

Passage 1: India's Smart Cancer Drug RK-251

On 19 August 2026, the Ministry of Science & Technology announced that Indian researchers have developed a new "smart" cancer drug called RK-251, designed to switch on and work primarily inside cancer cells while leaving healthy cells unharmed. The work is a collaboration led by Dr. Asis Bala of the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, along with IIT Guwahati. Unlike conventional chemotherapy that attacks all rapidly dividing cells, RK-251 uses a reactive oxygen species (ROS)-activated mechanism. Cancer cells typically have higher ROS levels than normal cells; the drug remains inert in healthy tissue but becomes active in the high-ROS environment of tumours. Early pre-clinical trials showed significant tumour shrinkage with reduced side effects. The development has been hailed as a potential breakthrough for affordable cancer therapy in India, where out-of-pocket health expenditure remains high. The drug is expected to enter clinical trials by late 2027, pending regulatory approvals from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

1. The ROS-activated mechanism of RK-251 represents a paradigm shift from conventional chemotherapy. Which of the following best captures the therapeutic advantage of this approach in the Indian healthcare context?

- (a) It eliminates the need for hospitalisation, thereby reducing infrastructure costs for the public health system
- (b) It selectively targets cancer cells, potentially lowering treatment-related morbidity and out-of-pocket expenditure on managing side effects
- (c) It ensures complete eradication of all cancer types, making long-term follow-up unnecessary
- (d) It allows the drug to be manufactured domestically, thereby bypassing all international patent regulations

TRAIN - ELEVATE - SHINE

2. Consider the following statements about RK-251:

- I. The drug's activation is dependent on the differential ROS levels between cancerous and healthy cells
 - II. Pre-clinical trials have conclusively proven its efficacy across all cancer types
 - III. The collaboration involves institutions from Northeast India and a premier technology institute
 - IV. CDSCO approval is required before clinical trials can commence
- Which combination of statements is correct?
- (a) I, II, and III only
 - (b) I, III, and IV only
 - (c) II, III, and IV only
 - (d) I, II, III, and IV

3. The passage notes that RK-251 "remains inert in healthy tissue but becomes active in the high-ROS environment of tumours." What is the most significant implication of this characteristic for drug development policy in India?

- (a) It suggests that India should prioritise all ROS-based therapies over other drug development pathways
- (b) It demonstrates that indigenous research can address high-burden diseases with potentially lower side-effect profiles, justifying increased R&D investment

- (c) It implies that all future cancer drugs must be developed through international collaborations
- (d) It indicates that pre-clinical trials are no longer necessary for ROS-activated drugs

4. If RK-251 successfully enters clinical trials in late 2027, which of the following scenarios would most likely pose a regulatory challenge under India's current drug approval framework?

- (a) The drug shows efficacy only in rare cancers with low patient populations
- (b) The drug's mechanism requires new biomarkers to identify suitable patients, necessitating additional validation protocols
- (c) The collaborating institutions seek to publish their findings before trial completion
- (d) The drug is priced lower than existing chemotherapy options

5. The passage states that RK-251 could be a "potential breakthrough for affordable cancer therapy in India." Which underlying assumption is critical to this claim?

- (a) That all cancer patients in India have equal access to diagnostic facilities
- (b) That the drug's development costs will be fully subsidised by the government
- (c) That successful clinical trials will lead to regulatory approval and scalable manufacturing at affordable prices
- (d) That international pharmaceutical companies will not produce competing drugs

Passage 2: G20 Summit 2026 in the USA

The G20 Summit 2026 is being hosted by the United States, with the leaders' summit scheduled to take place in the Miami area later in the year. This marks the first time the USA has hosted the G20 since 2009. A G20 finance ministers' meeting was held in Asheville, North Carolina, from 29 August to 1 September 2026, focusing on global economic stability, debt sustainability for developing nations, and climate finance. The 2026 G20 agenda under the US presidency has emphasised "Resilience, Responsibility, and Results," with special attention to supply chain security, artificial intelligence governance, and green energy transitions. India, as a key emerging economy, participated actively in the finance ministers' track, advocating for reforms in multilateral development banks and greater representation for the Global South. The summit comes amid heightened geopolitical tensions, including conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, making consensus on joint declarations particularly challenging. Observers note that the Miami summit could set the tone for global economic cooperation heading into 2027.

