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# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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## GS I

# 1. Digital platform driven by drone mapping to revive solar power scheme

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** With delays plaguing the ₹34,000-crore PM-KUSUM programme launched to boost solar energy infrastructure in agriculture, States have begun experimenting with alternative approaches to improve adoption.

### PM-KUSUM Scheme Overview:

- **Launched:** 2019 by MNRE
- **Purpose:** To promote off-grid solar pumps in rural areas and reduce dependence on the grid in grid-connected regions.
- **Components:**
  - 10,000 MW of decentralised grid-connected solar power plants.
  - 20 lakh solar-powered agricultural pumps.
  - Conversion of 15 lakh existing grid-connected pumps to solar.
- **Objectives:**
  - Enable farmers to generate solar power on their lands and sell surplus to the grid.
  - Increase farmer income by allowing surplus solar power sales.
- **Significance:**
  - **Energy Access:** Enhances rural electricity access and reliability for agriculture.
  - **Climate Impact:** Reduces carbon emissions by up to 32 million tonnes/year; promotes efficient groundwater use and replaces diesel.
  - **Employment:** Creates jobs in solar project installation, maintenance, and operation.
  - **Empowerment:** Gives rural communities control over energy production.
- **Challenges:**
  - **Financial & Logistical:** High setup costs and financing issues; limited availability of solar equipment.
  - **Water Depletion:** Overuse of groundwater due to low electricity costs; costly to upgrade solar systems with falling water tables.





## GS II

### 2. India seeks review of trade pact with UAE

Source: The Financial Express

Context: Recently, the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) completed one year of implementation.

What is CEPA?

- **CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement)** is a type of free trade pact that covers trade in goods, services, investment, and other areas of economic cooperation.
- It may also include provisions on trade facilitation, customs cooperation, competition, and intellectual property rights (IPR).
- CEPA is more comprehensive than a standard Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

India-UAE CEPA:

- **Implementation:** Entered into force on May 1, 2022.
- **Coverage:** Includes trade in goods, services, investment, and economic cooperation.
- **Goals:** To boost bilateral trade to over USD 100 billion in goods and USD 15 billion in services within five years.
- **Impact:** Increased bilateral trade from USD 72.9 billion (FY 2022) to USD 84.5 billion (FY 2023), with notable growth in Indian exports to the UAE in sectors like mineral fuels, electrical machinery, and gems & jewellery.

### 3. Acting ED Director appointed full-time chief

Source: The Hindu

Context: Rahul Navin, the Acting Enforcement Director (ED), appointed the agency's new Director for a period of two years.

Enforcement Directorate (ED):

- **Function:** Specialised financial law enforcement and economic intelligence agency in India.
- **Mandate:** Enforces economic laws, combats money laundering, and addresses foreign exchange violations.
- **Established:** Originated as "Enforcement Unit" in 1956, renamed "Enforcement Directorate" in 1957.
- **Administrative Control:** Operates under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Regional Structure:**
  - **Regional Offices:** 5 (Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, Kolkata, Delhi), each led by a Special Director.
  - **Zonal Offices:** 27, led by a Joint Director.
  - **Sub Zonal Offices:** 12-13, led by a Deputy Director.
- **Recruitment:** Officers recruited directly and from other government services (IRS, IPS, IAS).



- **Director Appointment:** Appointed by the Central Government based on recommendations from a high-level committee including the Central Vigilance Commissioner and Secretaries of relevant ministries.
- **Tenure:** Fixed 2 years, extendable up to 5 years in total (with extensions granted annually, up to 1 year at a time).

## 4. India to host third Voice of Global South virtual meet

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** India will host the third Voice of Global South Summit in the virtual format on August 17 with a view to pitch for a sustainable future for developing countries.

**India Hosts the Third Voice of Global South Summit:**

- **Event:** Third Voice of Global South Summit
- **Format:** Virtual
- **Theme:** "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future"

**Objectives:**

- Address and promote sustainable solutions for developing countries.
- Continue discussions on conflicts, food and energy security, and climate change.

**Significance:**

- **Conflicts:** Explore impacts on development.
- **Food Security:** Develop strategies for vulnerable regions.
- **Energy Security:** Promote sustainable energy solutions.
- **Climate Change:** Implement measures to combat climate change.

**Conclusion:**

- India underscores its leadership in global dialogue and support for the Global South, aiming for a more resilient and empowered community.



