

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Bharat Parv 2026:

1. The six-day event was organized by the Ministry of Culture at the Red Fort, New Delhi, as part of the Republic Day celebrations.
2. The festival, organized annually since 2016, commemorated 125 years of the song “Vande Mataram” composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.
3. A key attraction was the display of 48 Republic Day tableaux representing various States, Union Territories, and Central Ministries.
4. The cultural segment featured 41 folk and classical performances by State troupes alongside 22 performances by Armed Forces bands.
5. The event included a pan-India food court with over 60 stalls, specifically highlighting millet-based dishes and tribal food traditions.

How many of the above statements are CORRECT?

- A) Only one B) Only two C) Only three D) Only four

Bharat Parv 2026

PIB Headquarters



Bharat Parv 2026

A Living Tapestry of India's Heritage

Posted On: 31 JAN 2026 4:10PM by PIB Delhi

Event Overview

- A six-day national cultural and tourism festival.
- **Organized by Ministry of Tourism.**
- **Observed on 26th–31st January 2026.**
- **Location: Red Fort, New Delhi.**
- **It was** part of the Republic Day celebrations.



Bharat Parv

- **Purpose and History**

- This festival has been organized **annually since 2016**.
- It **showcases India's diverse heritage**. This includes ***art, culture, food, and spirituality***.
- The event reflects India's "**Unity in Diversity**".

- **2026 Themes and Initiatives**

- The 2026 event celebrated **150 years of “Vande Mataram”** (composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee).
- It promoted national initiatives like **“Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat”** and **“Dekho Apna Desh.”**

Key Initiative

The Tableaux Display

- Visitors viewed **41 Republic Day tableaux** up close.
- These displays came from various States, Union Territories, and Central Ministries.
- They told stories of **local culture, development, and innovation**

Cultural Performances

- **Folk & Classical:** There were **48 performances** by state troupes and cultural groups.
- **Patriotic Bands:** The Armed Forces and paramilitary bands gave **22 performances**, adding a patriotic feel.

The Food Court

- A "Pan-India" food court featured over **60 stalls**.
- The menu included regional cuisines and tribal food traditions.
- There was a special focus on **millet-based dishes** and sustainable food practices



Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative:

1. The initiative is a flagship campaign of the Ministry of Culture aimed at strengthening the domestic tourism sector.
2. It was launched in January 2020, initially starting as a webinar series to create awareness about the rich heritage of India.
3. The Union Budget 2023-24 announced that 75 tourist destinations will be selected through a challenge mode and developed as a complete package under this scheme.
4. The initiative encourages Indians to pledge to visit at least 15 tourist destinations within India by the year 2022.

How many of the above statements are CORRECT?

- A) Only one B) Only two C) Only three D) All four

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative:

