

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

December, 2023 1st Week

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Index

Art & Culture.....	2
Geography	2
Polity	3
Acts & Policies	6
Index & Reports.....	8
International Relation/Organizations	9
Economy.....	11
Environment.....	13
Science & Technology	17
Answer Key	20
Answers & Explanation.....	21

Art & Culture

Q.1) Consider the following statements with reference to Parthenon Sculptures:

1. They were originally part of Temple of Poseidon at Sounion.
2. The sculptures depict scenes from Greek mythology, including deities and mythological events.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.2) Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the 'Tantric Buddhism':

- a) In Tantric Buddhism, mandalas refer to the spiritual dance performance.
- b) Vajrayana and Esoteric are the two main branches of Tantric Buddhism.
- c) In Tantric Buddhism, the union of opposites (male and female energies) represents equality.
- d) Snakes are the central symbol often associated with Tantric Buddhist rituals.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding 'Kutiyattam':

1. It is a form of Sanskrit theatre practised in Kerala.
2. It is traditionally performed in theatres called Kuttampalams, which are located in Hindu temples.

Which of the following statements are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q.4) The first edition of the India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale (IAADB) was recently held at which location of historical importance:

- a) Red Fort, Delhi.
- b) Taj Mahal, Uttar Pradesh.
- c) Qutub Minar Complex, Delhi.
- d) Statue of Unity, Gujarat.

Geography

Q 5. Which one of the following statements is correct regarding 'Rat Hole Mining'?

- a) It involves extracting minerals from underground deposits through the creation of tunnels and shafts.
- b) It involves digging narrow, vertical tunnels resembling burrows to extract coal.
- c) It is a method of extracting minerals from loose sediments, such as sand and gravel, often found in riverbeds.
- d) It involves the excavation of large open pits to extract valuable minerals or other geological materials from the Earth's surface.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.6) Consider the following geographical features:

1. Coral Reefs
2. Atolls
3. Lagoons
4. Seamounts

Which of the above features are related to the country 'Maldives'?

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

Q.7) Which of the following countries borders the Golan Heights?

- a) Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran
- b) Israel, Lebanon, and Jordan.
- c) Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar
- d) Iran, Israel and Jordan

Q.8) Consider the following pairs:

Geographical Indication tag	State
1. Lakadong turmeric	Ladakh
2. Larnai pottery	Meghalaya
3. Sea Buckthorn	Sikkim

How many of the above pairs are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Polity

Q.9) Which one of the following Articles of the Indian Constitution provides for the creation of an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS)?

- a) Article 132
- b) Article 147
- c) Article 231
- d) Article 312

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.10) With reference to the Indian Polity, consider the following statements:

1. Currently, district judges are appointed by the President of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
2. Under Article 312, if Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by a majority of not less than two-thirds of Members present and voting, declares that it is necessary in the national interest, Parliament may by law provide for creation of one or more All-India Services (including an All-India judicial service) common to both the Union and the States.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

1. Candidates attending religious ceremonies during the campaign period.
2. Candidates organizing public rallies to address the concerns of local communities.
3. Candidates providing financial assistance to underprivileged voters.
4. Candidates engaging in constructive debates with their opponents.

How many of the above actions would be a violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC)?

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

Q.12) With reference to the Fast-Track Special Courts (FTSCs), consider the following statements:

1. Fast-track courts were first introduced on the recommendation of the 11th Finance Commission.
2. The primary aim of the Fast Track Special Courts is to provide legal assistance to underprivileged individuals.
3. Fast Track Special Courts contribute to judicial reforms by ensuring that all cases are resolved within a specific timeframe.
4. Fast Track Special Courts Scheme aims to ensure swift dispensation of justice, offering quick relief to victims while strengthening the deterrence framework for sexual offenders.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.13) With reference to the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) consider the following statements:

1. It is an independent system attached to an EVM that allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended.
2. In case of a discrepancy between electronic results and VVPAT paper slips, the Election Commission decision takes precedence.
3. India was the first country to implement the VVPAT system in an election.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Q.14) Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Sixth Schedule in relation to tribal areas?

- a) Integration of tribal areas with mainstream governance
- b) Preservation of tribal culture and heritage
- c) Exclusion of tribal representation in local governance
- d) Promotion of indigenization in tribal regions

Q.15) In some parts of the world, adultery is considered a 'tort'. Which one of the following does the statement imply?

- a) It is a crime against the state.
- b) It is a civil wrong that can be compensated with damages.
- c) It is a religious offense.
- d) It is a violation of human rights.

Q.16) University Grants Commission (UGC) is a:

- a) Constitutional Body
- b) Statutory Body
- c) Executive Body
- d) Ad-hoc Body

Q.17) The Bar Council of India (BCI) is a statutory body established under which of the following act:

- a) Legal Practitioners Act of 1879
- b) Advocates Act of 1961
- c) Bar Council of India Act of 1948
- d) Government of India Act of 1935

Acts & Policies

Q.18) Consider the following statements with reference to the Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill:

1. It empowers the courts from inquiring into a privileged communication between Ministers and the President of India.
2. It has been expanded to include any information given electronically that will enable the appearance of witnesses, accused, experts and victims through electronic means.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.19) Which of the following are the functions/objectives of the “Scheme for providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs)”?

1. Encourage women's participation in the technology-driven agricultural sector.
2. Deliver essential goods and services to women in rural areas.
3. Collect data on women's health and well-being.
4. Enhance the income and livelihood opportunities of women in rural India.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.20) With reference to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), consider the following statements:

1. The Gond Tribe in Madhya Pradesh is recognized as one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
2. Inadequate infrastructure is one of the primary criteria for identifying PVTGs.
3. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is one of the schemes that has benefitted some of the PVTGs.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Q.21) Which one of the following is the objective of “Sanchar Saathi Portal”?

- a) It provides a user-friendly interface for telecom professionals to engage in forums, discussions, and share best practices, promoting knowledge-sharing within the industry.
- b) Its purpose is to empower citizens by providing information about mobile connections issued in their name, enabling them to disconnect unnecessary connections, block or trace lost mobile phones, and verify the authenticity of devices when purchasing new or used mobile phones.
- c) It plays a pivotal role in promoting transparency and efficiency in the telecom sector by offering a centralized hub for regulatory compliance, licensing, and policy updates.
- d) It acts as a catalyst for fostering collaboration between government agencies, industry players, and other stakeholders to collectively address challenges and opportunities in the telecom sector.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.22) With reference to AICTE Approval Process Handbook for Academic Year 2024-2027, consider the following statements:

1. The handbook elaborates on processes which institutions need to follow while seeking approval from the AICTE to run technical and management programmes/course.
2. The handbook is applicable for the next seven years.
3. Well-performing institutions can offer off-campus programs within the jurisdiction of affiliating Universities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) All the three
- d) None

Q.23) With reference to 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (MGMD) Project', consider the following statements:

1. It has been initiated by the Ministry of Rural development in coordination with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
2. The main objective of project is to culturally map pan India villages on a comprehensive virtual platform.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC):

1. It is a wholly-owned Govt. of India Undertaking under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. It provides free skill development training to sanitation workers and their dependents under Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) and PM DAKSH Yojana.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Index & Reports

Q.25) With reference to the Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report 2023, consider the following statements:

1. As per the report, total annual ground water extraction for the entire country has increased.
2. The report provides that there has been an increase in stage of groundwater extraction level.
3. The report acknowledges the positive impact of initiatives like Atal Bhujal Yojana and Jal Shakti Abhiyan in improving groundwater resource management.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding NCRB crime in India report 2022:

1. Mumbai ranked the highest in Cyber-crimes.
2. It showed overall increase in crimes and atrocities committed upon Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).
3. The reports indicated a decrease in the number of cases registered under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) while an increase in the number of sedition cases.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All the three
- d) None

Q.27) Regarding the 'India Infrastructure Report', which of the following statements are correct:

Statement I: It is published by the NITI Aayog.

