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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

24th August 2026

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24th August 2026

India's Shipbuilding Industry

CONTEXT: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently highlighted India's potential to become a global shipbuilding hub.

Current Status of India's Shipbuilding Industry

India's Position

- India ranks **~16th globally** in shipbuilding.
- Global market share remains very small.
- **China, South Korea and Japan** dominate the commercial shipbuilding industry.
- India has 20+ shipyards, (public and private).

India's Shipbuilding Targets

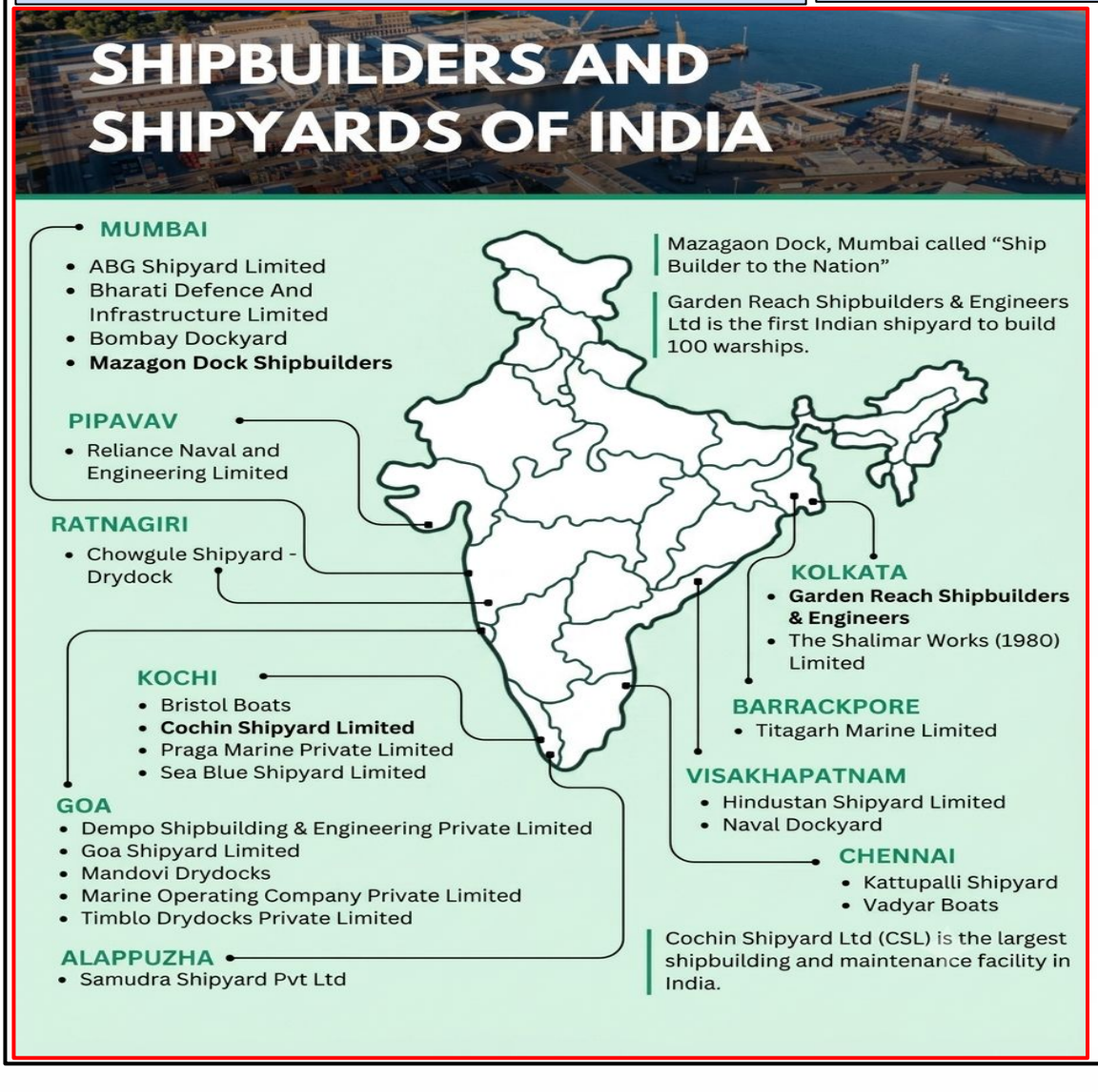
- India's maritime vision aims to become a major shipbuilding power.

By 2030

- 🎯 Top 10 globally
- 🎯 0.6 million Gross Tonnes annual production
- 🎯 2+ million jobs

By 2047

- 🎯 Top 5 globally
- 🎯 4.5 million Gross Tonnes annual production
- 🎯 15 million jobs



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CONTEXT: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently highlighted India's potential to become a global shipbuilding hub.

WHY IS SHIPBUILDING IMPORTANT FOR INDIA?

A STRATEGIC & DEFENCE SECURITY

- Indigenous construction of **warships, submarines** and **patrol vessels** strengthens strategic autonomy.

EXAMPLE

INS Vikrant demonstrates India's growing indigenous naval shipbuilding capability.

B MANUFACTURING & EMPLOYMENT

- Shipbuilding has strong linkages with:

Steel + Engineering + Electronics + Machinery + MSMEs

➡ Creates a large **multiplier effect** across manufacturing.

