

THE PALA

CIVIL TIMES

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P2. NATIONAL



Tulu as additional official language of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts in Karnataka
: Karnataka's decision to accord Tulu additional official language status highlights recognition of linguistic diversity.

P3 WORLD



Rampur Hounds join India-U.S. troops for specialised drills at Yudh Abhyas
: The participation of Rampur Hounds in Yudh Abhyas 2026 highlights both the growing role of military canines in specialised operations

P4. SCIENCE



Permanent Magnets and India's Strategic Technology
: India's dependence on foreign permanent-magnet supply chains reveals why critical-mineral security must extend beyond mining to processing,

P7. ECONOMICS



India's NGOs at a new funding crossroads
: Changes in the regulation of foreign funding raise questions about how India can balance financial oversight and accountability

Editor's Note

A new week begins, and here we are once again exploring a range of important issues relevant to the UPSC examination. This edition of the Pala Civil Times looks at why Karnataka has accorded official language status to Tulu, how indigenous Rampur Hounds are contributing to a strategic India-US bilateral Army exercise, why India needs a stronger assessment of its permanent-magnet ecosystem, and what the latest FCRA developments could mean for innovation across traditional and modern sectors such as education and healthcare.

The edition brings together clear and easy-to-understand explainer articles, supported by interlinked Previous Year Questions to help learners assess their understanding of each topic and recognise the demands of the examination. Our decoded editorials further go beyond the surface of current developments to examine their wider implications, challenges and competing perspectives, enabling learners to develop a more balanced and analytical understanding of important issues.

We hope learners make the most of this resource, revisit the topics with a clear focus, and use the questions and analysis to assess and strengthen their preparation.
Happy Reading!

Editorials Decoded

THE HINDU



Antidote to drugs

The growing threat of counterfeit and spurious medicines highlights the need for stronger supply-chain traceability

The Indian EXPRESS



Divided Tata house does not inspire confidence

The Tata Sons dispute raises important questions about shareholder rights, special voting provisions, board governance

Tulu as additional official language of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts in Karnataka

The Karnataka Cabinet on September 18, 2026 decided to accord additional official (administrative) language status to Tulu in Dakshina Kannada and southern Udupi districts.

Administrative Status

Implementation: District administrations of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi will implement the decision, supported by ₹82 lakh annually for translation, training and language usage.

Public Use: Tulu may be used in local-body meetings and government applications, while government circulars and orders in the two districts are expected to include Tulu alongside Kannada.

Legal Process: Article 345 empowers State legislatures to adopt one or more languages for official purposes. Karnataka may therefore need to amend the Karnataka Official Language Act, 1963, which currently specifies Kannada as the official language, before issuing the final notification.

