

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

November, 2023 4th Week

10 PM Compilation for the Month of November [Fourth Week] 2023

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Art & Culture

Q.1) Consider the following statements with reference to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR):

1. It was founded by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
2. Annapurna Certificate Programme has been launched by the ICCR.
3. Its objective is to formulate and implement policies and programmes pertaining to India's external cultural relations.

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.2) With reference to the Miniature paintings, consider the following statements:

1. In the miniature paintings, there are very few human characters with visible front face as most of the human characters are seen with side profile.
2. Brijinder Nath Goswamy was a renowned miniature painter who revealed that the Pahari style of paintings was dependent on the region of painters rather than the family of painters.

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

Geography

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. They are located near the equator.
2. Average temperatures are high, and there is a consistent amount of rainfall.
3. The dominant vegetation consists of tall, evergreen trees that form a dense canopy.
4. They often host a variety of epiphytic plants.

Which one of the following types of forest has been described above?

- a) Mangrove Forests
- b) Tropical Rainforests
- c) Coniferous Forests
- d) Subtropical Forests

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Q.4) With reference to India and Myanmar, consider the following statements:

1. The Naga Hills extend into both countries.
2. The Irrawaddy River flows in both the countries.
3. Chin Hills-Arakan Yoma montane forests are part of the mountainous region that extends across the border between India and Myanmar.

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.5) Mozambique Channel is located in -

- a) The Indian Ocean
- b) The Pacific Ocean
- c) The Atlantic Ocean
- d) The Southern Ocean

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. It has the longest coastline on Africa's mainland.
2. Cal Madow is a mountain range in the northeastern part of the country.
3. It is a country situated in the Horn of Africa.
4. The country is bordered by Ethiopia to the west.

Which one of the following countries possesses the characteristics described above?

- a) Djibouti
- b) Eritrea
- c) Somalia
- d) Cameroon

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. Tantalum is a very hard, ductile, lustrous, blue-gray transition critical metal that is highly corrosion-resistant.
2. The presence of tantalum has been found in the Sutlej River sand in Punjab.
3. India stands as one of the prominent nations engaged in the commercial mining of tantalum.

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

Polity

Q.8) Which one of the following statements is correct with respect to the term “Inequality”?

- a) Political inequality is necessary for efficient governance, as decision-making is best left to a select few individuals who know what's best for the majority.
- b) Economic inequality is not a worrisome issue because it ensures that the most talented and hardworking individuals receive the rewards they deserve.
- c) Inequality is beneficial for society as it motivates individuals to work harder and achieve success.
- d) Inequality has negative effects on the environment, as it often leads to overconsumption and unsustainable use of resources.

Q.9) Which organization among the following is tasked with regulating adoption agencies and ensuring that adoption processes are conducted transparently and, in a child-friendly manner, both for Indian residents and non-resident Indians residing abroad?

- a) Adoption Resource Agency
- b) Transnational Adoption Resource Authority
- c) Central Adoption Resource Authority
- d) National Adoption and Regulatory Authority

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

1. Governor is empowered to exercise an indefinite Pocket Veto.
2. The governor has the final say in deciding whether a matter falls within his or her discretion.
3. Punchhi Commission recommended that the Governor should take a decision with respect to a Bill presented for their assent within a period of 3 months.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.11) The term ‘Yellow Journalism’ was seen in the news recently. Which one of the following statements best describes the term?

- a) It refers to the in-depth reporting that involves uncovering and exposing issues that are not easily apparent.
- b) It involves expressing the author's opinion or viewpoint on a particular issue.
- c) It is the journalism that emphasizes sensationalism, exaggeration, and often uses misleading headlines to attract attention.
- d) It involves news reporting by individuals who are not professional journalists but use digital platforms and social media to share information and opinions.

Acts & Policies

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. The National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX) is a government-funded program that subsidizes healthcare costs for low-income patients.
2. The National Health Authority (NHA) is responsible for implementing Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

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.13) Consider the following statements:

1. Technical textiles are primarily composed of synthetic fibers that are engineered to improve performance.
2. National Technical Textiles Mission aims to position the India as a global leader in Technical Textiles.

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.14) Consider the following statements:

1. To encourage and promote joint research and development ventures between Indian industries and foreign partners.
2. To provide funding support for joint research and development projects.
3. To promote the transfer of technology from developed countries to India.

How many of the above are objectives of Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA)?

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

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Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) is a government agency that regulates green building construction in India.
2. The Nest Initiative emphasizes on bringing down electricity consumption, water usage and creating a healthy living space.

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.16) With reference to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, consider the following statements:

1. The law treats the offenses related to terrorist activities and those related to unlawful activities equally.
2. It is only applicable to Indian citizens.
3. The UAPA is primarily used to prosecute individuals for expressing dissent against the government.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.17) India launched the 'Operation Karuna' to -

- a) Provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which are affected by Cyclone Mocha.
- b) Provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan following the devastating earthquake.
- c) Evacuate Indian citizens from Ukraine following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- d) Evacuate Indian citizens from Afghanistan after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban.

Q.18) Which one of the following is the objective of 'SATHEE portal'?

- a) It aims to help students gain access to training and coaching for competitive examinations for free.
- b) It is a platform for the electronic delivery of panchayat services to citizens.
- c) It is a one-stop destination for all information on power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms.
- d) It is a dedicated platform for providing online training and medical education to all health professionals in the country.

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Q.19) With reference to the performance assessment system, 'PARAKH', consider the following statements:

1. It has been developed by the University Grants Commission (UGC).
2. It will be used to assess students at all levels of technical higher education.

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.20) The National Medical Commission (NMC) has recently clarified the rules under which foreign medical graduates can register, work and study in India. With reference to these rules, consider the following statements:

1. Compulsory Rotatory Medical Internship (CRMI) has now been made voluntary for the foreign medical graduates.
2. The Foreign Medical Graduates Examination (FMGE) has been replaced with a new screening test called the NEXT (National Exit Test).
3. Foreign medical graduates can now obtain provisional registration from the State Medical Council (SMC) concerned after the completing the required criteria.

