

## 11 Jan 2023: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis



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**H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions****I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions****A. GS 1 Related**

*Nothing here for today!!!*

**B. GS 2 Related****Category: POLITY****1. The stalemate between Telangana and AP**

*Syllabus: Interstate relations*

*Prelims: Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014*

*Mains: The dispute between the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments over the division of assets.*

**Context**

- It has been over eight years since the passage of the [Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014](#) and the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states. However, the division of assets and liabilities between the two States still remains elusive as the States make their own interpretation of the provisions under the Act.
- The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has now approached the Supreme Court asking for just, reasonable and equitable dividing of assets.

**Assets that are to be divided**

- With respect to the assets that are to be divided, there are 91 institutions mentioned under Schedule IX and 142 institutions mentioned under Schedule X of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014.
  - However, the division of 12 other institutions not mentioned in the Act has also become an issue of conflict between the two States.
- The issue involves a total of 245 institutions with an overall asset value of ₹1.42 lakh crores.
  - Out of the total asset value, the headquarter assets under Schedule IX institutions are worth ₹24,018.53 crores
  - Further, the institutions under Schedule X are worth ₹34,642.77 crores.

- The other 12 institutions which do not find their mention in the Act are valued at ₹1,759 crores.

### **Andhra Pradesh government's claims**

- The Government of Andhra Pradesh is demanding the implementation of the recommendations of the expert committee headed by a retired bureaucrat for the division of 89 out of the 91 institutions mentioned under Schedule IX of the Act.
- The AP government has alleged that the Telangana government had selectively accepted the recommendations leaving others which was resulting in delays in the division of assets and liabilities.
- The AP Government has further urged for expeditious implementation of the recommendations of the expert committee to put an end to the issue of the division of the institutions.

### **The recommendations of the expert committee**

- The expert committee was headed by Sheela Bhide, a retired bureaucrat.
- The committee had come up with its recommendations for the division of 89 out of the 91 institutions mentioned in the Schedule IX of the Act.
- However, the expert committee recommendations on the division of assets that are not a part of the headquarter assets were severely criticised by the Telangana government.
- According to the Telangana government, the recommendations made were against the spirit of the Reorganisation Act.
- The division of institutions such as the RTC headquarters and the Deccan Infrastructure and Landholdings Limited (DIL) which possess huge land parcels have become reasons for dispute between the states.
- For example, the expert committee had recommended the division of RTC workshops and other assets which do not come under the definition of 'headquarter assets'.
  - The Telangana government criticises these divisions as the land parcels possessed by the DIL do not come under the provisions of the Act.

### **Union Home Ministry's clarifications**

- The Union Home Ministry tried to provide clarity about the division of headquarter assets in 2017.
- According to the Ministry, "In the case of one single comprehensive State undertaking (which includes the headquarters and the operational units in one facility) which is exclusively located in, or its operations are confined in one local area, it shall be apportioned on the basis of location as per sub-section (1) of Section 53 of the Reorganisation Act".

### **Telangana government's stand**

- According to the Telangana government, the recommendations of the expert committee were against the interests of Telangana as there is a clear procedure mentioned for the division of headquarter assets under Section 53 of the Reorganisation Act.
- According to the Act, “the assets and liabilities relating to any commercial or industrial undertaking of the existing State of Andhra Pradesh, where such undertaking or part thereof is exclusively located in, or its operations are confined to, a local area, shall pass to the State in which that area is included on the appointed day, irrespective of the location of its headquarters”.
- Further, the government of Telangana has held that the assets located outside the territory of the erstwhile united State such as the establishment of Andhra Pradesh Bhavan in New Delhi could be divided between the States based on the population according to the provisions of the Act.