6. The G20's 2026 theme of "Resilience, Responsibility, and Results" reflects a strategic prioritisation by the US presidency. Which of the following best explains why supply chain security and AI governance feature prominently alongside traditional economic issues?

- (a) These issues are legally binding under G20 charter requirements
- (b) They represent emerging domains where geopolitical competition intersects with economic stability, requiring multilateral coordination
- (c) The USA seeks to impose technology transfer mandates on developing nations through the G20 framework

(d) These topics were exclusively proposed by India and accepted by the US presidency

7. India's advocacy for "reforms in multilateral development banks and greater representation for the Global South" at the G20 finance ministers' meeting can be best understood as:

- (a) A continuation of India's long-standing position that global financial institutions should reflect contemporary economic realities rather than post-WWII power structures
- (b) An attempt to redirect all climate finance away from small island developing states
- (c) A demand that all G20 members reduce their contributions to the World Bank
- (d) A proposal to replace the IMF with a new institution headquartered in the Global South

8. The passage notes that consensus on joint declarations is "particularly challenging" due to geopolitical tensions. What does this imply about the G20's institutional effectiveness in 2026?

- (a) The G20 has become irrelevant as a forum for global economic governance
- (b) The G20's consensus-based decision-making model is vulnerable to fragmentation when major powers have divergent strategic interests
- (c) The G20 should transition to a majority-voting system to ensure declarations are always adopted
- (d) Geopolitical tensions have no impact on economic cooperation within the G20

9. Consider the following: The G20 finance ministers' meeting in Asheville focused on debt sustainability for developing nations. Which of the following policy measures would most directly address this concern within the G20 framework?

- (a) Imposing stricter fiscal austerity measures on all developing nations
- (b) Establishing mechanisms for debt restructuring, enhanced concessional financing, and addressing the root causes of debt distress
- (c) Eliminating all bilateral debt owed by developing nations to G20 creditors
- (d) Requiring developing nations to privatise all state-owned enterprises as a condition for debt relief

10. The observation that the Miami summit "could set the tone for global economic cooperation heading into 2027" suggests that:

- (a) The G20 has binding enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with summit outcomes
- (b) The summit's declarations and commitments, even if non-binding, create political momentum and normative expectations for subsequent multilateral engagements
- (c) All G20 decisions automatically become domestic law in member countries
- (d) The 2027 G20 presidency will be legally obligated to adopt identical priorities as the 2026 US presidency

Passage 3: Indian Culture Portal 2.0 and Bharti AI

In March 2026, the Ministry of Culture launched the upgraded Indian Culture Portal (ICP) Version 2.0, featuring a modern, scalable architecture and an AI-powered chatbot named Bharti. The portal, available in 22 Indian languages, serves as a comprehensive digital repository of India's tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including classical dance forms,

folk traditions, monuments, and manuscripts. The upgrade aims to improve accessibility for researchers, students, and the global diaspora. In August 2026, the Ministry informed the Lok Sabha that scholarships under the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) for classical dance had risen to 313 in 2025–26, reflecting increased government support for traditional arts. Additionally, cultural bodies received a budget allocation of ₹150.61 crore to promote heritage preservation, digitisation projects, and international cultural exchanges. The portal also integrates with the Global Engagement Scheme to showcase Indian culture at international forums. Experts note that such digital initiatives are crucial for preserving endangered art forms and making culture more inclusive.

11. The integration of an AI-powered chatbot (Bharti) into the Indian Culture Portal 2.0 represents a strategic intervention in cultural preservation. Which of the following best captures the potential transformative impact of this feature?

- (a) It replaces the need for human experts in cultural research and documentation
- (b) It enables interactive, multilingual access to cultural knowledge, potentially democratising access for diverse user groups including the diaspora
- (c) It ensures that all cultural content is automatically translated into all 22 languages without human oversight
- (d) It allows the Ministry of Culture to monitor all user interactions for security purposes

12. The increase in CCRT scholarships for classical dance from previous years to 313 in 2025–26, alongside a ₹150.61 crore budget allocation for cultural bodies, suggests a policy shift. What is the most analytically sound interpretation of this trend?

- (a) The government is prioritising classical dance over all other art forms to the exclusion of folk traditions
- (b) There is a recognisable commitment to institutional support for traditional arts, though the absolute numbers remain modest relative to India's cultural diversity
- (c) The scholarship increase is purely symbolic and will have no impact on the actual number of trained dancers
- (d) The budget allocation is primarily intended for constructing new cultural monuments rather than preservation or digitisation

13. Experts argue that digital initiatives like ICP 2.0 are "crucial for preserving endangered art forms." Which underlying challenge in cultural preservation does this statement implicitly acknowledge?