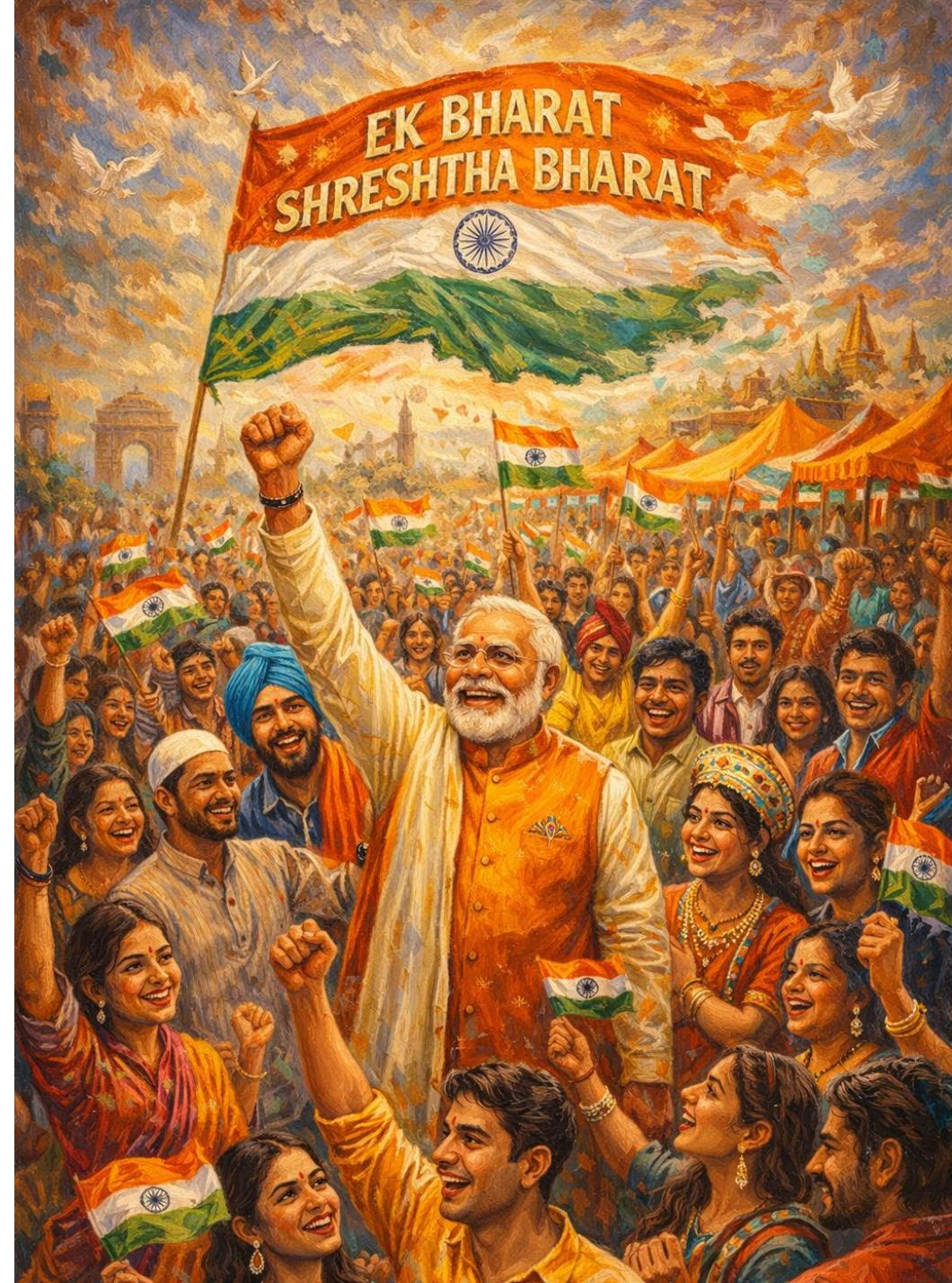
1. The initiative is spearheaded by the Ministry of Culture as the nodal ministry to coordinate cultural exchanges between states.
2. It was launched on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to promote the spirit of national integration.
3. Under this scheme, the pairing of States and Union Territories is permanent to ensure long-term stability in cultural bonding and exchange programs.
4. The 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' and 'Yuva Sangam' are key initiatives organised under the aegis of this scheme.

How many of the above statements are CORRECT?

- A) Only one B) Only two C) Only three D) All four

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB)

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Education.
- **Launch Date:** 31st October 2015 (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas).
- **Occasion:** 140th Birth Anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- **Core Objective:** To promote **National Integration** and "Unity in Diversity"