C MARITIME TRADE

- A strong domestic shipbuilding industry can **reduce India's dependence** on foreign-built vessels.

D BLUE ECONOMY

- Supports:
  - Shipping
  - Coastal transport
  - Fisheries
  - Offshore energy
  - Maritime services

E ENERGY SECURITY

- Domestic shipbuilding can support construction of:
  - **LNG** carriers
  - **Oil** tankers
  - **Offshore** vessels

F TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

- Drives capabilities in:
  - Marine engineering
  - Automation
  - Advanced materials
  - Green propulsion
  - Digital ship design

STRONG SHIPBUILDING, STRONGER INDIA: POWERING SECURITY, PROSPERITY & SELF-RELIANCE

WHY HAS INDIA LAGGED BEHIND?

THIS IS THE CORE OF THE LECTURE

(A) HIGH COST OF SHIPBUILDING

- Indian shipyards face a cost disadvantage compared with major global competitors.

EXAMPLE

China and South Korea benefit from massive scale and mature supplier ecosystems.

(B) LACK OF ECONOMIES OF SCALE

- India's shipyards have historically handled smaller order volumes.

➡ Low volume → higher unit cost → less competitiveness.

(C) WEAK DOMESTIC DEMAND

- Indian shipping companies have historically preferred buying ships from cheaper foreign shipyards.

RESULT

➡ Indian shipyards lack a large and predictable domestic order pipeline.

(D) LIMITED ACCESS TO FINANCE

- Shipbuilding requires large upfront capital and long project cycles.

➡ Expensive financing makes Indian ships less competitive.

(E) FRAGMENTED SUPPLY CHAIN

- India lacks the depth of specialised marine-component suppliers found in East Asian shipbuilding hubs.

EXAMPLE

Dependence on imported:

- Marine engines
- Navigation systems
- Specialised equipment
- High-end components

(F) TECHNOLOGY & SKILL GAPS

- Shortage of highly specialised skills in:
  - Naval architecture
  - Marine engineering
  - Advanced welding
  - Automation
  - Ship design

(G) INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRAINTS

- Large-scale shipbuilding requires:
  - Dry docks
  - Deep-draft facilities
  - Heavy-lift infrastructure
  - Waterfront industrial land
  - Efficient logistics

(H) LONG GESTATION PERIOD

- Shipbuilding projects can take several years from order to delivery.

➡ Makes the industry financially risky without stable orders.

ORDER → DESIGN → BUILD → DELIVERY

(I) GLOBAL COMPETITION

- China, South Korea and Japan possess:
  - Massive capacity
  - Mature ecosystems
  - Skilled workforce
  - Established global customers
  - Economies of scale

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India's Shipbuilding Industry

Government Initiatives

- **Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS)**
  - Provides financial support to bridge the cost disadvantage of Indian shipyards.
  - Outlay of ₹24,736 crore, (scheme extended up to 2036).
- **Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS)**
  - Supports:
  - Greenfield clusters
  - Brownfield capacity expansion
- **Maritime Development Fund (MDF)**
  - Provides long-term financing.
  - ₹20,000 crore Maritime Investment Fund
  - ₹5,000 crore Interest Incentivisation Fund.
- **National Shipbuilding Mission**
  - Intended to coordinate and drive India's shipbuilding strategy.
- **Demand Aggregation**
  - Government has prepared a fleet acquisition plan involving 400+ vessels.
- **Infrastructure Status**
  - Indian-flagged commercial vessels of 10,000 GT and above were given infrastructure status.

Recent Opportunity: Why Now?

Global Capacity Vacuum

- **Traditional shipbuilding industries face:**
  - Rising costs
  - Ageing infrastructure
  - Capacity constraints
  - Changing environmental standards

➡️ Creates space for new competitive shipbuilding centres.

- **India can leverage:**
  - Low-cost skilled manpower +
  - Strong steel industry +
  - Strategic location +
  - Expanding domestic demand

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India's Shipbuilding Industry

CONTEXT: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently highlighted India's potential to become a global shipbuilding hub.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

(A) COMPETING WITH EAST ASIA

- China, Korea and Japan have decades of accumulated expertise and scale.

(B) BUILDING A COMPONENT ECOSYSTEM

- Shipbuilding cannot become competitive without domestic marine equipment suppliers.

(C) FINANCING

- Long-term, low-cost finance remains critical.

(D) SKILLED WORKFORCE

- Need specialised training in naval architecture and marine engineering.

(E) TECHNOLOGY

- Future ships require:

AI + automation + green propulsion + advanced materials.

(F) ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

- Global shipping is moving towards low-carbon and zero-emission vessels.

➡ Indian shipyards must be ready for green shipbuilding.

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India's Shipbuilding Industry

CONTEXT: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently highlighted India's potential to become a global shipbuilding hub.

Way Forward

- **Build Scale**
  - Consolidate shipbuilding into large, globally competitive clusters.
- **Develop Domestic Component Ecosystem**
  - Promote Indian manufacturers of:
  - engines + navigation equipment + propulsion systems + marine electronics.
- **Ensure Long-Term Order Visibility**
  - Procure vessels from domestic yards.
- **Strengthen Ship Financing**
  - Long-term, low-cost maritime financing.
- **Skill Development**
  - Specialised maritime skill centres for:
  - Naval architecture
  - Welding
  - Marine engineering
  - Digital ship design
- **Promote Green Shipbuilding**
  - Develop vessels using:
  - Green hydrogen, Methanol
  - Electric propulsion
- **Integrate Shipbuilding with Defence**
  - Leverage India's naval shipbuilding expertise to develop commercial capabilities.

