

DAILY NEWS

ANALYSIS



28th April

Explained

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Decoded

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DNA Quiz

Playlist Link:

What to Read: <https://bit.ly/3FYdutC>

Daily News Analysis: <https://bit.ly/4ge9BgF>

EXPLAINED

1. POPE FRANCIS

Relevance: GS 1(Pre)/ Current Affairs/Global events

Backdrop: Pope Francis, a cheerful reformer, dies aged 88

Why in the News?

Pope Francis, a cheerful reformer, dies aged 88

About Pope Francis

• Early Life and Career:

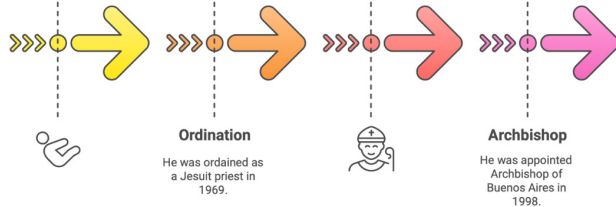
Birth

Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born on December 17, 1936 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Bishop

Bergoglio became a bishop in 1992.



About Pope Francis

• Papacy:

◦ Pope Number:



Papal Lineage

He is the 266th pope in history, tracing back to Saint Peter (30 CE)



South American First

Pope Francis is the first pope from South America.



First Jesuit

He is the first pope to be a member of the Jesuit order.

Views and Actions:

- Advocated for **social justice**, **poverty alleviation**, and **environmental protection**.
- Opposed **trickle-down economics** and criticized **capitalism** for exacerbating inequality.
- Aimed at a **Church of mercy** and inclusivity but held traditional views on **family and sexuality** (opposed gay marriage, no women priests, and against abortion).

About Pope Francis

• Church Reform:

Vatican Finances
Worked to reform Vatican finances



Corruption

Focused on weeding out corruption in the Vatican

Child Abuse

Confronted the child abuse scandal.

Global Influence:

- Pope Francis became a global figure for promoting **peace** and **dialogue** among religions.
- He emphasized **ecumenism**, leading discussions with other Christian denominations and non-Christian faiths, such as **Islam**.
- His papacy was marked by **strong advocacy for the environment**, notably with the publication of his **encyclical** "Laudato Si" on the importance of caring for the Earth.

About Pope

- The Pope is the spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church and the head of Vatican City.
- He is considered the successor of Saint Peter and is infallible in matters of faith and morals when speaking officially.
- The Pope is elected by the College of Cardinals and plays a key role in guiding Catholics.

How is the Pope selected?

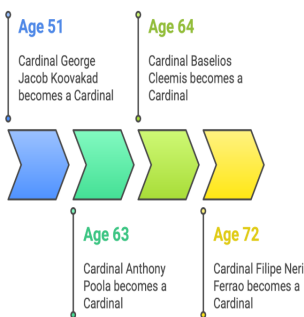
Step	Description
Sede Vacante	Period of vacancy begins; Camerlengo confirms death and seals papal apartment.
Destruction of Ring	Ring of the Fisherman is destroyed to prevent misuse.
Novendiali	Nine-day mourning; Pope's body lies in state; burial at Basilica of Saint Mary Major (Rome).
Conclave	College of Cardinals (≤ 80 years of age) convenes within 15–20 days in the Sistine Chapel to elect the new Pope.

Election Process	Secret ballot; 2/3 majority required; smoke signals used—white (Pope elected), black (no result).
Habemus Papam	New Pope is introduced from St. Peter's Basilica.

Indian in Cardinal: Four Indian church leaders will cast their vote in the papal conclave to elect the new pope.

Indian in Cardinal

- Four Indian church leaders will cast their vote in the papal conclave to elect the new pope.