### **The role of the Union government in resolving the dispute**

- The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014, empowers the Union Government to intervene when required.
- The dispute resolution committee headed by the Union Home Secretary which also consists of the Chief Secretaries of both the States and the dispute resolution sub-committee chaired by the Union Home Ministry’s joint secretary has held several rounds of meetings.
- However, despite several rounds of meetings, discussions and negotiations, the stalemate between the two states with respect to the division of assets still continues.

***Nut graf:** Despite the completion of more than eight years since the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh state followed by a series of discussions and negotiations, the impasse between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana over the division of assets still continues. As the matter now has reached the Supreme Court, the court is responsible for undertaking steps to settle the issue amicably.*

## **2. The ‘Union’ government sends out a message of unity and confluence**

***Syllabus:** Constitution of India — historical underpinnings, evolution, features, significant provisions and basic structure*

***Prelims:** Facts about Constituent Assembly and the Cabinet Mission Plan*

***Mains:** The debate on the use of the terms “Union government” v/s “Central government”*

### **Context**

The Governor of Tamil Nadu has opposed the use of the Tamil term “ondriya arasu” for the Union Government.

## Background

- The Governor while responding to a question on the “Central government” versus “Union government” controversy in Tamil Nadu, said that the word “ondriyam” referred to a sub-district or a sub-divisional level structure in the hierarchy and the usage of the term as a translation of the Union government would “belittle and disrespect” the Union government.
- The usage of the term ondriya arasu (union government) rather than madhiya arasu (central government) has been controversial in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- The Tamil Nadu Government in 2021 had decided to avoid the usage of the term “Central government” in its official communications and replace it with “Union government”.

## “Union” v/s “Centre” - Constitutional provisions

- Article 1 of the Indian Constitution mentions that “India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States”.
- Further, an analysis of the Indian Constitution reveals that the term “Centre” or “Central government” is nowhere mentioned in the 395 Articles in 22 Parts and eight Schedules of the original Constitution.
- The Constitution only mentions the terms “Union” and the “States” with the executive powers of the Union being exercised by the President who in turn acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.
- However, the courts, the media and the States often refer to the Union government as the “Centre” despite no reference to the term “Central government” in the Constitution.
  - This is because the **General Clauses Act, 1897** provides a definition for “Central government”.
  - According to the General Clauses Act, 1897, the “Central government” for all practical purposes is the President after the commencement of the Constitution.

## The discussions in the Constituent Assembly about the usage of the term “Union”

- Jawaharlal Nehru in December 1946 introduced the aims and objectives of the [Constituent Assembly](#) and resolved that India would be a Union of territories which are willing to join the “Independent Sovereign Republic”.
  - The focus of the aims and objectives was mainly on the consolidation of various provinces and territories to form a united nation.
- Several members of the Constituent Assembly felt that the principles of the British [Cabinet Mission Plan](#) of 1946 should be adopted, which intended to establish a Central government with very limited powers and provide substantial autonomy to provinces.
- However, the Partition followed by the violence in Kashmir in 1947 made the members of the Constituent Assembly change their approach towards favouring a strong Centre.



- Considering the possibility of the secession of States from the Union, the framers of the Constitution ensured that the Indian Union is “indestructible”.
- Dr. B.R Ambedkar, who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, had said in the Constituent Assembly that the term “Union” was used to negate the right of secession of States by emphasising that “India shall be a Union of States”.
- Additionally, Dr. B.R Ambedkar said that through the usage of “Union of States” the Drafting Committee intended to clarify that though India was to be a federation, it was not formed as a result of any agreement and hence, no State has the right to secede from the Union.
  - According to Ambedkar, “the federation is a Union because it is indestructible”.
- The usage of “Union of States” was criticised by a few members such as Maulana Hasrat Mohani who argued that Ambedkar was changing the very nature of the Constitution.
  - Mohani in his speech in the Assembly in September 1949 had said that the usage of the words “Union of States” would obscure the word ‘Republic’.
  - He further opined that Ambedkar intended the “Union” to be “something like the Union proposed by Prince Bismarck in Germany, and after him adopted by Kaiser William and after him by Adolf Hitler”.
  - Mohani also said that Ambedkar wanted all the States to come under one rule.
- However, Ambedkar had clarified that “the Union” would not be a league of States, united in a loose relationship and the States would not be the agencies of the Union. But instead, both the Union and the States would be created by the Constitution and both would derive their respective authority and powers from the Constitution.
  - According to Ambedkar, “the one is not subordinate to the other in its own field whereas the authority of one is coordinated with that of the other”.