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.21) Consider the following initiatives:

1. Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK)
2. Scheme for Training in Ayurveda Research for PG Scholars (PG-STAR)
3. Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative (AGNI)
4. Advancement Scheme for Technology Integration and Learning (ASTIL)

Which of the initiatives mentioned above have been launched by the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS)?

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

Index and Reports

Q.22) With reference to the World Governance Index (WGI), which of the following statements are correct?

1. It assesses nations by their adherence to a universal set of criteria for good governance, including aspects such as democracy, human rights, and economic progress.
2. The WGI is one of the criteria used to select countries for membership in the United Nations.
3. WGI plays a key role in deciding the sovereign credit rating of any country.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.23) With reference to the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, consider the following statements:

1. It reflects the performance of large-cap and medium-cap companies in 25 nations.
2. India has the second-highest weightage in the index after China.
3. The MSCI EM is calculated using a Price-Weighted Methodology.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.24) Consider the following parameters:

1. Logistics services quality
2. Ease of arranging shipments
3. Lowering tariffs and import duties
4. Subsidizing logistics costs
5. Devaluing the currency

Which of the above parameters does India need to address in order to enhance its position in the Logistics Performance Index (LPI)?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

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Q.25) With reference to the Emissions Gap Report, consider the following statements:

1. The report provides a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impact of greenhouse gas emissions on the Earth.
2. The report emphasizes the need for drastic measures to reduce emissions, such as implementing carbon taxes or banning high greenhouse gases emitting industries.
3. The 2023 report provided that the greenhouse gas emission of India increased in the year 2022.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

International Relations/Organizations

Q.26) India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the US on “Enhancing Innovation Ecosystems through an Innovation Handshake”. In this regard, which of the following statements are correct?

1. The initiative will provide funding and support to Indian and American startups to collaborate on innovative projects.
2. It will aim to streamline regulatory processes to make it easier for Indian and American companies to do business in each other's markets.
3. It will enable both nations to collaborate on the development of technology weapons and ancillaries.

Select the correct statements 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.27) With reference to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), consider the following statements:

1. It provided a verifiable and legally binding framework governing the conventional armaments of the States Parties within its area of application.
2. The treaty only applies to countries in Europe.

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

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Q.28) With reference to the Voice of the Global South Summit, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is initiative launched by the G20 countries aimed at involving countries of the Global South in capacity building process for climate change.
2. 'DAKSHIN', launched by India at the recent Voice of the Global South Summit, is a Global Centre for excellence for the Global South countries.

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.29) In the context of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), the 'Utilization Rate' refers to -

- a) The gradual or immediate removal of tariffs on certain goods as stipulated in the FTA, promoting free trade and reducing barriers.
- b) The degree to which businesses can enter and compete in foreign markets under the FTA.
- c) The percentage of trade between FTA partners that is eligible for preferential treatment under the FTA, compared to the total trade between the partners.
- d) The measures aimed at simplifying and streamlining customs procedures and documentation to enhance the smooth flow of goods between countries.

Q.30) With reference to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), consider the following statements:

1. It is a political organization with a mandate to govern its member countries.
2. The OECD is an official observer to the United Nations.
3. India is not a member of the OECD, but it has been granted observer status in the organization.

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.31) Which of the following are the focus themes under the Rapid Innovation and Start-up Expansion (RISE) Accelerator Program, a joint initiative of India and Australia?

1. Climate Smart Agriculture
2. Waste and Circular Economy
3. Climate Smart Mobility
4. Clean Economy

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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Q.32) Consider the following statements:

1. International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) is the governing body of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO).
2. India is one of the members of International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO).

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

Economy

Q.33) If Risk Weighted Assets (RWA) of a bank is increased by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), then

-

1. The bank's profitability will increase.
2. Bank will reduce its lending activity.
3. It will lead to lower borrowing costs for the public.
4. Bank may become more selective in their lending practices.
5. It will Increase the bank's financial stability.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

- a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- b) 4 and 5 only
- c) 2, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Q.34) With referenced to Opium (Poppy), consider the following statements:

1. Opium poppy cultivation is permitted in only three states in India.
2. Only licensed farmers are permitted to grow the crop.
3. India is a major importer of opium.
4. Opium is a rich source of alkaloids, particularly morphine, which is used in various pharmaceutical applications.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.35) Consider the following:

1. Irrigation systems
2. Farmer cooperatives
3. Storage facilities
4. Livestock Facilities
5. Agricultural research facilities

Which of the above listed items are regarded as components of agriculture infrastructure?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q.36) With reference to the Pharmaceutical Industry in India, consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest producer of pharmaceutical in the world.
2. The Indian government allows 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Greenfield Pharmaceuticals.
3. India leads in vaccine manufacturing, contributing 60% of the world's vaccines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.37) In India, how many of the following activities are permissible?

1. A company opening up its plant in India for using it as tax haven.
2. A business investing in renewable energy projects to claim tax credits for environmental initiatives.
3. A person transferring money between different bank accounts, making international wire transfers, conducting legitimate business transactions and creating a complex web for authorities to trace the funds.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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Q.38) Consider the following items:

1. Fruits
2. Life insurance premiums
3. Income taxes
4. Expenses related to rent
5. Medical care

Among the items mentioned above, which ones contribute to the calculation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in India?

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

Q.39) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Indian government has given permission to private mining companies for mining critical and strategic minerals.

Statement-II: Only Indian private companies are allowed to mine critical and strategic minerals in India.

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.40) India's economy has been one of the fastest-growing in the world in recent years, but it has not been as successful in creating jobs as some other countries with similarly strong economic growth. How many of the following factors contribute to the relatively low job creation in India?

1. Skill Mismatch
2. Low Agricultural Sector Productivity
3. Rigidity of the labor market
4. Monopoly of the Formal Sector

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Environment

Q.41) Which one of the following is correct with respect to term “Greenwashing”?