Evolution of the decision

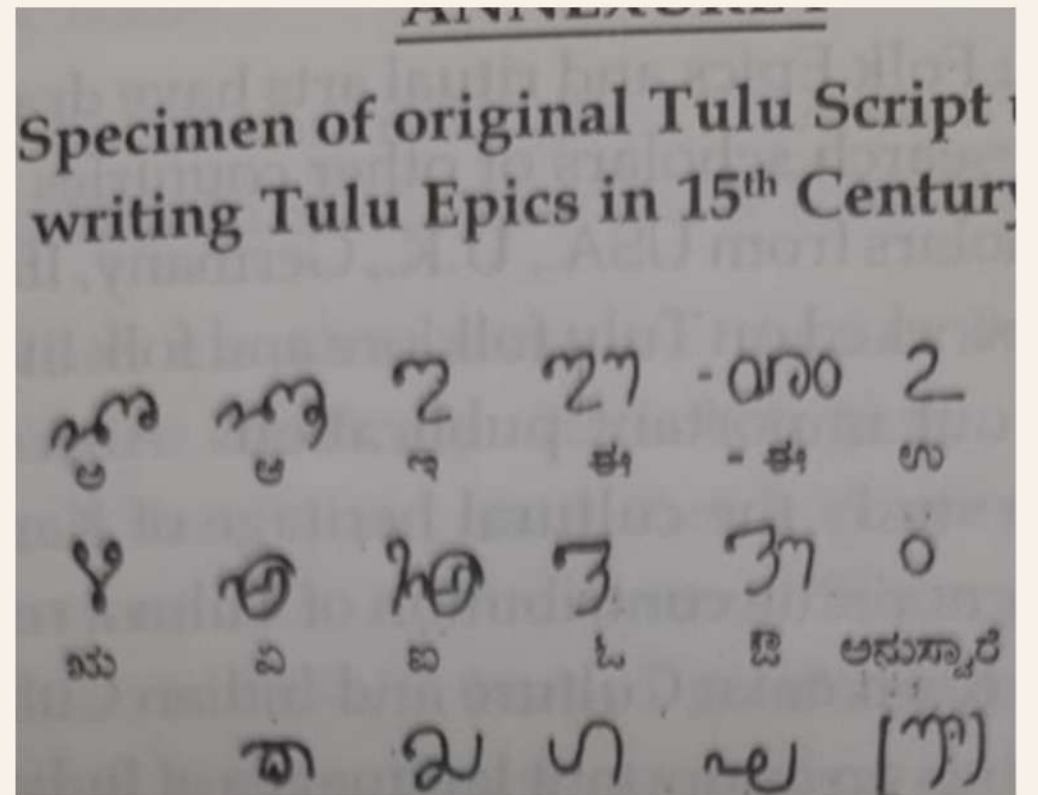
In 2023, Karnataka government constituted a committee under M. Mohan Alva to examine granting Tulu additional official-language status. Later, another committee was set up under K. M. Gayatri, which studied Andhra Pradesh's experience with Urdu as an additional language and submitted its report on March 4, 2026. The Cabinet decision followed this review process.

Tulu: Linguistic Significance

Antiquity: Tulu has a history of over 2,000 years and developed as an independent language around the 8th century BC, according to the material submitted by the Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy.

Language Family: It belongs to the Dravidian language family and is recognised separately in Census-related linguistic classification.

Script: Tulu historically had its own script, but the Kannada script is predominantly used today.



Academic and Digital Presence

Education: Tulu is taught as an optional third language from Classes 6–10 in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi; it was introduced in Class 6 during 2010–11.

Higher Education: Mangalore University introduced a Tulu postgraduate programme in 2018–19, but it was discontinued from 2024–25 due to low enrolment.

Digitalisation: Tulu Wikipedia was launched in 2016 after eight years in incubation.

Language Resources and Constitutional Status

Lexicography: The first Tulu dictionary was published in 1886, followed by the University of Madras dictionary in 1967 and a six-volume Tulu-Kannada-English Lexicon.

Eighth Schedule: Tulu is recognised as an independent, non-scheduled language in India but is not included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Eighth Schedule Languages

At present, the Eighth Schedule consists of 22 languages. Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 amends the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution to include which of the following languages? (2024)

1. Konkani 2. Manipuri 3. Nepali 4. Maithili

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1, 2 and 4
 (c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 2, 3 and 4

See page 9 for answer

Veer Guardian 2026: India–Japan Air Force Cooperation

The Chiefs of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) flew together in a Tejas formation at Jodhpur during Veer Guardian 2026, highlighting growing India–Japan defence cooperation.

Key Development

Tejas Sortie: JASDF Chief of Staff General Takehiro Morita flew a Tejas trainer with Group Captain I. Samrat as captain, while IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh led the formation in a fighter aircraft.

Symbol of Trust: The sortie was described as a demonstration of mutual trust, confidence and growing defence ties between India and Japan.

Kizuna: The IAF described the relationship as “kizuna”, referring to enduring bonds built through trust and support.

Veer Guardian 2026

Exercise: The second edition of Veer Guardian 2026 is being conducted at Air Force Station, Jodhpur, from September 9–22.

Aircraft: The IAF is participating with Tejas, Su-30MKI and Rafale, while the JASDF has deployed F-2A fighters.