- (a) That all traditional art forms in India are thriving and require no intervention
- (b) That oral traditions, folk practices, and region-specific art forms face existential threats from urbanisation, globalisation, and intergenerational transmission gaps
- (c) That digital archives can fully replace the need for living practitioners of traditional arts
- (d) That international cultural exchanges are more important than domestic preservation efforts

14. The portal's availability in 22 Indian languages is significant. However, which of the following represents a potential limitation that policymakers must address for true inclusivity?

- (a) The 22 languages cover all scheduled languages under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

- (b) Many endangered art forms are documented in languages or dialects not among the 22 supported, potentially excluding certain communities
- (c) The portal is only accessible within India, not to the global diaspora
- (d) The AI chatbot Bharti cannot process queries in any of the 22 languages

15. Consider the following statements about the ICP 2.0:

- I. The portal integrates tangible and intangible cultural heritage into a single digital repository
- II. The Global Engagement Scheme linkage suggests an outward-looking cultural diplomacy strategy
- III. The budget allocation of ₹150.61 crore is exclusively for digitisation projects
- IV. The scholarship increase indicates a supply-side intervention to sustain classical dance practitioners

Which combination of statements is most accurate?

- (a) I, II, and III only
- (b) I, II, and IV only
- (c) II, III, and IV only
- (d) I, III, and IV only

Passage 4: COP30 – The "Forest COP" in Brazil

COP30, the 30th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, is scheduled to be held in Belém, Brazil, from 10 to 21 November 2026. Dubbed the "Forest COP," the summit marks the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement and places unprecedented focus on the role of tropical forests, especially the Amazon, in global climate mitigation. Brazil, under its presidency, has prioritised ending deforestation, scaling up nature-based solutions, and ensuring climate finance reaches indigenous and local communities who are forest guardians. The choice of Belém, a major Amazonian port city, is symbolic, bringing negotiators closer to the ecosystems at stake. Ahead of COP30, the G20 Summit in Johannesburg (November 2026) is expected to lay groundwork on climate finance and just energy transitions. Developing nations are urging wealthy countries to meet and exceed the \$100 billion annual climate finance pledge, while also pushing for a new, higher post-2025 target. Activists warn that without concrete action on forest protection and fossil fuel phase-out, COP30 risks becoming another forum for promises without implementation.

16. The designation of COP30 as the "Forest COP" and its location in Belém, an Amazonian port city, carries strategic significance. Which of the following best explains the diplomatic and symbolic rationale behind this choice?

- (a) It allows Brazil to unilaterally impose deforestation bans on all Amazonian nations
- (b) It physically situates negotiators in proximity to the ecosystems under discussion, potentially increasing political pressure for concrete commitments on forest protection and indigenous rights
- (c) It ensures that all climate finance will be directed exclusively to the Amazon basin
- (d) It signals that tropical forests are more important than other ecosystems in climate mitigation

17. The passage notes that developing nations are urging wealthy countries to "meet and exceed the \$100 billion annual climate finance pledge, while also

pushing for a new, higher post-2025 target." What does this reveal about the structural tensions in international climate negotiations?

- (a) Developing nations are unwilling to take any climate action without upfront payments
- (b) There is a persistent gap between historical responsibility, current capabilities, and the financial needs of developing nations for mitigation and adaptation, reflecting unresolved questions of climate justice
- (c) The \$100 billion pledge has already been fully met and exceeded by all developed nations
- (d) Climate finance is a voluntary contribution with no connection to the Paris Agreement's principles

18. Brazil's prioritisation of "ensuring climate finance reaches indigenous and local communities who are forest guardians" at COP30 reflects a recognition of which critical insight?

- (a) That indigenous communities are the primary drivers of deforestation in the Amazon
- (b) That top-down conservation approaches have historically marginalised forest-dependent communities, and that effective forest protection requires empowering those with traditional stewardship roles
- (c) That all climate finance should bypass national governments and go directly to individuals
- (d) That indigenous communities do not require financial support for forest conservation

19. Activists warn that COP30 "risks becoming another forum for promises without implementation." Which of the following structural challenges in the UNFCCC process does this critique most directly address?