- a) It refers to companies that market their products as supporting LGBTQ+ rights, but their actions don't actually benefit the LGBTQ+ community.
- b) It refers to the practice of making a company or its products appear more environmentally friendly than they actually are.
- c) It refers to companies that use social causes as a way to improve their public image, but don't actually take concrete actions to support those causes.
- d) It involves making false or misleading claims about a company's commitment to social responsibility or ethical practices.

Q.42) With regards to the environment, which one of the following statements is correct regarding the “Carrying Capacity”?

- a) It is the highest level of extraction or harvest of a species that can be sustained over the long term without compromising the population's ability to reproduce and replenish.
- b) It measures the impact of human activities on the environment in terms of the resources consumed and waste generated.
- c) It refers to the maximum population size of a species that a particular environment can sustain over the long term without causing significant environmental degradation.
- d) It refers to the position of an organism in a food chain, indicating its feeding relationships and energy transfer within an ecosystem.

Q.43) With reference to the Conference of the Parties (COP), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a permanent body of the United Nations.
- 2. The primary goal of COP is to assign specific emission targets to each country based on their historical contributions to climate change.
- 3. It is the only forum under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) where all countries come together to discuss and negotiate climate action.
- 4. It plays a crucial role in mobilizing financial and technical resources to support developing countries in their efforts to adapt to climate change and transition to low-carbon economies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Q.44) With reference to Sea Buckthorns (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) consider the following statements:

1. It is a rare underwater plant known for its ability to photosynthesize without sunlight.
2. It is known for its bright orange berries, which are packed with nutrients.
3. It is the only plant that contains all four omega fatty acids.
4. It is generally safe for most people to consume.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.45) With reference to the climate-proof sanitation, consider the following statements:

1. Climate-proof sanitation approach ensures that Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities can withstand extreme weather events like floods and droughts, maintaining functionality and hygiene standards.
2. Climate-proof sanitation focuses on safeguarding water sources from contamination, adapting to environmental changes, and supporting the most vulnerable communities.
3. A crucial element in establishing climate-resilient sanitation is the implementation of a centralized wastewater treatment system.

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.46) Consider the following methods:

1. Green Banks
2. Debt-for-nature swaps
3. Climate risk insurance
4. Sovereign green bond
5. Loans from Commercial banks

Which of the above-mentioned financing methods does India employ for climate financing?

- a) 1, 4 and 5 only
- b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 4 and 5 only

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Q.47) Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Mosquitofish' (*Gambusia affinis*):

1. Mosquitofish was first introduced in India during the British rule.
2. Mosquito fish are effective in controlling some species of mosquitoes.

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

Science & Technology

Q.48) Consider the following statements:

1. Chikungunya is more common in temperate regions than the dengue fever.
2. Ixchiq has been approved by the US as the world's first vaccine for chikungunya.

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.49) With reference to the Deepfakes, how many of the following statements are correct?

1. Deepfakes are a type of artificial intelligence (AI) that is used to create fake videos, images, or audio recordings that appear to be real.
2. Once a video or audio has been deepfaked, it's nearly impossible to reverse or undo the manipulation.
3. Metadata Analysis can be used to detect deepfakes.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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Q.50) With reference to the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), consider the following statements:

Statement-I: It is primarily focused on importing organs and tissues from other countries to meet domestic demand.

Statement-II: It plays a vital role in ensuring the fair and equitable distribution of organs and tissues for transplantation in India.

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.51) Consider the following statements:

- 1. A patent is an exclusive set of rights granted for an invention, which may be a product or process that provides a new way of doing something or offers a new technical solution to a problem.
- 2. A patent granted in a specific country holds worldwide validity for protection.
- 3. An invention is patentable subject matter if it attracts the provisions of Section 3 the Patents Act 1970.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.52) With reference to Fractals, seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

- 1. These are geometrical shapes that have a finite number of iterations and do not exhibit self-similarity at all scales.
- 2. Fractals have emerged as a powerful tool for understanding quantum systems and for developing new quantum technologies.

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

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Q.53) Consider the following military exercises:

1. Exercise Mitra Shakti
2. Exercise SLINEX
3. Exercise Garuda Shakti
4. Exercise Samudra Shakti

How many of the above exercises are bilateral military exercises conducted between India and Sri Lanka?

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

Q.54) Which of the following technologies are classified as 'Emerging Technologies'?

1. Artificial intelligence (AI)
2. 3D printing
3. Nanotechnology
4. Stem-cell therapy
5. Microprocessors
6. Internal combustion engine

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- d) 2, 5 and 6 only

Q.55) With reference to the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body, established under the Pharmacy Act, 1948.
2. It is constituted by the central government every five years.
3. It prescribes the minimum standard of education required for qualifying as a pharmacist.
4. It approves institutions that offer pharmacy education in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.56) Consider the following statements:

1. A nuclide is a specific type of atom characterized by its number of protons, neutrons, and nuclear energy state.
2. Isotopes are variants of a chemical element that have the same number neutrons but different numbers of protons.
3. In nuclear physics, drip lines refer to the boundaries beyond which nuclei are unstable and will undergo radioactive decay by emitting protons or neutrons.

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.57) Consider the following statements:

1. The United Service Institution of India (USI) serves as an advisory body, providing guidance to the government on matters pertaining to the regulation of the service industry in India.
2. The Annual UN Forum serves as a space for stakeholders from various sectors, including government, business, civil society, and academia, to come together and discuss trends, challenges, and best practices related to business and human rights.

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.58) With reference to the International Space Station (ISS), consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the largest modular space stations in Medium Earth Orbit (MEO).
2. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is one of the space agencies involved in the ISS.
3. It serves as a microgravity and space environment research laboratory.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.59) Consider the following statements:

1. Amyloidosis is a rare disease that occurs when a protein called amyloid builds up in organs.
2. Lysozyme is an enzyme that is used in the body to regulate blood pressure.

