5. **Farming Cooperative Societies:** Facilitate benefits of large-scale farming for small farmers.
 - **Examples:** Lift-irrigation cooperatives.
6. **Housing Cooperative Societies:** Provide affordable housing by pooling resources.
 - Examples: Employees’ Housing Societies.

Evolution of Cooperative Movement in India:

Pre-Independence Era:

- **1904:** Cooperative Credit Societies Act—recognized cooperatives legally but limited to credit societies.
- **1912:** Cooperative Societies Act—expanded scope to include marketing and artisan societies.
- **1914:** Maclagan Committee recommended a three-tier cooperative banking system.
- **1925:** Bombay Cooperative Society Act—first provincial cooperative legislation.
- **1942:** Multi-Unit Cooperative Societies Act—regulated cooperatives across provinces.

Post-Independence Era:

- Cooperatives integrated into Five-Year Plans, emphasizing economic decentralization and social justice.
- **1963:** National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) established to support rural credit.
- **1982:** NABARD founded to aid cooperative financing.
- **2002:** National Policy on Cooperatives introduced to harmonize the legal framework.
- **2023:** MSCS Amendment Act enhanced transparency and governance.

Resurgence of the Cooperative Movement in India:

The Ministry of Cooperation, formed in 2021, has launched initiatives to modernize the sector:

1. **Model Bye-Laws for PACS:** Enable diversified activities, adopted by 32 states.
2. **Computerization of PACS:** Rs.2,516 crore project covering 63,000 societies.
3. **Decentralized Grain Storage Plan:** Reduces food grain waste at PACS level.
4. **PACS as Common Service Centers:** Provide over 300 e-services to rural citizens.
5. **PM Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras:** 2,475 PACS approved to sell generic medicines.

Cooperatives at a Glance

- **Sectors:** Agriculture, credit, banking, housing, and women’s welfare.
- **Role:** Promote financial inclusion, provide affordable credit, and reduce socio-economic disparities.
- **Examples:** AMUL (dairy), NCDC (rural credit), Urban Cooperative Banks (finance).

Conclusion:

India’s cooperative movement embodies the principles of inclusivity and self-reliance. By leveraging cooperatives as engines of rural development and economic empowerment, the government aims to achieve equitable growth.

PRELIM FACTS

1. Operation Dronagiri

On 13th November 2024, Secretary of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, launched Operation Dronagiri at the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi.

About Operation Dronagiri

- It is an initiative under **India’s National Geospatial Policy 2022**.
- **Aim:** To demonstrate how geospatial technologies and innovations can improve citizens’ quality of life and enhance the ease of doing business.
- **Key Features of Operation Dronagiri**
 - Showcase potential applications of geospatial data and technologies.
 - Improve **agriculture, livelihoods, logistics, and transport** sectors.
 - Establish a robust base for nationwide implementation of geospatial technologies.
 - **Integrated Geospatial Data Sharing Interface (GDI)**
 - A crucial component of Operation Dronagiri is the GDI, which facilitates seamless data sharing, access, and analysis.
- This platform empowers organizations to make data-driven decisions and promote innovation in various sectors.

Implementation

- **Phase 1 Pilot Projects:** The initial phase will focus on five states: Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
- **Sectoral Focus:** The pilot projects will concentrate on agriculture, livelihoods, logistics, and transport.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Government departments, industries, corporations, and startups will collaborate to implement the project.
 - **This model is similar to UPI deployment.**

2. PM Modi Honoured with Nigeria’s Second-Highest National Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received **Nigeria’s second-highest national award, the Grand Commander of the Order of Niger**, from President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the State House.

About Grand Commander of the Order of Niger

- **Historical Significance:** PM Narendra Modi is the second foreign leader to receive this distinction after Queen Elizabeth in 1969.
- **This award marks PM Modi’s 17th international honour for global leadership.**

Significance of the Award

- **Global Leadership:** Reflects PM Modi’s international stature and India’s growing role in global diplomacy.
- Highlights India’s contributions to peace, unity, and development on the world stage.

- **Bilateral Ties:** Celebrates the enhancement of the India-Nigeria Strategic Partnership.
- Recognizes his efforts in fostering unity, peace, and prosperity globally.