Debut: For the first time, JASDF fighter aircraft have operated from Indian soil during a bilateral exercise.

Activities: The exercise covers operational flying, advanced mission planning, professional exchanges, engineering and aerospace safety discussions.

Indian Navy Joint Exercises

- Varuna naval exercise is joint exercise of navies of France and India.
- SLINEX - Sri Lanka India Naval Exercise
- INDRA is a joint, bi-annual military exercise conducted by India and Russia
- Exercise Malabar is a bilateral naval exercise involving the United States and India.
- Simbex - Indian Navy with Republic of Singapore Navy
- IBSAMAR with the Brazil and South African navies.
- KONKAN - A bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain
- AUSINDEX - Indian and Australian Navy Bilateral Maritime Exercise
- Sahyog-Kajin - Joint exercise of Coast Guards of India and Japan
- Naseem Al Bahr - Joint navy exercise of India and Oman

Indian Air Force Joint Exercises

- The joint India-UK air exercises are known as the “Indradhanush” or “Rainbow”.
- Garuda - India-France Air Exercise
- Avia Indra the India-Russia maiden aerial exercise.
- Exercise Red Flag - Between Air Forces of India and the U.S.
- Siam Bharat - Indian Air Force and Royal Thailand Air Force
- Desert Eagle - India and UAE
- Eastern Bridge - India-Oman bilateral air exercise

Indian Army Joint Exercises

- Mithra Shakti exercise- India and Sri Lanka.
- Hand-in-Hand. -India-China joint military training exercise
- Exercise Shakti - India and France armies
- Exercise Nomadic Elephant- Indian Army exercises with the Mongolian Army.
- Exercise Yuddh Abhyas -Joint exercises between the Indian and United States Armies since 2005.
- Surya Kiran - India Nepal joint military exercise
- LAMITYE - India and Seychelles
- Prabal Dostyk - India Kazakhstan Joint exercise
- Al-Nagah - Joint military exercise between Indian and Oman
- Ajeya Warrior - India and UK
- SAMPRITI - India-Bangladesh joint military exercise
- AUSTRA HIND - Australia and India

Rampur Hounds join India–U.S. troops for specialised drills at Yudh Abhyas

Indian Army military dogs, including indigenous Rampur Hounds, are demonstrating specialised operational skills alongside U.S. Army personnel during Yudh Abhyas 2026.

Canines and Capabilities

Participants: Four Army Canines are participating in the exercise. They are demonstrating room intervention and rappelling drills, highlighting their role in demanding tactical operations.

Teamwork: The exercise showcases coordination between trained canines and their handlers during specialised missions.

Rampur Hounds: Indigenous Capability

Indigenous Breed: Rampur Hounds are an Indian breed increasingly being inducted for specialised military roles.

Operational Experience: Two canines in the group, Victor and Rowdy have experience along India’s northern and eastern borders and have participated in earlier military exercises.

IED Detection: The dogs were deployed along the Manipur border, where they successfully detected improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Operation Sindoor: Their siblings were deployed in the Jalandhar and Amritsar sectors during Operation Sindoor, demonstrating their utility across different operational environments.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. Which of the following statements about ‘Exercise Mitra Shakti 2023’ are correct?

1. This was a joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh.
2. It commenced in Aundh (Pune).
3. Joint response during counterterrorism operations was a goal of this operation.
4. The Indian Air Force was a part of this exercise. Select the correct answer using the code given below :

a) 1, 2 and 3 b) 1, 2 and 4 c) 1, 3 and 4 d) 2, 3 and 4

See page 10 for answer

Significance

Specialised Operations: Military dogs provide specialised capabilities in tactical and high-risk operational situations.

Indigenisation: The deployment of Rampur Hounds highlights efforts to increase the use of indigenous canine breeds for military purposes.

Military Cooperation: Their participation in Yudh Abhyas facilitates professional exchange and allows U.S. personnel to observe India's canine training and operational practices.

