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NATIONAL Page 2



India's green transition still runs on coal

THE HINDU :
25-05-2026

INTERNATIONAL Page 7



Quad grouping is 'vital': Japan's Foreign Minister

THE HINDU :
25-05-2026

INTERNATIONAL Page 6



Rubio, Jaishankar stress need for 'unimpeded' maritime trade

THE HINDU :
25-05-2026

New Inclusion



PYQ
COMPASS
UPSC PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTIONS

Practice questions

A dedicated section featuring UPSC-style Prelims and Mains practice questions based on the major issues, concepts, and debates discussed in today's newspaper.

EDITORIALS DECODED FOR UPSC



Coerced consent

Supreme Court should set aside sedition as constitutionally unsustainable



The energy challenge is urgent, step up to it

What Next ?

With 24th May 2026, the Prelims 2026 stopwatch has ended. Students have poured their efforts and energy into this examination. As anxieties and hopes begin to settle, many are already preparing for the next phase.

With only a few months left for the Mains examination, many are surely focusing on polishing their writing skills. As for the 2027 aspirants, the deadline may seem far away. Or is it?

The UPSC 2027 calendar has marked 23-05-2027 as the date for the Prelims examination. That means there are only 363 days left.

So now is the time to sow your seeds and keep watering them towards success.

India's green transition still runs on coal

Recent geopolitical tensions in West Asia and global energy-price spikes have reaffirmed India's exposure to external energy shocks, despite rapid growth in renewable-energy capacity. Installed renewable capacity now exceeds half of India's total power-generation capacity, yet coal still dominates electricity generation, underscoring a persistent **capacity-generation gap**. The episode highlights that ***India's energy-security challenge is shifting from pure supply-security to system-level resilience, storage, and grid-modernisation*** within the renewable-transition framework.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

- **Installed generation capacity:** Maximum power (MW) a plant can produce under ideal conditions; used for planning and headline targets.
- **Electricity generation:** Actual energy delivered over time (GWh); determines emissions, fuel-bill, and system reliability.
- **Intermittent nature of RE sources :** Solar and wind energy are geographically dependent and intermittent sources. Their generation varies with **sunlight intensity, seasonal patterns, cloud cover, wind velocity, and regional climatic conditions**. They require balancing support through energy storage systems, hydropower, gas-based plants, or grid integration mechanisms to ensure stable and continuous power supply.
- **Role of Coal in Grid Stability :**Coal-based thermal power plants continue to provide essential baseload electricity and balancing fluctuations from intermittent renewable sources like solar and wind. This ensures grid stability and meet peak power demand.
- **Energy-security:** Ability of a country to ensure reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy supply despite external shocks (e.g., price spikes, supply-route disruptions).

Total Installed Power Capacity (as of 31 January 2026:)

Total installed capacity : 520,511 MW \approx 520.5 GW

Fossil-fuel share : 248,542 MW \approx 47.7% (coal 42.5%; others 5.2%)

Non-fossil share : 271,969 MW \approx 52.3%

Renewable-energy share (excluding nuclear) : 263,189 MW \approx 50.6% of total capacity

Share of generated capacity : RE sources generated only **15.8%** of electricity in April 2026.

Coal still accounted for **71.8%** of electricity generation.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) Do you think India will meet 50 percent of its energy needs from renewable energy by 2030? Justify your answer. How will the shift of subsidies from fossil fuels to renewables help achieve the above objective? Explain. (GS III - Economic Development - 2022)

Q. Describe the benefits of deriving electric energy from sunlight in contrast to the conventional energy generation. What are the initiatives offered by our government for this purpose? (GS III - Economic Development - 2020)

Practice questions

Q.) With reference to India's energy transition, consider the following statements:

1. A higher installed capacity of renewable energy automatically ensures a proportionately higher share in actual electricity generation.
2. Coal-based thermal plants continue to play an important role in grid stability because renewable energy sources are intermittent in nature.
3. The gap between installed renewable energy capacity and actual electricity generation is influenced by geographical and climatic variability.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

RELEVANCE

GS III: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

UCC will never be applied to tribal people, says Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated that any future implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would exempt Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities and tribal areas. The statement comes amid debates over balancing legal uniformity with protection of tribal customs, traditions, and autonomy, particularly in North-Eastern India.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

UCC refers to a common set of civil laws applicable to all citizens irrespective of religion/community

It covers : Marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, succession, maintenance

Constitutional Basis : Article 44 (Directive Principles of State Policy)

Objective : Legal uniformity, equality, gender justice, national integration

Article 44 : Uniform civil code for the citizens.—The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.

Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas Act", 1996 : It extends self-governance to tribal areas.

Key Features

- Gram Sabha empowerment
- Protection of tribal customs and traditions
- Community resource management
- Safeguarding customary dispute resolution systems

Constitutional Provisions

Fifth Schedule : It deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Sixth Schedule : It deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizen a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy. (GS II - Indian constitution - 2015)

Practice questions

With reference to the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, consider the following statements:

1. The Act extends Part IX of the Constitution to Fifth Schedule Areas with certain modifications to accommodate tribal customary practices and self-governance.
2. Under the Act, Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas are empowered to safeguard tribal traditions, community resources, and customary modes of dispute resolution.
3. The recommendations of Gram Sabhas regarding land acquisition and grant of mining leases for minor minerals in Scheduled Areas are merely advisory in nature.
4. The Act reflects the broader constitutional principle of balancing democratic decentralisation with protection of tribal autonomy and customary institutions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

RELEVANCE

GS III: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.



Coerced consent

The Supreme Court of India clarified in May 2026 that courts may proceed with pending sedition cases under Section 124A of the repealed IPC if the accused consents, despite the constitutional validity of the provision still being under challenge in S.G. Vombatkere vs Union of India. The issue has revived debates on misuse of sedition laws, free speech protections, colonial legal legacy, and the balance between national security and civil liberties after Section 124A was effectively replaced by Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Sedition Law in India

Original Provision : Section 124A, Indian Penal Code (IPC)

Introduced : 1870 during British colonial rule

Current Status : IPC repealed; replaced by Section 152 of BNS (2024)

Nature of Offence : Acts inciting hatred, contempt or disaffection against government

Punishment under IPC : Up to life imprisonment

Punishment under BNS Section 152 : Minimum 7 years imprisonment

BNS Section 152 : *Whoever, purposely or knowingly, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or by electronic communication or by use of financial means, or otherwise, excites or attempts to excite, secession or armed rebellion or subversive activities, or encourages feelings of separatist activities or endangers sovereignty or unity and integrity of India; or indulges in or commits any such act shall be punished with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.*

**Comments expressing disapprobation of the measures, or administrative or other action of the Government with a view to obtain their alteration by lawful means without exciting or attempting to excite the activities referred to in this section do not constitute an offence under this section.*

Syed Iftikhar Andrabi vs National Investigation Agency case : Supreme Court held that the principle "bail is the rule, jail is the exception" flows from Article 21's guarantee of personal liberty and cannot be overridden even by stringent laws such as Section 43D(5) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

- Section 124A IPC = defines what sedition is (a substantive offence against the state).
- Section 43D(5) UAPA = defines how strict bail will be in UAPA-terrorism cases.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



With reference to India, consider the following pairs: (2023) Action: The Act under which it is covered

1. Unauthorized wearing of police or military uniforms : The Official Secrets Act, 1923
 2. Knowingly misleading or otherwise interfering with a police officer or military officer when engaged in their duties : The Indian Evidence Act, 1872
 3. Celebratory gunfire which can endanger the personal safety of others : The Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
 (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None

Practice questions

Q. With reference to Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, consider the following statements:

1. Section 152 criminalises activities that may excite secession, armed rebellion, or subversive activities against the sovereignty and integrity of India.
2. Mere criticism or lawful disapproval of government measures automatically constitutes an offence under Section 152.
3. The provision expands the scope of punishable acts to include electronic communication and financial means used for unlawful activities threatening national integrity.