- (a) The lack of a legally binding enforcement mechanism for nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and climate finance commitments
- (b) The absence of any scientific consensus on climate change
- (c) The exclusion of civil society from all COP proceedings
- (d) The fact that COP meetings are held in different locations each year

20. Consider the relationship between the G20 Summit in Johannesburg (November 2026) and COP30 in Belém (November 2026). Which of the following best describes their potential interaction in shaping global climate governance?

- (a) The G20 and COP30 are entirely unrelated processes with no overlap in agenda or participants
- (b) The G20, representing major economies, could establish political momentum on climate finance and energy transitions that influences negotiations at COP30, though the two forums have different mandates and membership
- (c) The G20 will legally bind all its members to specific emissions targets that COP30 must adopt
- (d) COP30 will override any decisions made at the G20 Summit on climate issues

Passage 5: NITI Aayog's 'Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047'

In August 2026, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) released a report titled 'Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047'. The report outlines a roadmap to transform India's skill development ecosystem to meet the demands of a developed India by

2047. It highlights the need for industry-aligned curricula, greater private sector participation, and integration of emerging technologies like AI, robotics, and green skills into vocational training. The report notes that while India has one of the world's largest youth populations, only about 5% of the workforce is formally skilled, compared to over 60% in countries like Japan and Germany. Key recommendations include establishing Sector Skill Councils in emerging domains, expanding the Apprenticeship Protsahan Yojana, and creating a National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) 2.0. The document also stresses the importance of skilling women and rural youth to ensure inclusive growth. The release coincides with the G20 finance ministers' focus on human capital development, positioning skilling as central to India's economic strategy.

21. The report's finding that only 5% of India's workforce is formally skilled, compared to over 60% in Japan and Germany, has profound implications for India's economic trajectory. Which of the following best captures the structural challenge this statistic reveals?

- (a) India's youth population is a demographic burden that cannot be converted into an economic asset
- (b) There is a significant skills gap that, if unaddressed, could constrain productivity growth, limit participation in high-value global supply chains, and undermine the demographic dividend
- (c) India should immediately adopt the exact vocational training models of Japan and Germany without adaptation to local contexts
- (d) Formal skilling is irrelevant for economic development, and India should focus solely on informal sector growth

22. The recommendation to integrate AI, robotics, and green skills into vocational training reflects an anticipation of future labour market dynamics. Which of the following represents the most analytically sound rationale for this approach?

- (a) These technologies will completely replace human labour, making traditional skills obsolete
- (b) The future economy will require workers who can operate alongside, maintain, and innovate within technology-intensive and sustainability-focused sectors, necessitating forward-looking curricula
- (c) AI and robotics are currently the only sectors with job openings in India
- (d) Green skills are only relevant for the energy sector and have no application in manufacturing or services

23. The report's emphasis on "skilling women and rural youth to ensure inclusive growth" acknowledges which structural inequality in India's labour market?

- (a) Women and rural youth already have equal access to all skilling opportunities
- (b) Historical and geographic disparities in access to education, training infrastructure, and labour market participation require targeted interventions to prevent the exclusion of significant population segments from economic gains
- (c) Skilling women will automatically lead to their participation in the formal workforce without addressing other barriers
- (d) Rural youth should be encouraged to migrate to urban areas rather than being skilled locally

24. Consider the following statements about the report's recommendations:

- I. Establishing Sector Skill Councils in emerging domains would enable industry-specific standards and responsiveness to technological change
- II. Expanding the Apprenticeship Protsahan Yojana would incentivise employers to provide on-the-job training
- III. NSQF 2.0 would create a more flexible, competency-based framework for recognising skills across sectors
- IV. The report recommends reducing private sector participation to ensure quality control

Which combination of statements accurately reflects the report's recommendations?

- (a) I, II, and III only
- (b) I, II, and IV only
- (c) II, III, and IV only
- (d) I, III, and IV only

25. The timing of the report's release, coinciding with the G20 finance ministers' focus on human capital development, suggests which strategic positioning by India?

