

Directions (1-7): Given below a short passage has been given. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions.

At the height of the Covid pandemic in March 2021, more than 20 countries and international organisations issued a call for a treaty to protect the world from future outbreaks. In December that year, WHO members (A) ^Binsisted the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft an international instrument. Despite the toll taken by the pandemic across the world, countries were not on the same page over the details of the treaty's two central tenets — exchange of scientific information and equitable allocation of medical preventives and antidotes. Countries from the developed world (B) ^Aestablished on instant access to scientific data. Members of the Global South wanted such information sharing to be linked to the rapid provision of vaccines, diagnostics and drugs — an understandable demand given that vaccine distribution

was skewed against low and middle-income countries (LMIC) for much of the pandemic. The slow and difficult negotiations concluded on Wednesday.

BAC

30sec

M.G. Covid

①

The WHO's Draft Pandemic Treaty, which will be presented at the World Health Assembly on May 19, is limited in scope compared to the pact proposed during the Covid years. Yet, it's a significant step forward towards securing the world against Covid-like crises. The treaty is founded on the "One Health" approach, which recognises that people's health is closely **(C) connected** to developments in the natural world. It asks countries to identify circumstances under which pathogens can jump from animals to humans, and take steps to reduce such risks. Such information, shared swiftly, can prevent and contain outbreaks. If approved by the World Health Assembly, the pact will be the first international covenant against spillover infections. Countries that share pathogen samples and genetic

sequencing will get primacy in access to diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics that are developed using this information. WHO members have also made some headway towards resolving vexed intellectual property issues related to drugs, diagnostics and vaccines by giving primacy to the public-interest principle.

Treaty

Such measures could help avoid situations such as those during the Covid pandemic, when some countries in the West could not compel vaccine manufacturers to share information on products they had developed using public-funded research. However, the treaty lacks an enforcement mechanism. To begin with, the US participated in the deliberations on the pandemic treaty. But the final text was drafted without American participation. Its ratification by 191 countries is more than a symbolic victory for multilateralism — the treaty sends a strong message that the WHO has overcome the setback caused by the US's withdrawal from the global health body.

US



Question 1:

In the passage, three phrases are marked A, B, and C. Choose the correct arrangement of these underlined phrases to make the paragraph coherent.

(a) CBA

 (b) BAC

(c) CAB

(d) BCA

(e) No rearrangement
needed

Question 2:

According to the passage, which of the following is/are true?

- I. The final draft of the treaty was written with active American involvement. False
- II. The treaty is built on the “One Health” approach. True
- III. Countries sharing pathogen information will receive prioritized access to related medical solutions. True

- (a) Only II (B)
- ☒ (b) Both II and III
- (c) Only I
- (d) Both I and II
- (e) All I, II, and III

Question 3:

Which of the following cannot be determined from the given passage?

- I. All developed nations have agreed to the final treaty text and expressed their consent. *Can't say*
- II. Developed nations sought instant data access, but vaccines were unfairly distributed to poorer countries. *True*
- III. The treaty incorporates a monitoring mechanism. *includes Can't say*

(a) Only I

(b) Both I and II

(c) Only III *✓*

✓ (d) Both I and III

(e) All I, II and III

Question 4:

From the author's perspective, what is the central suggestion or implication of the passage?

I. The treaty represents an important but limited win for global health cooperation.

II. Human health is deeply linked to changes in the natural environment.

III. It is the responsibility of other nations to give priority access to diagnostics to countries that share pathogen samples.

- (a) Only I
- (b) Both I and II
- (c) Only II
- ☒ (d) All I, II, and III
- (e) Both II and III



Question 5:

Which of the following is a **TRUE** statement based on the passage?

Can't say

I. The treaty successfully resolves all intellectual property concerns.

II. The demand for a treaty to safeguard the world against future outbreaks emerged at the height of the COVID pandemic. ✓ *(True)*

III. The treaty conveys a powerful message that the WHO has recovered from the setback of the US's withdrawal from the global health organisation. *(True)*

(a) Only I

(b) Only III

(c) Both I and II

(d) All I, II, and III

✓ (e) Both II and III

(e)

Question 6:

Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?