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Question- "India's dependence on foreign shipyards despite its vast coastline and maritime trade reflects a major gap in its manufacturing ecosystem." Examine the challenges facing India's shipbuilding industry and suggest measures to make it globally competitive.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

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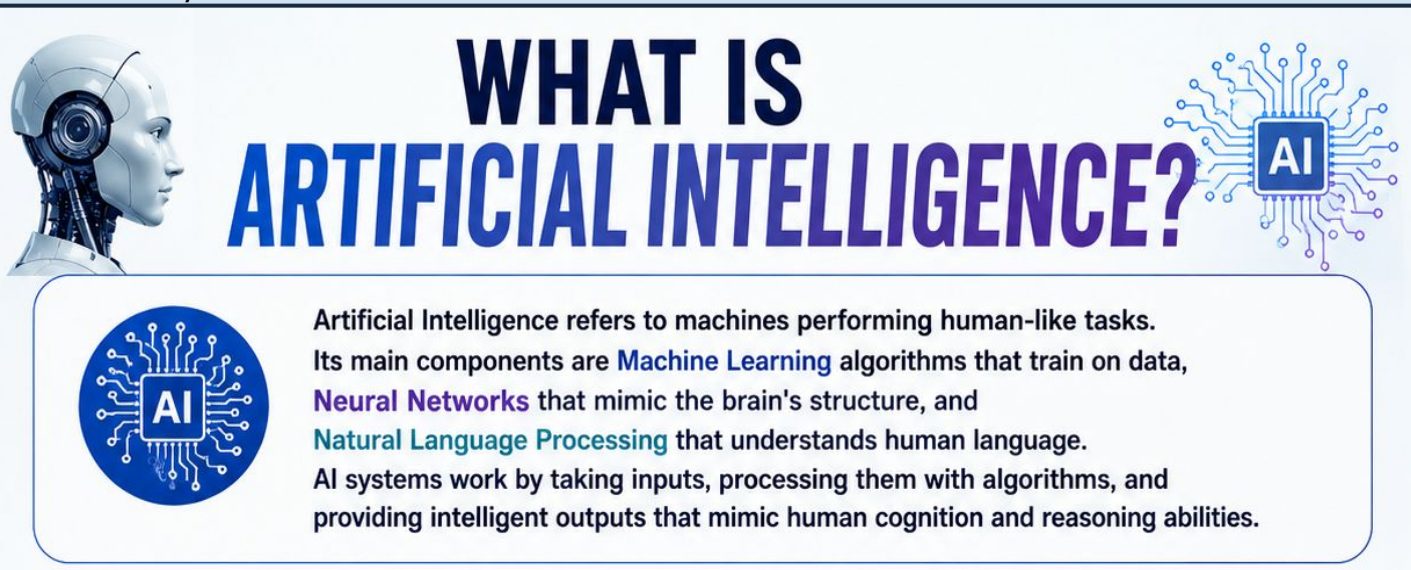
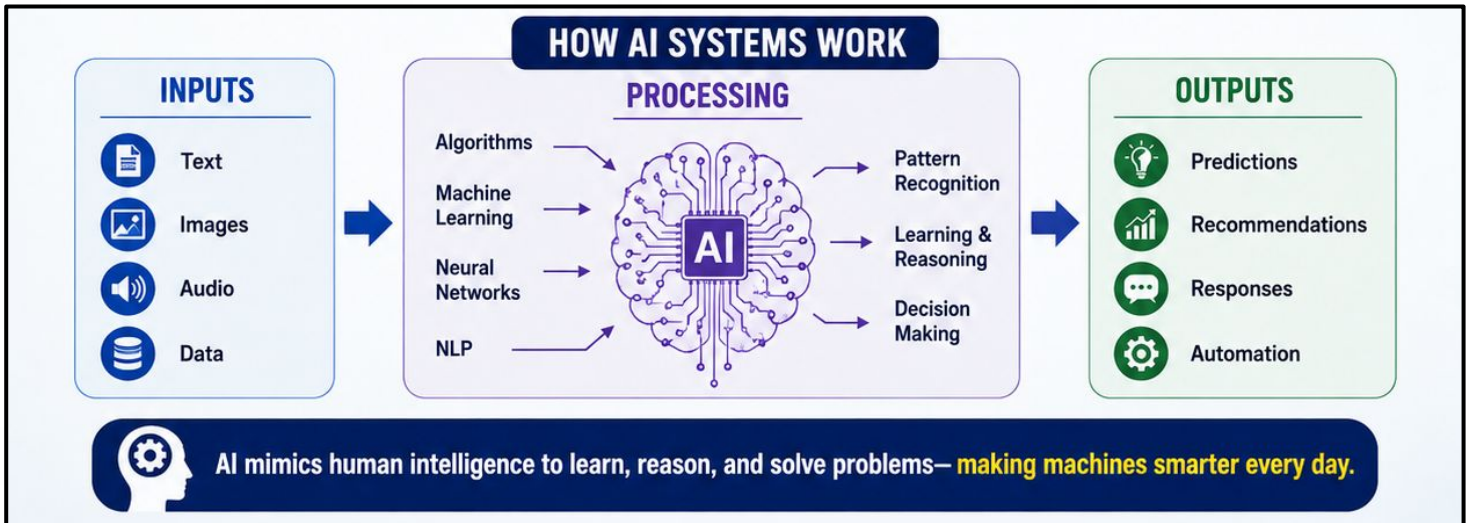
AI is Transforming Cyber Attacks

CONTEXT: AI is transforming cyberspace by making cyberattacks faster, more automated, adaptive and difficult to detect.

