

Daily MCQs: 23.01.2026

- 1) With reference to V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, consider the following statements:
1. V.O.C was closely associated with Bala Ganagadhar Tilak during partition of Bengal.
 2. To challenge British dominance in coastal shipping, he launched the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (SSNCo) in Tuticorin (now Thoothukudi) during the Swadeshi Movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 2 both
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- 2) Consider the following statements regarding the Himalayan ecosystem:
1. The Himalayan region exhibits a clear altitudinal zonation of vegetation from tropical forests to alpine meadows.
 2. The National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) is the only site-specific mission under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
 3. The Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*) is a keystone species of the Himalayan ecosystem, primarily inhabiting alpine and sub-alpine zones.
 4. The Eastern Himalayas are dominated by coniferous forests due to lower rainfall, while the Western Himalayas support evergreen broad-leaved forests.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

- 3) With reference to the Census in India, consider the following statements:
1. Census is a subject included in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
 2. The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner functions under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
 3. The Census of India has been conducted regularly at ten-year intervals and has been postponed only once so far.
 4. Under the Census Act 1948, refusal to provide information or giving false information attracts penal provisions.

Which of the above statements is/are **incorrect**?

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

- 4) Consider the following statements regarding coffee in India:

1. Karnataka is the largest producer of coffee in India.
2. The Coffee Board of India controls the marketing and export of coffee.
3. Coffee is traditionally grown under shade trees to protect plants from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5) With reference to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, consider the following statements:

1. FDI includes foreign investment in an unlisted Indian company or 10% or more of a listed company's shares.
2. If a foreign investor's equity holding in a listed Indian company subsequently falls below 10% on a fully diluted basis, the investment continues to be classified as FDI.
3. Foreign Direct Investment is prohibited in chit funds in India.
4. Since 2000, the services sector has received the largest share of cumulative FDI equity inflows, and overall FDI inflows have been steadily increasing over time.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Explanation

1) **Answer C**

Statement 1 is Correct: VOC entered politics in **1905**, triggered by **Partition of Bengal**. He was influenced by **Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai**, and Swadeshi ideology. The Swadeshi movement in Tirunelveli district gathered force only after VOC reached Tuticorin.

Statement 2 is correct: British maritime trade between Tuticorin and Colombo was monopolised by the **British India Steam Navigation Company (BISNCo)**. Indian traders and passengers were forced to depend on British ships, leading to economic exploitation. **Inspired by leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Lala Lajpat Rai**, VOC sought to challenge this monopoly through **economic nationalism**.

2) **Answer: (A)**

Statement 1 is Correct:

The Himalayas are regarded as the **world's finest example of altitudinal zonation**. With increasing altitude, **temperature decreases due to the lapse rate**, producing vegetation belts similar to latitudinal changes from the **Equator to the Poles**.

- 0 – 1000m: Tropical Deciduous (Sal, Teak).
- 1000m – 3000m: Temperate (Oaks, Chestnuts, Pines).
- 3000m – 4000m: Alpine (Silver Fir, Birch, Rhododendron).
- Above 4000m: Alpine Meadows (Bugyals) and Tundra.

Statement 2 is Correct:

The NAPCC consists of **eight** national missions. Most of them (like Solar, Water, or Energy Efficiency) are thematic and apply to the whole country. The **NMSHE** is the **only** mission that is **geographically "site-specific," focusing exclusively on the 12 Himalayan states/UTs of India**.

Statement 3 is Correct:

The Snow Leopard is considered a **keystone species because it acts as an indicator of the health of the high-altitude ecosystem**. If the snow leopard population is stable, it implies that the prey base (like Bharal/Blue Sheep) and the alpine pastures are also healthy. It inhabits the "high-altitude" alpine and sub-alpine zones (usually 3,000m to 4,500m).

Statement 4 is Incorrect:

- **Eastern Himalayas:** Receive higher rainfall (due to proximity to the Bay of Bengal). Therefore, they are dominated by Evergreen Broad-leaved forests and high species diversity.
- **Western Himalayas:** Are drier and colder. They are dominated by Coniferous forests (like the famous Deodar, Chir Pine, and Blue Pine).

3) **Answer: (B)**

The first Census in India was conducted in 1872 during the tenure of Lord Mayo - it was non-synchronous with different areas counted at different times.

