



# P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

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## DAILY UPSC PRILIMS MCQ 04.06.2026

1. **Mr. X is a farmer in Vidarbha, Maharashtra growing cotton as his primary Kharif crop. In 2026, IMD forecast 92% of Long Period Average rainfall due to expected El Niño conditions. Based on this information, Mr. X is evaluating his agricultural strategy for the season.**

Which of the following actions would be most appropriate for Mr. X based on the El Niño forecast?

- (a) Mr. X should continue with his regular cotton cultivation plan since El Niño only affects rainfall in South India and not in Vidarbha
- (b) Mr. X should shift to drought-resistant crop varieties or pulses as El Niño typically weakens the southwest monsoon leading to below-normal rainfall conditions in India**
- (c) Mr. X need not worry as La Niña conditions automatically compensate for El Niño during the same monsoon season ensuring normal rainfall
- (d) Mr. X should increase his cotton cultivation area since El Niño strengthens monsoon rainfall improving cotton yields in Maharashtra

**Answer: (b)**

### EXPLANATION:

1. **Option (a) is WRONG:** El Niño affects monsoon across India including Maharashtra and Vidarbha region; it is NOT limited to South India; Vidarbha is historically drought-prone and particularly vulnerable to below-normal monsoon years associated with El Niño.
2. **Option (b) is CORRECT:** El Niño typically weakens the Indian southwest monsoon leading to reduced rainfall, drought conditions; IMD's 92% LPA forecast reflecting this risk; Mr. X shifting to drought-resistant varieties or pulses (less water-intensive than cotton) is most appropriate risk-mitigation strategy protecting against potential crop failure.
3. **Option (c) is WRONG:** La Niña and El Niño are sequential phenomena (La Niña typically follows El Niño in subsequent season); they do NOT compensate each other simultaneously during the same monsoon season; Mr. X cannot rely on La Niña correcting El Niño effects in the same year.
4. **Option (d) is WRONG:** El Niño weakens (NOT strengthens) the Indian monsoon; expanding cotton cultivation (a water-intensive crop) during predicted below-normal rainfall year would significantly increase Mr. X's financial risk and likelihood of crop failure.

2. **Which of the following statements about India-Oman CEPA 2026 are INCORRECTLY stated?**

1. Oman has eliminated import duties on 99.38% of Indian goods by value, covering 98.08% of all product lines
2. Medical treatments approved by USFDA or European EMA will secure Omani marketing permits within 180 days under the fast-track provision
3. India-Oman CEPA makes India the first country in the world to secure a comprehensive bilateral trade treaty with Oman
4. India kept sensitive sectors such as dairy, grains, fresh fruits, vegetables, and spices outside the CEPA agreement

Select the correct answer:

**(a) 2 and 3 only**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**EXPLANATION:**

1. **Statement 1 is CORRECTLY stated:** Oman eliminated import duties on 99.38% of Indian goods by value covering 98.08% of all product lines — major leap from previous 15.33% standard; correctly described.
2. **Statement 2 is INCORRECTLY stated:** Fast-track provision gives medicines approved by USFDA or EMA Omani marketing permits within 90 days (NOT 180 days); the 90-day timeline is specifically designed to eliminate repeated testing, reducing India's pharma export barriers.
3. **Statement 3 is INCORRECTLY stated:** India is the SECOND country (NOT first) to secure comprehensive bilateral trade treaty with Oman; United States secured the first comprehensive bilateral trade pact with Oman; India-UAE CEPA (2022) was India's first Gulf comprehensive agreement.
4. **Statement 4 is CORRECTLY stated:** India kept highly sensitive sectors — dairy, grains, fresh fruits, vegetables, spices — outside the agreement to safeguard domestic farmers and rural livelihoods; correctly described as India's defensive exclusion list.

**3. Arrange the following events related to Inner Line Permit and tribal protection frameworks in India in correct chronological order:**

1. Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act establishing the precursor to Inner Line Permit system
2. Extension of Inner Line Permit regime to Manipur via Presidential Order
3. Assam Accord signed addressing cross-border migration concerns from Bangladesh
4. Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order bringing Arunachal Pradesh under Protected Area regime

Select the correct answer:

**(a) 1 → 4 → 3 → 2**

- (b) 1 → 3 → 4 → 2
- (c) 4 → 1 → 3 → 2
- (d) 1 → 4 → 2 → 3

**Answer: (a)**

**EXPLANATION:**

1. **Event 1 (Earliest — 1873):** Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act enacted by British colonial government; established precursor to Inner Line Permit system originally protecting British commercial interests (tea gardens, forests) in northeaster frontier regions.
2. **Event 4 (1958):** Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order issued post-independence bringing entire Arunachal Pradesh under Protected Area regime; requiring foreign nationals to obtain PAP from Home Ministry; maintained strictly due to sensitive borders with Myanmar, Bhutan, Tibet.
3. **Event 3 (1985):** Assam Accord signed between Rajiv Gandhi government and All Assam Students' Union (AASU) addressing longstanding cross-border migration concerns from Bangladesh; established March 25, 1971 as cutoff date for citizenship determination; later led to NRC update.
4. **Event 2 (Most Recent — 2020):** Central government extended ILP regime to Manipur via Presidential Order following extensive civil society protests; fourth state to receive ILP coverage

alongside Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram; driven by cross-border instability concerns from Myanmar.