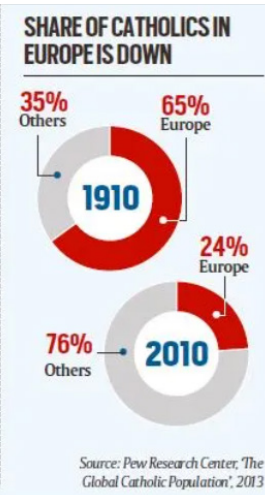
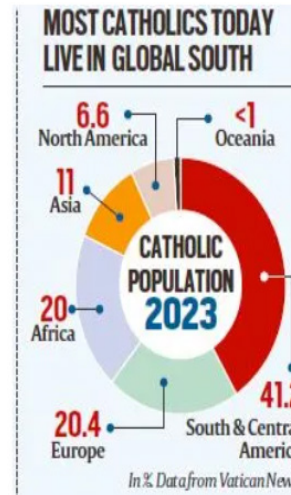


Catholicism

- Catholicism is the largest branch of Christianity**, centered on the Pope (Bishop of Rome) as the spiritual leader and successor of Saint Peter.
- It emphasizes both Scripture and Church tradition as sources of authority..
- Protestantism began in the 16th century** as a **reform movement against perceived corruption in the Catholic Church** (led by Martin Luther, 1517).
- It includes many denominations: Lutherans, Baptists, Methodists, Anglicans, etc.

Global Reach:

- Between 1910 and 2010, Europe's population went from 44% Catholic to 35% Catholic, according to the 2013 Pew analysis.
- The **Roman Catholic Church** is the largest Christian denomination, with over **1.3 billion members** worldwide, primarily in **Latin America, Europe, Africa**, and growing in **Asia**.
- More than 72% of the world's Catholics lived in South and Central America (41.2%), Africa (20%). Asia (11%), Europe 20.4%, North America 6.6%



Aspect	Catholicism	Protestantism
Authority	Bible + Tradition + Pope	Bible alone
Head of Church	Pope (Rome)	No central authority
Salvation	Faith + Works + Sacraments	Faith alone
Sacraments	7 Sacraments	2 (Baptism, Eucharist)
Eucharist	Transubstantiation (real presence)	Symbolic or spiritual presence
Role of Mary & Saints	Venerated, asked for intercession	Respected but not prayed to
Clergy	Priests, bishops, celibacy in Latin rite	Ministers/pastors; usually allowed to marry

India and Christianity: Historical Evolution

- Arrival (1st Century CE):** Tradition holds that St. Thomas the Apostle arrived in Kerala in 52 CE, establishing one of the oldest Christian communities in the world — the Syrian Christians or St. Thomas Christians.
- Medieval Period:** Christianity expanded with European missionaries (Franciscan, Jesuit, Dominican) during the Portuguese (Goa), French, and British colonial periods.
- Colonial Expansion:**



- Portuguese (16th century): Focused in Goa, brought Roman Catholicism.
- British (18th–19th century): Encouraged Protestant missionary work, especially in Tamil Nadu, Bengal, and Northeast India.
- Post-Independence: Growth via education, healthcare, and social work, especially among Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes.

Current Status:

National Statistics (Census 2011)

- **Total Christian Population:** ~27.8 million (2.3% of total population)
- **Dominant Denominations:** Catholics (Latin, Syro-Malabar, Syro-Malankara): ~50% Protestants (CSI, Baptist, Pentecostal): ~30% Orthodox, Independent Churches: ~20%

2. RARE EARTH ELEMENTS

Relevance: GS 1/ Distribution of Key Natural Resources across the world.

Backdrop: China recently imposed export controls on some rare earth elements.

About the news:

China's curbs target dysprosium, gadolinium, lutetium, samarium, scandium, terbium, and yttrium, seven of the 17 elements classified as REEs.

Rare earth elements:

- Rare earth elements are a series of 17 substances in the Earth's crust.
- Rare earths occur plentifully in nature, but the rarity comes from the ability to isolate them chemically and make them usable in industrial applications.