- Apathetic*
- (a) Indifferent and neutral
- (b) Critical and confrontational
- (c) Sarcastic and dismissive
- (d) Cautiously optimistic
- (e) Alarmist and panicked

+ve -ve

(d)

Members of the Global South wanted such information sharing to be linked to the rapid provision of vaccines, diagnostics and drugs — an understandable demand given that vaccine distribution was ^{Adv} **skewed** against low and middle-income countries (LMIC) for much of the pandemic.

Question 7:

Which of the following options is the most appropriate **Synonym(s)** of the word “**Skewed**”, as used in the passage?

I. distorted ✓

II. lacuna - Noun - gap

III. asymmetrical

↳ Adv



(a) Only I

✓ (b) Both I and III

(c) Only II

(d) Both II and III

(e) All I, II and III

Direction (08-14): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below.

When it comes to renewable energy generating capacity, we always _____ (A) _____ saying that leaving aside large hydropower, we have grown from 1,600 megawatt (Mw) (2002) to 165,000 Mw (2025). This, of course, is partly true as the compound annual growth rate for renewable capacity works out to about 22%. However, what we must remember is that we have grown from a very small base and hence, the growth rate looks impressive. What is more important is whether we have done enough considering that we plan to go net-zero by 2070. To realise this goal, we need to be more aggressive since the power sector accounts for about 40% of the _____

greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Thus, our main focus for decarbonisation has to be on the power sector — incidentally, this is also termed as a low-hanging fruit. Let us just look at the figures for solar power, which has the highest share among renewable capacity.

Quiz

Using a cost-optimisation model, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has estimated that to meet our electricity demand in 2029-30, we need to have about 292 gigawatt (Gw) of solar installed capacity. The cost optimisation exercise is done on the basis of the projected cost of generation in 2030 from all sources such as coal, nuclear, hydro, etc. The projected cost of storage batteries has also been taken into consideration. Today, our solar capacity is about 102 Gw, which means that we need to add about 40 Gw every year from now till 2030 to reach the targeted capacity. What we have achieved over the last 10 years is only an average of about 9 Gw annually. In the meantime, our electricity demand is increasing at about 7% annually, and the CEA forecasts that our peak demand this year will touch 270 Gw. Incidentally, it was

250 Gw last year. Given the pace of our renewable capacity growth, we have no option but to give a **thrust** to our coal-based generation, and, to that end, we have directed the coal generators to import coal and ensure full capacity generation.

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C C C

Not only that, we have postponed retirement of coal-based units beyond the power purchase agreement of 25 years. The fact that we are not doing well, as expected, on the renewable front is rarely highlighted. We shout from the rooftops that India has the fifth largest solar capacity in the world. What we forget to mention is that between the first (China) and the fifth (India), there is a gap of more than 500 Gw (2023). While we have added about 9 Gw of solar capacity annually, the corresponding figure for China is about 70 Gw. We also take pride in announcing that bids for renewable capacity have shot up in the last two years, that is in 2023 and 2024. The reason for this is simple. In 2023, the government decided that at least 50 Gw of renewable capacity would be bid every year until 2028. This, of course, was done to

make sure the numbers add up and that we have 500 Gw of renewable capacity by 2030. In the last two years, this race for meeting targets led to bids being issued which were half-baked and devoid of any due diligence. The results were obvious as there were several cancellations.

When it comes to renewable energy generating capacity, we always _____ (A) _____ saying that leaving aside large hydropower, we have grown from 1,600 megawatt (Mw) (2002) to 165,000 Mw (2025).

Question 08:

Choose the most suitable phrasal verb to fill the given blank A:

I. take pride in the fact

II. cut ourselves some slack - to be lenient

III. pat ourselves on the back

(a) Only I

(b) Both II and III

(c) Only II

☒ (d) Both I and III

(e) None of the above

Question 09:

Which of the following is the “**TRUE**” statement based on the passage?

I. India plans to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, primarily focusing on the power sector. True

II. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) estimates the required renewable capacity by 2030 to be 292 GW. True

III. It's important to remember that our growth appears impressive because it started from a large base. False

(a) Only II

☒ (b) Both I and II

(c) Only I

(d) Both II and III

(e) All I, II and III

Question 10:

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What does the passage primarily suggest about India's renewable energy growth?