SCIENCE

Permanent Magnets and India's Strategic Technology Dependence

India's push towards advanced manufacturing has exposed a strategic vulnerability in high-performance permanent magnets, particularly NdFeB magnets, where dependence can accumulate across multiple stages of the value chain.

What are Permanent Magnets?

Definition: Permanent magnets are materials that retain their magnetism and generate a persistent magnetic field without continuous external energy.

Types: Important permanent magnets include Ferrite, Alnico, Samarium-Cobalt and **Neodymium-Iron-Boron (NdFeB) magnets**, each serving different industrial applications.

NdFeB : Neodymium-Iron-Boron (NdFeB) magnets are particularly important for advanced manufacturing because they combine very high magnetic strength with a high power-to-weight ratio.

Applications: High-performance permanent magnets are used in electric vehicle motors, semiconductor manufacturing facilities, precision machinery and other advanced industrial technologies.

Integrated Techno-Economic Mapping (ITEM)

ITEM combines engineering and economic information to map the entire journey from minerals to finished products.

India's Critical Mineral Strategy

Recognition: India has increasingly recognised the strategic importance of critical minerals and rare earth elements (REEs) for advanced technologies.

Mission: The National Critical Mineral Mission seeks to strengthen India's capabilities in the critical-mineral ecosystem.

Acquisition: India is pursuing overseas mineral acquisitions to improve access to strategically important resources.

Exploration: Greater geological exploration is being undertaken to identify and develop domestic mineral resources.

Industrial Support: Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes are being used to support the development of domestic manufacturing capabilities.

Key Issues in India's Critical-Mineral Usage

External Dependence: China's April 2025 export controls on rare-earth magnets and materials exposed India's vulnerability to disruptions in externally dependent supply chains.

Value-Chain Gaps: Gaps in processing, separation, refining, alloy production and manufacturing can create dependence even when raw materials are available.

Data Gaps: The estimated domestic permanent-magnet market of around ₹750 crore differs substantially from international import statistics, with differences potentially arising from statistical coverage, classification and supply-chain accounting.

Policy Challenge: These gaps make it difficult to identify where dependence accumulates, which stages require domestic capacity and where investment or technology partnerships should be prioritised.

Integrated Techno-Economic Mapping (ITEM)

ITEM combines engineering and economic information to map the entire journey from minerals to finished products. It identifies where India has competitive capabilities, technological gaps and critical bottlenecks across the value chain.

India needs systematic techno-economic mapping of strategic technology value chains, beginning with permanent magnets and extending to other critical technologies which can be worked out by ITEM.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct? (2026)

1. Modern technological innovations including Artificial Intelligence, robotics and space exploration extensively utilise Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
2. China has the highest share in mining of REEs followed by India.
3. The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self reliance in the critical mineral sector.
4. Rare Earth Elements are a set of 13 metallic elements.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 1, 2 and 4

See page 9 for answer

Antidote to drugs: On the counterfeit medicine racket in Bengaluru, Karnataka

The recent bust of a suspected counterfeit medicine network in Karnataka has highlighted concerns over drug quality, supply-chain monitoring and patient safety, particularly after suspected fake and expired medicines were found to have reached hospitals and clinics.

Background: Counterfeit Drug Network

Discovery: Raids on an unlicensed farmhouse near Bidadi revealed counterfeit and expired medicines, fake bills, injection-filling equipment and counterfeit labels.

Scale: The seized consignment valued approximately ₹5 crore, including suspected counterfeit cancer medicines.

Reach: Investigators found that the suspected medicines had been supplied to more than 90 hospitals and clinics, particularly in Bengaluru and surrounding areas, indicating that the network operated through an established distribution chain.

Investigation: A Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising police and drug inspectors was formed to investigate the wider network. Simultaneous raids were conducted at 10 locations across six States, including Karnataka, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.



Modus Operandi: Repackaging and Distribution

Rebranding: low-cost medicines were purchased and sold under different brand names.