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

RELEVANCE

GS II : Global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

The energy challenge is urgent, step up to it

The ongoing U.S.–Iran conflict and volatility in global energy markets have renewed concerns regarding India's growing dependence on imported energy. Rising crude oil prices and rupee depreciation have highlighted structural vulnerabilities in India's economy, particularly its high reliance on imported crude oil, gas, and coal.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Energy Security : Reliable, affordable and uninterrupted access to energy

Energy Import Dependence : Extent to which a country relies on imported energy to meet domestic demand

Energy Transition : Shift from fossil fuels to cleaner and renewable energy sources

Baseload Power : Continuous and stable electricity supply required to meet minimum demand

India's Energy Dependence – Major Trends

Crude Oil : Nearly 90%

Natural Gas : Around 50%

Coal : Over 23% net import dependence

Why Energy Imports Matter for the Economy

Economic Impacts

- Rupee depreciation
- Higher import bill
- Inflationary pressures
- Fiscal and current account stress
- Increased cost of transportation and manufacturing

Strategic Risks

- Vulnerability to geopolitical conflicts
- Supply disruptions in maritime chokepoints
- Global oil price shocks

India's Renewable Energy Transition

Renewable Energy Installed Capacity : 4th globally

Wind Power Capacity : 4th globally

Solar Power Capacity : 3rd globally

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) Consider the following:
(2024)

1. Battery storage
2. Biomass generators
3. Fuel cells
4. Rooftop solar photovoltaic units

How many of the above are considered "Distributed Energy Resources"

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Practice questions

Q.) With reference to India's energy security and energy transition, consider the following statements:

1. A country's energy import dependence can increase even when it possesses large domestic reserves of fossil fuels.
2. Solar and wind energy alone can presently ensure uninterrupted baseload electricity supply without requiring balancing mechanisms or storage support.
3. High dependence on imported crude oil can affect a country's currency stability, inflation levels, and current account balance during geopolitical crises.
4. Expansion of renewable energy installed capacity automatically results in a proportionate reduction in coal-based electricity generation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

RELEVANCE

GS III : Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Rubio, Jaishankar stress need for 'unimpeded' maritime trade

During the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio to India, discussions with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar focused on **Indo-Pacific security, energy supply disruptions, maritime commerce, trade, and strategic cooperation amid the ongoing U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict**. The visit highlighted the growing India-U.S. strategic partnership while also underscoring India's balancing diplomacy with Iran, Israel, Gulf countries, and the United States. The Strait of Hormuz emerged as a major geopolitical concern due to its importance for global energy trade and maritime security.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Indo-Pacific Region

Meaning : Geopolitical region connecting Indian and Pacific Oceans

Importance : Global trade routes, energy flows, maritime security

Major Concerns : Chinese expansionism, supply-chain security, freedom of navigation

- Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP): Vision promoting freedom of navigation, territorial integrity and rule-based maritime order.
- Maritime Security Architecture: Cooperative mechanisms ensuring secure sea lanes and regional stability.

Strait of Hormuz

Location : Connects Persian Gulf with Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea

Located between Iran to the north and Oman and the United Arab Emirates to the south

Importance : One of the world's busiest oil transit chokepoints

Relevance for India : Major source route for crude oil and LNG imports

UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), 1982

- The global legal framework governing seas and oceans.
- Came into force on **16 November 1994**.
- India ratified UNCLOS on **29 June 1995**.
- **Focus areas** : Maritime sovereignty and jurisdiction, Navigational rights, Maritime zones (Territorial Sea, EEZ, Continental Shelf etc.), Conservation of marine resources, and Protection of marine environment.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) Ships from which of the following countries have to cross the Strait of Hormuz to reach out to the Indian Ocean? (2026)

1. Bahrain
2. Syria
3. Qatar
4. Egypt

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 3 and 4

Practice questions

Q.) Consider regarding India's strategic engagement in the Indo-Pacific:

1. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, coastal states enjoy sovereign rights over exploration and exploitation of resources in their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
2. India's growing maritime cooperation with its Indo-Pacific partners is driven exclusively by defence considerations.
3. Disruption in strategic maritime chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz have increased the importance of maritime domain awareness and regional naval cooperation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

RELEVANCE

GS II : Bilateral, regional and global groupings involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Quad grouping is 'vital': Japan's Foreign Minister

The Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in New Delhi this week comes amid growing debate over the grouping's relevance due to internal divergences, changing U.S. strategic priorities, and geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific. In this regard, Japan reaffirmed the Quad as a "vital framework," with focus areas including **critical minerals, maritime security, supply-chain resilience, and energy security**. The meeting is significant because it tests the Quad's ability to maintain strategic coherence while adapting to an evolving Indo-Pacific security architecture.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)

Members : India, Japan, Australia, United States

Nature : Informal strategic/diplomatic minilateral grouping

Objective : Promote a "Free, Open, Inclusive and Rules-Based Indo-Pacific"

Origin ; Emerged from 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) cooperation

First Conceptual Push : By Shinzo Abe in 2007

Revival : Revived in 2017 on sidelines of ASEAN Summit (Manila)

Summit Level : Leaders' Summits since 2021

Why Critical Minerals Matter ?