What is AI-Enabled Cyber Warfare?

- AI-enabled cyber warfare refers to the use of AI and machine-learning systems to automate, enhance or scale cyberattacks and cyber-defence operations.
- **Traditional Cyber Attack**
  - Human → Tool → Target
- **AI-Enabled Cyber Attack**
  - AI → Analyse → Adapt → Attack
- AI reduces the time, expertise and human intervention required for several stages of a cyberattack.





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AI is Transforming Cyber Attacks

CONTEXT: AI is transforming cyberspace by making cyberattacks faster, more automated, adaptive and difficult to detect.

How is AI Transforming Cyber Attacks?

Automated Vulnerability Discovery

📌 AI can scan large numbers of systems to identify security weaknesses rapidly.

Example Anthropic's Claude Mythos Preview reportedly identified thousands of **zero-day vulnerabilities** across major operating systems and browsers.

(D) Social Engineering

📌 AI can analyse publicly available information to target individuals psychologically.

Example AI-generated messages can be tailored to a person's interests, profession or relationships.

(B) AI-Generated Malware

📌 Generative AI can assist in creating and modifying malicious code.

Example Polymorphic malware can alter its code to evade traditional signature-based detection.

(E) Deepfakes

📌 AI-generated audio/video can impersonate individuals.

Example A fake voice message appearing to come from a senior executive could be used to manipulate employees.

(C) AI-Powered Phishing

📌 AI can generate highly personalised and convincing phishing messages.

Example Emails can imitate:
- Language, Writing style
- Corporate communication
- Individual behaviour

➡️ Making detection more difficult.

(F) Autonomous Cyber Agents

📌 AI agents can potentially identify targets → plan attacks → execute actions → adapt with limited human intervention.

Example The article refers to reported AI-orchestrated cyber-espionage operations involving autonomous agents.

AI is Also Transforming Cyber Defence

This is the important counter-side.

- **Real-Time Threat Detection**
  - AI can identify unusual network behaviour.
- **Automated Response**
  - Detect → Isolate → Contain → Respond
- **Malware Detection**
  - Behavioural anomaly → Detect
- **Threat Intelligence**
  - AI can analyse massive volumes of:
  - Network traffic
  - Dark-web information
  - Malware samples
  - Logs
  - Threat reports

- **Vulnerability Management**
  - AI can continuously identify weaknesses and prioritise the most dangerous vulnerabilities.
- **Predictive Cybersecurity**
  - AI can identify patterns that suggest where an attack may occur before the attack actually happens.

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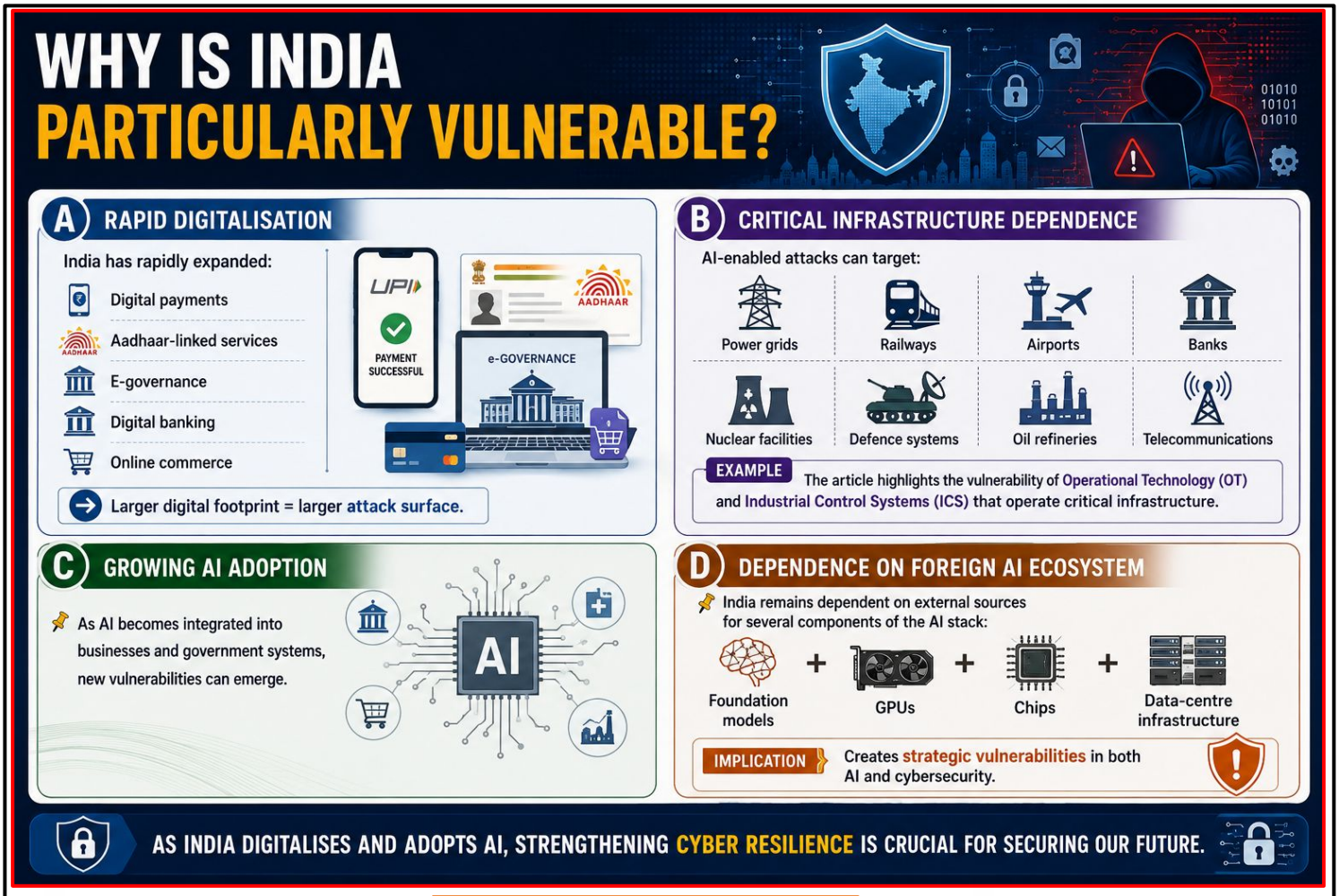