- (a) India is attempting to dictate G20 priorities unilaterally
- (b) India is aligning its domestic skilling agenda with global multilateral discussions on human capital, potentially leveraging international partnerships and best practices while showcasing its policy framework
- (c) The G20 has mandated that all member countries release similar reports simultaneously
- (d) India's skilling initiatives are entirely dependent on G20 funding and technical assistance

Passage 6: 75 Years of India–Japan Diplomatic Relations

In 2026, India and Japan celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations, marking three-quarters of a century since the establishment of formal ties in 1951. The milestone is being commemorated through a series of high-level engagements, including the India–Japan Annual Summit held in 2026. The relationship has evolved from post-war reconciliation to a comprehensive strategic partnership, with cooperation spanning defence, technology, trade, and cultural exchange. Key initiatives include the India–Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, joint military exercises like Malabar and Dharma Guardian, and collaboration on critical technologies such as semiconductors and clean energy. The two nations also share a vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, often coordinating on issues related to maritime security and regional stability. Cultural ties have deepened through the India–Japan Year of Exchange, promoting tourism, academic partnerships, and people-to-people contacts. As both countries navigate a multipolar world order, the 75th anniversary underscores the enduring nature of their bilateral relationship and its significance for Asian and global geopolitics.

26. The evolution of India–Japan relations from "post-war reconciliation to a comprehensive strategic partnership" over 75 years reflects which broader trend in international relations?

- (a) That bilateral relationships are static and determined solely by historical events at their inception
- (b) That strategic partnerships can deepen over time in response to shared interests, converging geopolitical visions, and complementary economic and technological capabilities, even between nations with no colonial or alliance history

- (c) That Japan's relationship with India is primarily driven by Japan's desire to counterbalance China exclusively
- (d) That cultural exchanges are irrelevant to the development of strategic partnerships

27. The passage mentions joint military exercises like Malabar and Dharma Guardian. What is the strategic significance of such exercises in the context of the India–Japan partnership?

- (a) They are purely ceremonial and have no operational relevance
- (b) They enhance interoperability, signal commitment to regional security architectures, and contribute to deterrence and stability in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the context of a multipolar order
- (c) They are mandated by the United Nations Security Council for all strategic partners
- (d) They indicate that India and Japan are forming a formal military alliance against specific nations

28. The shared vision for a "free and open Indo-Pacific" by India and Japan has implications beyond bilateral relations. Which of the following best captures the geopolitical significance of this convergence?

- (a) It is a rhetorical statement with no practical impact on regional dynamics
- (b) It represents a normative and strategic alignment that influences regional institutions, maritime cooperation frameworks, and the balance of power in Asia, particularly in response to competing visions of regional order
- (c) It requires all Indo-Pacific nations to join a military alliance led by India and Japan
- (d) It is exclusively focused on economic cooperation with no security dimensions

29. Consider the following dimensions of the India–Japan relationship:

- I. Defence cooperation through joint exercises and technology collaboration
- II. Economic partnership in critical technologies like semiconductors and clean energy
- III. Cultural diplomacy through the India–Japan Year of Exchange
- IV. Alignment on maritime security and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific

Which of the following best describes how these dimensions interact to shape the overall partnership?

- (a) Each dimension operates in isolation with no synergies between them
- (b) The multidimensional nature of the partnership creates a resilient, comprehensive strategic relationship where progress in one area reinforces cooperation in others, enhancing overall bilateral ties
- (c) Cultural diplomacy is the only dimension that matters for long-term relationship sustainability
- (d) Defence cooperation is the sole determinant of the partnership's success

30. The passage notes that the 75th anniversary "underscores the enduring nature of their bilateral relationship and its significance for Asian and global geopolitics." Which of the following analytical interpretations is most defensible?

- (a) The India–Japan relationship is primarily of historical interest and has limited contemporary relevance
- (b) The longevity and depth of the partnership suggest that it has transcended transactional interests to become a structural element of the regional order, with implications for supply chains, security architectures, and the strategic calculus of other major powers

- (c) The relationship is entirely dependent on the personal rapport between current leaders and will dissolve with leadership changes
- (d) The partnership is significant only for India and Japan, with no broader implications for other Asian nations or global geopolitics

Answers

- Passage 1: 1(b), 2(b), 3(b), 4(b), 5(c)
Passage 2: 1(b), 2(a), 3(b), 4(b), 5(b)
Passage 3: 1(b), 2(b), 3(b), 4(b), 5(b)
Passage 4: 1(b), 2(b), 3(b), 4(a), 5(b)
Passage 5: 1(b), 2(b), 3(b), 4(a), 5(b)
Passage 6: 1(b), 2(b), 3(b), 4(b), 5(b)

Passage 1: India's Smart Cancer Drug RK-251

Question 1 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: The passage contrasts conventional chemotherapy, which can affect rapidly dividing healthy cells, with a ROS-activated drug that becomes active mainly in tumour cells. Selectivity may reduce side effects and the costs of managing them, which connects directly to the stated concern about out-of-pocket expenditure.