Critical minerals are essential for:

- Electric vehicles (EVs)
- Semiconductors
- Batteries
- Renewable energy systems
- Defence technologies
- Advanced electronics



China currently dominates mining, processing, refining, and supply chains of many critical minerals.

Hence, Quad countries aim to build alternative resilient supply chains.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times – Discuss. . (GS II - 2020)

Q.) Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct? (2026)

1. Modern technological innovations including Artificial Intelligence, robotics and space exploration extensively utilise Rare Earth Elements (REEs).

2. China has the highest share in mining of REEs followed by India.

3. The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.

4. Rare Earth Elements are a set of 13 metallic elements.

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3 only (b) 3 only (c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 1, 2 and 4

Practice questions

Q.) With reference to the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched at the Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo in 2022.
2. It primarily relies on military satellite intelligence shared through NATO networks.
3. It seeks to help partner countries monitor illegal fishing and unlawful maritime activities.
4. India's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) is associated with its implementation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

RELEVANCE

GS II : Bilateral, regional and global groupings involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Practice Questions and answers

Q.) With reference to the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), consider the following statements:

- It was launched at the Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo in 2022.
- It primarily relies on military satellite intelligence shared through NATO networks.
- It seeks to help partner countries monitor illegal fishing and unlawful maritime activities.
- India's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) is associated with its implementation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

The Quad's transformation is one of the most important developments in Indo-Pacific geopolitics.

It now functions across maritime governance, health security, disaster resilience, digital infrastructure, critical technologies, clean energy, cyber resilience, counter-disinformation, and supply-chain security. The grouping aims to maintain a rules-based Indo-Pacific order.

However:

- it is not NATO-like,
- lacks treaty obligations,
- operates through flexible minilateral cooperation.

Q.) With reference to India's energy transition, consider the following statements:

1. A higher installed capacity of renewable energy automatically ensures a proportionately higher share in actual electricity generation.
2. Coal-based thermal plants continue to play an important role in grid stability because renewable energy sources are intermittent in nature.
3. The gap between installed renewable energy capacity and actual electricity generation is influenced by geographical and climatic variability.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer:

- (b) 2 and 3 only

Installed capacity refers to the maximum possible power generation capability, not the actual electricity produced. Renewable sources such as solar and wind do not generate electricity continuously, They depend on sunlight, wind speed, season, and weather conditions. Therefore, even if renewable installed capacity rises rapidly, its actual share in electricity generation may remain comparatively lower. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**

Coal and Grid Stability

Coal plants provide baseload power (continuous electricity supply) and balancing support during periods of low solar/wind generation which ensures reliability during peak demand. Hence, coal still contributes a disproportionately higher share of electricity generation compared to its installed capacity share. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

Renewable Intermittency : Solar and wind generation depend on geography, climatic conditions, seasonal variation, time of day, and wind availability.

This creates a gap between installed renewable capacity, and actual electricity generated. Thus, energy storage, hydropower, gas-based plants, and grid management become important for energy transition. So statement 3 is correct. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

Practice Questions and answers

Q.) Consider regarding India's strategic engagement in the Indo-Pacific:

- Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, coastal states enjoy sovereign rights over exploration and exploitation of resources in their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- India's growing maritime cooperation with its Indo-Pacific partners is driven exclusively by defence considerations.
- Disruption in strategic maritime chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz have increased the importance of maritime domain awareness and regional naval cooperation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Under UNCLOS, Coastal states possess sovereign rights over natural resources within their EEZ (up to 200 nautical miles). However, these waters are not equivalent to sovereign territorial waters. Other states continue to enjoy freedoms such as navigation and overflight.

So statement 1 – Correct

India's Indo-Pacific and maritime partnerships are not purely defence-oriented. They are also linked to protection of global trade routes, energy security, supply-chain resilience, disaster response, and stable maritime commerce. For India, maritime security and economic security are deeply interconnected.

So statement 2 – Incorrect

Strategic chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz are critical for global oil transport, commercial shipping, and energy flows.