Read more [Constituent Assembly debates](#) in the linked article.

### Sharing of powers between the Supreme Court and High Courts

- The sharing of powers between the Union and the States is not just limited to the executive organ of the government as the Constitution has also designed the judiciary in such a way that the Supreme Court would not have superintendence over the High Courts.
- Despite the Supreme Court having appellate jurisdiction over the High Courts, other courts and tribunals, these courts are not declared as subordinates to the Supreme Court.
- It is also important to note that High Courts have wider powers to issue [prerogative writs](#) in India.

### Conclusion

- The framers of the Indian Constitution have not used the terms “Centre” or “Central government” in the Constitution in order to keep away the tendency of centralising powers in one unit.

- According to the experts, the usage of the terms “Union government” or the “Government of India ” has a unifying effect because it indicates that the government is of all.

**Nut graf:** *It is said that a sustainable solution to a problem is not to be found in the statute books but in the conscience of men in power. Therefore, the federal structure despite being a basic feature in the Constitution can be protected only if the leaders in power intend to do so.*

### C. GS 3 Related

*Nothing here for today!!!*

### D. GS 4 Related

*Nothing here for today!!!*

### E. Editorials

#### Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

#### 1. Lessons from Russia's Ukraine war

**Syllabus:** *Effects of policies and politics of the developed countries.*

**Mains:** *Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Changing world order.*

**Prelims:** *Russia-Ukraine Conflict.*

**Context:** Russia's Invasion of Ukraine has completed more than 10 months.

#### Introduction:

- In 1939, Winston Churchill referred to Russia as “a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma”. It is argued that these words still hold relevance, as ten months have passed since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Russia created an aura of power around itself before starting the war. For instance,
  - Georgia's ambition to join the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\)](https://www.nato.int/) was disrupted.
  - Russia made forays into West Asia neutralizing Israel and Turkey (American allies).
  - It also took Crimea without a fight.
  - Russia again became an energy superpower.

- However, the aura of the country slipped as Russia's superior troops struggled to cope with battlefield setbacks in Ukraine.
- Russia's objectives and future course of action are still uncertain and lack clarity. For instance, the retreating Russian troops annexed four Ukrainian regions, and talks with Ukraine were offered even when their missiles attacked Ukrainian infrastructure.

**For more information on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, read here: [Russia's Invasion of Ukraine 2022](#)**

### **Changing World Order:**

- The United States established itself as a de facto unilateral power after the [disintegration of the Soviet Union](#). It was at the pinnacle of its power in the 1990s.
- However, in the last few years, there were signs of the end of American unilateralism:
  - The U.S. got stuck in Afghanistan and Iraq. It was even perceived to be defeated in Afghanistan.
  - Russia intervened in Georgia and annexed Crimea.
  - Iran's militancy grew in West Asia.
  - China became more powerful.
  - The Ukraine war, the largest land war in Europe since the end of [World War II](#), is the sharpest manifestation of the shifting global order.
- As suggested by realists, the world is returning to essential anarchy, where great powers compete to maximize their powers.
- It is well realized by the U.S. that the world has changed and its response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a lesson from its Cold War period. The U.S. is trying to keep the Western alliance together. It has further said that the 'rules-based order' faces serious challenges from Russia and China.
- However, the U.S. is also not willing to engage in a direct conflict with Russia.