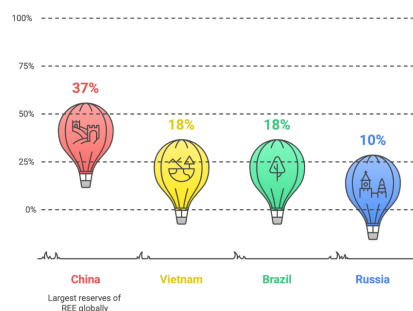
Reserve:

Known Rare Earth Reserves By Country (metric tons)

China	44,000,000
Vietnam	22,000,000
Brazil	21,000,000
Russia	10,000,000
India	6,900,000
Australia	5,700,000
United States	1,800,000
Greenland	1,500,000
Tanzania	890,000
Canada	830,000
South Africa	790,000
Thailand	4,500

Chart: RFE/RL Graphics • Source: U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries, January 2024

Monopoly of China



Applications:

Element	Applications
Dysprosium	Hard disks, Car motors, etc.
Gadolinium	Nuclear reactors (shielding), Some medical equipment, etc.
Lutetium	PET scanners, Petroleum refineries, etc.
Samarium	Lasers, Neutron capture, Control rods of nuclear reactors, etc.
Scandium	Fighter aircraft
Terbium	Lighting for personal electronics, etc.
Yttrium	Cancer treatments, Superconductors, Coatings for engines and industrial gas turbines, Jewellery (hardness and optical properties), Energy-efficient light bulbs, etc.
Lanthanum	Hydrogen storage, Battery electrodes, Camera lenses, Refractive telescope lenses, etc.
Cerium	Chemical oxidising agent, Polishing powder, Fluid catalytic cracking catalyst (oil refineries), Coatings for turbine blades, etc.

Neodymium	Lasers, Colours in glass and ceramics, Ceramic capacitors, etc.
Praseodymium	Lasers, Carbon arc lighting, Colourant in glasses and enamels, etc.
Promethium	Nuclear batteries, Luminous paint, etc.
Europium	Red and blue phosphors, Lasers, Mercury-vapor lamps, etc.
Holmium	Lasers, Optical spectrophotometers, etc.
Erbium	Infrared lasers, Vanadium steel, Fiber-optic technology, etc.
Thulium	Portable X-ray machines, Lasers, etc.

India and REEs:

Deposits:

- India is estimated to have 6% of total deposits. There are around 13.07 million tonnes of REEs,

mainly found in the monazite sand.

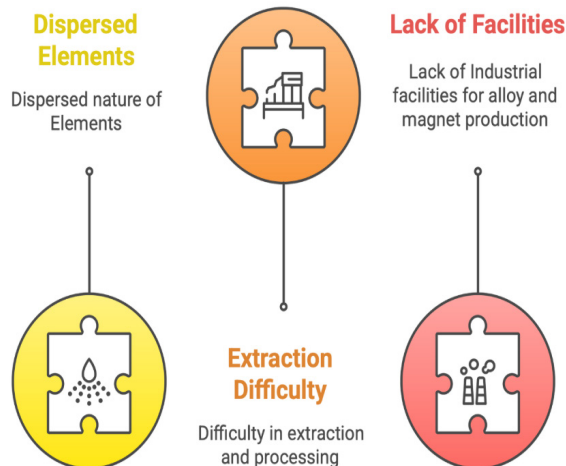
- ♦ Monazite sand is found in Coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.
- ♦ Inland placer deposits are found in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, etc.
- India contains mainly Light REEs. Heavy REEs are not available in extractable quantities.

Extraction:

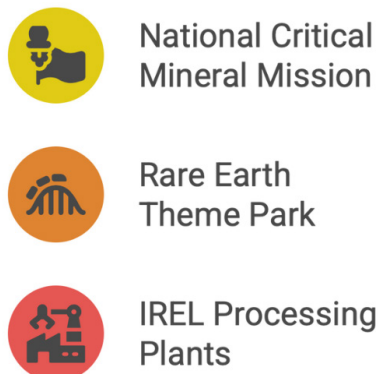
- **Indian Rare Earth Limited (IREL):** A major player in mining and processing, producing rare earth compounds.