- (a) India's renewable energy capacity growth is on track to meet 2030 targets. ✗
- (b) The growth rate of renewable energy is impressive, but insufficient to meet future needs. ✓
- (c) India has surpassed its renewable energy targets by a large margin. ✗

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✗ (d) The renewable energy growth rate is not important as India can rely on other sources.

(e) None of the above

Question 11:

Which of the following best explains why India is relying on coal-based energy generation?

- (a) Solar and wind energy are far more reliable than coal-based energy. ✗
- (b) With the fifth-largest coal reserves, India finds coal more accessible and affordable than renewable energy. ✗
- (c) Coal is still cheaper per unit of energy than many alternatives in India. ✗

- ⑧
- ✓ (d) The increase in renewable capacity is not keeping up with rising electricity demand.
 - (e) None of the above

Question 12:

Which of the following is the “**FALSE**” statement based on the passage?

I. India plans to reach 500 GW of renewable capacity by 2030. True

II. India boasts the world's fifth-largest solar capacity, but the reality tells a different story. True

III. The fact that our performance on the renewable front is falling short of expectations has been highlighted. True False

☒ (a) Only III

~~(b) Both I and III~~

~~(c) Only II~~

~~(d) Both I and II~~

~~(e) All I, II and III~~

Question 13:

Which of the following options is the most appropriate **Synonym(s)** of the word “Thrust”, as used in the passage?

↳ force push

*“Given the pace of our renewable capacity growth, we have no option but to give a ^{Noun} **thrust** to our coal-based generation, and, to that end, we have directed the coal generators to import coal and ensure full capacity generation.”*

- I. underscore — Verb — highlight
- II. deterrent — Noun — obstacle — Anto.
- III. impetus — Noun — force

(a) Only I

(b) Both I and III

✓ (c) Only III

(d) Both II and III

(e) None of the above

Question 14:

Which of the following options is the most appropriate **Antonym(s)** of the word “Devoid”, as used in the line:

*“In the last two years, this race for meeting targets led to bids being issued which were half-baked and **devoid** of any due diligence.”*

I. premature —

II. abundant *Anto* —

III. bereft

↳ Syno

④

☒ (a) Only II

⑤

(b) Both I and III

(c) Only I

(d) Both II and III

(e) None of the above

Directions (15-20): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below.

If a company were to underreport its losses or inflate its profits and it was detected, action would be taken against its auditors and key management personnel. Heads would roll, and institutional investors would demand a change in management. Unfortunately, when a company misreports data on its sustainability report, which is also part of the annual report, it is ignored by shareholders and regulators. It is assumed sustainability is just an irrelevant addendum. Independent directors also don't take it seriously. Regulators treat it as a must-have, but best not to waste time on. It is mislabelled as greenwashing. Greenwashing seems like a minor misdemeanour, but it is a fraud as it involves deliberate

misreporting of data and should be labelled and treated as such. This fraud has become rampant in India, where corporations cleverly manipulate sustainability reports and balance sheets.

These manipulations **obscure** environmental impacts, creating false perceptions of corporate responsibility. The tactics to misrepresent have become common among companies and the regulators are turning a blind eye to it. One prominent tactic involves omitting suppliers' environmental impacts from balance sheets. Energy companies, for instance, frequently fail to account for suppliers' coal emissions, thus underreporting their operations' carbon footprint. Similarly, real estate developers rarely include emissions associated with cement and steel production, which form a significant proportion of their total emissions. Another widely adopted strategy is the selective reporting of emissions. Developers frequently report data only for buildings under construction during a financial year, ignoring completed

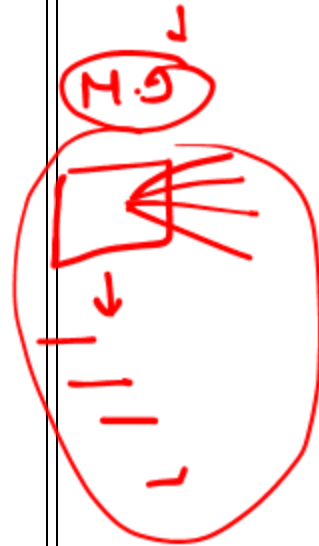
structures that are operational and emitting greenhouse gases. This selective scope is also evident in industries such as steel manufacturing, where firms report only emissions from primary plants and omit minor yet cumulatively significant secondary units.