Statement II: It advocates for completely stopping public-private partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure development due to its various shortcomings.

Select the correct answer using the options given below:

- a) Only Statement I is correct.
- b) Only Statement II is correct.
- c) Both Statement I and II are correct.
- d) Neither Statement I nor II are correct.

International Relation/Organizations

Q.28) With reference to the ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF), consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual forum organized to strengthen partnership between India and ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the area of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).
2. It is a platform exclusively focused on showcasing innovations already in the final stages of development.
3. The AIGIF is only interested in innovations with direct commercial applications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.29) With reference to Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a national fisheries management organization responsible for the conservation and management salmon and salmon-like species in the Indian Ocean.
2. The decisions taken by commission are binding on all members.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.30) Consider the following statements with reference to "Kra Isthmus Project":

1. Isthmus of Kra is a narrow stretch of land connecting Singapore Island to the Malay Peninsula.
2. The Kra Isthmus Project will connect the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand.
3. The project could change global shipping routes, reducing reliance on the Malacca Strait.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.31) With reference to Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), consider the following statements:

1. The partnership is engaged in providing financial support and carrying out research and development activities in the field of artificial intelligence.
2. India is one of the members of GPAI.
3. The GPAI's principles and guidelines are being used by governments and organizations around the world to develop their own AI policies.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.32) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: As per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) "Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others".

Statement-II: Disabilities in India are highest in the age group 40-69 years.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Q.33) Which one of the following is the primary function of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)?

- a) To promote sustainable shipping practices
- b) To provide maritime education and training
- c) To regulate international shipping
- d) To resolve maritime disputes

Q.34) In the context of the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the UN Security Council.
2. UN Member states contribute their manpower for Peacekeeping forces on a mandatory basis.
3. India is one of the largest contributors of troops to UN Peacekeeping operations.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.35) Regarding Article 99 of the UN Charter, which of the following statements is correct?

- a) The article allows the UN Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the UNSC any matter that may threaten international peace and security.
- b) The article allows the UNSC to initiate military action.
- c) The article allows the UN to dismiss its member states.
- d) The article allows the UN to prosecute international war criminals.

Q.36) With reference to 'Assam Accord' seen in news is related to which of the following

- a) Border settlement pact between Assam and Meghalaya
- b) It was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement for the issue of illegal migration.
- c) It was a peace deal signed between Assam government and ULFA.
- d) It was an agreement signed between Govt of Assam and Govt of Bangladesh for border disputes.

Economy

Q.37) With reference to the Indian aviation sector, which of the following statements are correct?

1. India is the world's third-largest domestic aviation market.
2. The number of operational airports in India has doubled in recent years.
3. Delhi and Mumbai airports have achieved Level 4+ Carbon Accreditation.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.38) Consider the following:

1. Government bonds
2. Equities
3. Loans to consumers

In the context of the items mentioned above, which is/are characterized by the lowest Risk Weight (RW)?

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

Q.39) In the economic context, which of the following implications can be expected if Indian bonds are incorporated into the Global Bond Indices?

1. Strengthening of Rupee
2. High Borrowing Costs
3. Increased Capital Inflows
4. Increased volatility
5. Greater control over interest rates

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- b) 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Q.40) Consider the following:

1. Currency held by banks
2. Currency held by the government
3. Electronic/Digital currencies
4. Currency in the hands of the public

How many of the above items forms the part of Currency in Circulation (CiC)?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.41) With reference to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to determine the average wage levels across industries.
2. The term "usual status" in the PLFS refers to employment status at the time of the survey.
3. Ministry of Labour and Employment is responsible for conducting the PLFS in India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Q.42) In how many of the following ways, does the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) protect consumers in India?

1. By regulating export and import activities
2. By providing legal assistance to consumers
3. By conducting consumer awareness campaigns
4. By regulating consumer complaints and grievances

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.43) Consider the following:

1. Trust
2. Norms and values
3. Physical capital
4. Social media connections

Which of the above form the part of 'Social Capital'?

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

Q.44) With reference to the Dam Infrastructure in India, consider the following statements:

1. India is the most dammed country in the world.
2. India has a poor record of dam safety.
3. India generates approximately 65% of the overall hydropower potential solely from dams situated on the Himalayan rivers.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.45) Which one of the following statements best describes the term 'Network Effect', seen in the news recently?

- a) It refers to the phenomenon where the value or utility of a product or service increases as more people use it.
- b) It occurs when the cost per unit of production decreases as the scale of production increases.
- c) It suggests that a small change in one part of a system can have far-reaching consequences.
- d) It states that, after a certain point, the addition of one more unit of input (like labor or capital) while keeping other inputs constant, will result in smaller increases in output.

Q.46) Consider the following characteristics:

- 1. Accessibility
- 2. Monetization
- 3. Decentralization
- 4. Reliance on large corporations

How many of the above are the characteristics of a 'Creator Economy'?

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

Q.47) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India is one of members of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC).
- 2. Kasturi Cotton Bharat is a premium cotton brand of India.
- 3. India has the largest area under cotton cultivation and is the second largest cotton producer.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Environment

Q.48) With reference to the 'Axolotl', a species of Salamander, consider the following statements:

- 1. They have the ability to regenerate lost or damaged limbs, hearts, lungs, and even parts of their brains.
- 2. They are cold-blooded vertebrates characterized by scales or scutes on their skin.
- 3. They are omnivorous animal.
- 4. They are categorized Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.49) With reference to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), consider the following statements:

1. It is a regulatory body that enforces environmental laws.
2. It is bound by the procedures laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
3. It has the power to issue binding orders to the government.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Q.50) Consider the following statements:

1. China leads the world in both clean and dirty energy, responsible for about 30% of annual global emissions.
2. Algeria is one of the countries added to the BRICS-Plus nation.
3. Among the states in India, Madhya Pradesh has shown a significant reduction in the reliance of fossil fuel.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Q.51) Consider the following statements with reference to the "Loss & Damage":

1. The concept of "loss and damage" refers to financial penalties for non-compliance with emission reduction targets.
2. Taxation on industries contributing to climate change is one of the ways of generating Loss & Damage Fund.
3. Compensating for losses after the occurrence of climate-related events is one of the roles played by Loss & Damage Fund in encouraging climate resilience and risk reduction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.52) Consider the following Sanctuaries:

1. Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary

How many of the above sanctuaries are located in Karnataka?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.53) Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs), are designated areas that surround protected areas, such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. In this context, which one of the following is NOT a potential benefit of Eco-Sensitive Zones?