Imports: India imports a limited quantity of REEs. As per the Ministry of Mines, 2,270 tonnes of REEs were imported in 2023–24.

Challenges



Government's Initiatives



3. RAJA RAVI VARMA

Backdrop: Celebration of the 177th birth Anniversary of Raja Ravi Varma.

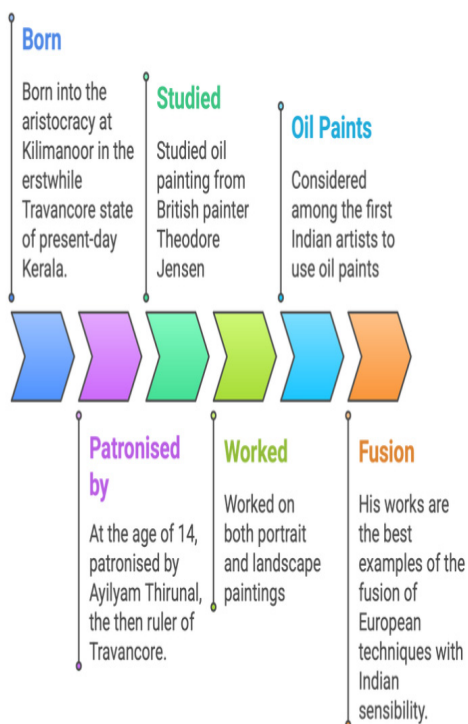
Relevance: GS I / Art and culture

About the news:

Raja Ravi Varma:

Background and History:

About the News: Background and History



His work:

- He is believed to have made around 7,000 paintings before his death at the age of 58.
- His most famous works include Damayanti Talking to a Swan, Shakuntala Looking for Dushyanta, Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair, and Shantanu and Matsyagandha.
- He portrayed scenes from the epics of the Mahabharata and Ramayana.
- He painted the picture of God and Goddess that helped Dalits, who were prohibited from entering temples, to know about the Gods.
- In his painting, he has shown the position of Indian men and women, like how they were treated at that time.

Awards and honours:

- His 1873 painting, Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair,

won Varma prestigious awards including the Governor's Gold Medal, when it was presented in the Madras Presidency.

- He won the first prize in the Vienna Art Exhibition in 1873, and four movies have been made based on Ravi Varma's life.
- He was also awarded three gold medals at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

- In 1904, the British colonial government awarded Varma the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal.

4. ASIATIC LION

Relevance: GS3/ Environment and Ecology

Backdrop: For the first time in 16 years, a five-year-old Asiatic lioness, Mahagauri, delivered four cubs at the Delhi Zoo

Feature	Asiatic Lion	African Lion
Distribution	Gir Forest and surrounding areas in Gujarat, India	Sub-Saharan Africa (e.g., Serengeti, Kruger)
Size	Slightly smaller	Larger
Mane	Males have a shorter, thinner mane; ears often visible	Males have fuller, bushier manes covering ears
Body Features	Prominent longitudinal skin fold along belly	No such belly fold
Color	Generally lighter tawny color	Varies from light buff to silvery gray to yellowish red and dark brown
Social Structure	Smaller prides (2–5 lions); sometimes solitary males	Larger prides (up to 15–30 members)
Adaptation to Climate	Adapted to dry deciduous forests and scrublands	Adapted to savannas, grasslands, and open woodlands
Conservation Status	Vulnerable (IUCN Red List)	Vulnerable (IUCN Red List)
Human Interaction	Coexists closely with humans (Maldhari communities in Gir)	Varies – from protected areas to human conflict zones