### **Lessons learned from Russia's invasion of Ukraine:**

- When special military operations were ordered by Russia in Ukraine, there was an expectation of quick victory. But the power of Ukrainian nationalism (believed to be non-existent) and the resolve of the West (thought to be weakened by internal division and external setbacks) was miscalculated.
- Ukraine survived the initial Russian thrust and later opened avenues for Russia's rivals in the West to start supplying Ukraine with money, weapons, artillery, intelligence, and mercenaries.
- The minor conflict that began in Eastern Ukraine in 2014 has turned out to be a de facto war between Russia and the collective West within the borders of Ukraine. Russia is under enormous pressure as it can't retreat without accepting political and geopolitical costs.



- This reflects the limitation of great powers. Other examples of great powers getting stuck in smaller theatres are:
  - The U.S. intervention in Vietnam
  - The U.S.'s invasion of Afghanistan
  - Soviet intervention in Afghanistan

Also read: [Ukrainian Crisis](#)

### China's Angle in the Russia-Ukraine War:

- The tensions between China and the U.S. rose in 2022 on the account of Taiwan.
- It is argued by American strategists that defeating Russia in Ukraine would discourage China to advance toward Taiwan. On the other hand, if Russia gets away with Ukraine, China would be further emboldened.
- China and Russia today boast of limitless relationships.
- The U.S. is getting more dragged into Europe (similar to Cold War-like entanglement) and has spent enormous resources on Ukraine. If the U.S. gets further distracted in Europe, China would strengthen its ties with Russia and spreads its influence elsewhere.
- The question that would hit the U.S. in the near term is whether the amount of time, resources, and energy spent on Ukraine (to weaken Russia) are worth changing the world where China is its biggest rival.

Also read: [China vs Taiwan: RSTV – Big Picture](#)

***Nut Graf:** Russia's invasion of Ukraine did not have the expected results as a small country like Ukraine gave a formidable challenge to one of the superpowers. The global order is changing and there are lessons for the great powers, particularly the United States which was once the de facto leader of the global order.*

**Category: INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE/INDIAN ECONOMY**

### 1. The beginning of India's cultural renaissance

***Syllabus:** Indian culture; Indian Industries.*

***Mains:** Kashi-Tamil Sangamam; Textile Sector of India.*

***Prelims:** Kashi-Tamil Sangamam; Status of Textile Sector in India.*

**Introduction:**

- The month-long Kashi Tamil Sangamam displayed Tamil culture and heralded a new era of intermingling and revitalizing ancient Indian traditions with the help of modern practices. This also contributes to the cultural and economic growth of the country.
- The event further carried forward the tradition of [Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat](#).

**Background details:**

- Kashi is one of the oldest living cities in the world, and Tamil Nadu is the state where people speak the world's oldest language.
- Both regions have old and rich traditions of arts, music, craftsmanship, philosophy, spirituality, and literature.
- There is little knowledge among the general public about the linkage between the two traditional centres of India.
- The recently developed Kashi Vishwanath corridor, which connects the Jyotirling with the Ganga, enriches traditions with modernity for the benefit of the residents as well as visitors. Similarly, the Sangamam provided a unique platform to rediscover and integrate India's ancient heritage and knowledge with modern philosophy, thought, craftsmanship, and technology.

**For more information on Sangamam, read here:** [UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis. Dec 17th, 2022](#)

**Textile Conclave:**

- The textile conclave was also organized during the Sangamam, where several experts from the textile industry (both from Tamil Nadu and Kashi) shared their knowledge and experiences.
- The Indian government has a vision of raising textiles exports to \$100 billion by 2030 and creating new opportunities in the sector. It is a key sector of India's mission to become a developed country by 2047.
- The sector has great potential to create jobs. Moreover, the textiles market of India is expected to grow at a CAGR of 12-13% and reach approximately \$2 trillion by 2047.
- The 5F formula that is, 'farm, fibre, fabric, fashion, and foreign', proposed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will accelerate growth and transform the lives of farmers and weavers.
- The Indian government is also encouraging technical textiles that are used in protective clothing, bulletproof vests, vehicles, and construction.
- Kashi and Tamil Nadu will play an important role in the vision. The Sangamam was thus crucial in accelerating development and focusing on the welfare of the poor, promoting local industries and handicrafts, and eventually reflecting the love for Indian culture.
- Apart from the textile industry, traditional wooden toys were also promoted.
- The One District One product scheme is also a step by the government of India to take Indian products to the global markets.