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

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Answer Key

1 - (d)	2 - (a)	3 - (b)	4 - (c)	5 - (a)	6 - (c)	7 - (a)	8 - (d)	9 - (c)	10 - (a)
11 - (c)	12 - (b)	13 - (c)	14 - (c)	15 - (b)	16 - (d)	17 - (a)	18 - (a)	19 - (b)	20 - (d)
21 - (a)	22 - (c)	23 - (b)	24 - (b)	25 - (a)	26 - (a)	27 - (a)	28 - (b)	29 - (c)	30 - (c)
31 - (d)	32 - (c)	33 - (c)	34 - (c)	35 - (b)	36 - (b)	37 - (a)	38 - (b)	39 - (c)	40 - (c)
41 - (b)	42 - (c)	43 - (c)	44 - (d)	45 - (a)	46 - (b)	47 - (c)	48 - (b)	49 - (b)	50 - (d)
51 - (b)	52 - (b)	53 - (b)	54 - (b)	55 - (d)	56 - (c)	57 - (b)	58 - (b)	59 - (a)	

Answers & Explanation

Art & Culture

1. Correct option is (D)
 - Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. ICCR is an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Ministry of External Affairs. It was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad who was the first Education Minister of independent India. ICCR has been assigned the responsibility of facilitating the celebration of the International Day of Yoga by Indian Missions/Posts abroad since 2015.
 - Annapurna Certificate Programme has been launched by the ICCR. It aims to recognize Indian restaurants abroad that are promoting Indian culture through their culinary contributions.
 - The objectives of ICCR are: a) to formulate and implement policies and programmes pertaining to India's external cultural relations, 2) To strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries, 3) To promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people and to develop relations with nations.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

2. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Miniature paintings are characterized by their use of fine brushwork, intricate details, and vibrant colors. They often depict scenes from mythology, history, and everyday life. In many miniature paintings, human characters are portrayed in profile or with their faces obscured. This is due to a number of factors, including the influence of Islamic art, which traditionally discourages the depiction of the human form, and the desire to create a sense of mystery and intrigue.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Brijinder Nath Goswamy was not a miniature painter. He was an art historian who specialized in Indian miniature paintings. Further, Goswamy in his 1968 article, which focused on Pahari painting, illustrated that the style of paintings didn't depend on in which state/region they were being produced. Rather, the style was dependent on the family of painters.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Geography

3. Correct option is (B)

- The tropical rainforests are located near the equator. Average temperatures are high, and there is a consistent amount of rainfall. They are among the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet, hosting a vast array of plant and animal species. The high temperatures and abundant rainfall create optimal conditions for diverse life forms.
- The dominant vegetation consists of tall, evergreen trees that form a dense canopy. These forests often host a variety of epiphytic plants, which grow on the surfaces of other plants rather than in soil. Examples include mosses, ferns, and orchids.

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- The warm and humid conditions facilitate rapid decomposition of organic matter. Nutrients are quickly recycled back into the ecosystem, supporting the continuous growth of vegetation.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

4. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Naga Hills are a mountain range that is located in both India and Myanmar. The hills are home to a number of different ethnic groups, including the Nagas. The Naga Hills are a mountainous and forested region that is known for its beautiful scenery and its rich cultural heritage. The Chin Hills-Arakan Yoma montane forests are a mountain range that extends across the border between India and Myanmar.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Irrawaddy River flows entirely within Myanmar. It is the longest river in Myanmar and it flows from the mountains of the north through the central plains of the country and into the Andaman Sea. The Irrawaddy River is an important waterway for transportation and irrigation.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

5. Correct option is (A)

- The Mozambique Channel is a channel of water that separates the island nation of Madagascar from mainland Africa. It's located in the Indian Ocean and connects the Mozambique coast to the waters of the Indian Ocean. It's an important shipping route for East Africa and the Indian Ocean.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

6. Correct option is (C)

- Somalia has the longest coastline on Africa's mainland, with a length of approximately 3,333 km. Cal Madow is a mountain range in northeastern Somalia. Somalia is situated in the Horn of Africa, which is a region of eastern Africa that includes Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Somalia is bordered by Ethiopia to the west.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

7. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Tantalum is a hard, ductile, and lustrous metal with a blue-gray color. It is highly corrosion-resistant and is considered a critical metal because of its importance in various industries. Recent research conducted by a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar has discovered the presence of tantalum in the Sutlej River in Punjab. This discovery has significant implications for India's electronics and semiconductor industry.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Despite the tantalum discovery in Punjab, India has not yet started mining tantalum commercially. The Indian government is currently exploring the feasibility of tantalum mining in the region, but it has not yet reached the stage of commercial production.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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Polity

8. Correct option is (D)

- When certain individuals or groups have disproportionately more resources and access to privileges, they may engage in practices that contribute to environmental degradation by depleting natural resources at an unsustainable rate. This can exacerbate issues such as deforestation, pollution, and the overuse of water resources, ultimately impacting the health and sustainability of ecosystems.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

9. Correct option is (C)

- The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is the nodal body for adoption in India. It is responsible for regulating adoption in the country, and ensures that adoption processes are conducted in a transparent, ethical, and child-friendly manner. Both Indian residents and non-resident Indians can adopt a child through CARA. The organization maintains a database of children eligible for adoption, and also provides counseling and support services to adoptive parents and birth parents.
- It is an autonomous statutory body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD). It was established in 1990 under the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986.
- Adoption is governed by two laws in India – the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 (for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists) and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. CARA plays a role in the adoption under the Juvenile Justice Act.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

10. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The governor does not have the power to indefinitely pocket veto a bill. The Constitution of India requires the governor to either assent to a bill, withhold assent, return the bill for reconsideration or reserve it for the consideration of the President. The governor must make a decision within a reasonable timeframe, and they cannot simply ignore a bill indefinitely.
- However, Article 200 states that the Governor must return the Bill “as soon as possible” but does not prescribe a specific timeframe to make a decision. This is misused by the governor and sits on the bill indefinitely.
- Punchhi Commission recommended that the Governor should take a decision with respect to a Bill presented for their assent within a period of 6 months.
- Statement 2 is correct. The governor has discretionary powers, and decisions made within this discretion are typically considered final. However, these decisions are subject to legal and constitutional limits.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

11. Correct option is (C)

- Yellow journalism, also known as sensationalism or tabloid journalism, refers to a type of journalism that prioritizes sensationalism and sensational headlines over accurate and objective reporting.