Option analysis:

- (a) The passage does not say hospitalisation becomes unnecessary.
- (b) Correct: selective activation supports lower collateral harm and potentially lower treatment-related costs.
- (c) "All cancer types" and "complete eradication" are unsupported absolute claims.
- (d) Domestic research does not automatically override patent law.

Question 2 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: Statements I, III and IV are directly supported. The passage says activation relies on higher ROS levels in cancer cells; IASST Guwahati and IIT Guwahati are involved; and CDSCO approval is pending before clinical trials. Statement II overstates pre-clinical evidence.

Option analysis:

- (a) Includes II, which wrongly treats early pre-clinical results as conclusive across all cancers.
- (b) Correct: I, III and IV only.
- (c) Omits I, which is central to the drug's mechanism, while retaining false II.
- (d) Includes false II.

Question 3 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: The passage supports a measured inference: targeted indigenous innovation may reduce side effects in a high-burden disease area and can justify greater investment in domestic biomedical research.

Option analysis:

- (a) "Every" ROS therapy is an unjustified generalisation.
- (b) Correct: it draws a proportionate policy implication from the stated facts.
- (c) The passage highlights domestic collaboration, not a need for international-only work.

(d) Regulatory and clinical evaluation remain necessary.

Question 4 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: A biomarker-dependent therapy may require regulators to assess not only the drug but also the reliability of patient-selection methods. That is a distinctive issue arising from the drug's ROS-linked mechanism.

Option analysis:

- (a) Small populations can complicate trials but are not uniquely tied to the mechanism described.
- (b) Correct: validated biomarkers are directly relevant to identifying who may benefit.
- (c) Publication timing is not the principal regulatory challenge stated or implied.
- (d) Lower pricing is not ordinarily a scientific-regulatory obstacle.

Question 5 — Correct Answer: (c)

Why this is correct: Affordability depends on more than a promising pre-clinical result: clinical success, approval, production capacity and accessible pricing must follow. This is the necessary chain underlying the claim.

Option analysis:

- (a) Equal diagnostic access is desirable but not essential to the affordability claim itself.
- (b) Full government subsidy is not stated and is not necessary.
- (c) Correct: it identifies the essential conditions for a therapy to become affordable at scale.
- (d) Competition may affect price, but its absence is not required for affordability.

Passage 2: G20 and Global Economic Governance

Question 6 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: Supply chains and AI affect production, trade, strategic dependence and national competitiveness. Their inclusion reflects the overlap of economic governance and geopolitics.

Option analysis:

- (a) The G20 is not governed by a charter imposing these exact agenda items.
- (b) Correct: it explains both their economic and strategic importance.
- (c) The passage does not describe technology-transfer mandates.
- (d) The agenda is attributed to the US presidency, not India alone.

Question 7 — Correct Answer: (a)

Why this is correct: India's demand is framed as an effort to update international financial governance so that representation and influence better reflect current economic realities and the interests of developing countries.

Option analysis:

- (a) Correct: this is a standard analytical interpretation of reform demands.
- (b) The passage says nothing about diverting funds from island states.
- (c) India seeks reform, not reduced World Bank contributions.
- (d) Replacing the IMF is neither mentioned nor implied.

Question 8 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: A consensus forum depends on all major participants accepting common language. Conflicting strategic priorities can therefore prevent or dilute joint declarations.

Option analysis:

- (a) Difficulty does not establish irrelevance.
- (b) Correct: it identifies the institutional vulnerability implied by the passage.
- (c) Majority voting could create legitimacy problems and does not guarantee effectiveness.
- (d) This contradicts the passage.

Question 9 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: Debt sustainability generally requires an integrated approach: restructuring unsustainable obligations, improving access to concessional resources and addressing recurrent drivers of debt distress.

Option analysis:

- (a) Austerity alone may worsen social and economic constraints.
- (b) Correct: it offers a comprehensive response to the stated concern.
- (c) Universal cancellation is unrealistic and not the only route to sustainability.
- (d) Blanket privatisation is an ideologically narrow condition, not a direct universal solution.

Question 10 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: G20 outcomes are commonly political rather than legally enforceable. Nevertheless, common declarations and commitments can influence later negotiations, expectations and domestic priorities.