- Traditional products will also get a boost from initiatives like the [Open Network for Digital Commerce](#) and the Government e-Marketplace.

For information on Government e-Marketplace, read here: [GeM: Government e-Marketplace](#)

### Conclusion:

- The Sangamam concluded on 16th December 2022. It has ignited a new cultural zeal in India.
- Home Minister Shri Amit Shah exclaimed that the Sangamam is the beginning of India's cultural renaissance that is not just limited to Tamil Nadu and Kashi and will further extend to all cultures of India.

Also read: [Kashi Tamil Sangamam](#)

***Nut Graf:** The Kashi-Tamil Sangamam was a great step in reviving the ancient link between the two traditional centres of India. Moreover, it has also paid attention to the traditional textile sector with an essence of modernity, which will play a major role in the path of development. It is also suggested that such efforts will be taken in future as well covering all the cultures of India.*

**Category: INDIAN POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

### 1. Barking up the wrong tree

***Syllabus:** Powers, functions, and responsibilities of constitutional bodies.*

***Mains:** Remote voting proposal of Election Commission and associated challenges.*

**Context:** Recent proposal of the Election Commission of India to grant voting rights to migrants.

### Details:

- The [Election Commission of India \(EC\)](#) has proposed to introduce remote voting.
  - Remote voting is a facility that will enable voters who are residents elsewhere to vote in their home constituencies.
- The commission further intends to use isolated remote voting machines (RVMs) whose prototype will be demonstrated to all political parties on 16 January.

For more information, read here: [UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis. Jan 2nd, 2023](#)

### Challenges Associated with Remote Voting:

- There are several concerns about the assurance of the application and the ability to remotely vote without any hindrance. The conditions on which it will be denied and the public verifiability of the related protocols are other related issues. The solution to such queries lies in the digitization of the [electoral roll](#), which itself requires thorough examination.
- Another major concern is the ambiguity in validating remote voting and the invalidation of local voting. The two different lists in two different locations will be difficult to manage.
- The location of VVPAT auditing - home constituency or remote location is another challenge. If it is a remote location then consolidation and counting will be impacted. And, if it is a home constituency then vote secrecy will be compromised.
- There are also doubts about the verifiability and software independence of [EVMs](#).
- Other questions are: Who will be the polling agents in the remote location and how non-coercion of voters will be ensured in the different political environments?

### Examples from Other Countries:

- Due to demands for public verifiability of elections, the German Constitutional rejected the use of EVM in 2009. This decision was emulated in several other jurisdictions in Europe, America, and Pakistan.
- The U.S. National Academy of Sciences in a public report of 2018 also recommended against pure electronic voting.
- An alternative to ensure software independence is to audit the electronic results through VVPATs, either with a complete count or that of a statistically significant sample. This procedure is called a risk-limiting audit in voting literature.
- However, it is argued by many experts that VVPAT audits in India are not on the desired lines. Even the Supreme Court's decision of auditing five randomly selected EVMs in every Assembly constituency was also inappropriate.
- The EC is also accused of ignoring the plea of a 2020 report of a Citizens' Commission on Elections.

### Conclusion:

The demonstration of usability is essential for public acceptability but they do not address the issues of security or safety.