About Nigeria

It is the most populous Country on the west coast of Africa.

- **It shares Boundaries with:**
 - **North:** Niger
 - **East:** Chad and Cameroon
 - **West:** Benin
 - **South:** Maritime boundary along the **Gulf of Guinea** (Atlantic Ocean).
- **Natural Resources:** Rich in **petroleum** and **natural gas**, contributing significantly to its economy.
- **Principal Rivers:**
 - **Niger River:** The main river of the country.
 - **Benue River:** The **largest tributary** of the Niger River.

3.e-Tarang System

The e-Tarang System, an AI-enabled software developed collaboratively by the Integrated Defence Staff and BISAG-N, was launched during the annual meeting of the Joint Electromagnetic Board (JEMB).

About e-Tarang System:

- **Developer:** Integrated Defence Staff and BISAG-N.
- **Launch Event:** Unveiled during the Joint Electromagnetic Board (JEMB) meeting, chaired by Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations) Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra.
- **Features:**
 - AI-enabled system for automated and efficient defence spectrum planning and management.
 - Integrates various defence communication systems for improved operational synergy.
 - Enables interference-free operation of defence equipment during wartime and peacetime.
 - Supports the development of advanced technologies in higher frequency bands.
- **Objective:** Enhance joint electronic warfare operations and modernize India's spectrum warfare capabilities.
- **Significance:**
 - Part of broader initiatives to modernize military infrastructure.
 - Improves interoperability among the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
 - Boosts efficiency and coordination in electromagnetic spectrum management.

4. 'PPP plus PPP' Model

Source: TS

Context: On World Diabetes Day, Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh introduced the **innovative 'PPP plus PPP' model**, aimed at addressing **India's diabetes epidemic** through collaborative efforts between domestic and international stakeholders.

About 'PPP plus PPP' model:

- **Definition:** A dual-layered collaboration model combining Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) within India with international PPP collaborations.
- **Objective:** To enhance healthcare infrastructure, promote innovation, and make diabetes care accessible and affordable.
- **Domestic Partnerships:** Strengthens India's healthcare system by uniting public and private sectors to develop cost-effective and scalable solutions.
- **International Collaborations:** Engages global expertise to bring advanced technologies and AI-driven solutions for diabetes monitoring and management.
- **Focus Areas:** Develop affordable non-invasive devices, increase awareness, ensure treatment adherence, and close healthcare accessibility gaps.

5. All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968

Kerala has suspended two IAS officers, N. Prashant and K. Gopalakrishnan, for alleged violations of the All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

The All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968:

- **Ethical Standards:** Officers must maintain high ethics, integrity, honesty, political neutrality, accountability, and transparency.
- **Constitutional Supremacy:** Must uphold constitutional values in all actions.
- **Media Engagement:** Officers can communicate in public media only in bona fide discharge of duties; criticism of government policies is prohibited.

- **Court or Press Appeal:** Cannot approach courts or press to vindicate actions under criticism without prior government approval.
- **Omnibus Clause:** Officers shall not act in a manner deemed “unbecoming of a member of the service.”
- **Amendments Over Time:** The rules have been updated but lack explicit provisions for social media conduct.

6. Barak River

The Manipur Police discovered three bodies, suspected to be those of missing abductees, in the Barak River amidst ongoing militant activities in the state.

About Barak River:

- **Origin and Course:**
 - Rises in the Manipur Hills, flows into Assam, and later enters Bangladesh as the Surma and Kushiara rivers.
 - Joins the Meghna River, receiving the combined flow of the Ganga and Brahmaputra.
- **Tributaries:**
 - Major tributaries include the Jiri, Dhaleswari, Singla, Longai, Sonai, and Katakhal.
- **Drainage and Sub-basin:**
 - Covers a drainage area of 41,723 sq. km in India, about 1.38% of the country’s total geographical area.
 - Lies across Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam, Tripura, and Nagaland.
- **Geographic Boundaries:**
 - Bounded by the Barail range to the north, the Lushai Hills to the east, and Bangladesh to the south and west.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Critically examine the key issues with the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. How do these challenges highlight the need for a more democratic forest governance structure?