## GS III

# 5. India emerging as global hub of defence manufacturing: PM

Source: The Hindu

**Context:** With rising geopolitical tensions, India has a major chance to become a leading player in global defense exports, driven by the expanding defense and aerospace industry.

**Status of India's Defence Exports:**

- **Global Defence Industry Growth:**
  - Expected to rise from \$750 billion in 2022 to \$1.38 trillion by 2030.
- **Current Landscape:**
  - **Major exporters:** US, Russia, France, China, Germany (77% of global exports).
  - India's exports surged from ₹686 crore (FY 2013-14) to ₹16,000 crore (FY 2022-23), growing 800% in five years.
  - **India is now among the top 25 global defense exporters.**
- **Private Sector Role:** 80% of export growth is driven by private industry.
- **Export Items:** Includes missiles, rockets, torpedoes, artillery guns, and drones.
- **Major Destinations:** Over 75 countries, including Italy, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Russia, France, Israel, and others.
- **Advantages for India:**
  - **Economic Benefits:** Foreign currency earnings and reduced import dependency.
  - **Global Integration:** Aligns with international defense supply chains.
  - **Strategic Leverage:** Strengthens geopolitical and military ties.
  - **Self-Reliance:** Reduces vulnerabilities from foreign imports.
- **Challenges:**
  - **Financial & Logistical Issues:** High setup costs and financing hurdles; limited solar equipment availability.
  - **Regulatory Hurdles:** Bureaucratic delays and outdated practices.
  - **Funding Shortfalls:** Low R&D expenditure compared to global peers.
  - **Infrastructural Deficits:** High logistics costs impacting cost competitiveness.
- **Way Forward:**
  - **Simplify Sales Rules:** Ease government-to-government sales.
  - **Broaden Framework:** Develop a comprehensive international sales framework.
  - **Defense LOC:** Consider including Defense Lines of Credit in proposals.
  - **Innovation Support:** Create licensing frameworks for startups and integrate defense with academia and R&D.
  - **Think Tank:** Establish a think tank for dynamic defense strategy updates.

**Conclusion:**

India's focus on expanding its defense exports offers significant economic, strategic, and geopolitical benefits while addressing various challenges through streamlined processes and enhanced support for innovation.



## 6. Exports slip to 8-month low in July, deficit widens 23.7%

Source: The Hindu

**Context:** A trade deficit occurs when a country's imports exceed its exports. India's trade deficit narrowed to USD 238.3 billion in the last fiscal year from USD 264.9 billion in FY 2021-22. Understanding this deficit's dynamics and impacts is vital for crafting effective economic policies.

**Current Status:**

- India's trade deficit varies with different countries. It **increased with China, Russia, South Korea, and Hong Kong**, while narrowing with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and others.
- Despite **China becoming the largest trading partner**, India maintains a trade surplus with several countries, including the US, UK, and France.

**Reasons Behind the Trade Deficit:**

- **Reliance on Energy Imports:** India imports over 85% of its crude oil, making it vulnerable to global oil price changes.
- **Dependence on Key Inputs:** Key sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, rely heavily on imported raw materials, increasing import costs.

**Impacts:**

- **Benefits:**
  - **Boost to Manufacturing:** Imports of raw materials can stimulate domestic manufacturing.
  - **Increased Variety:** Imports enhance the availability of diverse goods.
  - **Encouragement for Innovation:** Competition from imports can drive domestic innovation.
- **Challenges:**
  - **Stifled Innovation:** Over-reliance on imports can hinder domestic production.
  - **Job Losses:** Import competition can lead to job losses in affected industries.
  - **Currency Pressure:** Persistent deficits may weaken the rupee.
  - **Increased External Debt:** Financing the deficit can lead to higher external debt and deplete forex reserves.

**Strategic Responses:**

- **Trade Agreements:** FTAs like the India-UAE CEPA can reduce tariffs and boost exports.
- **Improving Export Infrastructure:** Modernizing logistics can reduce costs and enhance efficiency.
- **Import Substitution:** Promoting domestic alternatives and using local materials can reduce import reliance.
- **Rationalizing Imports:** Higher tariffs on non-essential goods can encourage the use of domestic products.
- **Skilling the Workforce:** Investing in skills can improve domestic production capabilities.

**Conclusion:**

India's trade deficit highlights challenges related to energy dependence and key imports. Strategic measures, including trade agreements, infrastructure improvements, and import substitution, can help manage the deficit and strengthen economic resilience.





