

**30 June 2025**

**Question 1. With reference to the recent GST Council recommendations, consider the following statements:**

- 1.The inclusion of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) under GST is primarily aimed at increasing the cascading effect of taxes.
- 2.The inclusion of natural gas under GST is expected to benefit the power and fertilizer sectors.
- 3.The proposal was met with unanimous approval from all states, with no concerns raised about potential revenue loss.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The news report clearly states that the move is "aimed at reducing cascading taxes," not increasing them.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The report mentions that including natural gas is "expected to lower costs for power, fertilizer, and CNG sectors."
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The report explicitly notes that "several manufacturing-heavy states expressed concerns over potential revenue loss." Therefore, the approval was not unanimous without concerns.

**30 June 2025**

**Question 2. Consider the following statements regarding the 'triple test' criteria recently reaffirmed by the Supreme Court for OBC reservation in local bodies:**

- 1.It mandates the setting up of a dedicated commission to collect quantifiable data on the backwardness of communities.
- 2.It caps the total reservation for SCs, STs, and OBCs combined at 50%.
- 3.The 'triple test' was first laid down by the Supreme Court in the Indra-Sawhney case (1992).

**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

**Answer: (a)**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The news item lists this as the first condition of the triple test: "set up a dedicated commission to collect quantifiable data on the backwardness of local bodies."
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The third condition mentioned is to "ensure that total reservation for SCs, STs, and OBCs combined does not exceed the 50% ceiling."
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The news report specifies that the triple test was first laid down in the K. Krishnamurthy (2010) case, not the Indra Sawhney case.

**30 June 2025**

**Question 3. The 'Critical Minerals Partnership', recently finalised between India and the UK, primarily aims to:**

- (a) Fix global prices for lithium and cobalt to benefit developing nations.
- (b) Ban the trade of minerals from conflict-ridden zones.
- (c) Build resilient and diversified supply chains and reduce dependency on a single source.
- (d) Facilitate the transfer of India's traditional mining technologies to the UK.

**Answer: (c)**

- The news report states that the partnership "aims to build resilient and diversified supply chains for minerals" and is "seen as a strategic response to global supply chain vulnerabilities and an effort to reduce dependence on a single source." The other options are not supported by the text.

**30 June 2025**

**Question 4. With reference to the 'Prahaar-II' missile, which recently completed user trials, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a long-range, liquid-fueled Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM).
2. It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
3. It is designed to fill the operational gap between the Pinaka rocket system and the Prithvi missile series.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The report describes Prahaar-II as a "tactical ballistic missile" with a range of 250 km, not a long-range ICBM. It is also a "solid-fuel" missile, not liquid-fueled.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** It is explicitly mentioned that the missile was "Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)."
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The article states that "Prahaar-II fills a critical gap between the 'Pinaka' multi-barrel rocket launcher and the 'Prithvi' series of ballistic missiles."

**30 June 2025**

**Question 5. Consider the following pairs:**

**Product/Craft Description/Attribute**

1. Bastar Dhokra : An ancient bell metal craft using lost-wax casting.
2. Madiya Textile : A silk fabric known for its intricate gold zari work.
3. Geographical Indication (GI) Tag : A legal right equivalent to a patent for an invention.

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) All three pairs
- (d) None of the pairs

**Answer: (a)**

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched.** The report describes 'Bastar Dhokra' as "an ancient bell metal craft using the lost-wax casting technique."
- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched.** The 'Madiya Textile' is described as a "coarse, durable cotton fabric" with "natural dyes," not a silk fabric with gold zari.
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched.** A GI tag protects products from a specific geographical origin, signifying quality and reputation. A patent protects a new invention. They are distinct forms of Intellectual Property Rights.