Option analysis:

- (a) The premise of binding enforcement is incorrect.
- (b) Correct: it distinguishes political influence from legal compulsion.
- (c) G20 declarations do not automatically become domestic law.
- (d) Future presidencies retain agenda-setting discretion.

Passage 3: Digital Preservation of Indian Culture

Question 11 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: A multilingual interactive interface can lower access barriers and help users navigate a large cultural repository. This is a plausible benefit without assuming the chatbot replaces experts or eliminates quality-control needs.

Option analysis:

- (a) AI assistance does not remove the role of scholars, archivists or practitioners.
- (b) Correct: it follows from multilingual, interactive access.
- (c) Automatic translation cannot be assumed accurate without oversight.
- (d) Surveillance is not a stated purpose.

Question 12 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: The figures indicate institutional support, but an analytical answer must avoid treating them as proof that all traditions are equally supported or that the scale is sufficient for a highly diverse cultural landscape.

Option analysis:

- (a) The passage includes folk traditions and does not claim their exclusion.
- (b) Correct: it is supported yet appropriately qualified.
- (c) It dismisses a potentially material intervention without evidence.
- (d) The allocation covers preservation, digitisation and exchanges, not monuments alone.

Question 13 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: Many intangible forms depend on living practice and oral transmission. Social change, migration and declining transmission can make documentation and wider access important preservation tools.

Option analysis:

- (a) This reverses the concern expressed by experts.
- (b) Correct: it identifies the vulnerability implied by “endangered art forms.”
- (c) Documentation cannot wholly replace practitioners and communities.
- (d) The passage presents domestic preservation and global engagement as complementary.

Question 14 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: Language coverage is valuable but not identical to universal coverage. India’s cultural practices may be embedded in local dialects or languages beyond the available set.

Option analysis:

- (a) The passage gives 22 languages but does not establish complete constitutional-language coverage.
- (b) Correct: it identifies a plausible remaining inclusion gap.
- (c) The portal explicitly aims to serve the diaspora.
- (d) This contradicts the purpose of a multilingual chatbot.

Question 15 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: I is supported by the portal’s coverage of monuments, manuscripts, dance and folk traditions. II follows from the Global Engagement linkage. IV follows from scholarships supporting training. III is false because the allocation also covers preservation and exchanges.

Option analysis:

- (a) Incorrect because III is false.
- (b) Correct: I, II and IV only.
- (c) Incorrect because it includes false III and omits I.
- (d) Incorrect because it includes false III and omits II.

Passage 4: COP30 and Climate Justice**Question 16 — Correct Answer: (b)**

Why this is correct: Belém gives the summit a strong symbolic setting: negotiators are close to the Amazon ecosystem and to communities affected by decisions on deforestation and finance. It may strengthen political salience, not create unilateral legal powers.

Option analysis:

- (a) A host cannot unilaterally legislate for other countries through a COP.
- (b) Correct: it captures the location’s symbolic and diplomatic function.
- (c) No such exclusive funding guarantee follows.
- (d) The passage highlights forests without denying other ecosystems.

Question 17 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: The financing debate is closely connected to equity: developed countries’ historical emissions and greater financial capacity are often contrasted with developing countries’ mitigation and adaptation needs.

Option analysis:

- (a) The passage does not depict developing countries as rejecting action.
- (b) Correct: it identifies the climate-justice tension underlying the demand.
- (c) The demand itself indicates concerns about adequacy and delivery.
- (d) Finance is central to the Paris-era climate governance debate.

Question 18 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: The passage characterises indigenous and local communities as forest guardians. This supports an approach that recognises stewardship and addresses the limitations of conservation strategies imposed from above.

Option analysis:

- (a) It contradicts their described role as guardians.
- (b) Correct: it explains why locally directed support can matter.
- (c) The passage does not support bypassing every national institution.
- (d) It contradicts the priority of ensuring finance reaches these groups.

Question 19 — Correct Answer: (a)

Why this is correct: The critique targets the implementation gap: states can announce targets and finance commitments without sufficiently strong mechanisms to compel delivery.

Option analysis:

- (a) Correct: it most directly addresses the gap between pledges and results.
- (b) Scientific consensus is not the issue raised.
- (c) Civil society is not described as universally excluded.
- (d) Venue rotation is unrelated.

Question 20 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: The G20 includes major economies that influence finance and energy policy. Its political signals can affect COP negotiations, but it is not the same institution as the UNFCCC COP.