## 7. Three more Ramsar wetland sites now in India, taking total to 85

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** India has recently added three new Ramsar sites—Nanjarayan and Kazhuveli bird sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu and the Tawa reservoir in Madhya Pradesh—bringing the total to 85 sites covering 1,358,068 hectares.

### Ramsar Convention Background:

- Established in **1971 in Ramsar, Iran**, the Ramsar Convention aims to conserve wetlands globally.
- India, a signatory since 1982, has significantly expanded its Ramsar sites from 26 (1982-2013) to 59 (2014-2024).

### Significance:

- **Biodiversity:** Ramsar sites protect crucial ecosystems and species, meeting at least one of nine criteria such as supporting endangered species or vital fish habitats.
- **Regional Leadership:** India leads South Asia with 85 Ramsar sites, including 18 in Tamil Nadu and 10 in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Economic Impact:** The designation boosts tourism and international visibility, though it does not guarantee additional funding.

### Challenges:

- Effective conservation requires addressing threats like habitat loss, pollution, and climate change through robust management strategies.

### Conclusion:

- The growth in Ramsar sites highlights India's commitment to wetland conservation and positions it as a regional leader in environmental stewardship.





## Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

### 8. An obstinate refusal to focus on welfare

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** The Union Budget has drawn stern criticism from several quarters of the populace for a variety of reasons.

**Key Pointers on the Union Budget and Welfare Schemes:**

- **Criticism of Budget Allocations:** The Union Budget has faced criticism for reducing allocations to essential welfare schemes, despite high levels of poverty and widespread need. The critique emphasises that the government's decision to cut funding for these schemes is perplexing, given the severe socio-economic conditions in the country.
- **Funding for Major Welfare Schemes:** The budget reductions are most notable in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Both programs, crucial for providing employment and food security, have seen their budget allocations decrease as a percentage of GDP since 2014-15, except during the COVID-19 pandemic when additional support was provided.
- **Impact on Vulnerable Groups:** The National Social Assistance Programme, which supports widows, the elderly, and disabled individuals, has also seen no increase in nominal terms, with its share of GDP halving since 2014-15. The meagre pensions provided by the scheme have not been adjusted for inflation or increased since 2006, leaving these groups significantly below the poverty line.
- **Welfare and Nutrition:** Funding for child malnutrition and hunger programs, such as the Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, has decreased by more than half since 2014-15. The Mid-Day Meal (MDM) program, which provides meals to schoolchildren, has also seen its funding halved, despite its success in improving educational and nutritional outcomes.
- **Education and Health:** The budget for education has declined, affecting quality and infrastructure. While there has been a slight increase in the budget allocation for health, it remains insufficient to address the high out-of-pocket health expenses that contribute to poverty.
- **Fiscal Policy and Revenue:** The reduction in welfare funding is partly attributed to tax cuts for corporations, which have led to a significant loss in revenue. This policy has constrained fiscal space, impacting the government's ability to fund welfare programs.
- **Comparative Analysis:** The paragraph contrasts the current NDA government's approach with the previous UPA government, which saw consistent increases in welfare funding. It argues that a focus on welfare and addressing basic needs is essential for a developed and equitable society.

**Conclusion:** The current budget's reduction in welfare funding undermines efforts to alleviate poverty and support vulnerable populations, contrasting sharply with the more welfare-oriented approach of the previous UPA administration.



## In Brief

### 9. Huge Reservoir of water under mars, seismic data indicates

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** An immense reservoir of liquid water may reside deep under the surface of Mars within fractured igneous rocks, holding enough to fill an ocean that would cover the entire surface of Mars, according to seismic data obtained by NASA's robotic InSight lander.

**Facts About Mars:**

- **Name and Appearance:** Fourth planet from the Sun, named after the Roman god of war; known as the "Red Planet" due to iron oxide (rust) on its surface.
- **Size:** Diameter of about 6,791 km, roughly half the size of Earth.
- **Moons:** Has two moons, Phobos and Deimos.
- **Climate:** Extreme cold with equatorial temperatures up to 20°C and polar temperatures as low as -140°C.
- **Geography:** Home to Olympus Mons, the tallest volcano in the solar system, about three times the height of Mount Everest.
- **Day and Year:** A Martian day is 24 hours and 37 minutes; a Martian year is about 687 Earth days.