The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, was enacted to address historical injustices against forest-dwelling communities by recognizing their rights to land and resources. Aimed at promoting democratic forest governance, FRA acknowledges both individual and community rights, encouraging active participation of local communities in forest management. Despite its progressive framework, implementation challenges hinder its full potential, necessitating a more inclusive approach.

Key Features of the Forest Rights Act, 2006

- **Recognition of Individual Rights:** The FRA acknowledges the right of individual forest dwellers to continue **cultivation and habitation on ancestral lands**, ensuring legal security.
For example: Forest rights can be claimed by any member or community who has **for at least three generations (75 years) prior to the 13th day of December, 2005** primarily resided in forest land for bona fide livelihood needs.
- **Community Forest Rights (CFR):** The Act grants communities the **right to protect, manage, and use forest resources** within traditional boundaries.
For instance: FRA protects forest-dwelling communities from eviction, allowing them to remain on traditional lands while enjoying legal rights.
- **Types of Rights:** The act defines **four types** of rights- **title rights, use rights, relief and development rights and forest management rights**.
- **Deciding authority:** The **Gram Sabha** is the authority to initiate the process for determining the **nature and extent of Individual/ Community Forest Rights or both** that may be given to forest dwellers.
- **Democratic Wildlife Conservation:** The Act requires **community consent for diverting forest land**, promoting democratic involvement in conservation efforts.
For example: In the **Niyamgiri case (2013)**, the **Supreme Court** upheld this right, allowing local tribes to decide on a proposed mining project.

Key Issues with the Implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006

- **Bureaucratic Apathy:** Slow processing and non-transparent rejections have resulted in **partial or arbitrary recognition of claims**, frustrating communities.
For example: Over **38%** of all claims over land made under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 till November 30, 2022, were **rejected** as reported by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- **Resistance from Forest Department:** The forest bureaucracy often views FRA as a **threat to its control**, opposing community-led forest management.

For instance: The Act initially delegated powers to local communities, but in the mid-2000s, **India's National Indigenous Policy** shifted away from bottom-up approaches to top-down approaches like **Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)**.

- **Political Interference:** Politicians have sometimes used FRA to **regularise encroachments** rather than genuinely address historical injustices.
- **Inadequate Awareness Among Beneficiaries:** Many eligible individuals and communities are unaware of FRA's benefits, **limiting claim submission** and **rights awareness**.

For example: In **Odisha's Kandhamal district**, a **2021 study** revealed that **60%** of eligible tribal households were unaware of the Forest Rights Act's provisions.

- **Uneven Implementation Across States:** While some states have shown progress, others lag, causing **inconsistencies in the enforcement** of community rights.

For example: **Maharashtra** leads in CFR recognition, but other states like **Assam** have minimal CFR achievements.

Need for a More Democratic Forest Governance Structure

- **Increased Community Participation:** Allowing communities **greater decision-making power** ensures accountability and aligns forest management with local needs.

For example: The **Niyamgiri Hills case (2013)** demonstrated how community involvement can protect both ecological and cultural interests.

- **Empowerment of Local Institutions: Democratic governance** enables local institutions like Gram Sabhas to play an **active role**, strengthening decentralised forest management.

For example: **Maharashtra's Gram Sabhas** in **Gadchiroli** manage their forests under CFR, setting a model for democratic governance.

- **Reduced Bureaucratic Control:** Shifting control from bureaucratic agencies to **community stakeholders** prevents administrative obstacles and promotes efficiency.

- **Enhanced Accountability in Conservation Efforts: Community-led conservation** ensures that forest resources are preserved responsibly, addressing local priorities.

- **Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals:** Democratic governance supports sustainable forest management, aligning with India's SDG commitments for **environmental justice**.

For example: Increased community governance in tribal areas promotes **SDG 15 on life on land**.

Way Ahead

- **Strengthen Awareness Campaigns:** Enhanced awareness initiatives can **educate communities** on FRA rights and encourage wider participation in claims.

For instance: The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** can increase outreach programs in remote areas to spread FRA knowledge.

- **Capacity Building of Local Institutions:** Training Gram Sabhas and other local bodies can improve their ability to **manage** and **govern** forests effectively.