India's Current Efforts

- **CERT-In**
  - Indian Computer Emergency Response Team
  - National agency for responding to cybersecurity incidents.
  - CERT-In has adopted AI-driven threat detection and cyber-resilience measures.
- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra**
  - Helps detect and clean malware-infected devices.
- **National Cyber Security Strategy**
  - Focuses on strengthening India's cyber security ecosystem.
- **Defence Cyber Agency**

Indigenous AI Ecosystem: India is investing in:

- AI models
- GPUs and compute
- Data centres
- AI research
- Semiconductor ecosystem
- ➡️ Important for reducing strategic dependence.

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AI is Transforming Cyber Attacks

CONTEXT: AI is transforming cyberspace by making cyberattacks faster, more automated, adaptive and difficult to detect.

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Question

"India's growing digital dependence makes AI-enabled attacks on critical infrastructure a strategic security concern." Discuss the vulnerabilities involved and suggest measures to strengthen India's AI-driven cyber resilience.

(10 marks, 150 words)

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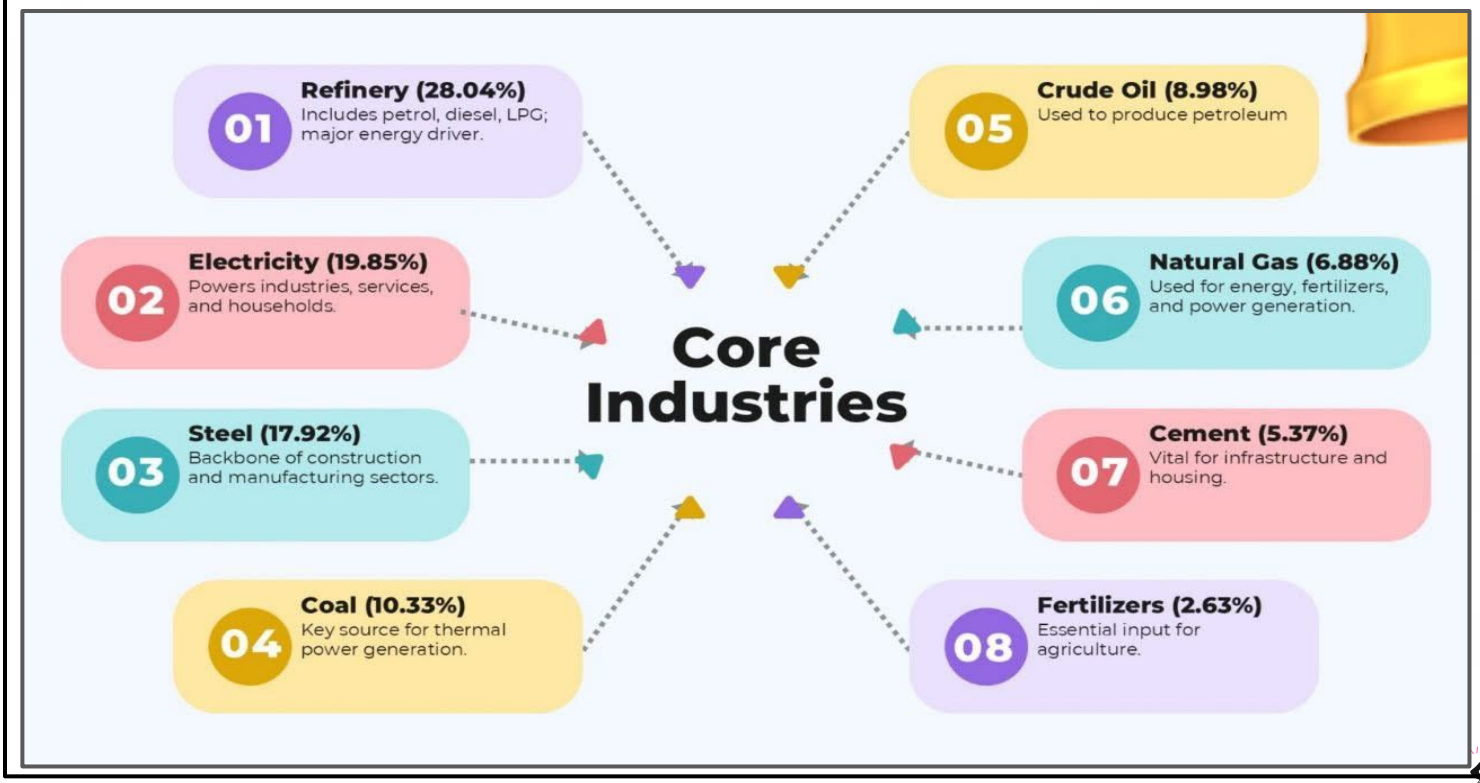
Mains Value Addition

Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No : 08**

Core concerns

The Indian economy looks set for tough times ahead

- **Core industrial slowdown:** Core sector growth fell to 5.4% in July, from 6% in June.
- **Weak domestic demand:** Manufacturing PMI fell to its lowest level since August 2021.
- **Base effect:** Headline growth in some sectors is inflated by a low base of the previous year.
- **Import dependence:** Crude oil imports rose 13.3% in volume in July, highlighting India's external energy dependence.
- **High import bill:** Crude oil import bill jumped 41% in July due to higher oil prices.
- **External risks:** US tariffs on countries importing Russian oil could further pressure India's trade competitiveness and export sector.
- **Energy transition challenge:** 20% ethanol blending has not yet materially reduced oil imports.
- **Bright spots:** Electricity grew 9% and cement accelerated to 13.1%.
- **Overall concern:** Indian economy faces a combination of weak demand + higher costs + moderating growth.



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Adjournment, Prorogation & Dissolution

SYLLABUS : Prelims : Polity
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No : 01**

Adjournment

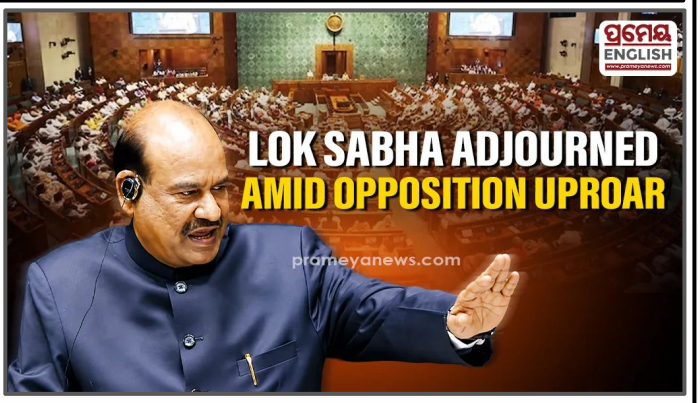
- Means **suspending the sitting** of the House for a **specified period**.
- Can be for:
  - A few hours
  - A day
  - Several days
- Done by the **Speaker** of Lok Sabha / **Chairman** of Rajya Sabha.
- The House continues to exist.
- Pending business generally remains alive.
  - Example: Speaker says, "The House is adjourned until 11 AM tomorrow."

Adjournment Sine Die

- Sine die = "**without assigning a day/date.**"
- The Presiding Officer **ends the sitting** without specifying when the House will meet again.
- The House still continues to exist.
- It is different from prorogation because the **session has not formally been ended** by the President/Governor.
- Easy memory:
  - Adjournment → See you on a specific date.
  - Sine die → See you, but no date fixed.

Prorogation

- Means **termination of a session** of Parliament/State Legislature.
- Done by:
  - **President** → Parliament
  - **Governor** → State Legislature
- On the advice of the Council of Ministers.
- Effect on Bills & Motions:
- **Bills** pending in the House do **NOT lapse** merely because of prorogation.
- Certain **motions/resolutions may lapse**.



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Adjournment, Prorogation & Dissolution

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Dissolution

- Means **termination of the Lok Sabha** itself.
- Applies only to Lok Sabha.
- It can be dissolved:
- On completion of its 5-year term, or earlier **by the President** on the advice of the CoM.
- **Rajya Sabha is a permanent** House and cannot be dissolved.
- Effect on Pending Bills:
- Bills pending in Lok Sabha generally lapse on dissolution.
- A bill passed by Lok Sabha and pending in Rajya Sabha also lapses on dissolution of Lok Sabha.