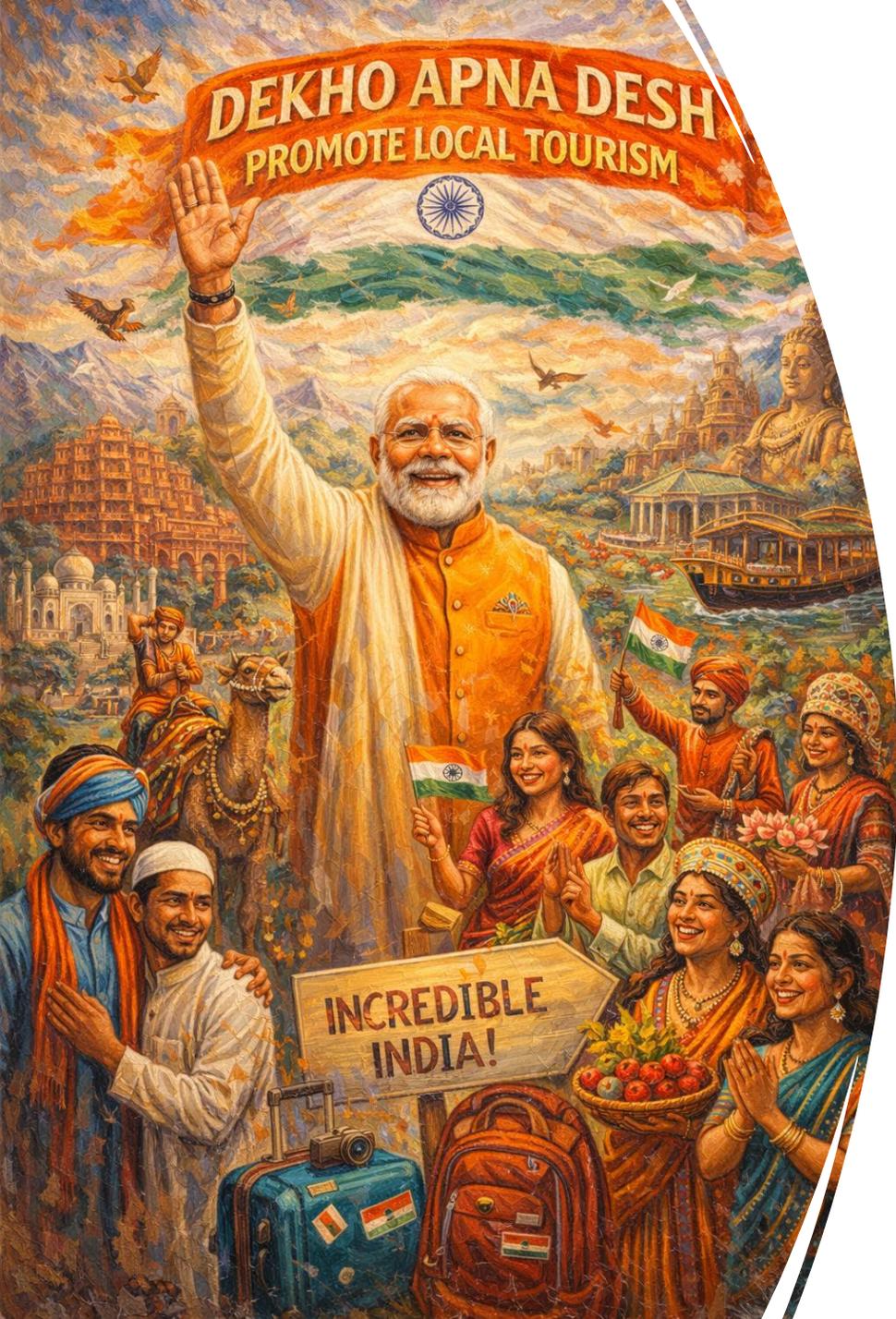
Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB)

Mechanism:

- **State Pairing:** Every State/UT is paired with another for a fixed period.
- **Activities:** They exchange language, food, and culture (e.g., Punjab paired with Andhra Pradesh)

Key Sub-Initiatives:

- **Yuva Sangam:** Youth exposure tours between paired states.
- **Kashi Tamil Sangamam:** Celebrating historical links between Varanasi and Tamil Nadu.
- **Bhasha Sangam:** An initiative to learn 100 sentences in different Indian languages



Dekho Apna Desh

- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Tourism.**
- **Launch Year:** January 2020 (initially started as a webinar series).
- **Core Objective:** To encourage **Domestic Tourism**.
- **Motto:** Encouraging citizens to travel *within* India ("Vocal for Local") to boost the local economy.
- **Budget Link (Important):** In the **Union Budget 2023-24**, it was announced as a distinct scheme.
 - **Goal:** 50 tourist destinations will be selected and developed as a "complete package."

Current Update (2024-25):

"People's Choice 2024":

- A nationwide poll launched by the PM to identify the best tourist attractions across 5 categories (Spiritual, Cultural, Nature, Adventure, and Other).