Comparative analysis between the Asian and African Lion



ASIATIC LION Or INDIAN LION

Scientific Name: *Panthera leo persica*

Weight: Male: 150-250 kg
Female: 120-180 kg

Length (head and body): Male: 1.7-2.5 m
Female: 1.4-1.75 m

Birth Interval: 18-26 Months

Typical Diet: Carnivorous

Lifespan: 16-18 Years



Habitat

- Historically, Asiatic lions roamed from the Middle East to India.
- Now, their sole wild population is confined mostly to the **Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary** and nearby areas like Girnar, Mitiyala, and parts of the coastal belt of Gujarat.
- Activity:** Mostly nocturnal to avoid heat.

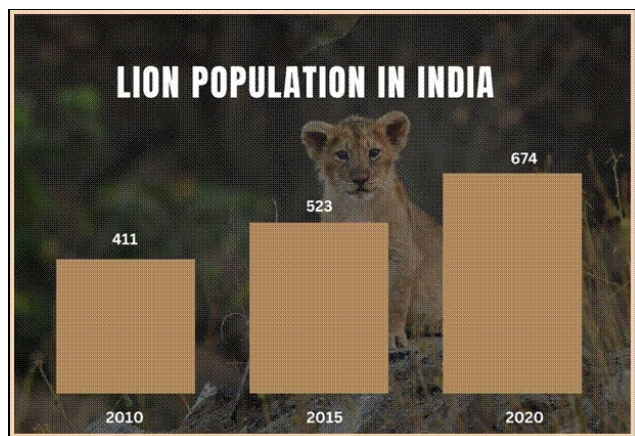
Conservation Status

ABOUT ASIATIC LION

• Conservation Status



Population:



- Threats:** Inbreeding, habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, diseases (like the 2018 Canine Distemper Virus outbreak).

Conservation Efforts:

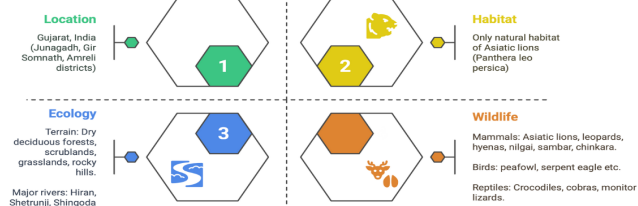
ABOUT ASIATIC LION

• Conservation Efforts:



Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary:

ABOUT Gir National Park, Gir Wildlife Sanctuary



5. BOND MARKET

Backdrop: The Trump turmoil in the bond market

Relevance: GS3/Economy

About the news:

Recent developments:

- Mr. Trump has deemed the chair of the Federal Reserve, Jerome Powell, a "loser" for refusing to lower interest rates.
- The U.S. President's interference has deepened uncertainty in global financial markets.
- The dollar and stock markets have registered further falls following Mr. Trump's latest declarations.
- The rise in bond yields and the fall in the dollar are indicative of the fact that global investors are reducing their holdings of American assets due to fears about inflation.

About Bond:

- A bond is a financial instrument that promises a fixed amount, called the face value, to the holder at the end of a certain period.
- This is unlike an equity instrument, which promises unlimited gains or losses and has no fixed time period for which the gain must be realised.
- Bonds are therefore safer instruments than equity stocks, and are used by investors to hedge risks or as a safe store of value.

Associated Terms:

- Face value:** Nominal or par value, which is the amount the issuer promises to pay the bondholder upon maturity. It's the fixed amount printed on the bond and represents the principal amount repaid at the end of the bond's life.
 - The price at which bonds are bought and sold in the market is less than the face value.
- Yield:** The return to a bondholder from holding

the bond to maturity, that is, the end of the given period, is called the yield.

- Thus, if a bond with a face value of 100 is brought at a price of 90, the yield to the holder will be 11.11%.