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- It often involves using exaggerated or misleading headlines, sensationalized coverage of events, and the promotion of fear, outrage, or scandal to attract readers or viewers.
- Yellow journalism can be harmful as it can distort the truth, spread misinformation, and promote stereotypes or prejudices. Therefore, yellow journalism is widely considered unethical and is generally frowned upon in the journalism profession.

Source: [LiveLaw](#)

Acts & Policies

12. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX) is a digital platform that facilitates the exchange of health claims information among various stakeholders in the healthcare and health insurance ecosystem in India. It serves as a gateway for exchanging claims-related data, including patient information, medical codes, and reimbursement amounts, between hospitals, insurance companies, and other healthcare providers. This will enhance efficiency and transparency in health claims processing. It has been developed by NHA.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) is a flagship scheme of the Government of India aimed at providing free healthcare services to the poor and vulnerable. The NHA is responsible for implementing the PM-JAY scheme. The NHA is an attached office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with full functional autonomy.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

13. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Technical textiles are primarily composed of synthetic fibers that are engineered to improve performance. Synthetic fibers are stronger, more durable, and more resistant to chemicals and abrasion than natural fibers. This makes them ideal for use in a wide variety of applications, including clothing, furniture, medical products, and industrial products.
- Technical textiles are defined as textile materials and products used primarily for their technical performance and functional properties rather than their aesthetic or decorative characteristics. They often serve practical functions in various industries, including healthcare, automotive, aerospace, construction, and sports.
- The National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) aims to position India as a global leader in technical textiles. The NTTM was launched in 2020 with the goal of increasing the production and export of technical textiles from India.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

14. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) is a non-profit Public Private Partnership (PPP) company promoted jointly by the Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India (GoI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

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- GITA's mission is to facilitate the implementation of various innovative and revolutionary scientific and technological industrial research and development projects worldwide. It aims to promote collaboration between Indian and global industries and academia to develop new technologies and products that can address global challenges.
- Some of its objectives include: To encourage and promote joint research and development ventures between Indian industries and foreign partners, to provide funding support for joint research and development projects, to promote the transfer of technology from developed countries to India.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

15. Correct option is (B)

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. IGBC is a non-profit organization that promotes green building practices in India. It is not a government agency and does not have the authority to regulate construction.
- **Statement 2** is correct. The Nest Initiative has been launched by the IGBC. It is a rating and certification initiative developed for residential units to build green homes. It aims to – encourage individual house owners and the residential sector to adopt green building measures in a big way, emphasizes on bringing down electricity consumption, water usage and creating a healthy living space.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

16. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. The UAPA does not treat the offenses related to terrorist activities and those related to unlawful activities equally. The UAPA defines "unlawful activity" as any activity that is intended to disrupt the socio-economic life of the country, and it provides for a maximum penalty of life imprisonment for offenses related to unlawful activities.
- The UAPA defines "terrorist activity" as any activity that is intended to cause terror or violence, and it provides for a maximum penalty of the death sentence for offenses related to terrorist activities.
- The UAPA is not only applicable to Indian citizens. The UAPA is also applicable to non-Indian citizens who commit offenses in India.
- While the UAPA does contain provisions that can be used to restrict freedom of speech and expression, it is primarily used to prosecute individuals who are involved in or suspected of being involved in terrorist activities or unlawful activities as defined by the Act. Expressing dissent against the government is not considered an unlawful activity under the UAPA unless it incites violence or hatred.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

17. Correct option is (A)

- India has launched "Operation Karuna" to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha. The Indian Navy ships carried emergency food items, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, sanitary and

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hygiene items, etc. It has caused widespread devastation in Bangladesh and Myanmar, causing widespread loss of life and property in both these countries.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

18. Correct option is (A)

- SATHEE portal stands for Students and Teachers Holistic Empowerment Portal, and its objective is to provide free training and coaching to students for competitive examinations. The aim of the SATHEE portal is to level the playing field for students from disadvantaged backgrounds who may not have access to expensive coaching and training for competitive exams.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

19. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. PARAKH refers to a new assessment system that has been developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). It was launched in 2023 as part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.
- Statement 2 is correct. PARAKH is designed to be a more comprehensive and holistic assessment system than the previous system. PARAKH will be used to assess students at all levels of technical higher education, from diploma programs to undergraduate and postgraduate programs. It includes a wider range of assessment methods, such as formative assessments, diagnostic assessments, and summative assessments. It also focuses on a wider range of learning outcomes, such as cognitive, affective, and psychomotor learning outcomes.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

20. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Compulsory Rotatory Medical Internship (CRMI) remains mandatory for foreign medical graduates (FMGs). The NMC has clarified that FMGs who have completed their medical education from a foreign medical institution that is not recognized by the NMC will need to undergo a one-year CRMI in India.
- The Foreign Medical Graduates Examination (FMGE) has not been replaced with the NEXT (National Exit Test). The FMGE is still required for FMGs to obtain provisional registration from the State Medical Council (SMC) concerned. The NEXT is a new examination that will be mandatory for both Indian medical graduates and FMGs who want to pursue postgraduate medical education in India.
- Statement 3 is correct. Foreign medical graduates can obtain provisional registration from the State Medical Council (SMC) concerned after passing the FMGE and completing the Compulsory Rotating Medical Internship (CRMI).

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

21. Correct option is (A)

- The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS) launched the Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative (AGNI) to promote research and documentation of traditional Ayurveda knowledge and practices. The initiative aims to create a comprehensive database of Ayurveda

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practices, validate their effectiveness through scientific research, and disseminate this knowledge to Ayurveda practitioners and the general public.

- Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK): It aims to support the research ideas of young undergraduate students enrolled in Ayurveda colleges across India.
- Scheme for Training in Ayurveda Research for PG Scholars (PG-STAR): It aims to promote good quality research in Ayurveda students pursuing post-graduation courses.
- However, Advancement Scheme for Technology Integration and Learning (ASTIL) is not an initiative of CCRAS.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Index & Reports

22. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The WGI evaluates countries based on criteria related to good governance, however, those criteria are not universal. The WGI's criteria are based on a particular set of values and ideals, but they are not universally accepted as the only criteria for good governance.
- The WGI is not one of the criteria used to select countries for membership in the United Nations. The UN has its own criteria for membership, which are based on things like a country's political stability, its ability to contribute to the work of the UN, and its commitment to the UN Charter.
- Statement 3 is correct. The World Governance Indicators (WGI) play a significant role in determining a country's sovereign credit rating. Credit rating agencies, such as Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch, consider the WGI data when assessing a country's creditworthiness.
- The WGI provide insights into a country's political stability, economic governance, and rule of law, all of which are crucial factors in determining its ability to repay its debts.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

23. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index (MSCI EM) is a market capitalization-weighted stock market index that tracks the performance of large and mid-cap stocks in emerging markets in 25 nations. It is one of the most widely used benchmarks for emerging market investing. The MSCI EM is a well-diversified and widely used benchmark for emerging market investing.
- India was included in the index in 1994. Recently, after inclusion of nine Indian stocks, India's current representation in MSCI EM index will be reached to 131 stocks. India, has the second-highest weightage in the index after China.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The MSCI EM is calculated using a free float-adjusted market capitalization methodology. This means that the index is weighted by the market capitalization of each constituent company, adjusted for the percentage of shares that are freely available for trading. This helps to ensure that the index is not overly influenced by companies that have a large number of restricted shares.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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24. Correct option is (B)

- The Logistics Performance Index (LPI) is a benchmarking tool developed by the World Bank to assess the quality of trade logistics across different countries. India ranked 38 among 139 countries in LPI 2023. Hence, in order to improve its ranking further India needs to improve Logistics services quality, Ease of arranging shipments, lower tariffs and import duties.
- However, Subsidizing logistics costs and devaluing the currency are not considered relevant parameters for improving India's LPI ranking. While subsidizing logistics costs may provide temporary relief, it does not address the underlying issues affecting logistics efficiency. Similarly, devaluing the currency may make exports more competitive in the short term, but it can lead to economic instability and long-term harm.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

25. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Emissions Gap Report focuses on the gap between projected greenhouse gas emissions and the emissions levels required to limit global warming to 1.5°C or 2°C in line with the Paris Agreement. It does not provide a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impact of greenhouse gas emissions on the Earth.
- The report highlights the need for urgent and significant action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but it does not advocate for specific measures such as carbon taxes or banning certain industries. Instead, it presents a range of potential mitigation options and emphasizes the importance of international cooperation.
- Statement 3 is correct. The 2023 report stated that India's greenhouse gas emissions increased in 2022, driven primarily by growth in the energy and industrial sectors.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

International Relations/Organizations

26. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the US on “Enhancing Innovation Ecosystems through an Innovation Handshake”. The concept of Innovation Handshake has been developed under the US-India Commercial Dialogue.
- It aims to bring the two governments together with venture capitalists, entrepreneurs and industry players. They will have open discussions to explore opportunities and tackle challenges in key sectors highlighted in the US-India Critical and Emerging Technology initiative.
- Objectives under the Innovation Handshake include: 1) To connect the two sides' dynamic startup ecosystems, 2) To address specific regulatory hurdles to cooperation, 3) To share information and best practices for startup fundraising, 4) To promote innovation and job growth, particularly in critical and emerging technologies (CET).
- Statement 3 is incorrect. There is no such objective.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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27. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) was a major arms control agreement negotiated and concluded during the last years of the Cold War. It established comprehensive limits on key categories of conventional military equipment in Europe (from the Atlantic to the Urals) and mandated the destruction of excess weaponry. The treaty was signed by 22 states, including all members of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.
- It placed limits on the deployment of conventional military forces in Europe and played a significant role in reducing tensions and arms build-up in the region.
- The CFE Treaty established a legally binding framework for regulating the conventional armaments of the signatory countries in Europe. The CFE Treaty also included a robust verification regime to ensure that all States Parties were complying with the treaty's provisions.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While the primary focus of the CFE Treaty was on European countries, its geographical scope extended beyond Europe. The treaty covered a broader area that included parts of the former Soviet Union and North America, demonstrating its attempt to address military balance and stability in a larger context.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

28. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Voice of the Global South Summit is not a G20 initiative, but rather an initiative of India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). It was launched in 2022 with the aim of providing a platform for countries in the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on global issues, particularly those related to sustainable development, climate change, and economic cooperation.
- India hosted the first Voice of the Global South Summit in January, 2023 under the theme 'Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose'. The second Voice of the Global South Summit is being hosted under the theme "Together for Everyone's Growth, Together for Everyone's Trust".
- Statement 2 is correct. The DAKSHIN initiative, which stands for "Development Assistance Knowledge Sharing Hub for International Networks," is a Global Centre of Excellence launched by India under the Voice of the Global South Summit. The DAKSHIN initiative aims to support countries of the Global South in building their capacity to address challenges related to sustainable development, including climate change, through knowledge sharing, capacity building, and technical assistance.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

29. Correct option is (C)

- The 'Utilization Rate' in the context of FTAs refers to the extent to which countries involved in the agreement actually use or take advantage of the preferential trade conditions outlined in the FTA. It is the percentage of eligible trade that utilizes the benefits offered by the agreement compared to the total trade between the FTA partners. Recently, Indian exporters have benefitted from the India-Australia ECTA. For the first nine months, the utilization rate was 77%.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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30. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The OECD is an intergovernmental economic organization that provides a platform for its member countries to discuss and coordinate economic and social policies. It does not have the authority to govern its member countries.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The OECD is an observer in the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The OECD contributes to the work of UN bodies on issues such as: Sustainable development, Environment, Gender, Statistics, Social affairs.
- India is not a member of the OECD, but it has been granted observer status in the organization.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

