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Daily MCQs: 11-12-2025

- 1) With reference to Marine Protected Areas (MPA), consider the following statements:
1. MPA's in India are notified under the Protected Marine Areas Act, 2000.
 2. India's MPAs include regions where both fringing and barrier reefs occur.
 3. MPAs can be allotted to private companies for offshore mining under special permission.

Which of the statements given above are **incorrect**?

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

- 2) Consider the following statements:
1. India's defence acquisition framework prioritises domestic capability creation under "Atmanirbhar Bharat."
 2. High-end imports like Su-57 are evaluated primarily for their cost-effectiveness alone.
 3. India's long-term fighter roadmap places significant emphasis on the AMCA programme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

- 3) With reference to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), consider the following statements:
1. It aims to ensure greater visibility of cultural practices and promote cultural diversity.
 2. ICH elements refer to non-material cultural expressions passed through generations.
 3. Elements inscribed in the ICH list must demonstrate active community participation in nomination.

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

- 4) The Western Tragopan, an endangered bird species, is primarily found in:
- (a) Eastern Ghats of India
 - (b) Western Ghats of India
 - (c) Himalayan forests of India
 - (d) Sundarbans mangroves

- 5) Consider the following statements regarding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the United Nations High Seas Treaty:
1. Marine Protected Areas are exclusively no-take zones where all extractive activities are prohibited.

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- MPAs contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation by protecting marine ecosystems.
- Less than 2% of the global ocean area is currently covered by strictly no-take Marine Protected Areas.
- The United Nations High Seas Treaty provides a legally binding framework to establish Marine Protected Areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

1) Answer: (D)

Statement 1 is incorrect:

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in India are primarily notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and related coastal regulations.

Statement 2 is correct:

India has fringing reefs (Gulf of Mannar, Andaman & Nicobar Islands) and barrier reefs (Lakshadweep). Therefore, some MPAs indeed cover regions with both types.

Statement 3 is incorrect:

The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002, allows private sector participation in offshore mining, marine protected areas are specifically excluded from such mining activities to safeguard biodiversity and ecological integrity. The government has clarified that 130 marine protected sites are not included in offshore mining zones

2) Answer: (A)

Why Statement 1 is correct

India's defence acquisition policy clearly prioritises **indigenous design, development, and manufacturing**.

Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat framework, procurement rules place domestically produced systems at the top of the preference hierarchy.

Government procurement patterns especially in the last few years show a deliberate shift from import-dependence to strengthening India's own defence industrial base.

Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.

Statement 2 is incorrect

High-end foreign platforms like the Su-57 are *not* assessed mainly on the basis of cost. India evaluates such proposals through multiple strategic considerations, including:

- long-term self-reliance goals,
- technology transfer possibilities,

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- compatibility with indigenous programmes,
- strategic autonomy, and
- geopolitical balancing.

Therefore, cost-effectiveness alone is **not** the primary criterion, making **Statement 2 incorrect**.

Statement 3 is correct

India's long-term air-combat roadmap places **major strategic emphasis on the AMCA (Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft)** the country's indigenous fifth-generation fighter programme.

This programme has been **formally approved, allocated funding, and placed at the centre of future capability planning** for the Indian Air Force.

Additionally, the government has **initiated processes to select domestic industry partners for AMCA's production model**, signalling that AMCA is not just a design project but a core pillar of India's future aerospace and defence strategy.

3) Answer: (D)

Statement 1 is Correct:

The **2003 UNESCO Convention** explicitly states that one of its core objectives is to **enhance visibility** of intangible cultural heritage and **promote cultural diversity**. It aims to encourage mutual respect, cultural understanding, and global appreciation of living traditions.

Statement 2 is Correct:

Intangible Cultural Heritage includes:

- Oral traditions
- Performing arts
- Social practices and rituals
- Knowledge related to nature
- Traditional craftsmanship

Statement 3 is Correct:

For an element to be inscribed, UNESCO requires:

- **Active community involvement**
- **Free, prior, and informed consent**
- **Community-led safeguarding measures**

4) Answer: (C)

- The **Western Tragopan (Tragopan melanocephalus)** is a **pheasant species** listed as **vulnerable** by the IUCN.
- Its habitat is **temperate and subalpine forests of the western Himalayas**, mainly in **Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand**.
- Conservation efforts focus on **protected areas and breeding programs** to prevent decline due to habitat loss and hunting.

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5) Answer: (A)

Statement 1 is Incorrect: MPAs are **not always no-take zones**. While some MPAs ban fishing or restrict extractive activities, many allow **sustainable use** such as regulated fishing, tourism, or research. Only a small fraction is strictly no-entry or no-take areas.

Statement 2 is Correct: MPAs help **climate change mitigation and adaptation** by conserving blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs), enhancing ecosystem resilience, and supporting fisheries recovery.

Statement 3 is Correct: Although MPAs cover about **6.35% of the global ocean, only around 1.89%** is under **strictly no-take protection**, where fishing, mining, drilling, and other extractive activities are fully prohibited.

Statement 4 is Correct: The **United Nations High Seas Treaty** (also called the *Paris Agreement for the Ocean*) is the **first legally binding international treaty** to protect marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (high sea). It enables the creation of large MPAs and aims to protect 30% of the world's ocean by 2030 in the line with the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework.