**4. Match List I (Legislation/Organization) with List II (Key Provision/Function):**

|    | List I                                 | List II                                                                                                                        |  |
|----|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| A. | Foreigners Act, 1946                   | 1. Protects refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people globally; provides emergency aid and resettlement                    |  |
| B. | Citizenship Act, 1955                  | 2. Empowers government to detect, detain and deport illegal immigrants; establishes tribunals to determine foreigner status    |  |
| C. | UNHCR                                  | 3. Outlines five ways to acquire Indian citizenship: birth, descent, registration, naturalization, territorial incorporation   |  |
| D. | Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025 | 4. Establishes FRRO as nodal authority; mandates digital registration; integrates all immigration workflows into online portal |  |

**Choose the correct answer:**

**(a) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4**

(b) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1

(c) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4

(d) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4

**Answer: (a)**

**EXPLANATION:**

- A-2 (Foreigners Act, 1946):** Regulates entry, stay, exit of foreigners; empowers government to detect, detain, deport illegal immigrants; establishes tribunals with civil court powers to determine foreigner status; 2019 amendments allowing DMs to set up tribunals in all States, UTs.
- B-3 (Citizenship Act, 1955):** Governs acquisition, renunciation, termination of Indian citizenship; outlines five ways to become Indian citizen: birth, descent, registration, naturalization, incorporation of territory; foundational citizenship legislation.
- C-1 (UNHCR):** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; global organization protecting refugees, asylum seekers, stateless people; provides emergency aid, legal support, resettlement; led Syrian refugee relief in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan.
- D-4 (Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025):** Establishes FRRO (Foreigners Regional Registration Office) as nodal authority; mandates digital registration exceeding stay thresholds; integrates all immigration workflows into online portal, mobile application; paperless processing for extensions, exit permissions.

**5. Consider the following statements about the revised Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with 2022-23 as base year:**

- The revised IIP adds Water Supply, Sewerage and Waste Management as a new sector with 2.02% weight which was not covered in the 2011-12 series
- The new IIP framework separates Renewable and Non-Renewable electricity sources to track India's green energy transition
- The product basket in the revised IIP has been reduced from 839 items to 407 item groups to simplify industrial tracking

4. Mining sector's weight has increased from 14.37% to 11.05% in the revised IIP reflecting its growing importance in India's economy

Which of the statements given above are correct?

**(a) 1 and 2 only**

(b) 1, 2 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: (a)**

**EXPLANATION:**

- Statement 1 is CORRECT:** Water Supply, Sewerage and Waste Management is a brand-new utility sector added in 2022-23 IIP with 2.02% weight; was "Not Covered" in the 2011-12 series; reflects India's modern urban infrastructure economy.
- Statement 2 is CORRECT:** New IIP framework separates Electricity index into Renewable Sources (solar, wind, hydro) and Non-Renewable Sources (thermal, nuclear) specifically to track India's shift to clean energy; important for measuring green transition progress.
- Statement 3 is WRONG:** Product basket INCREASED from 839 items to 1,042 products (NOT reduced); item groups increased from 407 to 463 (NOT reduced to 407); revision expanded coverage to capture India's evolving industrial landscape.
- Statement 4 is WRONG:** Mining sector weight DECREASED from 14.37% to 11.05% (NOT increased); reflecting structural shift away from mining toward manufacturing and electricity/utilities in India's evolving industrial economy.

**6. With reference to the eligibility criteria for recognition as a 'Startup' under Startup India, which ONE of the following statements does NOT correctly describe the eligibility conditions?**

- The entity should not have been formed by splitting up or reconstructing an already existing business
- The annual turnover should not exceed ₹100 crore for any financial year since incorporation, with deep-tech startups allowed up to ₹300 crore
- The entity must be incorporated as a Public Limited Company, a Registered Partnership Firm, or a Limited Liability Partnership**
- The period of existence and operations should not exceed 10 years from the date of incorporation, with deep-tech startups allowed up to 20 years

**Answer: (c)**

**EXPLANATION:**

- Option (a) is CORRECTLY described:** Original entity condition requires startup must NOT be formed by splitting or reconstructing an already existing business; prevents tax/benefit abuse through business restructuring.
- Option (b) is CORRECTLY described:** Annual turnover not exceeding ₹100 crore for regular startups and ₹300 crore for deep-tech startups for any financial year since incorporation; correctly described with both standard and deep-tech thresholds.
- Option (c) is NOT CORRECTLY described and is the answer:** Startup India recognizes entities incorporated as Private Limited Company (NOT Public Limited Company), Registered Partnership Firm, or Limited Liability Partnership; Public Limited Company is NOT an eligible entity type under Startup India framework; this is the odd-one-out.

4. **Option (d) is CORRECTLY described:** Period of existence not exceeding 10 years from incorporation for regular startups; deep-tech startups allowed up to 20 years; correctly described with both standard and deep-tech timeframes.