**Mars Missions:**

- **India:** Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan), 2013
- **Europe:** ExoMars rover, 2021
- **China:** Tianwen-1, 2021
- **UAE:** Hope Mars Mission, 2021
- **Soviet Union:** Mars 2 and Mars 3, 1971

### 10. President approves four Kirti Chakras, 18 Shaurya Chakras

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** On the eve of Independence Day, President Droupadi Murmu approved 103 gallantry awards for armed forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel, highlighting exceptional bravery and service.

**The awards include:**

- **Kirti Chakras:** Four awards, three posthumous:
  - **Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu:** For leading an ambush in Kupwara, eliminating terrorists while under heavy fire.



- **Colonel Manpreet Singh (Posthumous):** For valor in a firefight in Anantnag, where he neutralized a terrorist despite severe injuries.
- **Rifleman Ravi Kumar (Posthumous):** For bravery in a firefight in Rajouri, where he engaged terrorists despite critical injuries and ultimate sacrifice.
- **Humayun Muzammil Bhat (Posthumous):** Deputy Superintendent, Jammu and Kashmir Police, honored for distinguished service.
- **Shaurya Chakras:** Eighteen awards, four posthumous:
  - **Navy and Air Force Personnel:** Two awards each.
  - **CAPF Personnel:** Five awards, including two posthumous.
- **Other Awards:**
  - **Sena Medals (Gallantry):** 64 awards, including two posthumous.
  - **Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry):** 11 awards.
  - **Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry):** Six awards.
  - **Mention-in-Despatches:** 39, including a posthumous award to Army dog Kent.
  - **Tatrakshak Medals:** One Distinguished Service, one Gallantry, and two Meritorious Service for the Indian Coast Guard.

These awards recognize the valor, leadership, and sacrifice of personnel in various military operations, including Operations Rakshak, Snow Leopard, Sahayata, Hifazat, Orchid, and Katchal.





## Daily Quiz

**Q1. Which ministry launched the PM-KUSUM scheme in 2019?**

- A. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- B. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- C. Ministry of Power
- D. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**Q2. Which of the following statements about India's defence exports is/are correct?**

- 1. India's defense exports have increased by 800% from FY 2013-14 to FY 2022-23.
- 2. The US and China are the two largest exporters of defense equipment globally, collectively accounting for more than 77% of the global arms market.

**Choose the correct options given below :**

- A. Only statement 1 is correct.
- B. Only statement 2 is correct.
- C. Both statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- D. Neither statement 1 nor statement 2 is correct.

**Q3. Which of the following statements about the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is/are correct?**

- 1. CEPA is a free trade pact that may include trade in goods, services, and investment, as well as areas like trade facilitation and IPR.
- 2. The India-UAE CEPA, aims to increase bilateral trade to over USD 100 billion in goods and USD 15 billion in services within five years.
- 3. CEPA is less comprehensive than a standard Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

**Choose the correct options given below :**

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Q4. Consider the following statements:**

- 1. The Mangalyaan launched by ISRO is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission
- 2. Made India the second country to have a spacecraft orbit the Mars after USA
- 3. Made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbit the Mars in its very first attempt

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding India's trade relations:**

- 1. India has a trade surplus with the United States.
- 2. India's total trade deficit for the fiscal year 2022-23 was higher than in the previous fiscal year.
- 3. India's trade deficit with China has increased in recent years.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3



**Q6. Consider the following statements regarding Ramsar sites:**

1. The Ramsar Convention was signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, and India became a signatory in 1982.
2. To qualify as a Ramsar site, a wetland must meet all nine criteria defined by the Ramsar Convention.
3. As of 2024, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar sites in India.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

**Q7. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) was originally established as the "Enforcement Unit" in 1956 and was renamed in 1957.
2. The Director of the Enforcement Directorate is appointed for a fixed tenure of 2 years, with the possibility of extension up to 7 years in total.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Q8. Consider the following statements regarding the Voice of Global South Summit:**

1. The third Voice of Global South Summit will be hosted by India in a virtual format on August 17.
2. The summit will primarily focus on promoting trade agreements between Global South countries.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Q9. Which of the following is true about the recipients of the Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra?**

1. The Kirti Chakra is awarded for acts of valor in operational situations, whereas the Shaurya Chakra is awarded for acts of valor in peacetime.
2. The Shaurya Chakra is awarded to personnel of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, whereas the Kirti Chakra is limited to Army personnel only.
3. Both the Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra can be awarded to personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

**Q10. Which of the following statements regarding the appointment and powers of the President of India are correct?**

1. The President of India is appointed by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies of States and Union Territories.
2. The President has the power to appoint the Prime Minister and can also remove them from office.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2



## Solutions

### 1. Correct Answer is B

#### Explanation:

The PM-KUSUM scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in 2019. This ministry is responsible for the development and implementation of policies and schemes related to renewable energy sources in India. The PM-KUSUM scheme focuses on promoting the use of solar energy in the agricultural sector by supporting the installation of solar-powered pumps and decentralised solar power plants, which aligns with the MNRE's mandate to advance renewable energy initiatives.