Automotive firms report emissions only from manufacturing processes, conveniently ignoring the lifecycle emissions from their vehicles on the road. Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) firms report the manufacturing plants' emissions but not the plastic wrapper of their product that clogs every drain, landfill, and water reservoir in the country. The worst part is that FMCG firms also use vague symbols on their packaging to project that somehow the plastic packing, which never decomposes, is environmentally-friendly. Third, companies engage in external assurance practices with agencies they financially compensate, leading to biased certifications. These agencies typically base their assessments on limited data samples, often cherry-picked to show reduced environmental impacts.

Consequently, a cement manufacturer might receive certification based on emissions data from just one plant rather than an assessment of all plants. Ambiguity in language is another pervasive form of greenwashing fraud.

Companies use vague terminology like “significant reductions” without providing exact figures or clear comparisons with past emissions. This lack of clarity allows corporations substantial flexibility to interpret environmental data favourably. For example, automobile manufacturers often tout vague reductions in plant emissions without clarifying if the improvements are absolute or relative to production volumes, effectively obscuring actual performance. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued guidelines late last year to prevent the use of misleading language in advertising. The food safety regulator has been levying minor fines on food firms that label their products “organic” and green.

However, such guidelines and penalties are so minor that they do not impact companies’ behaviour.



Question 15:

Which of the following statements best captures the central argument of the passage?

(a) Greenwashing is a minor issue that can be corrected with better regulation.

(b) Corporate greenwashing practices are widespread, deliberate, and need to be treated as serious fraud.

(c) Sustainability reporting is an optional and decorative part of corporate governance.

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(d) Regulators are taking strict action against misreporting of sustainability data.

(e) None of the above

Question 16:

Based on the passage, which of the following can be conveyed about common corporate greenwashing tactics?

- (I) Companies often exclude supplier-related emissions from reports. ✓
- (II) Selective or vague language is used to present misleading environmental achievements. ✓
- (III) If a company is found hiding losses or inflating profits, action will be taken against all its staff and auditors. ✓

key management α

- (a) Only (I)
- (b) Both (II) and (III)
- (c) Only (III) d
- ☒ (d) Both (I) and (II)
- (e) All (I), (II), and (III)

Question 17:

Determine whether the following statements are True or False:

False

(I) Misreporting sustainability data is taken as seriously as financial fraud by regulators

(II) Greenwashing may seem minor, but it's deliberate data fraud and should be treated accordingly.

True

(III) Misreporting fraud is widespread in all countries, as corporations manipulate sustainability reports and balance sheets with finesse.

Can't say False

~~(a) Only (I) is True~~

~~(b) Both (I) and (III) are False~~

~~(c) Only (II) is False~~

~~(d) Both (II) and (III) are True~~

~~(e) All (I), (II), and (III) are True~~

(b)

Question 18:

Determine whether the following statements are True or False:

(I) Automobile firms include emissions from their vehicles' entire lifecycle in sustainability reports. False

(II) Real estate developers often ignore emissions from cement and steel in their reports. True

(III) External certification agencies may produce biased reports due to corporate influence. True

☒ (a) Only (I) is False

a

(b) Only (II) is True

(c) Both (I) and (III) are True

(d) Both (II) and (III) are False

(e) All (I), (II), and (III) are True

Question 19:

Which of the following options is the most appropriate Synonym(s) of the word "Rampant", as used in the passage?

Adv

*"This fraud has become **rampant** in India, where corporations cleverly manipulate sustainability reports and balance sheets."*

I. deception — Noun

II. pervasive — Syno

III. widespread — Syno

(a) Only I

(b) Both I and II

(c) Only III

(d) Both II and III

(e) All I, II and III

Introduction

Question 20:

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Mains Level

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Which of the following is the most appropriate **Antonym(s)** of the word “**Obscure**”, as used in the line:

“These manipulations **obscure** environmental impacts, creating false perceptions of corporate responsibility.”

Verb

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- I. unveil
- II. expose
- III. ambiguity

— Verb —
— Noun —
— lack of clarity

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Both II and III
- (e) All I, II and III

Anto