31. Correct option is (D)

- The Rapid Innovation and Start-up Expansion (RISE) Accelerator is a joint initiative between the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog, Government of India, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia's national science agency.
- The program aims to foster collaboration and innovation between Indian and Australian start-ups in emerging technologies with a focus on social, economic, and environmental impact.
- The focus themes of the program are: Climate Smart Agriculture, Clean Economy, Waste and Circular Economy, Climate Smart Mobility.
- Under the program, there is no charge for startups to participate in the program. Participating startups may also be eligible for up to INR 40 lakhs in non-equity grants.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

32. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) is the governing body of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). India is one of the 72 member countries of the ITTO.
- The ITTC is responsible for developing and implementing the ITTO's policies and programs. It meets annually to discuss a wide range of issues related to the sustainable management of tropical forests, including trade, reforestation, and forest industry development.
- India is a major producer and consumer of tropical timber. The ITTO provides India with technical assistance and financial support for sustainable forest management projects. India also plays an active role in ITTO policy discussions.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Economy

33. Correct option is (C)

- When the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increases the Risk Weighted Assets (RWA) of banks, the bank's profitability will decrease, as it affects their capital adequacy ratios and may require them to hold more capital against their assets, potentially reducing their profitability.
- An increase in RWA can lead to banks becoming more selective in their lending practices and reducing their lending activity as they may need to allocate more capital to support their lending operations.

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- An increase in RWA is not expected to lead to lower borrowing costs for the public. In fact, it may lead to higher borrowing costs as banks adjust their lending activities in response to the increased capital requirements.
- An increase in RWA can lead to banks becoming more selective in their lending practices as they may need to allocate more capital to support their lending operations.
- Stronger capital requirements can promote greater financial stability by reducing the likelihood of bank failures. This can protect depositors' funds and maintain confidence in the financial system.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

34. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Opium poppy cultivation is only permitted in certain parts of three states in India: Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. These states are located in the central and northern regions of India, and they have a climate that is well-suited for opium poppy cultivation.
- The opium poppy thrives in warm, sunny regions with well-drained soil.
- Opium cultivation in India is strictly regulated by the government, and only licensed farmers are permitted to grow the crop. The opium produced in India is primarily used for medicinal purposes.
- Opium contains a number of alkaloids, including morphine, codeine, thebaine, and papaverine. These alkaloids have a variety of medicinal uses, including pain relief, cough suppression, and diarrhea treatment.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. India is a major exporter of opium. It is also one of the world's largest producers of opium. The majority of India's opium is exported for medicinal use. India is also a signatory to the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, which requires countries to control the production and distribution of opium.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

35. Correct option is (B)

- Agriculture Infrastructure refers to the diverse systems and network of resources that are vital to produce, preserve, process, procure and trade agricultural products. Out of the mentioned options, farmer cooperatives provide support and services to farmers, like marketing, financing, and technical assistance, but they're not physical structures that are essential to agriculture.
- Similarly, agricultural research facilities are not typically considered as components of agriculture infrastructure. While they play a crucial role in supporting agricultural development, innovation, and knowledge transfer, they are not typically classified as part of agriculture infrastructure, which primarily includes physical and institutional components that facilitate agricultural production, procurement, processing, preservation, and trade.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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36. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Indian pharmaceutical industry is the world's third largest by volume and the thirteenth largest by value. India is the largest provider of generic medicines by volume in the world, not the largest producer of pharmaceuticals overall.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Indian government allows 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Greenfield Pharmaceuticals under the automatic route. Similarly in Brownfield Pharmaceuticals, the government also allows 100% FDI, with 74% under the automatic route and the remaining through government approval.
- India is a leading global supplier of vaccines, accounting for about 60% of the world's vaccines by volume. The country is known as the "pharmacy of the world" due to its strong manufacturing capabilities and affordable generic drugs.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

37. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Tax havens are countries or jurisdictions that offer low or no taxation to attract foreign businesses. India is not a tax haven and has strict anti-tax avoidance laws. Companies that use India as a tax haven may face penalties and legal action.
- A person transferring money between different bank accounts, making international wire transfers, and conducting legitimate business transactions and creating a complex web for authorities to trace the funds. This type of activity is known as money laundering, which is the process of converting illegally obtained money into legitimate money. Money laundering is a serious crime in India and can result in imprisonment.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Indian government has implemented various policies to promote investment in renewable energy. These policies include tax incentives, such as tax credits and accelerated depreciation, which make renewable energy projects more attractive to investors.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

38. Correct option is (B)

- Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an index measuring retail inflation in the economy by collecting the change in prices of most common goods and services used by consumers. It is one of the most widely used economic indicators, and it is used by policymakers, businesses, and consumers to track inflation.
- Fruits, expenses related to rent, and medical care are typically included in the calculation of the Consumer Price Index in India, while life insurance premiums and income taxes are not part of the CPI.
- The CPI mainly focuses on goods and services consumed regularly, and insurance premiums are more related to financial services whereas taxes are not considered as part of the basket of goods and services that represent consumer spending.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

39. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is correct. In recent years, the Indian government has taken steps to encourage private investment in the mining of critical and strategic minerals. These minerals are

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essential for the country's defense and industrial development, and the government has recognized that private companies can play a key role in their extraction.

