



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

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1. With reference to India–Venezuela relations, which one of the following statements best describes the strategic significance of Venezuela for India's energy security?

- (a) Venezuela is India's largest crude oil supplier providing over 40% of India's total crude oil imports through long-term contracts already in place
- (b) Venezuela possesses the world's largest proven oil reserves of approximately 303 billion barrels, making it a strategically important alternative crude source for India which imports over 85% of its crude requirements**
- (c) India–Venezuela energy partnership is primarily significant because Venezuela provides India access to natural gas reserves, which India needs for its city gas distribution network expansion
- (d) Venezuela's strategic significance for India lies exclusively in its critical minerals like lithium, with crude oil cooperation being a minor element of bilateral relations

Answer: (b)

EXPLANATION:

1. **Option (a) is WRONG:** Venezuela is NOT India's largest crude supplier providing 40%; India primarily imports from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Russia, UAE; Venezuela was significant earlier but US sanctions reduced volumes; no long-term contracts are currently in place — the June 2026 meeting was specifically to EXPLORE shifting toward long-term contracts from spot purchases.
2. **Option (b) is CORRECT:** Venezuela possesses world's largest proven oil reserves (~303 billion barrels); India imports over 85% of crude requirements making supply diversification strategically critical; Venezuela offers Atlantic Basin alternative reducing dependence on Middle East (Strait of Hormuz risk) and Russia (geopolitical constraints); bilateral discussions specifically focused on energy partnership deepening.
3. **Option (c) is WRONG:** India–Venezuela energy partnership is primarily about crude oil (NOT natural gas); India's imports from Venezuela comprise crude oil, mineral fuels; natural gas cooperation is not the primary element of the bilateral energy relationship.
4. **Option (d) is WRONG:** Crude oil cooperation is NOT a minor element — it is the cornerstone of bilateral relations; critical minerals cooperation is important but emerging; bilateral trade dominated by crude oil imports (\$7.20 billion imports vs \$3.64 billion exports); energy remains the foundation of the partnership.

2. Which of the following are correctly matched pairs of Border Security Forces and their assigned borders?

1. Border Security Force (BSF) — India–Pakistan and India–Bangladesh borders
2. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) — India–China border (Line of Actual Control)
3. Assam Rifles — India–Myanmar border

4. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) — India-Nepal and India-Bhutan borders

Select the correct answer:

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: (a)

EXPLANATION:

- Pair 1 is CORRECT:** BSF guards India-Pakistan border (western frontier) AND India-Bangladesh border (eastern frontier) as primary peacetime border-guarding force; preventing infiltration, cross-border crimes, smuggling along both borders.
- Pair 2 is WRONG:** SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal) guards India-Nepal and India-Bhutan borders (NOT India-China LAC); ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police) guards India-China border (LAC) in high-altitude Himalayan frontier — roles of SSB and ITBP are commonly confused.
- Pair 3 is CORRECT:** Assam Rifles guards India-Myanmar border while conducting counter-insurgency operations and maintaining stability in Northeast India; oldest paramilitary force, often called "Sentinels of the Northeast."
- Pair 4 is WRONG:** ITBP guards India-China border (Line of Actual Control) NOT India-Nepal and India-Bhutan borders; those are guarded by SSB — again, the ITBP-SSB jurisdiction confusion is a common UPSC trap.

- 3. Assertion (A):** The draft Regulations for Use of AI in Courts, 2026 completely prohibit the use of AI to decide verdicts, determine sentences, or assess bail eligibility.

Reason (R): AI systems trained on historical judicial data may inherit existing societal biases and their opaque decision-making processes cannot ensure the transparency and human accountability required by principles of natural justice and constitutional guarantees of equality before law.

(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

(b) Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A

(c) A is true but R is false

(d) A is false but R is true

Answer: (a)

EXPLANATION:

- Assertion (A) is TRUE:** Draft Regulations 2026 impose complete ban on AI-based adjudication — AI cannot decide verdicts, determine sentences, assess bail eligibility, evaluate flight risk, or predict recidivism; any AI output on such matters remains purely advisory; human judges retain exclusive final authority.

2. **Reason (R) is TRUE:** AI systems trained on historical judicial data may inherit existing social, economic, institutional biases affecting fairness; black-box algorithms making it difficult to understand or challenge recommendations raises procedural fairness concerns; threatens equality before law (Article 14) and natural justice principles (audi alteram partem – right to know basis of decisions).
3. **R correctly explains A:** The prohibition on AI adjudication (Assertion) is DIRECTLY justified by the limitations described in Reason – algorithmic bias risk and opaque decision-making are precisely why the regulations ban AI from making binding judicial decisions; the constitutional requirements of transparency, accountability, and equality before law cannot be satisfied by algorithmic outputs; R provides the exact constitutional and ethical basis explaining why A is necessary.

4. Which of the following correctly identifies the causes and their corresponding environmental effects related to the growth of AI infrastructure?