### 2. Correct Answer is C

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct** because India's defence exports surged by 800% from FY 2013-14 to FY 2022-23.
- **Statement 2 is correct** as the US and China, along with other major exporters, collectively account for approximately 77% of global arms exports.

### 3. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct** as CEPA encompasses trade in goods, services, and investment, and may include additional areas.
- **Statement 2 is correct** regarding the India-UAE CEPA's objectives and implementation.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** because CEPA is more comprehensive than a standard Free Trade Agreement.

### 4. Correct Answer is C

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The Mangalyaan launched by ISRO is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission.

- **Correct:** Mangalyaan, India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), is indeed known by both names.

- **Statement 2:** Made India the second country to have a spacecraft orbit the Mars after USA.

- **Incorrect:** India was not the second country to achieve this; the USSR (Soviet Union) also had a spacecraft orbit Mars before India. The USSR's Mars 2 and Mars 3 missions entered Mars' orbit in 1971.

- **Statement 3:** Made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbit the Mars in its very first attempt.

- **Correct:** India became the first country to successfully place a spacecraft into Mars orbit on its first attempt with the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) in 2014.

### 5. Correct Answer is B

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** India has a trade surplus with the United States.

- **Correct.** India had a trade surplus of \$36.74 billion with the US in the fiscal year 2023-24.

- **Statement 2:** India's total trade deficit for the fiscal year 2022-23 was higher than in the previous fiscal year.

- **Incorrect.** India's total trade deficit narrowed to USD 238.3 billion in the last fiscal year from USD 264.9 billion in FY 2021-22.

- **Statement 3:** India's trade deficit with China has increased in recent years.

- **Correct.** India's trade deficit with China has increased, making China India's largest trading partner with significant trade imbalances.





#### 6. Correct Answer is B

##### Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The Ramsar Convention was signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, and India became a signatory in 1982.
  - **Correct.** India joined the Ramsar Convention in 1982.
- **Statement 2:** To qualify as a Ramsar site, a wetland must meet all nine criteria defined by the Ramsar Convention.
  - **Incorrect.** A wetland must meet at least one of the nine criteria to qualify as a Ramsar site.
- **Statement 3:** As of 2024, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar sites in India.
  - **Correct.** Tamil Nadu has 18 Ramsar sites, the highest number among Indian states.

#### 7. Correct Answer is A

##### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Enforcement Directorate was initially formed as the "Enforcement Unit" in 1956 and was renamed the "Enforcement Directorate" in 1957.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Director of the Enforcement Directorate has a fixed tenure of 2 years, with the possibility of extension up to 5 years in total (not 7 years). The extension is granted in 1-year increments, with a maximum of 3 annual extensions.

#### 8. Correct Answer is A

##### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** India will indeed host the third Voice of Global South Summit in a virtual format on August 17, with a focus on issues like conflicts, food

and energy security crises, and climate change.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The primary focus of the summit is not on promoting trade agreements but rather on addressing challenges and solutions for the Global South related to developmental issues.

#### 9. Correct Answer is A

##### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The Kirti Chakra is awarded for gallantry during peacetime or non-operational situations, while the Shaurya Chakra is awarded for gallantry in operational situations.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** Both the Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra can be awarded to personnel from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, not just the Army.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** Both awards can be given to personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) as well as the three armed forces.

#### 10. Correct Answer is A

##### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The President of India is elected by an electoral college that includes the members of both Houses of Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies of States and Union Territories.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** While the President appoints the Prime Minister, they do not have the power to remove the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister can only be removed through a vote of no confidence in the Lok Sabha or by resignation.

### MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1. Discuss the impact of the recent Union Budget allocations on key welfare schemes in India. How do these changes compare with the approach taken during the UPA era? What implications might these reductions have for poverty and inequality in the country?





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