Option analysis:

- (a) There is clear topical overlap.
- (b) Correct: it recognises influence while preserving the distinction in mandate and membership.
- (c) The G20 does not legally bind COP30 in this way.
- (d) COP30 does not automatically override G20 outcomes.

Passage 5: Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047

Question 21 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: A low share of formally skilled workers can limit productivity and the ability to move into sophisticated production and services. With a large young population, this also threatens the potential demographic dividend.

Option analysis:

- (a) The statistic identifies a challenge, not an inevitable burden.
- (b) Correct: it links the data to the relevant economic risks.
- (c) The report calls for reform, not uncritical copying.
- (d) This contradicts the report's central argument.

Question 22 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: The report anticipates that technological and environmental shifts will reshape work. Training workers to use, maintain and improve relevant systems is more realistic than assuming human work will disappear.

Option analysis:

- (a) It overstates technological displacement.
- (b) Correct: it captures the report's forward-looking rationale.
- (c) The passage does not claim these are the only job sectors.
- (d) Green skills have applications across the economy.

Question 23 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: The recommendation responds to uneven access to educational institutions, training infrastructure and formal work. Targeting under-served groups is intended to make the gains from skilling more inclusive.

Option analysis:

- (a) This denies the inequality implied by targeted interventions.
- (b) Correct: it identifies the structural issue.
- (c) Training alone may not solve mobility, safety, care or discrimination barriers.
- (d) The report does not prescribe migration as the solution.

Question 24 — Correct Answer: (a)

Why this is correct: The report supports industry-linked councils, expanded apprenticeships and NSQF 2.0. It calls for greater—not reduced—private-sector participation; hence IV is false.

Option analysis:

- (a) Correct: I, II and III only.
- (b) Incorrect because IV is false; it also omits III.
- (c) Incorrect because IV is false and I is omitted.
- (d) Incorrect because IV is false and II is omitted.

Question 25 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: The timing allows India to connect a national reform agenda with international discourse on human capital, potentially facilitating exchanges, partnerships and policy credibility without surrendering domestic agency.

Option analysis:

- (a) Alignment is not the same as unilateral agenda control.
- (b) Correct: it reflects strategic alignment and policy positioning.
- (c) The passage gives no indication of a G20 mandate.
- (d) The report does not make Indian skilling wholly dependent on G20 finance.

Passage 6: India–Japan at 75**Question 26 — Correct Answer: (b)**

Why this is correct: The passage shows how cooperation can be built over decades through shared interests in security, technology, trade and regional order. It does not reduce the relationship to one historic event or a single external country.

Option analysis:

- (a) The described evolution contradicts a static view.

- (b) Correct: it accurately generalises from the partnership's development.
- (c) "Solely" is too narrow and unsupported.
- (d) Cultural exchange is presented as part of a broader relationship.

Question 27 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: Joint exercises create practical familiarity between forces, demonstrate political commitment and can strengthen regional-security cooperation. They need not constitute a formal alliance.

Option analysis:

- (a) Exercises have operational and signalling functions.
- (b) Correct: it states these functions without overstating their legal status.
- (c) No UN Security Council mandate is mentioned.
- (d) Joint exercises do not by themselves create a treaty alliance.

Question 28 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: A shared Indo-Pacific vision can shape joint approaches to maritime security, institutions and regional norms. It is therefore more than rhetoric, but it does not automatically impose alliance obligations on others.

Option analysis:

- (a) It understates the strategic convergence described.
- (b) Correct: it captures both normative and practical implications.
- (c) No such compulsory alliance follows.
- (d) Maritime security shows that security dimensions are involved.

Question 29 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: A partnership spanning several fields is often more durable because cooperation in technology, culture, defence and diplomacy can reinforce trust and mutual interests.

Option analysis:

- (a) The passage presents an integrated strategic partnership.
- (b) Correct: it explains the value of multidimensionality.
- (c) It isolates one element without justification.
- (d) It ignores the explicitly stated non-defence dimensions.

Question 30 — Correct Answer: (b)

Why this is correct: The passage connects the bilateral relationship to a multipolar order. Its depth can affect technology supply chains, regional security arrangements and the calculations of other states.

Option analysis:

- (a) This conflicts with the passage's contemporary strategic emphasis.
- (b) Correct: it makes the strongest evidence-based inference.
- (c) A 75-year relationship cannot reasonably be explained solely by current personalities.
- (d) The stated regional and global relevance disproves this.