Target Audience:

- The middle class and youth, urging them to visit at least **15 domestic locations** by 2022 (original target)

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Leprosy and the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP):

1. Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium leprae that primarily affects the Central Nervous System and the skin.
2. India achieved the distinction of National Leprosy Eradication in 2005, defined as a prevalence rate of less than 1 case per 10,000 population.
3. The Multidrug Therapy (MDT) required to cure the disease is provided free of charge by the World Health Organization (WHO).
4. The National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2023-2027 has set a target to end leprosy transmission completely by the year 2027.
5. Advanced symptoms of the disease may include facial nodules, loss of eyebrows, and deformities such as claw hand or foot drop.

How many of the above statements are CORRECT?

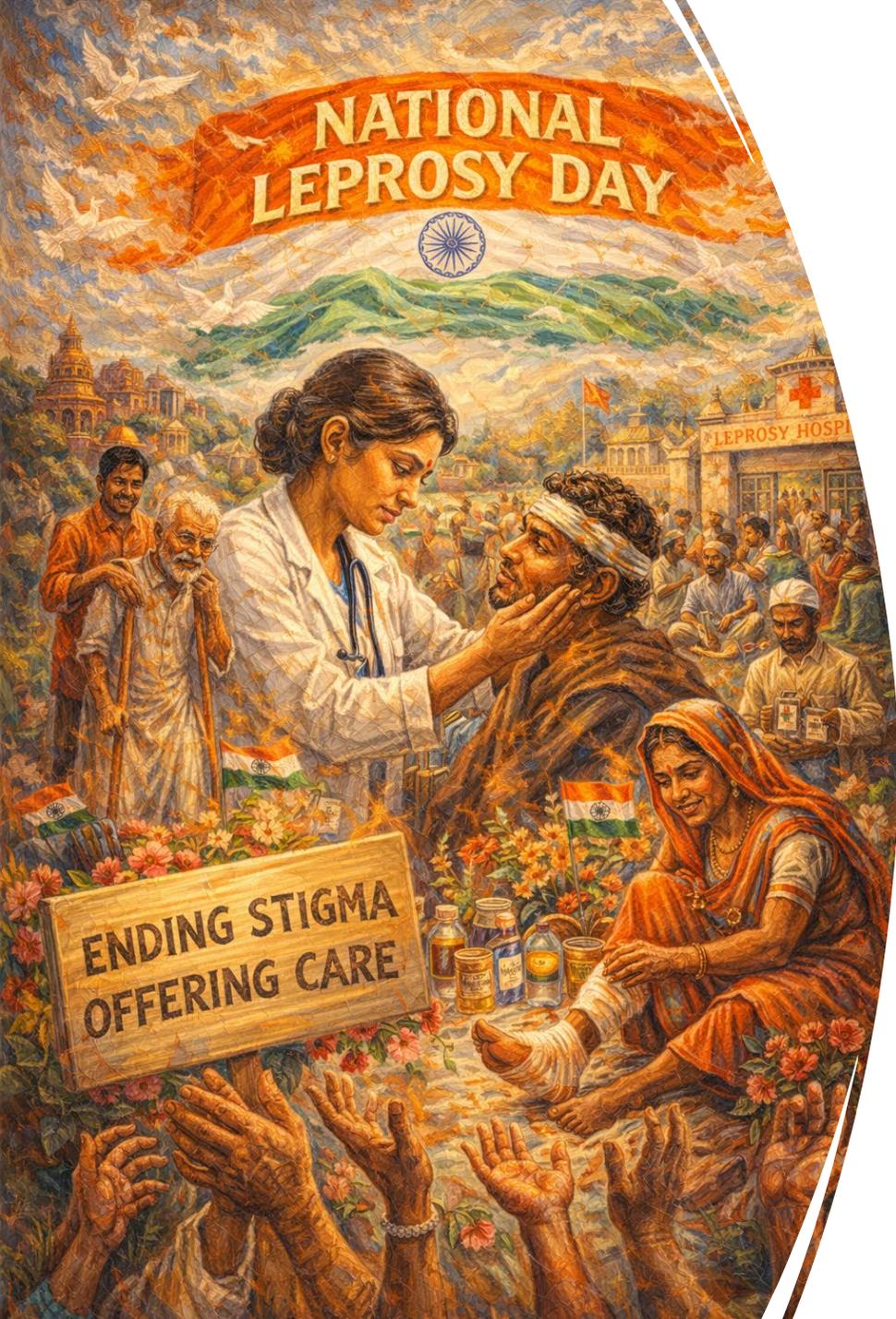
- A) Only one B) Only two C) Only three D) Only four

National Leprosy Day

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



Central Leprosy Division observes National Leprosy Day with IEC Outreach Programme at Dilli Haat



What is Leprosy?