- a) Conservation of biodiversity
- b) Improvement of water quality
- c) Reduction of soil erosion
- d) Promotion of sustainable tourism

Q.54) Consider the following statements:

1. The Global Green Credit (GGC) initiative aims to be a global program promoting environmental action through a standardized credit system.
2. The Green Credit Programme (GCP) is a national program focused on specific environmental activities within India and operates with pre-defined methodologies and a domestic market.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.55) Recently, at COP-28, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced a new fund called "ALTERRA" for climate investments and transforming emerging markets and developing economies. In this context, if a small solar power company in India wants to expand its operations, then in which one of the following ways could ALTERRA potentially support the company?

- a) It will provide direct funding for the expansion of the project.
- b) It will invest in a larger solar energy company that operates in India.
- c) It will offer technical expertise and facilitate access to finance.
- d) It will help in purchasing carbon credits generated by the solar power plant.

Q.56) Regarding Heat Action Plans (HAPs), which of the following statements are correct?

1. HAPs have been implemented in all States and Union Territories of India.
2. It is colour-coded in shades of red (Very Dark Red, Dark Red, Light Red, etc.)
3. The Union Government is responsible for implementing HAPs.

Answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 only
- d) None of the above is correct.

Q.57) Consider the following statements regarding ethanol production India:

1. In India Ethanol is largely produced through sugarcane-based molasses and grain-based sources as feedstock.
2. The Government has set a target of achieving 20% ethanol blending with petrol by 2024.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.58) Which international agreement does the Kigali Amendment amend?

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Paris Agreement
- c) Montreal Protocol
- d) Copenhagen Accord

Q.59) The silent valley national park is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Sikkim

Q.60) Regarding Olive Ridley Turtles, consider the following:

1. They are known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada.
2. The coast of Odisha in India is the largest mass nesting site for the Olive ridley.
3. Their IUCN Red List status is 'Endangered'.
4. Operation Olivia is undertaken by the Indian Coast Guard for protecting the species.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.61) The Santiago Network, recently seen in news, is a:

- a) Mexican Drug Cartel.
- b) Chinese Hacker Group.
- c) Type of Splinternet.
- d) Climate Change Mitigation Initiative.

Q.62) With reference to 'Early Warnings for All Initiative' consider the following statements

1. The "Early Warnings for All" initiative is an effort to ensure that everyone on Earth is protected from hazardous climate events through life-saving early warning systems.
2. It was launched by WMO president.
3. The initiative is being led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All the three
- d) None

Science & Technology

Q.63) With reference to the Walking Pneumonia, seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is a type of pneumonia which is characterized by severe respiratory illness.
2. It is more prevalent among children.
3. The strict lockdown measures implemented in China to control the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the reasons behind outbreak of walking pneumonia in China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.64) With reference to the Legion of Honour Award, consider the following statements:

1. It is a science award presented by the President of the United States to recognize the achievements of junior researchers in the field of science.
2. The award is given out every year on Bastille Day.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.65) With reference to the MAHASAGAR initiative of the Indian Navy, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative aimed at promoting active security and growth for all in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
2. Kenya was one of the participating countries in its virtual meeting.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.66) Consider the following statements:

1. Polarization is a property of light waves that describes the direction of the electric field oscillations.
2. X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) Mission is India's first dedicated polarimetry mission to study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.67) The Mahe class ships are a valuable asset to the Indian Navy. Which one of the following best describes the Mahe class ships?

- a) Multi-purpose ships
- b) Fast and agile ships
- c) Long-range ships
- d) Heavily armed ships

Q.68) With reference to Methotrexate (MTX), seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is used to treat various medical conditions, primarily cancers, and certain inflammatory conditions.
- 2. It is ineffective in treating autoimmune diseases.

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

Q.69) 'Project Gemini' sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following

- a) A Space exploration program by NASA
- b) A Multimodal AI and Large Language Model developed by Google
- c) A crypto currency platform
- d) A medical research organization

Q.70) With reference to Propulsion module of Chandrayaan-3 Consider the following statements:

- 1. The main objective of propulsion module was to ferry the Lander module from geostationary transfer orbit (GTO) to the final lunar polar circular orbit and separate the Lander.
- 2. It is equipped with a payload called SpectroPolarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE).

Which of the following statements are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q.71) Which of the following countries has its own Satellite Navigation System?

- 1. Australia
- 2. China
- 3. Israel
- 4. Japan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) All of the above
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 4 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.72) Which of the following statements are correct?

Statement I: Generative AI is defined as the intelligence of machines that allows them to comprehend, learn, and perform intellectual tasks much like humans.

Statement II: Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is a type of artificial intelligence technology that can produce various types of content, including text, imagery, audio, etc.

Select the correct answer using the options given below

- a) Only Statement I is correct.
- b) Only Statement II is correct.
- c) Both Statement I and II are correct.
- d) Neither Statement I nor II are correct.

Q.73) Regarding clinical trials, consider the following statements:

Statement 1: Phase III clinical trials primarily focus on assessing the safety and dosage range of a new drug or treatment in a small group of healthy volunteers.

Statement 2: Phase I clinical trials involve a larger population than Phase II and III and compare the new treatment against standard or existing treatments to assess its effectiveness, safety, and potential side effects.

Which of the following options is correct?

- a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true.
- b) Statement 1 is true, but Statement 2 is false.
- c) Statement 2 is true, but Statement 1 is false.
- d) Neither Statement 1 nor Statement 2 is true.

Q.74) The term 'JT-60SA' sometimes seen in news recently is related to which of the following:

- a) Space communication satellite
- b) New AI model developed by Google
- c) Air defense system
- d) Nuclear Fusion reactor

Q.75) Consider the following statements:

1. Neglected tropical diseases have largely been wiped out in the more developed parts and persist mostly in the poorer countries.
2. As per WHO recent data Malaria is considered to be one of the Neglected tropical diseases.

Which of the following statements are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q.76) Pompe Disease, recently seen in news, is a:

- a) Bacterial disease
- b) Viral disease
- c) Genetic disorder
- d) None of the above

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

Q.77) Sickle-Cell disease, recently seen in news, is caused by:

- a) A type of virus.
- b) A type of bacteria.
- c) A type of genetic mutation.
- d) A type of fungi.

Q.78) With respect to applications of genetic engineering, consider the following statements:

Statement I: It cannot be used to create genetically modified crops which can withstand higher temperatures.