Inflation Impact:

- A major threat to bondholders is inflation. In the above example, imagine that inflation is 12%. An investor will receive a yield of 11.11% on holding the bond, but an inflation rate of 12% will completely wipe out his/her gains.
- Furthermore, if inflation is perceived to increase in the future, the Central Bank will raise interest rates to combat inflation.
- The risk-free interest rate announced by the Central Bank acts as a standard for all interest rates in the economy.
- The yields on long-term bonds are determined by the risk-free interest rate plus a certain premium desired by investors to park their money in bonds for so long.
- If investors perceive inaction to be high in the future, they know that a Central Bank dedicated to combating inflation will raise rates in the future. Thus, investors bid down the price of bonds, raising yields.
- This affects investment, since the ripple effects will ensure all interest rates will rise to match the higher yields of government bonds.

Currency value Impact:

- If the rupee depreciates after her investment, with the dollar now being equal to 100 rupees, the bondholder invests one dollar only to receive one dollar in return, effectively making no returns.
 - Dollar-denominated bonds are thus the ideal instrument for wealth-holders looking to add stability to their portfolio.

Impact of the tariffs:

- The short-run impact of tariffs will bring inflationary pressures to bear on the U.S. economy, likely bringing about a rise in interest rates by the Central Bank.
- Investors have started selling bonds in open markets, leading to falling bond prices and rising yields.
- These rising yields indicate the pessimistic outlook held by global investors who seek higher returns to offset the inflationary impact.
- Wealth-holders are not shifting from U.S. bonds to other U.S. assets, but are moving away from holding U.S. assets altogether.
- This explains why there has been an influx of capital into Germany, with German yields falling. Germany is an economy committed to

low inflation and low fiscal deficits, with the Euro providing a strong, stable currency. Investors thus eye German bonds as a substitute to a rogue economy like the U.S.

Impact on the developing world:

- Governments in developing economies that wish to undertake social spending often face rising yields from inflation-averse investors.
- The pressure from bond markets lies behind the rationale given for restrictive fiscal stances and laws such as the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003, in India
- Even if fiscal deficits do not translate into inflation, it is the threat of future inflation that can trigger rising yields and falling currencies for many developing economies and prevent the expansion of welfare and structural change.
- The loss of a safe haven for wealth-holders such as the dollar signals a long period of uncertainty for the global economy that might inflict further harm on the developing world.
- Trade disruptions indicate loss of valuable export markets and earnings.
- The search for alternative safe harbours for global capital might mean capital flight from emerging markets towards new sources of stable currencies and markets

DECODED

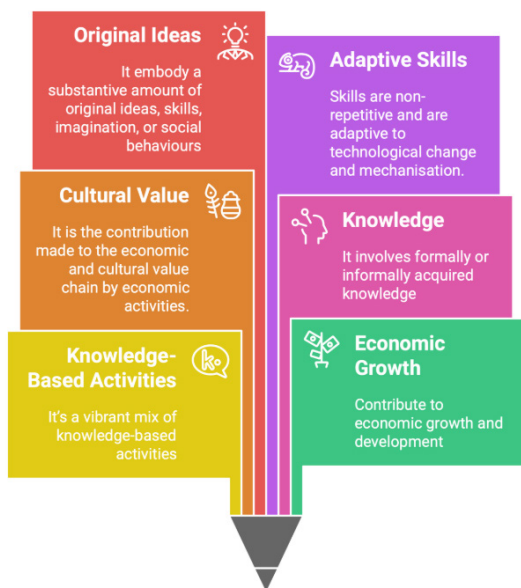
6. CREATIVE ECONOMY

Relevance: GS3/ Economy

Backdrop: To become a \$5 trillion economy, India needs to rejig its approach to innovations, supported by creativity at all levels.



What is the Creative Economy?



