



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

DAILY UPSC PRILIMS MCQ 15.06.2026

1. With reference to Indian seafarers and international maritime law, consider the following statements:

1. Approximately 3.5 lakh Indian seafarers serve on merchant vessels across the world.
2. The Flag of Convenience system allows ships to be registered in countries other than the owner's home country to benefit from lower taxes and fees.
3. Under international maritime law, the flag state bears primary responsibility for the vessel's regulation, safety, and crew protection.
4. Operation Sankalp was launched by India to safeguard merchant shipping in the Red Sea region.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2, and 3 only

(b) 2, 3, and 4 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answer: (a)

Statement 4 is incorrect. Operation Sankalp was launched to safeguard merchant shipping in the **Gulf region** – specifically the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz – not the Red Sea.

2. With reference to India-France relations, consider the following statements:

1. The India-France Strategic Partnership was launched on 26 January 1998, making it India's first-ever Strategic Partnership.
2. India and France co-founded the International Solar Alliance in 2015.
3. France's Naval Group collaborated with India on the production of six Scorpene-class submarines under Project P-75.
4. India has procured 26 Rafale-M jets for the Indian Air Force through an Inter-Governmental Agreement.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2, and 3 only

(b) 2, 3, and 4 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answer: (a)

Statement 4 is incorrect. The 26 Rafale-M jets were procured for the **Indian Navy** — not the Indian Air Force. The Air Force separately procured 36 Rafale fighters from Dassault Aviation.

3. With reference to India's Ethanol Blending Programme, consider the following statements:

1. India achieved the 20% ethanol blending target in petrol in the year 2025.
2. The National Policy on Biofuels was originally notified in 2018 and amended in 2022 to expand eligible feedstocks.
3. E85 fuel was introduced by the government in June 2026 for use in flex-fuel vehicles.
4. Ethanol contains higher energy per litre than petrol, resulting in improved vehicle mileage at higher blend ratios.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2, and 3 only

(b) 2, 3, and 4 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answer: (a)

Statement 4 is incorrect. Ethanol contains **lower** energy per litre than petrol — approximately 66% of petrol's energy density. Higher ethanol blends result in a **reduction** in fuel efficiency and vehicle mileage, not an improvement. This is one of the key consumer concerns with higher ethanol blending.

4. With reference to India's space economy, consider the following statements:

1. India's space economy is currently valued at approximately \$8 billion and is projected to grow to \$40–45 billion over the next decade.
2. The Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) was successfully conducted in 2025.
3. IN-SPACe functions as India's single-window regulator for enabling private sector participation in the space sector.
4. India's Mangalyaan mission cost approximately \$671 million — comparable to NASA's MAVEN mission.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2, and 3 only

(b) 2, 3, and 4 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answer: (a)

Statement 4 is incorrect. Mangalyaan cost approximately \$74 million — it was NASA's MAVEN that cost \$671 million. India's cost advantage over MAVEN was approximately nine-fold, not equivalence.

5. With reference to India's youth development programmes, consider the following statements:

1. The National Youth Policy 2014 defines youth as individuals aged 15 to 29 years.
2. The SOAR programme introduces AI skills to school students from Classes 6 to 12.
3. India has emerged as the world's second-largest startup ecosystem with over 120 unicorns.
4. The Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) enables students to store and transfer credits across institutions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2, and 4 only

(b) 1, 3, and 4 only

(c) 2, 3, and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answer: (a)

Statement 3 is incorrect. India is the world's **third-largest** startup ecosystem, not second.