Statement II: It can be used to bring an extinct species back to life.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.
- b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I.
- c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Q.79) Golden Rice and BioCassava Plus, often seen in news, are types of:

- a) Climate-resistant crop varieties.
- b) Crop varieties enlisted to be utilised for biofuel production.
- c) Biofortified crop varieties.
- d) None of the above.

Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (b)	3 - (c)	4 - (a)	5 - (b)	6 - (a)	7 - (b)	8 - (a)	9 - (d)	10 - (b)
11 - (a)	12 - (c)	13 - (b)	14 - (b)	15 - (b)	16 - (b)	17 - (b)	18 - (b)	19 - (d)	20 - (a)
21 - (b)	22 - (b)	23 - (b)	24 - (b)	25 - (c)	26 - (a)	27 - (d)	28 - (b)	29 - (b)	30 - (b)
31 - (b)	32 - (c)	33 - (c)	34 - (a)	35 - (a)	36 - (b)	37 - (d)	38 - (a)	39 - (c)	40 - (b)
41 - (d)	42 - (b)	43 - (a)	44 - (b)	45 - (a)	46 - (c)	47 - (d)	48 - (c)	49 - (a)	50 - (a)
51 - (c)	52 - (c)	53 - (d)	54 - (c)	55 - (c)	56 - (d)	57 - (a)	58 - (c)	59 - (b)	60 - (c)
61 - (d)	62 - (b)	63 - (c)	64 - (d)	65 - (c)	66 - (c)	67 - (a)	68 - (a)	69 - (b)	70 - (c)
71 - (c)	72 - (d)	73 - (d)	74 - (d)	75 - (a)	76 - (c)	77 - (c)	78 - (d)	79 - (c)	

Answers & Explanation

Art & Culture

1. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Parthenon Sculptures, also known as the Elgin Marbles, are a collection of classical Greek marble sculptures that once adorned the Parthenon temple (dedicated to the goddess Athena) on the rocky Acropolis hills of Athens. The majority of the sculptures were created under the direction of sculptor and architect Phidias.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Parthenon Sculptures depict a variety of scenes from Greek mythology, including deities, mythological events, and battles between gods and mortals.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct option is (B)

- Mandalas are sacred diagrams that represent the universe and the interconnectedness of all things. They are used for meditation and visualization in Tantric Buddhism, but they are not dance performances.
- The union of opposites in Tantric Buddhism is not about equality. It is about the realization that all opposites are ultimately illusory and that the true nature of reality is non-dual.
- Lotus flowers symbolism is often associated with Tantric Buddhist rituals. In rituals and practices, the lotus flower is often used as a focal point for meditation or as a representation of the Buddha.
- Vajrayana and Esoteric are the two main branches of Tantric Buddhism. Vajrayana Buddhism is the more well-known branch, and it is characterized by its use of powerful mantras, mudras, and mandalas. Esoteric Buddhism is a more secretive tradition, and its practices are only taught to initiated students.
- Tantric Buddhism uses art for teaching, healing, and meditation. In tantrism, art is seen as a powerful instrument for aiding spiritual development through rituals. Paintings of deities are used as a tool to evoke the subject or in some cases make contact directly.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct option is (C)

- Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre, which is practised in the province of Kerala, is one of India's oldest living theatrical traditions. Kutiyattam is traditionally performed in theatres called Kuttampalams, which are located in Hindu temples.

Source- [ForumIAS](#)

4. Correct Option is (A)

- The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the first Indian Art, Architecture & Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023 being held at Red Fort, Delhi. It is India's first Global Cultural Initiative to showcase Indian art, architecture and designs.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Geography

5. Correct option is (B)

- Rat hole mining is a type of underground mining method where small tunnels or "rat holes" are dug to access coal seams. It's called "rat hole mining" because the tunnels are often so small that they resemble the tunnels made by rats. It's often used in areas with shallow coal deposits and can be dangerous for miners because the tunnels can collapse easily. Rat hole mining is illegal in many

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

countries, including India, due to the hazardous working conditions and environmental damage it causes. It was prevalent in Meghalaya.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct option is (A)

- The Maldives is renowned for its extensive coral reefs, making it a haven for marine biodiversity. The Maldives is comprised of 26 atolls, which are ring-shaped coral reef formations enclosing lagoons. Each atoll consists of numerous small coral islands. The lagoons within the Maldives atolls are some of the most sheltered and tranquil waters in the world. They are home to a variety of marine life, including fish, corals, and turtles. The lagoons are also a popular destination for swimming, snorkeling, and diving.
- However, Maldives are not generally considered to have seamounts. Seamounts are usually found at depths of 1,000-4,000 meters, but the Maldives is located in shallow waters.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

7. Correct option is (B)

- The Golan Heights is a strategically important plateau in the Middle East, located in southwestern Syria. It is bordered by Israel to the west, Lebanon to the northwest, and Jordan to the south. It is a volcanic plateau that rises to an elevation of 1,600 meters above sea level and overlooks the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan Valley. Golan Heights was part of Syria until 1967. But Israel captured it in the 1967 Six Day War and annexed it in 1981. The area is a key source of water. Rainwater from the Golan's catchment feeds into the Jordan River. The land is fertile, and the volcanic soil is used to cultivate vineyards and orchards and raise cattle. The Golan is also home to Israel's only ski resort.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer: A

- Lakadong turmeric and Larnai pottery recently awarded GI tag both are related to Meghalaya. Sea buckthorn is generally found in dry areas such as the cold deserts of Ladakh. In Ladakh, it is popularly known as the 'Wonder Plant', 'Ladakh Gold', 'Golden Bush', or 'Gold Mine' of cold deserts.

Source-1. [Forum IAS](#) 2. [Forum IAS](#)

Polity

9. Correct option is (D)

- Article 312 of the Constitution, as amended by the 42nd Amendment Act in 1976, provides for the creation of an AIJS. It requires a resolution adopted by the Council of States with two-thirds majority of present and voting, and a parliamentary law.
- Under AIJS, district judges will get recruited centrally through an all-India examination and allocated to each State along the lines of the All-India Services.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

10. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Currently, district judges are appointed by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State. This is in accordance with Article 233 of the Constitution of India. The President of India does not have a direct role in the appointment of district judges.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

- Statement 2 is correct. Article 312 of the Indian Constitution empowers the Parliament to create one or more All-India Services (including an All-India judicial service) common to both the Union and the States through a special majority resolution passed by the Rajya Sabha.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct option is (A)