Also read: [Electoral Reforms in India](#)

**Nut Graf:** *The Election Commission of India's efforts to introduce remote voting is appreciable. But they have several associated concerns. The need of the hour is to address the issues and focus on ensuring the verifiability of remote voting.*

## 1. Paigah Tombs

*Syllabus: GS-1; Indian Art and Culture*

*Prelims: Paigah nobles and Paigah Tomb Complex*

### Context

The Paigah Tombs complex or the necropolis (designed cemetery with elaborate tomb monuments) of men from the Asaf Jahi era would be restored with funding from the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation.

### Paigah Tombs

- The Paigah Tombs complex is located in the Patala Banda suburbs of Hyderabad.
- The members of the noble Paigah family were one of the most influential members of the Hyderabad State aristocracy during the 18th century.
- The Paigah nobility was founded by Abdul Fateh Khan Tugh Jung while he was serving the second Nizam of Hyderabad, Asaf Jah II.
- The members of the Paigah family were considered to have descended from Hazrath Omar bin Al-Khattab, the second caliph of Islam.
- The Paigah nobles were richer than the average Indian Maharajah during that era and they held the exclusive rights to maintain their own court, palaces, and even private armies.
- The Paigahs were great patrons of the arts and the Paigah Tombs are among the wonders of Hyderabad.
- The Paigah tombs are known for their marvellous artistry and inlaid mosaic tilework.
- The Stucco work, lattice screens, minarets, and detailing of the Paigah tombs are said to be marvellous.
- Paigah tombs are considered to be the finest examples of [Indo-Islamic architecture](#), and a confluence of features of both Asaf Jahi as well as Rajputana styles of architecture.

### G. Tidbits

## 1. DAC gives nod to purchase indigenous defence systems

- The [Defence Acquisition Council \(DAC\)](#) headed by the Defence Minister of India, has provided Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals worth ₹4,276 crores.



- The capital acquisition proposals include the procurement of helicopter-launched Nag (**HELINA**) [anti-tank guided missiles \(ATGM\)](#), very short-range air defence systems (**VSHORAD**), BrahMos cruise missile launchers, and fire control systems (FCS) for naval ships.
- The **HELINA** and **Dhruvastra** which are being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) are third-generation lock-on-before-launch fire-and-forget ATGMs.
  - HELINA is the Army variant whereas Dhruvastra is the Air Force variant.
- VSHORAD (Infrared Homing) is a missile system that is also being designed and developed by the DRDO.
  - Very Short Range Air Defense Missiles (VSHORAD) are said to be critical for the defence of major cities or strategically significant locations in the wake of recent developments along the northern borders.
  - Further, the Army has a major requirement for VSHORAD as several attempts to import the systems have not materialised.

## 2. Constitution Bench to take up Section 6A of Citizenship Act for preliminary determination

- A Constitution Bench led by the Chief Justice of India will take up Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 for a preliminary determination to decide whether the Section suffers from any “constitutional infirmity”.
- Section 6A of the Act is a special provision that was added to the 1955 Act due to the signing of the “Assam Accord”.
  - Assam Accord is a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between the Government of India, the Government of Assam, the All Assam Students' Union and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad on August 15, 1985.
  - It brought an end to the Assam Agitation, which started in 1979 with the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) demanding the identification and deportation of illegal immigrants from Assam.
- As per the provisions of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955:
  - Foreigners who had entered Assam before January 1, 1966, and been “ordinarily resident” in the State, would have all the rights and obligations of Indian citizens.
  - Foreigners who had entered the State between January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971, would have the same rights and obligations except that they would not be able to vote for 10 years.
- Petitions challenging the “discriminatory” nature of Section 6A in granting citizenship have been filed and the petitioners argue that the provisions of the Section violate **Article 6 of the Constitution**, which has fixed the cut-off date for granting citizenship to immigrants at July 19, 1948.