Exam Traps

- Adjournment ends the session → WRONG
- Adjournment sine die means the House is dissolved → WRONG
- Prorogation dissolves Lok Sabha → WRONG
- President prorogues Parliament on his own discretion → WRONG
- Rajya Sabha can be dissolved → WRONG
- All Bills lapse on prorogation → WRONG
- Adjournment is ordered by the President → WRONG

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Indian Council of Medical Research

SYLLABUS : Prelims : Health
Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page No : 03**

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

- Autonomous body under the Department of Health Research (DHR), **Ministry of Health** & Family Welfare.
- Established: **1911** as the **Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA)**.
- Renamed ICMR in **1949**.
- HQ: **New Delhi**
- Objective:
  - Formulates, coordinates and promotes biomedical research in India.
- **Major Areas of Research:**
  - Communicable diseases
  - Non-communicable diseases
  - Nutrition
  - Maternal and child health
  - Vaccines, Public health
  - Medicine-related research & AMR.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

- **Key Functions:**
- Conducts and funds medical research.
- Develops research guidelines and ethical standards.
- Supports research institutions and scientists.
- Translates research findings into public-health policies and interventions.
- Provides scientific inputs during health emergencies.
- **Funding:**
  - Primarily funded by the GoI.
- **Important Distinction**
- ICMR → Biomedical/medical research
- ICMR is NOT a regulator of doctors → Medical education and professional regulation are primarily under the **National Medical Commission (NMC).**

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INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Exam Traps

- ICMR is a constitutional body → WRONG
- ICMR is a statutory body created by an Act of Parliament → WRONG
- ICMR functions under the Ministry of Science & Technology → WRONG
- ICMR is India's apex body for regulation of medical education → WRONG
- ICMR regulates medical practitioners → WRONG

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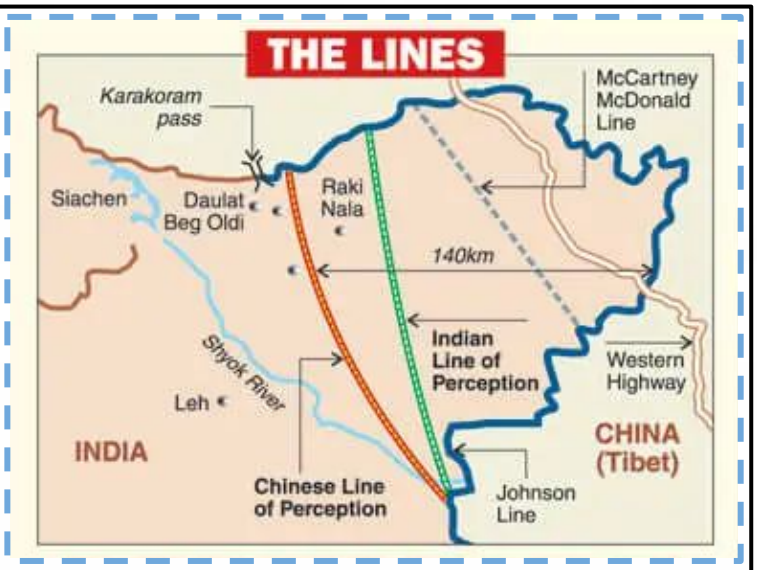
Line of Actual Control (LAC)

SYLLABUS : Prelims : Security - Border Dispute
Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page No :** 01

Line of Actual Control (LAC)

- The LAC is the de facto **boundary** separating areas controlled by **India and China**.
  - It is not an internationally recognized boundary.
- Runs along India's border with China across:
  - Ladakh, HP, Uttarakhand
  - Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh
- Approximate Length: About 3,488 km.
- The term LAC gained prominence after the **1962** India–China War.
- **Boundary Issue:**
  - Dispute arises from different boundary claims:
  - **Johnson Line** (proposed in 1865) (India claim)
  - **Macartney–MacDonald Line** (proposed in 1893) (China claim)



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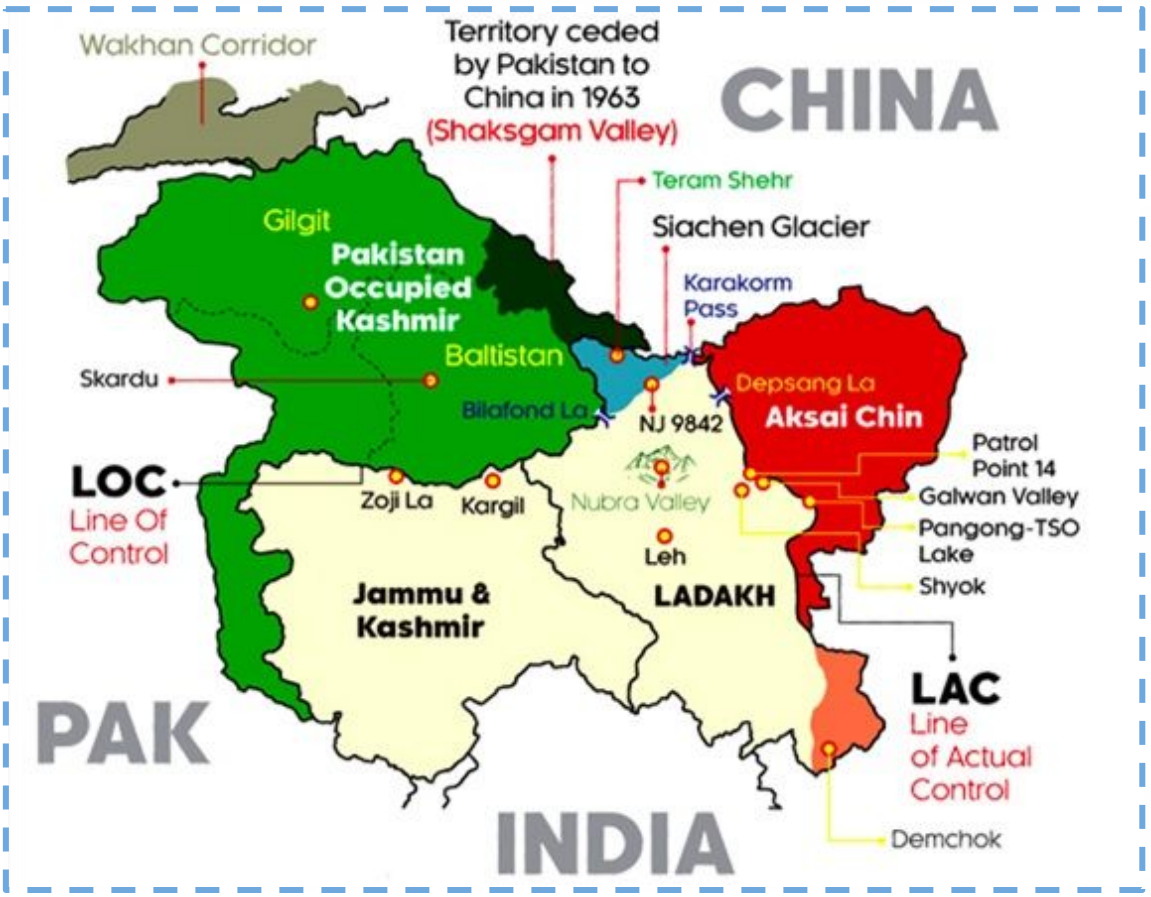