Geopolitical tensions in such regions increase the importance of naval cooperation, maritime domain awareness, and secure Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs).

This is a key driver behind growing Indo-Pacific maritime cooperation involving India, the U.S., QUAD partners, and regional organisations.

Statement 3 – Correct

Q.) With reference to Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, consider the following statements:

1. Section 152 criminalises activities that may excite secession, armed rebellion, or subversive activities against the sovereignty and integrity of India.
2. Mere criticism or lawful disapproval of government measures automatically constitutes an offence under Section 152.
3. The provision expands the scope of punishable acts to include electronic communication and financial means used for unlawful activities threatening national integrity.

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:

- (c) 1 and 3 only

Section 152 of the BNS penalises acts that excite or attempt secession, armed rebellion, subversive activities, separatist tendencies, or actions endangering sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India.

The provision effectively replaces the earlier sedition-related framework under Section 124A of the IPC.

So statement 1 is Correct

Section 152 of the BNS explicitly protects lawful criticism, disapprobation of government policies, and demands for policy change through lawful means, provided such expression does not incite rebellion, separatism, or activities threatening national integrity.

This distinction reflects the constitutional balance between Article 19(1)(a) freedom of speech, and Article 19(2) reasonable restrictions relating to sovereignty and public order. **So Statement 2 is Incorrect**

Unlike the older IPC formulation, Section 152 expressly includes electronic communication, financial means, and other indirect modes through which unlawful anti-national activities may be promoted.

So statement 3 is correct.

Practice Questions and answers

Q.) With reference to the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, consider the following statements:

- The Act extends Part IX of the Constitution to Fifth Schedule Areas with certain modifications to accommodate tribal customary practices and self-governance.
- Under the Act, Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas are empowered to safeguard tribal traditions, community resources, and customary modes of dispute resolution.
- The recommendations of Gram Sabhas regarding land acquisition and grant of mining leases for minor minerals in Scheduled Areas are merely advisory in nature.
- The Act reflects the broader constitutional principle of balancing democratic decentralisation with protection of tribal autonomy and customary institutions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans : 1,2 and 4 only

Part IX of the Constitution relating to Panchayats does not automatically apply to Fifth Schedule Areas. The PESA Act extends these provisions with modifications to ensure compatibility with tribal customs, traditional governance systems, and community-based resource management. **So statement 1 is correct.**

The Gram Sabha under PESA is not merely an administrative body. It is empowered to preserve cultural identity, protect community resources, safeguard traditions and customs, and uphold customary dispute resolution mechanisms. This makes PESA distinct from the ordinary Panchayati Raj framework. **So statement 2 is Correct.**

Under PESA, consultation with Gram Sabhas is mandatory before land acquisition in Scheduled Areas, and recommendations regarding mining leases and exploitation of minor minerals carry mandatory significance. Thus, Gram Sabha participation is stronger than a purely advisory role. **So statement 3 is incorrect.**

PESA represents an important constitutional attempt to reconcile democratic decentralisation, tribal self-rule, cultural autonomy, and participatory governance. It reflects the broader principle of asymmetric federalism and protection of indigenous communities within the constitutional framework. So statement 4 is correct.

Q.) With reference to India's energy security and energy transition, consider the following statements:

1. A country's energy import dependence can increase even when it possesses large domestic reserves of fossil fuels.
2. Solar and wind energy alone can presently ensure uninterrupted baseload electricity supply without requiring balancing mechanisms or storage support.
3. High dependence on imported crude oil can affect a country's currency stability, inflation levels, and current account balance during geopolitical crises.
4. Expansion of renewable energy installed capacity automatically results in a proportionate reduction in coal-based electricity generation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer:

(a) 1 and 3 only

Energy import dependence is influenced not merely by the existence of reserves, but by the quality of domestic resources, extraction constraints, rising industrial demand, infrastructure limitations, and economic feasibility. Thus, India continues to import significant quantities of coal despite having large coal reserves. **So statement 1 is correct.**

Solar and wind energy are intermittent, geographically dependent, and climate-sensitive. They cannot independently provide continuous baseload supply at present. So statement 2 is incorrect.

High crude oil import dependence exposes economies to global oil price shocks and widening current account deficits. Geopolitical tensions in regions such as West Asia and chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz can intensify these vulnerabilities. So statement 3 is correct.