Repackaging: Expired medicines were allegedly collected, transferred into new containers and repackaged using counterfeit labels and packaging material, including altered expiry information.

Discounts: The medicines were allegedly supplied to hospitals at discounts of around 50%, potentially making the counterfeit products attractive to purchasers.

Distribution: A network of more than 15 medical representatives is suspected to have helped distribute the medicines to hospitals and pharmacies.

Patient Safety and Regulatory Challenge

Risk: The suspected circulation of counterfeit medicines raises serious concerns because such medicines are often used in time-sensitive and critical medical situations.

Impact: Fake, spurious or poor-quality medicines can cause adverse reactions, treatment failure, severe disability and death, making drug quality a direct public-health concern.

Accountability: Investigators are examining the role of hospitals, clinics, pharmacies and other participants in the supply chain, including possible complicity within the private healthcare network.

Persistence: The recurrence of such incidents points to continuing challenges in India's drug-quality monitoring system.

Monitoring: It also questions the effectiveness of quality control, inspection, supply-chain surveillance and regulatory scrutiny of medicines entering the market.

Reputation: For India, which seeks to strengthen its position as the "pharmacy of the world", ensuring consistent quality of medicines is crucial for confidence in Indian pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Government Intervention:

The Government has expanded Schedule H2 under the Drugs Rules, 1945 to cover vaccines, antimicrobials, specified narcotic and psychotropic drugs, and anti-cancer medicines, mandating QR/bar-code-based authentication and traceability across the pharmaceutical supply chain to curb counterfeit and substandard drugs.

Way Forward

Drug regulators need stronger market surveillance and supply-chain monitoring to detect counterfeit, expired and relabelled medicines before they reach patients. Additionally, greater use of batch-level tracking, digital records and verification mechanisms can help regulators trace medicines from manufacturers and distributors to healthcare providers.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. Can overuse and free availability of antibiotics without Doctor's prescription, be contributors to the emergence of drug-resistant diseases in India? What are the available mechanisms for monitoring and control? Critically discuss the various issues involved. (GS III - 2014)

Divided Tata house does not inspire confidence

The Tata Sons board approved N. Chandrasekaran's reappointment as executive chairman for another five years, despite opposition from Tata Trusts, which hold about 66% of Tata Sons. The dispute has raised questions over the group's governance structure and the special rights of Tata Trusts.

The Present Dispute

Reappointment: The Tata Sons board approved Chandrasekaran's five-year extension.

Opposition: Tata Trusts opposed the decision, with Noel Tata voting against it.

Core Issue: The dispute concerns whether a general board majority and chairman's casting vote can override the separate affirmative-voting requirement of Tata Trusts' nominee directors.

Public Listing: The board has also decided to pursue a public listing of Tata Sons, following the RBI's rejection of its application to surrender its registration as a core investment company. Noel Tata opposes the listing.

Tata Trusts' Special Rights

Board Representation: Under the Articles of Association, Tata Trusts can nominate one-third of the Tata Sons board while they hold the prescribed shareholding.

Affirmative Vote: Certain decisions require not only a board majority but also the affirmative vote of the required Trust-nominated directors.

Present Conflict: Noel Tata and Venu Srinivasan are two nominees of the Trust. Srinivasan supported Chandrasekaran's reappointment, while Noel Tata opposed it, creating the present legal question.

2021 Tata-Mistry Case

Background: Cyrus Mistry was removed as Tata Sons chairman in 2016. His family and the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, which held about 18.37%, challenged the removal.

Supreme Court: In 2021, the Supreme Court overturned the NCLAT decision favouring Mistry and ruled in favour of Tata Sons.

Key Principle: The Court upheld the special affirmative-voting rights of Tata Trusts' nominee directors contained in Tata Sons' Articles. **Legal Interpretation:** Tata Trusts argue that the same Articles whose validity Tata Sons defended before the Supreme Court must continue to be respected.

Casting Vote: Their position is that a chairman's casting vote cannot substitute for the separately required affirmative support of Trust nominees.