- **Establish a Transparent Grievance Mechanism:** A structured grievance system can address community complaints and **streamline claim processing**.

For example: **Madhya Pradesh** has introduced an **online portal (Van Mitra)** to handle FRA claims, ensuring transparency in claim resolution.

- **Encourage Forest Department Cooperation:** Collaborative efforts between the Forest Department and communities can **inculcate trust** and **improve governance**.

For instance: **Joint forest management initiatives** can help develop cooperation and conservation.

- **Monitor and Evaluate Implementation:** Regular assessments can identify implementation gaps, ensuring **timely corrective action** for more effective governance.

For instance: The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** can monitor FRA enforcement to address issues in real-time.

The Forest Rights Act, 2006, is a transformative tool for empowering forest communities and promoting equitable forest governance. However, challenges like bureaucratic resistance and political misuse have hindered its effectiveness. By promoting democratic forest governance that enhances local participation, accountability, and awareness, India can ensure that the FRA achieves its goal of rectifying historical injustices, supporting both community welfare and sustainable forest management.

MCQ

1. Consider the following constitutional provisions related to the CAG of India:

1. The CAG is appointed by the Prime Minister of India under Article 148 of the Constitution.

2. The CAG is appointed for a term of five years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
 3. The salary and conditions of service of the CAG cannot be varied to their disadvantage during their tenure.
 4. The CAG can be removed by the President on grounds of proved misbehavior or incapacity after an address by Parliament.
- Which of the provisions given above is/are correct?
- a) 1, 2 and 3 only b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 3 and 4 only d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
2. The primary objective of the 'PPP plus PPP' model introduced on World Diabetes Day is:
 - a) To eliminate diabetes entirely
 - b) To enhance international collaborations for combating diabetes
 - c) To address diabetes through collaborative domestic and global partnerships**
 - d) To promote artificial intelligence in healthcare
 3. Consider the following statements about Operation Dronagiri:
 1. The initiative focuses exclusively on urban infrastructure.
 2. It operates independently of private sector participation.
 3. It is led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only d) None
 4. With reference to the All-India Services (Conduct) Rules 1968, consider the following statements:
 1. The rules prescribe a code of conduct to guide officers' professional and ethical behavior.
 2. As per the rules, officers may participate in or contribute to public media only in the bonafide discharge of their duties.
 3. The rules provide specific directives regarding officers' use of social media.

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
 5. Consider the following statements regarding the e-Tarang System:
 1. It was developed by the Ministry of Communications.
 2. It focuses on civilian and defence communication systems equally.
 3. It enables interference-free operation of defence equipment during wartime and peacetime.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only **b) 3 only**
 c) 1 and 2 only d) None
 6. Consider the following statements about the Barak River:
 1. It joins the Brahmaputra River directly in Assam.
 2. It forms the Meghna River after joining with the Ganga and Brahmaputra.
 3. Its major tributaries include the Jiri, Dhaleswari, and Longai.
 4. It flows through the states of Assam, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh.

How many of the above statements are correct?

a) Only one **b) Only two**
 c) Only three d) All four
 7. The Barak River originates from which geographical feature?
 - a) Lushai Hills b) Khasi Hills
 - c) Barail Range **d) Manipur Hills**
 8. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Energy Efficiency Alliance launched by the UAE:
 1. The Alliance aims to double global energy efficiency rates by 2030.
 2. It was launched during the G-20 summit 2024 in Rio, Brazil to support global sustainability goals.
 3. The initiative exclusively focuses on renewable energy generation projects.

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
 9. Consider the following statements regarding the strategic importance of the Solomon Islands:
 1. The Solomon Islands were a major battleground during World War II.
 2. The islands are located in the Indian Ocean, making them critical for trade between Africa and Southeast Asia.
 3. The region has significant biodiversity and marine resources.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 3 only b) 1 only
 c) 2 and 3 only d) 3 only
 10. With reference to the PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), consider the following statements:
 1. It aims to uplift the socio-economic status of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
 2. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the implementing agency for PM-JANMAN.
 3. Establishment of tribal universities is one of the components of the scheme.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

a) Only one **b) Only two**
 c) All three d) None