

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

## IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

### Daily MCQs: 09.02.2026

- 1) With reference to the increasing prices of gold and silver globally, consider the following statements:
1. Central banks of several countries have increased gold purchases as part of efforts to reduce dependence on the US dollar.
  2. Global uncertainty and trade wars tend to raise demand for safe-haven assets such as gold.
  3. Silver prices tend to be more volatile than gold because its demand is strongly influenced by industrial and technological uses.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

- 2) Consider the following statements.

1. India relies predominantly on coal for electricity generation despite having uranium reserves.
2. Uranium used in nuclear power reactors needs to be enriched to a level of at least 60 percent.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

- 3) Consider the following shared borders with the Red Sea?

1. Ethiopia
2. Sudan
3. Eritrea
4. Nigeria

Choose the correct options given above.

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the above

- 4) With reference to African Cheetah and Asiatic Cheetah, consider the following statements:

1. The African cheetah is widely distributed, while the Asiatic cheetah is endemic to Iran.
2. African cheetahs have a larger and more robust build, while Asiatic cheetahs have a slender and smaller frame.

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

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- 5) With reference to the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), consider the following statements:
1. Sowa-Rigpa, a Himalayan system of traditional medicine, is included as a component under the National AYUSH Mission.
  2. The National AYUSH Mission is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the Ministry of AYUSH.

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

**Explanation:**

**1) Answer: (D)**

Central banks of several countries have increased gold purchases to reduce dependence on the US dollar.

- Many countries are diversifying their foreign exchange reserves.
- Excessive reliance on the US dollar exposes countries to:
  - US monetary policy changes
  - Sanctions and geopolitical risks
- Gold is:
  - A non-sovereign asset
  - Free from default risk
- Hence, higher central bank demand pushes gold prices up globally. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Global uncertainty and trade wars tend to increase demand for gold.

- During periods of:
  - Geopolitical tensions
  - Trade wars
  - Financial instability
- Investors move money away from risky assets (stocks) towards safe-haven assets.
- Gold is traditionally seen as a store of value in uncertain times. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Silver prices are more volatile than gold due to industrial and technological demand.

- Silver has a dual role:
  - Precious metal
  - Industrial metal
- It is widely used in:
  - Electronics
  - Solar panels
  - Medical devices
- Changes in economic activity or technology adoption quickly affect silver demand, causing sharp price fluctuations. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

**2) Answer: (C)**

Coal continues to be the primary source of electricity in India, accounting for the largest share of power generation. Although India possesses uranium reserves and operates nuclear power

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plants, **nuclear energy contributes only a small fraction to total electricity generation.** Constraints such as limited high-grade uranium, high capital costs, and long gestation periods keep coal dominant. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Civilian nuclear power reactors use low-enriched uranium (LEU), **typically enriched to about 3–5% of the fissile isotope U-235.** Enrichment levels of 60% or higher fall under highly enriched uranium (HEU) and **are not required for electricity generation;** such levels are associated with research reactors or weapons-related applications. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.** Therefore, **option A is the correct answer.**

### 3) Answer: (B)

- The Red Sea is a narrow, elongated sea between Africa (west) and Asia (Arabian Peninsula, east). It connects to the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal and to the Indian Ocean via Bab-el-Mandeb Strait → Gulf of Aden.
- Bordering countries: Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Jordan, Israel.
- Relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea have sharply deteriorated amid mutual accusations of military provocations and support to armed groups along the border. Ethiopia has blamed Eritrean forces for atrocities during the Tigray conflict, reviving tensions despite the 2018 peace agreement and the 2022 Pretoria deal. The fragile post-Tigray peace is threatened by Eritrea's alleged involvement with militias and Ethiopia's internal instability in Amhara and Tigray regions. Renewed hostility raises concerns of a wider Horn of Africa destabilisation, with implications for Red Sea security and regional geopolitics.
- A *Boko Haram-linked massacre killed at least 170 civilians* in northwestern Nigeria in one of the deadliest such attacks — underscoring persistent Islamist militancy in the Sahel region.
- Ongoing civil war 2023–present: Sudan remains engulfed in a brutal conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that began in April 2023 and has devastated the country. Famine and extreme food insecurity are expanding, especially in Darfur and Kordofan, with global agencies warning of catastrophic malnutrition among civilians, particularly children.

### 4) Answer: (C)

- The African cheetah is found across several countries in southern and eastern Africa, including Namibia, Botswana, Tanzania, and South Africa.
- The Asiatic cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) is now critically endangered and survives only in Iran, making it endemic to that country.
- This highlights the huge difference in geographical distribution between the two subspecies. Hence **statement 1 is correct**
- African cheetahs tend to have a larger, more muscular, and robust body, suited for hunting in open savannahs.
- Asiatic cheetahs are slightly smaller, lighter, and more slender, adaptations that suit the semi-arid and desert habitats of Iran.
- These morphological differences help distinguish the two subspecies in the wild. Hence **statement 2 is also correct, therefore option C is the correct answer.**

### 5) Answer: (D)

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- While the acronym AYUSH originally stood for Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy, the government formally recognized Sowa-Rigpa (commonly known as the Amchi system of medicine) and integrated it into the mission's framework.
- It is one of the oldest living medical traditions in the world, practiced popularly in the Himalayan regions like Ladakh, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The funding is shared between the Central Government and the State/UT Governments (typically in a 60:40 ratio for general states and 90:10 for Northeast and Himalayan states). **Statement 2 is also correct.**
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