Unresolved Question: The 2021 judgment upheld the special rights but did not specifically decide what happens when the two Trust nominees themselves disagree.

Governance Concerns

Power: The dispute highlights questions about the distribution of power between Tata Trusts, Tata Sons and operating companies.

Accountability: Clearer rules on leadership, succession, decision-making and accountability are important for institutional stability.

Transparency: The controversy has renewed attention on the governance arrangements governing a large business group with activities across strategically important sectors.



PYQ COMPASS



Q. Transparency and accountability in governance are not about controlling corruption but about creating the trust of stakeholders in the policy process by following the Rule of Law and Participatory Governance. Comment (GS II - 2026)

Q. "In contemporary development models, decision-making and problem-solving responsibilities are not located close to the source of information and execution, defeating the objectives of development." Critically evaluate (GS II - 2025)

Q. In the light of Satyam Scandal (2009), discuss the changes brought in the corporate governance to ensure transparency and accountability (2015)

India's NGOs at a new funding crossroads

The proposed FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026 has triggered opposition from political parties and civil society groups over tighter regulation of foreign-funded NGOs, particularly regarding the control of their assets and the implications for their functioning.

Background: FCRA and Foreign Funding

Origins: The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 1976 was introduced amid concerns that foreign funding could influence political and social activities in India.

Concerns: The present debate similarly reflects the government's concern that foreign funds could be used for political mobilisation, selective advocacy, destabilisation or religious conversion.

Transparency: The government describes the foreign funding network in the NGO sector as large, complex and insufficiently transparent, with concerns over the monitoring and use of foreign contributions.

Proposed Asset-Vesting Mechanism

Vesting: If an NGO's FCRA registration is cancelled, surrendered or allowed to lapse, its foreign contributions and assets created from them would temporarily vest in a government-appointed designated authority.

Restoration: The organisation could recover the assets if its registration is restored within the prescribed period. Permanent vesting would occur only if registration is not restored within that period.

Appeal: The proposed framework provides for revision and appeal before the District Judge, creating a legal mechanism to challenge the relevant action.

Disposal: If a fresh certificate is not obtained within the prescribed period, the assets could be sold or transferred to a government department, with the proceeds credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

Foreign Funding: Role and Concerns

Contribution: Research on Indian NGOs indicates that foreign aid has contributed to new ideas, techniques, technologies and organisational improvements, strengthened the voluntary sector and supported development activities.

Risks: Some organisations have reported that foreign funding can encourage the adoption of ideas and practices that may not suit Indian conditions, highlighting the importance of accountability and contextual suitability.

Concerns: NGOs, particularly Christian organisations, fear that tighter FCRA provisions may not be applied in a sufficiently religion-neutral manner.

Funding Regulation

Since 2015, FCRA registration of 22,496 NGOs has been cancelled, leaving about 14,466 active registered associations eligible to receive foreign contributions as of September 2026.

Funding Diversity: Domestic Philanthropy and CSR

Diversity: A vibrant and independent civil society requires multiple sources of funding.

Philanthropy: India's domestic philanthropic capacity has expanded, with private philanthropy projected to reach ₹1.43 lakh crore in FY2025, alongside approximately ₹37,000 crore in annual retail giving.

Shift: New philanthropists are increasingly directing resources towards scientific research, higher education, ecosystem building and institutional support. This leads to underfunding in traditional areas such as education, healthcare and social welfare.

CSR: The Companies Act, 2013 institutionalised mandatory CSR spending for qualifying companies. CSR spending by listed companies reached ₹22,563 crore in FY2025, according to the cited CRISIL report.

NGOs can act as implementation partners for companies that lack the internal capacity to undertake social-development programmes, particularly in health, education and rural development. The government, NGOs, donors and corporate sector should engage in sustained dialogue on funding practices, transparency and accountability, while distinguishing these issues from broader development objectives.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. With reference to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) rules in India, consider the following statements:

1. CSR rules specify that expenditures that benefit the company directly or its employees will not be considered as CSR activities.
2. CSR rules do not specify minimum spending on CSR activities.