- The model code refers to a set of norms laid down by the Election Commission of India, with the consensus of political parties. It bears no statutory backing and remains unenforceable.
- Candidates attending religious ceremonies during the campaign period is not a violation of the MCC. Candidates are free to attend religious ceremonies as long as they do not use the occasion to campaign for votes.
- Candidates organizing public rallies to address the concerns of local communities is also not a violation of the MCC. Candidates are free to hold public meetings and rallies to address the concerns of voters. However, they must not make inflammatory or provocative speeches, or use the occasion to attack their opponents.
- Candidates engaging in constructive debates with their opponents is not only allowed but encouraged under the MCC. Constructive debates help voters to learn about the candidates' positions on important issues and to make informed decisions about who to vote for.
- However, Candidates providing financial assistance to underprivileged voters would be a violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).
- The MCC prohibits candidates from offering gifts or inducements to voters. This includes providing financial assistance, such as money, food, or other goods or services. The purpose of this rule is to ensure that elections are free and fair, and that voters are not influenced by unfair practices.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Fast-track courts were first introduced on the recommendation of the 11th Finance Commission. The Commission recommended the establishment of 1,734 fast-track courts in the country to expeditiously dispose of long-pending Sessions and other cases.
- The establishment of Fast Track Special Courts is part of judicial reforms to address delays in the legal system. These courts are designed to resolve cases within a specific timeframe, contributing to a more efficient and timely justice delivery system.
- The Fast Track Special Courts Scheme aims to ensure swift dispensation of justice, offering quick relief to victims while strengthening the deterrence framework for sexual offenders. This is because FTSCs provide faster access to justice for victims, which can help them to heal and move on from their traumatic experiences. Additionally, the quick resolution of cases can help to deter potential offenders.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary aim of the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) is to expedite the trial of specific types of cases, such as sexual offenses against women and children. FTSCs are not intended to provide legal assistance to underprivileged individuals, although they may indirectly do so by providing faster access to justice for victims of crime.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

13. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. VVPAT is an independent system attached to an EVM that allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended. India was the first country to introduce Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in elections. VVPAT was first used in India during the general

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

elections in 2014 as a pilot project in some constituencies, and its use has since been expanded in subsequent elections to enhance transparency and confidence in the electoral process.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. In reality, the VVPAT paper slips serve as the final and binding record of the voter's choice. In case of a discrepancy, a recount is conducted to reconcile the electronic results with the VVPAT slips. If the discrepancy persists, the VVPAT slips prevail.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct option is (B)

- The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides autonomous status to certain tribal-dominated regions of India. These regions are given special powers to administer their own affairs, including control over land, forests, and local bodies. This helps to preserve tribal culture and heritage by giving tribal communities greater control over their own lives.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct option is (B)

- In legal terms, a "tort" refers to a civil wrong that causes harm or loss to someone, leading to legal liability for the person who committed the tort. The injured party can seek compensation for damages through a civil lawsuit. If adultery is considered a tort in some parts of the world, it means that engaging in adultery could be seen as a civil wrong, and the spouse who has been harmed by the adultery may have the right to seek damages in a civil court.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct Answer: (B)

- The University Grants Commission of India (UGC India) is a statutory body set up by the Indian Union government in accordance with the UGC Act, 1956 under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. It is charged with coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of higher education. UGC also provides recognition to universities in India and disburses funds to such recognised universities and colleges.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

17. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Advocates Act, 1961 was enacted to create a single Act to regulate the legal profession and to provide for the constitution of Bar Councils and an All-India Bar.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Acts & Policies

18. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. BS bill bars the courts from inquiring into any privileged communication between Ministers and the President of India. This will give legal backing to Article 74(2) of the Constitution which states that the advice given by the Council of Ministers to the President of India could not be inquired into by the courts.
- Statement 2 is correct. It has been expanded to include any information given electronically that will enable the appearance of witnesses, accused, experts and victims through electronic means.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

19. Correct option is (D)

- The Central Sector Scheme for providing Drones to Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) is a government initiative aimed at empowering women in rural India and promoting the use of technology in agriculture. Under the scheme, 15,000 selected Women SHGs will be provided with drones to rent out to farmers for agricultural purposes. The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹1,261 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-2026. It aims to provide 15,000 drones to selected Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) for the purpose of offering rental services to farmers for agriculture purposes.
- The objectives of the scheme are to: Enhance the income and livelihood opportunities of women in rural India, promote the use of drones in agriculture for precision farming, crop spraying, and other agricultural activities, create a network of drone service providers in rural India, encourage women's participation in the technology-driven agricultural sector.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

20. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Gond Tribe in Madhya Pradesh is not recognized as one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The criteria for identifying PVTGs are based on a number of factors, including low levels of literacy, poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, and geographic isolation, but inadequate infrastructure is not one of the main criteria used to identify these groups.
- Statement 3 is correct. MGNREGA is an important scheme that has helped improve the livelihoods of many people in rural areas, including some PVTGs. However, the scheme is not specifically designed to target PVTGs. While it has certainly helped some members of PVTGs, the impact of the scheme is more broad-based, aimed at improving the lives of the rural poor more generally.
- Recently, the government has approved The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) scheme. It is a comprehensive scheme launched by the Government of India in 2023 to uplift the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The scheme aims to saturate PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. Correct option is (B)

- Sanchar Saathi Portal is a citizen-centric initiative of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in India. It aims to empower mobile subscribers, strengthen their security, and increase awareness about citizen-centric initiatives of the government. The Sanchar Saathi Portal is designed to empower citizens by allowing them to know the mobile connections issued in their name, disconnect unnecessary connections, block/trace lost mobile phones, and check the genuineness of devices while buying new/old mobile phones.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

22. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 and 3 are correct- The handbook elaborates on processes which institutions need to follow while seeking approval from the AICTE to run technical and management programmes/courses. One of the key features of the handbook is Well-performing institutions can offer off-campus programs within the jurisdiction of affiliating Universities.
- Statement 2 is incorrect- As the handbook is applicable for the next three years.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

23. Correct Answer: B

- Statement 1 is incorrect- It has been initiated by the Ministry of Culture not by ministry of Rural development in coordination with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
- Statement 2 is correct- The main objective of project is to culturally map India's 6.5 lakh villages, spanning 29 States and 7 Union Territories, on a comprehensive virtual platform.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

24. Correct Answer-(B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect- NSKFDC was set up in January 1997 as a nonprofit company under section 25 of the companies act 1956 (now section 8 of Company Act, 2013). It is a wholly-owned Govt. of India Undertaking under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (M/o SJ&E).
- Statement 2 is correct- It provides free skill development training to sanitation workers and their dependents under Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) and PM DAKSH Yojana. Stipend is also provided during training period.

