

**Daily MCQs: 30.01.2026**

- 1) With reference to State Development Loans (SDLs), consider the following statements:
1. They are dated securities issued by the Central Government to ensure uniform borrowing across States.
  2. SDLs are part of the internal debt of State Governments.
  3. Individual investors can directly invest in SDLs through the RBI Retail Direct Scheme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

- 2) Consider the following statement with reference to the Arab League:

1. Arab League is an intergovernmental pan-Arab organisation formed in 2007.
2. Among African nations, only Egypt is a member of the Arab League.
3. India is the observer country in the Arab League and both established the Arab-India cooperation forum in 2008.

Choose the correct from the above statement.

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All are correct

- 3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Ethanol Blending Programme has contributed to India's energy security by lowering reliance on imported crude oil.
2. They are completely carbon neutral.
3. The National Policy on Biofuels (2018) seeks to ensure that the expansion of biofuel production does not adversely impact food security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 4) Consider the following statements regarding India's health sector and Ayushman Bharat:

1. India currently spends more than 6% of its GDP on public health.
2. Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), all Indian families are provided cashless health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh per year for secondary and tertiary care.

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

- 5) Consider the following statements:

1. Urban areas contribute more than 60% of India's GDP.
2. Rapid urbanization supports the growth of the service sector.

3. Investment in urban infrastructure leads to higher GDP growth

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

**Explanation**

**1) Answer: (A)**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**

SDLs are not issued by the Central Government. They are dated securities **issued exclusively by State Governments** through RBI-conducted auctions to meet fiscal deficits and development needs, with no uniform central borrowing mechanism across states.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

SDLs constitute a major component of State Governments' internal debt, categorized under market borrowings alongside other instruments like bonds and dated securities.

State government debt comprises internal debt (market borrowings like SDLs, loans from banks/FIs, WMA, NSSF securities, provident funds) and loans from the Centre (e.g., GST compensation, special assistance).

**Statement 3 is correct:**

Individual investors can directly invest in SDLs via the RBI Retail Direct Scheme (launched 2021 on the E-Kuber platform), allowing non-competitive bidding for both G-Secs and SDLs alongside institutional investors.

**2) Answer: (A)**

**Statement 1 is Incorrect:** Arab League, also called League of Arab States (LAS), formed in 1945 is an intergovernmental pan-Arab organisation following the adoption of the **Alexandria Protocol in 1944**.

**Statement 2 is Incorrect:** It was formed in Cairo with six members: Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan (later renamed Jordan), Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, with Yemen joining on 5 May 1945. of all Arab states in the Middle East and North Africa.

**Statement 3 is Correct:** There are four nations that were conferred observer status by the League, **Brazil, Eritrea, India, and Venezuela**. **India and LAS signed an MoU institutionalising** dialogue in March 2002. A Memorandum of Cooperation establishing the **Arab-India Cooperation Forum was signed in December 2008** and revised in December 2013.



**3) Answer: (A)**

The EBP is a strategic tool for **Energy Security**. By substituting petrol with domestic ethanol, India saved over **₹1.5 lakh crore** in foreign exchange and reduced crude oil import dependency. **Hence statement 1 is Correct**

Biofuels are "cleaner" but not **completely carbon neutral**. The life-cycle emissions—including fertilizers, harvest, and distillation—require energy that often comes from fossil fuels. **Hence statement is Incorrect**

The **National Policy on Biofuels (2018)** explicitly includes safeguards to manage the "Food vs. Fuel" trade-off. It prioritizes non-edible feedstocks (2G) and requires committee approval before using surplus food grains for ethanol. **Hence statement 3 is Correct.**

**4) Answer: (D)**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**

While the **National Health Policy (NHP) 2017** recommends increasing public health expenditure to **2.5% of GDP** by 2025, India's actual government spending on health is much lower. The current spending is **1.9% of GDP**.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:**

The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**, a component of **Ayushman Bharat**, is designed to provide **cashless health insurance of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year**, but **only for poor and vulnerable families** identified under the **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 database**. It does **not cover all Indian households**, and the benefits are restricted to **secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation**.

**5) Answer: (D)**

**Statement 1 is correct:**

Urban areas, although home to roughly **36–37% of India's population**, contribute **more than 60% of the national GDP** due to higher productivity, industrial output, and services.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

Rapid urbanization concentrates population and economic activity in cities, which **boosts the service sector** (IT, finance, trade, transport, etc.), making it the largest contributor to GDP.

**Statement 3 is correct:**

Investment in urban infrastructure including roads, public transport, housing, water supply, and digital connectivity **improves productivity and efficiency**, thereby increasing GDP growth.