The first synchronous Census (i.e. census that enumerates the entire population with reference to a single, uniform date across the country) in India was conducted in 1881 during the tenure of Lord Ripon.

After 1947, India decided to continue the decennial census system. Census Act, 1948 forms the legal framework for conducting the census. The first post-independence census was in 1951.

Statement 1 is incorrect:

Census is not in the Concurrent List. It is included in the Union List (Entry 69, List I) of the Seventh Schedule. Hence, only the Union Government has the power to conduct the Census.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

It does not function under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). MoSPI deals with national statistics, surveys, and indices, but not the Census.

Statement 3 is correct:

The Census in India follows a decennial (10-year) cycle since 1881. The 2021 Census was postponed, making it the only instance of postponement so far. Earlier wars or emergencies did not lead to postponement of the Census.

India's Census has been conducted 15 times so far. Break-up:

- First Census: 1872 (non-synchronous)
- First synchronous Census: 1881
- Last completed Census: 2011
- 2021 Census: Not conducted (postponed)

Hence, till date = 15 Censuses (1872 to 2011).

Statement 4 is correct:

The Census Act, 1948, serves as the primary legal framework for conducting the census in India, empowering the government to collect population data while establishing strict obligations for citizens and officials.

The Act, particularly under Section 11 (Penalties), outlines punishments for false statements, obstruction of census duties, and other violations.

4) Answer: (A)

Statement 1 is correct:

Karnataka accounts for **around 65–70%** of India's total coffee production.

Major coffee-growing districts:

- **Kodagu (Coorg)**
- **Chikkamagaluru**
- **Hassan**

The state benefits from:

- **Western Ghats climate** (moderate temperatures, high rainfall)
- **Laterite and forest soils**
- Undulating terrain suitable for plantation crops

Both **Arabica and Robusta** are grown, with **Robusta dominating**.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

The Coffee Board of India was established under the Coffee Act, 1942.

Earlier (pre-liberalisation):

- The Board exercised pooling, price fixation, and export control over coffee.

After economic liberalisation (1990s):

- These controls were withdrawn.
- Coffee marketing and exports were liberalised.

Present role of the Coffee Board:

- Promotion of Indian coffee (branding, GI, quality standards)
- Research and development
- Extension services to growers
- Export promotion support and not control

Statement 3 is correct:

Coffee is a **shade-loving crop**, especially **Arabica**.

Shade trees help by:

- Protecting plants from **direct solar radiation**
- Reducing **temperature stress**
- Conserving **soil moisture**
- Preventing **soil erosion** on slopes

Indian coffee plantations typically use **multi-tier shade systems**, which:

- Support **biodiversity**
- Make Indian coffee relatively **eco-friendly**

This practice is one reason Indian coffee has **low chemical residue** and is preferred in export markets.

5) Answer (A)

Statement 1 (Correct): FDI represents **long-term, non-debt capital inflows** by non-residents, typically involving **≥10% ownership** or setting up **Greenfield/Brownfield projects**.

Statement 2 (Correct): In case an existing investment by a person resident outside India in equity instruments of a listed Indian company falls to a level below 10% of the post issue paid-up equity capital on a fully diluted basis, the investment shall continue to be treated as FDI. 'Fully diluted basis' meaning **we count all shares that could exist if every option,**

convertible bond, or right is used. Hence, if a foreign investor's equity in a listed Indian company falls below **10% on a fully diluted basis**, it **continues to be treated as FDI**. This is a **regulatory nuance** under India's FDI policy.

Statement 3 (Correct):

FDI is **prohibited in certain sectors**, including:

- Lottery business, gambling and betting (casinos), **chit funds, Nidhi companies**, trading in Transferable Development Rights (TDRs), and **real estate business** (except townships, residential/commercial construction, roads/bridges, and SEBI-registered REITs).
- Also prohibited in **tobacco products manufacturing**, sectors not open to private investment (atomic energy, railways), and foreign technology collaboration in lottery/gambling activities.

This makes the statement correct.

Statement 4 (Incorrect): While the **services sector** has received the largest share of cumulative FDI inflows since 2000, overall FDI inflows have **fluctuated year-to-year** due to global and domestic factors. Therefore, the claim that FDI has been **"steadily increasing"** is incorrect, making this statement wrong.