Source- [ForumIAS](#)

Index & Reports

25. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. As per the report, total annual ground water extraction for the entire country has increased. Total annual ground water recharge is 449.08 billion cubic meters (BCM), marking an increase of 11.48 BCM compared to 2022. The report has acknowledged the positive impact of initiatives like Atal Bhujal Yojana and Jal Shakti Abhiyan in improving groundwater resource management.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The report provides that there has been a decrease in stage of groundwater extraction level. Stage of groundwater extraction is a measure of annual ground water extraction for all uses (irrigation, industrial and domestic uses) over annual extractable ground water resource.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

26. Correct option is (A)

- **Statement 1 and 3** are incorrect- According to NCRB Crime in India report 2022, Bengaluru ranked highest in cyber-crimes. And there is an increase in the number of cases registered under UAPA while decrease in number of sedition cases after Supreme Court 2022 Judgment to keep sedition cases in abeyance.
- **Statement 2** is correct- As it showed overall increase in crimes and atrocities committed upon Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

27. Correct option is (D)

- Statement I: It is the collaborative effort of the IDFC Foundation, Infrastructure Development Corporation (Karnataka) Ltd. (iDeCK) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).
- Statement II: It does not advocate completely doing away with PPP. It is an extreme statement.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

International Relations/Organizations

28. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. AIGIF is an annual forum organized to strengthen partnership between India and ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the area of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

- **Statements 2 and 3** are incorrect. the AIGIF is not exclusively focused on showcasing innovations in the final stages of development. It also welcomes innovations in the early stages of development, providing support and guidance to grassroots innovators throughout the innovation process.
- The AIGIF is not solely interested in innovations with direct commercial applications. While commercial viability is an important consideration, the AIGIF also recognizes the value of innovations that address social and environmental challenges.
- It recognizes the value of grassroots innovations that address societal challenges, even if they lack direct commercial applications. The forum promotes innovations that have the potential to improve lives and contribute to sustainable development, regardless of their immediate commercial viability.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

29. Correct option is (B)

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) is intergovernmental organization responsible for the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean.
- **Statement 2** is correct. The decisions made by the IOTC, adopted through consensus or voting procedures, are binding on all its Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties. These decisions aim to regulate fishing activities and ensure the sustainable management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

30. Correct option is (B)

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. The Isthmus of Kra is a narrow stretch of land that connects the Malay Peninsula to the Thai mainland, not Singapore Island.
- **Statements 2 and 3** are correct. The Kra Isthmus Project is a proposed canal that would connect the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand, providing a shorter shipping route between Europe and Asia. This would reduce reliance on the Malacca Strait, which is a narrow and congested waterway that is currently the main shipping route between the two regions.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

31. Correct option is (B)

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. GPAI is not directly involved in funding or conducting AI research and development. It's primarily focused on developing principles and guidelines for responsible AI development, rather than conducting research itself.
- **Statements 2 and 3** are correct. India is a founding member of GPAI. The GPAI's principles and guidelines are being used by governments and organizations around the world to develop their own AI policies.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

32. Correct option is (C)

- **Statement 1** is correct. As per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) "Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others".
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. Disabilities in India are highest in the age group 10-19 years.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

33. Correct option is (C)

- The IMO (International Maritime Organization) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that regulates international shipping. Its primary function is to develop and implement international maritime conventions, standards, and regulations that promote safety, environmental protection, and efficiency in shipping. It also provides technical assistance and support to member states to help them implement these regulations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

34. Correct option is (A)

- **Statements 1 and 3** are correct. Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the UN Security Council. The UN Security Council is the only UN body with the authority to authorize the deployment of peacekeeping missions. It does so by adopting resolutions that define the mandate, size, and composition of the mission. India has consistently been one of the top contributors of troops to UN peacekeeping missions, ranking among the top five in recent years. This demonstrates India's commitment to international peace and security and its recognition of the importance of UN peacekeeping operations.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. Troop contributions to UN peacekeeping missions are voluntary, meaning member states decide independently whether or not to participate and contribute troops.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

35. Correct Answer: A

- Article 99 of the UN Charter is a special and independent political tool given to the UN Secretary-General. The article allows the UN Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the UN Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security. When Article 99 is invoked, the President of the UN Security Council is under the obligation to call a meeting of the Security Council.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

36. Correct Answer: B

- The Assam Accord was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement in 1985. The accord brought an end to the Assam Agitation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Economy

37. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. India is now the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, after the United States and China. The number of operational airports in India has doubled in recent years. In 2014, there were 74 operational airports in India. By 2023, this number had increased to 147. Delhi and Mumbai airports have achieved Level 4+ Carbon Accreditation, showing sustainability efforts in the aviation industry.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

38. Correct option is (A)

- Risk-weighted assets (RWAs) are a measure of a bank's credit risk. The higher the risk weight, the greater the risk that the bank will not be able to collect the full amount of the asset.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

- Higher risk weights translate into higher capital requirements, which can constrain banks' lending capacity and reduce their profitability. Conversely, lower risk weights allow banks to hold less capital, potentially boosting their earnings.
- The concept is part of the Basel framework, a set of international banking regulations developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.
- The risk weights for different types of assets are set by regulators. For example, the Basel III Accord sets the following risk weights for different types of assets: Cash: 0%, Government bonds: 0%, Corporate bonds: 20%, Equities: 100%, Loans to consumers: 100%
- Government bonds have the lowest risk weight of 0%, while equities have the highest risk weight of 100%. This is because government bonds are considered to be the safest type of asset, while equities are considered to be the riskiest type of asset.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

39. Correct option is (C)

- When Indian bonds are incorporated into global bond indices, there will be an increase in demand for Indian bonds, leading to an appreciation of the rupee. This is because foreign investors will need to purchase rupees to invest in Indian bonds.
- The inclusion of Indian bonds in global bond indices will make Indian bonds more attractive to foreign investors, leading to increased capital inflows into the Indian economy.
- The inclusion of Indian bonds in global bond indices will expose Indian bonds to global market fluctuations, which could lead to increased volatility in the Indian bond market.
- However, Inclusion in global indices will reduce bond yields and can lead to lower borrowing costs for the Indian government and corporates.
- India's government would have less control over interest rates, as its borrowing costs would be influenced by global market conditions.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

40. Correct option is (B)

- Currency in circulation is the value of all the banknotes and coins that a country's monetary authority has issued, minus the amount that has been removed from circulation. It is a key part of a country's money supply.
- Currency held by banks including the RBI, also known as vault cash, represents the physical cash that banks keep in their reserves to meet daily transaction demands. This cash is part of the total currency in circulation.
- Currency held by the public refers to the physical cash that individuals and businesses hold for daily transactions. This cash is also part of the total currency in circulation.
- Currency held by the government, such as cash held by government agencies or ministries, is not directly considered part of Currency in Circulation.
- Electronic/digital currencies, such as cryptocurrency or digital payments like Paytm or Google Pay, are not considered part of Currency in Circulation. CiC specifically refers to physical currency, banknotes, and coins. Similarly, foreign currency in India is also not considered part of CiC.
- Recently, currency in circulation has increased in India despite a significant growth in digital payments at the same time.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

41. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. The PLFS does not collect data on wages. The primary objective of the PLFS is to estimate employment and unemployment rates.
- The term "usual status" in the PLFS refers to the employment status an individual typically holds during a reference period, usually a year. It's not limited to the time of the survey.
- The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), a government agency under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, conducts the PLFS.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

42. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The CCPA is a statutory body established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The CCPA is responsible for protecting the rights of consumers and ensuring that they are not subjected to unfair trade practices.
- The CCPA does not protect consumers by regulating export and import activities or by providing legal assistance to consumers. These are not within the CCPA's mandate.
- Statements 3 and 4 are correct. The CCPA conducts consumer awareness campaigns to educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities. These campaigns can help consumers to avoid being taken advantage of by businesses. The CCPA regulates consumer complaints and grievances by investigating complaints and taking action against businesses that violate consumer protection laws. This can help to deter businesses from engaging in unfair trade practices.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

43. Correct option is (A)

- Social capital is the ability to get benefits and solve problems by being part of social networks. It includes relationships between people and groups, trust within these relationships, and the advantages gained from these connections. Social capital includes: trust, norms and values, Networks, Reciprocity, etc.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

44. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. India is the 3rd most dammed country in the world, with 6,138 large dams in total.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. India has a poor record of dam safety. According to National Dam Safety Authority, there have been 42 cases of dam failures. India produces around 25,000MW energy from the dams on the Himalayan rivers alone, which is around 65% of the total hydropower potential of these rivers.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

45. Correct option is (A)

- The Network Effect occurs when a product or service becomes more valuable or useful to each user as the number of users increases. A classic example is social media platforms - the more people who use a platform, the more content and connections there are to explore, making the platform more valuable to each individual user.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

46. Correct option is (C)

- Characteristics of the creator economy are accessibility, monetization, and decentralization. Accessibility means that anyone can become a creator, regardless of background or experience. Monetization refers to the fact that creators can make money from their content, either through advertising, sponsorships, or other means. Decentralization means that creators don't have to rely on big tech platforms or media companies to distribute their content - they can use social media or other platforms to reach their audiences directly.
- However, reliance on Large Corporations is not a characteristic of a creator economy as the creator economy is all about empowering individuals and small businesses, not corporations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

47. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. India is one of members of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC). Kasturi Cotton Bharat is a premium cotton brand of India, known for its high quality and unique characteristics. It is a type of cotton that is grown and processed in India and is prized for its softness, strength, and absorbency. India has the largest area under cotton cultivation and is the second largest cotton producer in the world, after China. India produces around 25% of the world's cotton, and it is a major contributor to the global cotton industry.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Environment

48. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Axolotl is a species of salamander. Axolotls are native to the Xochimilco and Chalco lakes in central Mexico. Axolotls are known for their remarkable regenerative abilities. They can regenerate limbs, tails, jaws, and even parts of their brain and spinal cord. This regeneration is thought to be due to their neotenic nature, which means that they retain larval characteristics into adulthood.
- Axolotls are omnivorous animals. Axolotls eat a variety of small invertebrates, such as worms, crustaceans, and insects. They will also eat small fish and amphibians.
- The axolotl is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List due to habitat loss, pollution, and overcollection for the pet trade.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Axolotls are amphibians, not reptiles. Amphibians are cold-blooded vertebrates that have smooth, moist skin. Reptiles, on the other hand, have scales or scutes on their skin.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

49. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The NGT is a quasi-judicial body, not a regulatory body. This means that it has the power to adjudicate disputes and issue binding orders, but it does not have the power to formulate and enforce regulations. The NGT is tasked with resolving disputes between individuals and corporations, and between individuals and the government, arising from environmental issues.
- The NGT is not bound by the procedures laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC), 1908. It has its own set of rules and procedures, which are laid down in the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 and the National Green Tribunal Rules, 2011. The NGT is bound by the principles of natural justice, but it is not bound by the same procedural rules as regular courts.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

- Statement 3 is correct. The NGT has the power to issue binding orders to the government, including orders to take specific actions to prevent or remedy environmental damage. The government is obliged to comply with NGT orders, but it can appeal against them in the Supreme Court.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

50. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. China is a global leader in both clean and dirty energy production. It is the world's largest producer of renewable energy, accounting for over 30% of global renewable energy capacity. At the same time, China is also the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, responsible for about 30% of global emissions. This is primarily due to its reliance on coal for electricity generation and heavy industries.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. BRICS-Plus, added six new countries: Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the UAE.
- Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Punjab still heavily rely on fossil fuels. Whereas, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh have shown a reduction in the fossil fuel usage.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

51. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The concept of "loss and damage" refers to the unavoidable negative effects of climate change, even if mitigation and adaptation efforts are successful. It includes both non-economic losses, such as loss of life, culture, and biodiversity, as well as economic losses, such as loss of property, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Financial penalties for non-compliance with emission reduction targets are a separate concept, often referred to as "climate finance" or "carbon pricing."
- While taxation on industries contributing to climate change could be a way to generate revenue, it is not directly linked to the Loss and Damage Fund.
- Statement 3 is correct. Compensating for losses after the occurrence of climate-related events is one of the important roles played by the Loss and Damage Fund. This helps to provide support to vulnerable communities that have been affected by climate change and to rebuild their livelihoods. Additionally, the fund also supports measures to reduce vulnerability to future climate events.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

52. Correct option is (C)

- Three of the above sanctuaries are located in Karnataka. They are Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary. Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary is located in Tamil Nadu.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

53. Correct option is (D)

- Eco-Sensitive Zones are primarily established to protect ecologically sensitive areas from human activities that can harm the environment. While they can contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, improvement of water quality, and reduction of soil erosion, promoting sustainable tourism is not their primary objective. Sustainable tourism can potentially conflict with these objectives, as it may lead to increased human activity in the area, which could disrupt the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

54. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The GGC Initiative is conceptualized as a mechanism to incentivize voluntary pro-planet actions, as an effective response to the challenge of climate change. It envisions the issue of Green Credits for plantations on waste/degraded lands and river catchment areas, to rejuvenate and revive natural eco-systems.
- It aims to facilitate global cooperation and partnership through exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices in planning, implementation and monitoring of environment positive actions through programs/mechanisms like Green Credits.
- The India's Green Credits Programme is a market-based mechanism to incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors, by various stakeholders like individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies. It was first announced in the Union Budget 2023-24 and launched by the Environment Ministry in October 2023.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

55. Correct option is (C)

- ALTÉRRRA is designed to support climate-friendly projects in emerging markets and developing economies, and its primary focus is on providing technical expertise and facilitating access to finance. Rather than providing direct funding or investing in larger companies, ALTÉRRRA will work with small and medium-sized companies like the solar power company in India to help them access the resources they need to expand their operations. ALTÉRRRA may also assist with the sale of carbon credits generated by the solar power plant, but this would likely be a secondary role.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

56. Correct option is (D)

- Statement 1: At present, HAPs have been implemented in 23 States, not all.
- Statement 2: It is colour-coded as Green, Yellow, Orange, Red based on intensity of heatwave.
- Statement 3: State governments are responsible for implementing and monitoring HAP.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

57. Correct Answer: (A)

- Statement 1 is correct- In India, Ethanol is produced from multiple sources. Currently It is largely produced through sugarcane-based molasses and grain-based sources as feedstock.
- Statement 2 is incorrect- The Government has set a target of achieving 20% ethanol blending with petrol by 2025.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

58. Correct Answer: (C)

- In 2016, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol was signed to reduce HFC consumption by 80% by 2047. If achieved, this could avoid more than 0.5 degree Celsius of global warming by 2100.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

59. Correct Answer: (B)

- Silent Valley National Park is a national park in Kerala, India. It is in the Nilgiri hills and has a core area of 89.52 km². It is surrounded by a buffer zone of 148 km². This national park has some rare species of flora and fauna. Silent Valley National Park was explored in 1847 by the botanist Robert Wight.