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

PYQ Compass



Q. The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 amends the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution to include which of the following languages? (2024)

1. Konkani
2. Manipuri
3. Nepali
4. Maithili

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 2 and 4
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

Ans : a

The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992, amended the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution to include three languages: 1. Konkani 2. Manipuri 3. Nepali These languages were added to recognize their significance and ensure their development. Maithili was added later through the 92nd Amendment Act, 2003, and is not part of the 71st Amendment.

Q. Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct? (2026)

1. Modern technological innovations including Artificial Intelligence, robotics and space exploration extensively utilise Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
2. China has the highest share in mining of REEs followed by India.
3. The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self reliance in the critical mineral sector.
4. Rare Earth Elements are a set of 13 metallic elements.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 1, 2 and 4

Ans : a – 1 and 3 only

REEs are essential in producing specialized components such as microchips, sensors, and high performance magnets that are widely used in advanced technologies. China holds the largest share in global REE mining; however, countries such as the United States or Australia generally rank next, rather than India. The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to create a strong framework for self-reliance in the critical minerals sector. Rare Earth Elements actually comprise 17 metallic elements, including the 15 lanthanides along with scandium and yttrium.

PYQ Compass



Q. Which of the following statements about 'Exercise Mitra Shakti 2023' are correct?

1. This was a joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh.
2. It commenced in Aundh (Pune).
3. Joint response during counterterrorism operations was a goal of this operation.
4. The Indian Air Force was a part of this exercise. Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 1, 2 and 4
- c) 1, 3 and 4
- d) 2, 3 and 4

Ans : d

The 'Exercise Mitra Shakti 2023' was a series of joint military exercises between India and Sri Lanka, not Bangladesh.

Aundh in Pune is a common location for military training and exercises in India, and it is plausible that a session of 'Exercise Mitra Shakti' could start there.

The primary objective of 'Exercise Mitra Shakti' has been to enhance cooperation in counterterrorism operations in urban and rural environments, sharing strategies and tactics between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army.

While primarily an army exercise, there can be components or phases where other branches, like the Air Force, participate, especially in broader operational contexts like logistics, support, or joint tactics that include air capabilities. However, the primary focus remains ground operations.

Q. With reference to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) rules in India, consider the following statements:

1. CSR rules specify that expenditures that benefit the company directly or its employees will not be considered as CSR activities.
2. CSR rules do not specify minimum spending on CSR activities.

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

Ans : a

A company satisfying any of the following criteria during the immediately preceding financial year is required to comply with CSR provisions specified under section 135(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014 made thereunder: (i) net worth of rupees five hundred crore or more, or (ii) turnover of rupees one thousand crore or more, or (iii) net profit of rupees five crore or more. Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013 (Act), mandates that certain companies must allocate at least 2% of their average net profits from the preceding three financial years towards CSR activities. Hence statement 2 is not correct. Under the Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014, any activity benefitting employees of the company shall not be considered as eligible CSR activity. Hence statement 1 is correct.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. With reference to the official language framework in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 345 empowers a State Legislature to adopt one or more languages for official purposes of the State.
2. Recognition of a language for administrative purposes automatically places it in the Eighth Schedule.
3. Karnataka's decision regarding Tulu concerns its administrative use in specified districts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a) 1 and 3 only

Article 345 provides the constitutional basis for States to adopt languages for official purposes. Administrative recognition does not automatically mean inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.

Q. With reference to military canines showcased during Yudh Abhyas 2026, consider the following statements:

1. Rampur Hounds participated in specialised military drills with US Army personnel.
2. The canines demonstrated skills including room intervention and rappelling.
3. Rampur Hounds are an indigenous Indian breed being increasingly inducted for specialised military roles.
4. Their military use is restricted exclusively to ceremonial duties.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Rampur Hounds are an indigenous breed increasingly being used for specialised military roles. During Yudh Abhyas 2026, military canines demonstrated room intervention and rappelling skills alongside US Army personnel