Exam Traps

- LAC is an internationally recognized legal boundary → WRONG
- LAC separates India and Pakistan → WRONG
- LAC and LoC are the same → WRONG
- McMahon Line applies to the entire India–China border → WRONG
- The LAC has been fully demarcated and mutually agreed by India and China → WRONG

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Democratic Republic of the Congo

SYLLABUS : Prelims : Geography - Places in News
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No : 16**

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

- Capital: **Kinshasa**
- Location: **Central** Africa
- Area: **2nd-largest in Africa** after Algeria.
- Borders: Shares borders with 9 countries
- **Congo River** — world's second-largest river by discharge after the Amazon.
- The **Equator** passes through the DRC.
- Congo Basin: DRC contains the largest share of the **Congo rainforest**, the second-largest tropical rainforest in the world after the Amazon.
- **Virunga National Park:**
  - Africa's oldest national park.
  - Famous for mountain gorillas.
- **Mineral Resources:**
- Extremely rich in cobalt, copper, lithium, coltan, gold and diamonds.

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Democratic Republic of the Congo

SYLLABUS : Prelims : Geography - Places in News
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No : 16**

Aircraft Turbulence

- Eastern DRC: Has experienced prolonged conflict involving armed groups.
- **M23** is one of the major armed groups active in the region.
- The conflict has significant humanitarian and regional-security implications.

- **India–DRC**
  - India has diplomatic relations with DRC.
  - India has participated in UN peacekeeping operations in the DRC.
  - Indian companies have interests in sectors such as mining, pharmaceuticals and infrastructure.

Exam Traps

- DRC's capital is Brazzaville → WRONG
- DRC and Republic of the Congo are the same country → WRONG
- DRC lies in West Africa → WRONG
- The Tropic of Cancer passes through DRC → WRONG
- Congo River is the world's longest river → WRONG
- Virunga National Park is located in Kenya → WRONG

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Daily Quiz

Q1. With reference to the Eight Core Industries in India, consider the following:

1. Refinery Products
2. Electricity
3. Steel
4. Coal
5. Aluminium

How many of the above industries are included in the Eight Core Industries?

a) Only Two
b) Only Three
c) Only Four
d) All Five

Answer: c

Q2. With reference to Adjournment and Prorogation of Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. Adjournment suspends the business of the House for a specified period, whereas prorogation terminates a session of Parliament.
2. An adjournment is ordered by the Presiding Officer of the respective House, whereas prorogation is ordered by the President.
3. On prorogation, all bills pending before Parliament automatically lapse.

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

Q3. With reference to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), consider the following statements:

1. ICMR is the apex body in India for regulating medical education.
2. ICMR is an autonomous body under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Q4. With reference to the Line of Actual Control (LAC), consider the following statements:

1. The LAC is an internationally recognised legal boundary between India and China.
2. The LAC has been fully demarcated and mutually agreed upon by India and China.
3. The LAC is different from the Line of Control (LoC).

Which one of the following conclusions is correct?

a) Only one statement is correct.
b) Only two statements are correct, and one of them is Statement 1.
c) Only two statements are correct, and one of them is Statement 2.
d) All three statements are correct.

Answer: a

Q5. Identify the country based on the following information:

1. It is located in Central Africa, and the Equator passes through it.
2. It contains the largest share of the Congo rainforest, the world's second-largest tropical rainforest after the Amazon.
3. Virunga National Park, famous for mountain gorillas, is located in this country.
4. It is one of the world's major sources of cobalt, gold, and diamonds.

Select the answer using the code given below:

a) South Sudan
b) Republic of the Congo
c) Zambia
d) Democratic Republic of the Congo

Answer: d

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