Challenges



Key Initiatives



Facts about the Creative Economy:

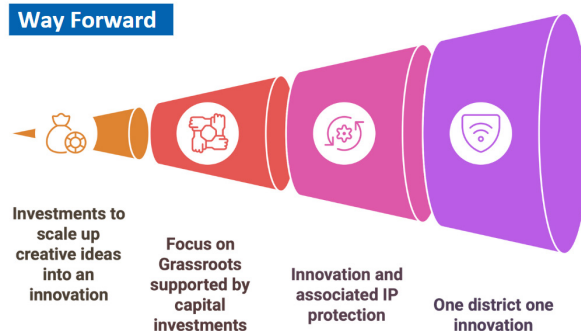
Globally:

- The creative economy generates annual revenues exceeding \$2 trillion and supports nearly 50 million jobs.
- In 2022, exports of creative services surged to \$1.4 trillion, marking a 29% increase since 2017.
- Major sectors:** As per the Creative Economy Outlook 2024 (UNCTAD), three sectors are the main contributors (2022): Software services (41.3%), research and development (30.7%), advertising, market research, and architecture (15.5%).

India's case:

- As of 2024, India's creative industry is valued at \$30 billion and employs about 8% of the country's working population.
- In 2019, Creative goods and services exports totalled about \$121 billion, with creative services accounting for nearly \$100 billion.

Way Forward



PRACTICE QUESTION

- Q.** To what extent India's creative economy can contribute to the goal of a \$5 trillion economy? Enumerate the challenges in achieving the Indian Creative economy's full potential. (150 words).

PYQ

- Q.** Distinguish between 'care economy' and 'monetized economy'. How can the care economy be brought into the monetized economy through women empowerment? (250 words)
- [Mains 2023]

Importance



DNA QUIZ

1. Consider the following statements:

1. St. Francis Xavier was one of the founding members of the Jesuit Order.
2. St. Francis Xavier died in Goa and a church is dedicated to him there.
3. The Feast of St. Francis Xavier is celebrated in Goa each year.

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. Recently, there has been a concern over the short supply of a group of elements called 'rare earth metals.' Why? (2012)

1. China, which is the largest producer of these elements, has imposed some restrictions on their export.
2. Other than China, Australia, Canada, and Chile, these elements are not found in any country.
3. Rare earth metals are essential for the manufacture of various kinds of electronic items and there is a growing demand for these elements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. With reference to India, consider the following statements: (2022)

1. Monazite is a source of rare earths.
2. Monazite contains thorium.
3. Monazite occurs naturally in the entire Indian coastal sands in India.
4. In India, Government bodies only can process or export monazite.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2, and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2, and 4 only

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

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Raja Ravi Verma paintings have no western influence.
2. Raja Ravi Varma is called the 'Raffale of East'.
3. He was awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal.

Which among the following above given statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2 and 3
- (c) Only 1 and 3
- (d) All of the above

5. Consider the following statements

Statement-I:

If the United States of America (USA) were to default on its debt, holders of US Treasury Bonds will not be able to exercise their claims to receive payment.

Statement-II:

The USA Government debt is not backed by any hard assets, but only by the faith of the Government.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements? (2024)

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

6. With reference to the India economy, what are the advantages of "Inflation-Indexed Bonds (IIBs)"?

1. Government can reduce the coupon rates on its borrowing by way of IIBs.
2. IIGs provide protection to the investors from uncertainty regarding inflation.
3. The interest received as well as capital gains on IIBs are not taxable.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (2022)

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

7. Indian Government Bond Yields are influenced by which of the following?

- 1. Actions of the United States Federal Reserve
- 2. Actions of the Reserve Bank of India
- 3. Inflation and short-term interest rates

Select the correct answer using the code given below. (2021)

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

8. Consider the following statements :

- 1. Lions do not have a particular breeding season.
- 2. Unlike most other big cats, cheetahs do not roar.
- 3. Unlike male lions, male leopards do not proclaim their territory by scent marking.

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

1. (c)	2 (c)	3. (b)	4. (b)	5. (d)
6. (a)	7 (d)	8. (a)		

■■■■