Read about - [Citizenship in India](#)

### H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

**Q1. Consider the following statements about the Prithvi-II missile: (Level - Easy)**

1. It is a short-range ballistic missile.
2. It is developed in collaboration with Russia.
3. It has the ability to carry nuclear warheads.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- a. 1 and 2
- b. 2 and 3
- c. 1 and 3
- d. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct**, the Prithvi-II missile is a short-range ballistic missile with a range of around 250 km to 350 km.
- **Statement 2 is not correct**, Prithvi-II missile is an **indigenously developed missile by DRDO** under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).
- **Statement 3 is correct**, the Prithvi-II missile is a nuclear-capable missile and has been an integral part of India's nuclear deterrence.

**Q2. Which of the following statements is/are correct? (Level - Moderate)**

1. India lies in the Alpine belt of earthquakes.
2. The Seismic Zonation of India is given by the Geological Survey of India.
3. The National Centre of Seismology is the Nodal Agency for monitoring earthquake activities in the country.

**Options:**

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 1 and 2
- d. 1 and 3

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct**, India lies in the Alpine earthquake belt which is one of the most destructive belts of earthquakes.
  - The Alpine-Himalayan seismic belt extends up to the Andaman-Nicobar island region.
- **Statement 2 is not correct**, The seismic zoning map of India is prepared by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** based on historical seismicity and strong ground motions.
  - According to the seismic zoning map of India, the country has been divided into four zones namely zone V, IV, III and II.
- **Statement 3 is correct**, The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) is the nodal agency of the Government of India for monitoring earthquake activity in the country.
  - NSC is an office under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

**Q3. Which of the statements are correct? (Level - Easy)**

1. The Montreal Protocol is aimed at reducing the use of CFCs.
2. The Kyoto Protocol is aimed to reduce the release of Greenhouse gases.
3. The Kigali Protocol is aimed at reducing the use of Persistent Organic Pollutants.

**Options:**

- a. 1 and 2
- b. 2 and 3
- c. 1 and 3
- d. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct**, The Montreal Protocol was designed to stop the production and import of ozone-depleting substances such as CFCs and reduce their concentration in the atmosphere to help protect the earth's ozone layer.
- **Statement 2 is correct**, The Kyoto Protocol aims to limit and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- **Statement 3 is not correct**, The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol is an international agreement to gradually **reduce the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)**.

**Q4. Which of the following are measured under the Air Quality Index? (Level -Moderate)**

1. Carbon Dioxide
2. Sulphur Dioxide
3. Particulate Matter 2.5
4. Ozone
5. Lead
6. Ammonia

**Options:**

- a. 1, 2, 3 and 6 only
- b. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- c. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- d. All of the above

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Air Quality Index (AQI) is an index for reporting air quality on a daily basis.
- It is a measure of how air pollution affects one's health within a short time period.
- AQI keeps a tab on 8 major air pollutants in the atmosphere namely,
  - Particulate Matter (PM10)
  - Particulate Matter (PM2.5)
  - Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)
  - Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)
  - Carbon Monoxide (CO)
  - Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)
  - Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)
  - Lead (Pb)

**Q5. What is/are the consequence/consequences of a country becoming the member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group? (Level - Moderate) (PYQ - 2018)**

1. It will have access to the latest and most efficient nuclear technologies.
2. It automatically becomes a member of “The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)”.

**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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct**, The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a transnational body composed of nuclear supplier countries that aim to control the proliferation of nuclear weapons by curbing the export of nuclear weapons development materials and related technology.
  - By joining NSG, countries will get access to the latest, most efficient nuclear technologies and sophisticated nuclear technology.
- **Statement 2 is not correct**, India is not a member of the NSG but wishes to be a part of the NSG. However, since India is not a member of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), China and Pakistan have objections to its enrollment.

### I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. Despite establishing a quasi-federal nation, the Constituent Assembly envisaged strong and independent state governments. Give examples in support of this argument. (250 words; 15 marks) (GS II - Polity)
2. Pending issues between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana point out towards an urgent need to revive zonal councils and Inter state councils in the country. Elaborate. (250 words; 15 marks) (GS II - Polity)