- **Cause:** A chronic infectious disease caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- **Affected Areas:** It mainly affects the skin and peripheral nerves.
- **Transmission:** Spreads through **droplets** from the nose or mouth of untreated patients.
- **Cure:** It is fully curable using **Multidrug Therapy (MDT)**.
 - *Note:* The WHO provides this treatment for **free**.

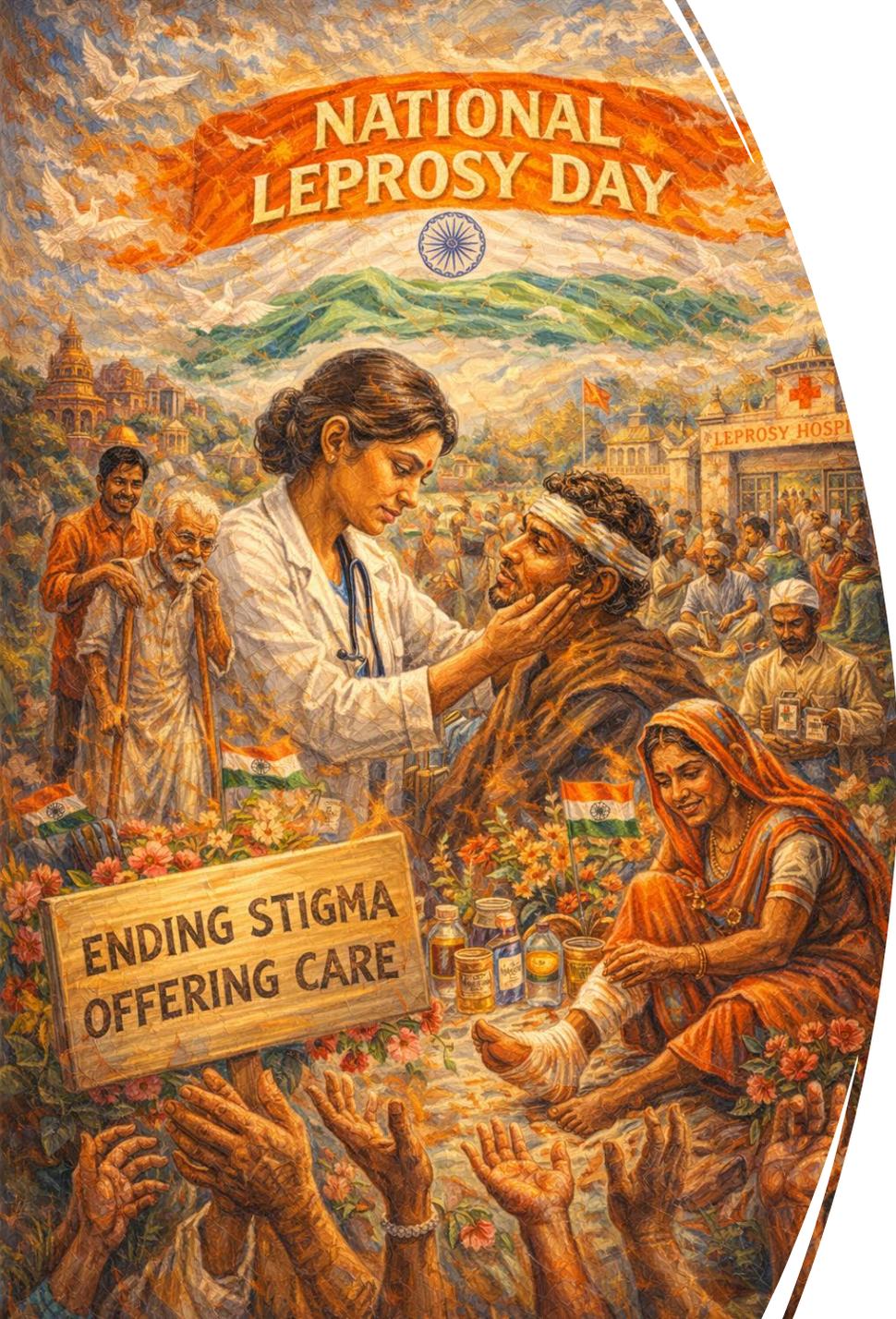
Key Symptoms

Early Signs:

- Reddish skin patches with **sensory loss** (cannot feel touch/pain).
- Thickened nerves leading to numbness.

Advanced Signs (if untreated):

- Muscle weakness and paralysis (e.g., **claw hand, foot drop**).
- Facial nodules (lumps).
- Nasal bleeding.
- Visible deformities like the loss of eyebrows.



Overview of the News

- National Leprosy Day (observed on the **last Sunday of January**).
- **Organizer:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Action:** Conducted an outreach programme (IEC) to promote awareness.
- **Goals:** Early detection, reducing stigma, and spreading knowledge.

India's Status

Milestone:

- India achieved "**Elimination Status**" in **2005**.
- *Definition:* Prevalence Rate (PR) of less than 1 case per 10,000 population.

Current Status (2025):

- The Prevalence Rate is **0.57**, meaning India has sustained its elimination status.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Coking Coal and the recent government initiatives:

1. To ensure supply security, the Government of India declared Coking Coal a Critical and Strategic Mineral by amending the Second Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957.
2. Coking coal is a specialized grade of bituminous coal which, upon carbonization, produces coke essential for reducing iron ore in blast furnaces.
3. India is currently the third-largest crude steel producer in the world and relies on imports to meet nearly 95% of its coking coal requirements.
4. The domestic resources of coking coal in India are primarily concentrated in Jharkhand, with significant reserves also found in Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Chhattisgarh.

How many of the above statements are CORRECT?

- A) Only one B) Only two C) Only three D) All four

Coking Coal Now a Critical Mineral

Ministry of Coal



Government Notifies Coking Coal as Critical & Strategic Mineral under MMDR Act, 1957

Government Action

- **Declaration:** The Government of India has declared **Coking Coal** as a **Critical and Strategic Mineral**.
- This was done under the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act)**.
- Using **Section 11C**, the government updated the 'First Schedule' of the Act:
 - It is now included in **Part D** (Critical and Strategic Minerals).
 - It is explicitly defined within "Coal" in **Part A**.
- **Goal:** To reduce dependence on imports and support "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-reliant India) and "Viksit Bharat 2047" (Developed India).



What is Coking Coal?

- **Type:** It is a high-quality grade of **bituminous coal**.
- **Function:** It is used to create **coke** through a heating process called carbonization.
- **Role in Industry:** Coke is essential for turning iron ore into pig iron in **blast furnaces**. It acts as a reducing agent.



Coking Coal

- **Key Properties:**
 - **Caking:** Softens and swells when heated.
 - **Purity:** Has low levels of impurities like ash, sulfur, and phosphorus.
- **Importance for Steel**
 - **Dependency:** You cannot make traditional steel without it.
 - **Ratio:** To produce **1 tonne of steel**, you need about **780 kg** of coking coal.
 - **Strategic Value:** Because steel is vital for infrastructure and defense, coking coal is strategically important.



Global & Indian Scenario

- **Global Leaders:**
- The top producers are **China, Australia, Russia, USA, and Canada.**
- **India's Position:**
- **Rank:** India is the **2nd largest** crude steel producer in the world.
- **Import Reliance:** India is heavily dependent on imports.
 - **95%** of the steel industry's coking coal needs are met by imports.
 - A major portion comes from **Australia.**
- **Rising Imports:** In 2024–25, imports reached **57.58 million tonnes**, showing a growing gap between demand and local supply.



Domestic Resources:

- **Total Resources:** India has about **37.37 billion tonnes** of coking coal resources.
- **Key States:**
 - **Jharkhand** (Primary source)
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - West Bengal
 - Chhattisgarh