1. **Cause:** Rapid obsolescence of AI hardware (GPUs, servers) – **Effect:** Generation of up to 2.5 million tonnes of e-waste annually by 2030, disproportionately burdening lower-income countries
2. **Cause:** Concentration of 90%+ AI computing capacity in US and China – **Effect:** Environmental justice imbalance where some countries bear environmental costs without sharing AI economic benefits
3. **Cause:** Data centre cooling requirements and energy production – **Effect:** Significant water footprint, with AI water consumption potentially equaling annual domestic needs of 1.3 billion people by 2030
4. **Cause:** Growth of AI infrastructure globally – **Effect:** Reduction in demand for critical minerals as AI systems become more efficient, reducing mining-related environmental degradation

Select the correct answer:

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a)

EXPLANATION:

1. **Cause-Effect 1 is CORRECT:** Rapid AI hardware obsolescence (GPUs, servers needing frequent upgrades) is direct cause of growing e-waste; UN report projects 2.5 million tonnes annually by 2030; burden disproportionately falls on lower-income countries with inadequate safe disposal capacity – correctly identified cause-effect relationship.
2. **Cause-Effect 2 is CORRECT:** Concentration of 90%+ AI computing capacity in US and China creates environmental justice imbalance – developing nations hosting e-waste, mining operations bearing environmental costs while not accessing AI economic benefits; correctly identified cause-effect relationship.

- 3. Cause-Effect 3 is CORRECT:** Data centre cooling systems and energy production for powering facilities create significant water footprint; UN report states AI water consumption could equal annual domestic needs of 1.3 billion people by 2030; correctly identified cause-effect relationship.
- 4. Cause-Effect 4 is WRONG:** AI infrastructure growth does NOT reduce critical mineral demand; it INCREASES demand for silicon, rare earths, cobalt, coltan for GPU manufacturing, servers, cooling equipment; UN report specifically warns that critical mineral production for AI hardware raises environmental degradation and social equity concerns in extraction regions.
- 5. Mr. X owns a five-storey commercial hotel in a Tier-2 city. He obtained a Fire Safety NOC three years ago but has since added 15 extra rooms beyond the approved capacity and blocked one of the two emergency staircases for storage. Recently, a fire broke out and the local fire department found multiple violations during the investigation.**

Based on India's fire safety governance framework, which of the following correctly describes Mr. X's legal situation?

- (a) Mr. X is fully compliant since he obtained a valid NOC three years ago and no re-inspection is required until the NOC's next scheduled renewal period
- (b) Mr. X is in violation as unauthorized structural modifications, overcrowding beyond approved capacity, and blocking emergency exits constitute breaches of fire safety norms irrespective of his previously obtained NOC**
- (c) Mr. X cannot be penalized since fire service is a State subject and without a state-specific law covering hotels, no action can be taken against him
- (d) Mr. X's violation is only administrative in nature as the National Building Code is merely advisory and not legally enforceable against private building owners

Answer: (b)

EXPLANATION:

- Option (a) is WRONG:** Fire Safety NOC requires periodic renewal ensuring continued compliance; more importantly, unauthorized modifications (adding 15 rooms beyond approved capacity, blocking emergency staircase) constitute fresh violations that nullify existing NOC compliance regardless of renewal schedule; NOC is not a permanent license to violate safety norms.
- Option (b) is CORRECT:** Mr. X is clearly in multiple violations — unauthorized structural modifications (extra rooms), exceeding approved capacity (overcrowding), and blocking emergency exits (compromising evacuation) all constitute breaches of fire safety norms under NBC 2016 and applicable State Fire Service Acts; these violations exist irrespective of his previously obtained NOC which was issued for the original approved configuration.
- Option (c) is WRONG:** While fire service is a State subject, virtually all states have enacted State Fire Service Acts that empower fire departments to inspect, issue NOCs, and penalize violations; Mr. X cannot escape liability simply because fire is a state subject — state laws cover hotels and commercial establishments; Disaster Management Act 2005 also provides additional framework.
- Option (d) is WRONG:** National Building Code 2016 while issued by BIS is incorporated into building bye-laws and state fire regulations making it legally enforceable; blocking emergency

exits and overcrowding beyond approved limits are criminal violations under multiple laws including sector-specific regulations and possibly IPC provisions for endangering public safety.

6. Match List I (Climate Mechanism/Initiative) with List II (Key Feature/Outcome):

	List I	List II
A.	New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)	1. Launched at COP30 Belém; \$125 billion fund making standing tropical forests economically valuable; 20% payouts to Indigenous Peoples
B.	Article 6.4 of Paris Agreement	2. Established at COP29 Baku; targets \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035 for developing nations; developed nations pledging \$300 billion annually
C.	Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)	3. Finalized at COP29 after decade of deadlock; operationalizes unified UN carbon markets; estimated \$1 trillion per year by 2050 into Global South
D.	COP28 Mandate (Dubai)	4. Historic decision to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030

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 (NCQG):** New Collective Quantified Goal established at COP29 Baku; modern foundational pillar for global climate finance; targets \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035 from all sources for developing nations; developed nations pledging to lead mobilization of \$300 billion annually by 2035.
- B-3 (Article 6.4):** Finalized at COP29 after decade of technical, diplomatic deadlock; fully operationalizes unified UN carbon markets; paving way to channel estimated \$1 trillion per year by 2050 into verified green projects across Global South.
- C-1 (TFFF):** Tropical Forest Forever Facility launched at COP30 Belém (Amazon Forest COP); \$125 billion fund making standing tropical forests economically valuable; crucially mandating at least 20% of capital payouts directly to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) as frontline forest guardians.
- D-4 (COP28 Dubai):** Historic mandate at COP28 (Dubai, 2023) to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030; landmark decision aligning with clean energy transition targets; 2024 saw record 582 GW renewable capacity addition partially reflecting this mandate.