Source: FORUMIAS

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

60. Correct Answer (C)

- IUCN Red List Status of Olive Ridley Turtles is 'Vulnerable'. The rest of the statements are correct.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

61. Correct Answer (D)

- The Santiago Network was established at COP 25 in Madrid. It was established as part of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It aims to catalyze technical assistance for vulnerable developing countries in order to address loss and damage.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

62. Correct Answer- (B)

- Statement 1 and 3 are correct- The "Early Warnings for All" initiative is a groundbreaking effort to ensure that everyone on Earth is protected from hazardous weather, water, or climate events through life-saving early warning systems by the end of 2027. The initiative is being led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Statement 2 is incorrect- It was launched by UN Secretary-General in March 2022.

Source- [ForumIAS](#)

Science & Technology

63. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Walking pneumonia is typically a mild form of pneumonia, with symptoms that may not be severe enough to require hospitalization. While it can cause respiratory issues, it is not considered a severe respiratory illness. Hence, due to its less severity, it is also known as walking.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Walking pneumonia is more prevalent among children and older age groups. The strict lockdown measures implemented in China to control the COVID-19 pandemic have reduced children's exposure to common respiratory pathogens. This has led to an "immunity gap" among children, making them more susceptible to mycoplasma/walking pneumonia.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

64. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Legion of Honour Award is not a science award presented by the President of the United States. It is the highest French order of merit, both military and civil, established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte. It is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service to France in various fields, including science, but it is not specifically focused on recognizing junior researchers.
- The Legion of Honour Award is not given out every year on Bastille Day. The award ceremony typically takes place in the Grand Hall of the Chancellery of the Legion of Honour in Paris on various dates throughout the year. While some awards may be presented around Bastille Day, it is not a fixed date for the ceremony.
- V R Lalithambika (ISRO scientist) was recently honored with the Legion of Honour Award for promoting Indo-French space cooperation.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

65. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Indian Navy successfully conducted the first edition of MAHASAGAR, a high-level virtual interaction between Maritime Heads. The initiative aims to promote active security and growth for all in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Participating countries: Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

66. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Polarization is a fundamental property of light waves that refers to the orientation of the electric field vector. In unpolarized light, the electric field oscillates in random directions, while in polarized light, the electric field oscillates in a specific direction. This property of light provides valuable information about the source of the light and its interactions with matter.
- The XPoSat mission is India's first space-based mission dedicated to measuring the polarization of X-rays from cosmic sources. It aims to study the behavior of bright X-ray sources, such as black holes, neutron stars, and accreting systems, under extreme conditions. By measuring the polarization of X-rays, XPoSat will provide insights into the physical processes occurring in these extreme environments.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

67. Correct option is (A)

- The Mahe class ships are multi-purpose vessels that can perform a range of functions for the Indian Navy. These ships are designed to be versatile and adaptable, capable of carrying out anti-submarine warfare, search and rescue operations, coastal patrol, and a range of other duties. These are Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC). They aim to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and Mine Laying Operations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

68. Correct option is (A)

- **Statement 1** is correct. Methotrexate belongs to a class of drugs known as antimetabolite. It is used to treat various medical conditions, primarily cancers, autoimmune diseases, and certain inflammatory conditions. The MTX overdose in blood plasma is hazardous if it remains in the system for more than 10 hours, resulting in poisoning effects on the lungs, ulcers of the stomach, and heart stroke.
- Hence, scientists have developed a highly fluorescent material that can be used as a visual sensing platform for detecting the anti-cancer drug Methotrexate (MTX).
- **Statements 2** is incorrect. MTX is a cornerstone therapy for several autoimmune diseases, often showing significant effectiveness in controlling symptoms and managing disease progression.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

69. Correct option is (B)

- It is a Multimodal AI and a Large Language Model (LLM) developed by Google. It can understand different types of information including text, audio, images and video. It will be available in three models: Ultra (for highly complex tasks), Pro (for scaling across a wide range of tasks) and Nano (on-device tasks).

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

70. Correct option is (C)

- The propulsion module was a part of Chandrayaan-3. The primary objective of the module was to carry the Vikram Lander Module from launch vehicle injection till the final lunar 100 km circular polar orbit and separate the Lander Module from the Propulsion Module.
- The module also carried a payload called the SpectroPolarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE). It is an experimental instrument to look back at Earth and study the signatures that make it habitable to identify habitable exoplanets.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

71. Correct option is (C)

- Japan has its own satellite navigation system called the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS). China also has its own satellite navigation system called BeiDou.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

72. Correct option is (D)

- The definitions have been interchanged. The correct definitions are:
- Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence technology that can produce various types of content, including text, imagery, audio, etc.
- Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is defined as the intelligence of machines that allows them to comprehend, learn, and perform intellectual tasks much like humans.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

73. Correct option is (D)

- Phase I clinical trials primarily focus on assessing the safety and dosage range of a new drug or treatment in a small group of healthy volunteers. Whereas, Phase III clinical trials involve a larger population and compare the new treatment against standard or existing treatments to assess its effectiveness, safety, and potential side effects.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

74. Correct Answer: (D)

- JT-60SA is the world's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor. It is a joint initiative between the European Union and Japan aiming to investigate the feasibility of nuclear fusion as a sustainable and near limitless power source.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

75. Correct Answer: (A)

- Statement 1 is correct - As these diseases have largely been wiped out in the more developed parts and persist mostly in the poorer countries, they are absent from the global health agenda and hence called 'neglected'.
- Statement 2 is incorrect - As per WHO data Malaria is not considered in the category of the Neglected tropical diseases.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

76. Correct Answer: (C)

- Pompe Disease is a rare genetic disorder caused by a deficiency of the enzyme acid alpha glucosidase (GAA).

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of December [First Week] 2023

77. Correct Answer (C)

- Normally, red blood cells are disc-shaped and flexible enough to move easily through the blood vessels. In sickle cell disease, red blood cells become crescent- or “sickle”-shaped due to a genetic mutation. Such a shape makes the flow of hemoglobin through the blood vessels difficult and can block blood flow to the rest of the body. The blocked blood flow through the body can lead to serious problems, including stroke, eye problems, infections, and episodes of pain called pain crises.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

78. Correct Answer (D)

- Genetic engineering can be used to create genetically modified crops which can withstand higher temperatures. It can be used to bring an extinct species back to life (as seen in the Dodo de-extinction project).

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

79. Correct Answer (C)

- These are examples of Biofortified crops, which are crops bred to increase their nutritional value. This can be done either through conventional selective breeding, or through genetic engineering.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)