- **Statement 2** is incorrect. While Indian private companies are allowed to mine in India, foreign companies can also invest in and operate critical and strategic minerals mining projects in India through joint ventures with Indian companies, subject to regulatory approvals.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

40. Correct option is (C)

- A significant portion of the Indian workforce lacks the skills required for employment in the modern economy. This is due to a number of factors, including inadequate education and training, as well as a mismatch between the skills taught in schools and the skills demanded by employers.
- Agricultural productivity has been low in India, which has limited job creation in this sector and has led to a large number of underemployed or unemployed workers.
- The labor market in India is considered to be rigid, with strict labor laws and regulations making it difficult for businesses to hire and fire workers, which can discourage job creation.
- The formal sector in India is not dominated by a monopoly, but rather by a large number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). SMEs are the backbone of the Indian economy and are responsible for a significant portion of job creation. Hence, monopoly of the formal sector is incorrect.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Environment

41. Correct option is (B)

- Greenwashing refers to the practice of making a company or its products appear more environmentally friendly than they actually are. It involves conveying a false or misleading impression about the environmental practices or benefits of a product, service, or company.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

42. Correct option is (C)

- Carrying capacity is a concept in ecology that refers to the maximum population size of a species that a particular environment can sustain over the long term without causing significant environmental degradation. It takes into account factors such as the availability of food, water, shelter, and other resources required by the species, as well as the impact of the population on the environment.
- Ecological health of the Himalayas is measured by the metric of 'carrying capacity'. Carrying Capacity is crucial in understanding and managing the balance between human activities and the preservation of natural ecosystems to ensure long-term sustainability.
- When the carrying capacity of the ecosystem is breached, there is deterioration of the ecological health of the ecosystem.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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43. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Conference of the Parties is not a permanent body of the United Nations. It's an annual meeting of the signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC, but it is not a standing or permanent body.
- While the COP aims to promote international cooperation and action to address climate change, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it does not assign specific emission targets to each country based on their historical contributions to climate change.
- Instead, the Convention encourages countries to take "common but differentiated responsibilities" into account.
- Statements 3 and 4 are correct. The Conference of the Parties is the only forum under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) where all countries come together to discuss and negotiate climate action.
- It also plays a crucial role in mobilizing financial and technical resources to support developing countries in their efforts to adapt to climate change and transition to low-carbon economies.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

44. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Sea buckthorns are not underwater plants. They are deciduous shrubs that grow in temperate regions of Europe and Asia. They typically grow in sunny areas and require sunlight for photosynthesis. In India, it is generally found in dry areas such as the cold deserts of Ladakh and Spiti.
- In Ladakh, it is popularly known as the 'Wonder Plant', 'Ladakh Gold', 'Golden Bush', or 'Gold Mine' of cold deserts. In Himachal Pradesh, it is locally called Himalayan chharma.
- While Sea Buckthorns do contain all four omega fatty acids, they aren't the only plant to do so. Other plants like chia seeds and hemp seeds also contain all four omegas.
- Statements 2 and 4 are correct. Sea buckthorns are known for their bright orange berries, which are packed with nutrients, including vitamins C, E, and K, as well as minerals like potassium, magnesium, and iron. They also contain antioxidants and omega fatty acids. Sea buckthorn berries are generally safe to consume for most people. However, some people may experience side effects, such as diarrhea, nausea, or skin rash.
- Recently, Ladakh's Sea Buckthorn has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

45. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Climate-proof sanitation is designed to ensure that WASH facilities can function effectively even in the face of extreme weather events. This includes making sure that the facilities are physically resilient to damage from floods and droughts, as well as ensuring that they have access to a reliable source of water and energy.
- In addition to protecting WASH facilities, climate-proof sanitation also involves safeguarding water sources, adapting to environmental changes, and supporting vulnerable communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

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- Statement 3 is incorrect. Centralized wastewater treatment systems may not be the best solution for climate-proof sanitation, as they can be vulnerable to damage during extreme weather events. Instead, decentralized systems that are tailored to the local context are more appropriate.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

46. Correct option is (B)

- India established the National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) in 2010 as a green bank to promote clean energy and energy efficiency projects. The NCEF provides financial support to various renewable energy projects, including solar, wind, and geothermal power.
- India has issued several sustainable infrastructure bonds, also known as green bonds, to raise funds for environmentally sustainable projects.
- Commercial banks in India play a significant role in providing loans for climate-friendly projects. They offer various financial products, such as loans for renewable energy projects, energy efficiency upgrades, and sustainable agriculture practices.
- Climate risk insurance is in the early stages of development in India, but the government is exploring the potential of this method to help protect individuals and businesses from the financial impacts of climate change events.
- Debt-for-nature swaps, where a country's debt is forgiven in exchange for environmental conservation efforts, have not been implemented in India. While the concept has been explored, it faces challenges in terms of valuation, implementation, and potential impacts on local communities.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

47. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Mosquitofish is the name given to *Gambusia affinis* and *Gambusia holbrooki*. These fishes are native to the waters of the North America, particularly the southeastern coast of United States.
- They have been a part of mosquito-control strategies for over a century in various parts of the world. A single full-grown mosquitofish eats about 100 to 300 mosquito larvae per day.
- In 1928, Mosquitofish was first introduced in India during British rule.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Science & Technology

48. Correct option is (B)

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. Chikungunya is not more common in temperate regions; it is generally more prevalent in tropical and subtropical regions. Dengue fever also primarily occurs in tropical and subtropical regions and is not typically associated with temperate climates. These are also known as Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).
- **Statement 2** is correct. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Ixchiq, the first vaccine to prevent chikungunya virus (CHIKV) disease. Ixchiq is a live-attenuated vaccine, meaning it contains a weakened form of the CHIKV that triggers an immune response without causing disease. The vaccine is administered as a single dose by injection into the muscle.

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Source: [ForumIAS](#)

49. Correct option is (B)

- **Statements 1 and 3** are correct. Deepfakes are a type of AI that uses machine learning and artificial intelligence techniques to manipulate and generate visual and audio content. They are often used to create fake videos or audio recordings of people saying or doing things they never actually said or did.
- Metadata analysis, which involves examining the embedded data within a digital file, can provide clues about the creation process and potential manipulation of a video, image, or audio recording. By analyzing metadata discrepancies, experts can identify signs of deepfake manipulation.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. While some deepfakes may be challenging to reverse, advancements in technology and forensic techniques are enabling the development of methods to identify and undo deepfaked content.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

50. Correct option is (D)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. NOTTO is not primarily focused on importing organs and tissues from other countries to meet domestic demand. In fact, NOTTO has a number of initiatives in place to promote organ donation and transplantation within India. For example, NOTTO has a national registry of potential organ donors, and it provides training and support to transplant centers across the country.
- It is a national level organization set up under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health. It functions as the apex centre for all Indian activities for procurement, distribution and registry of organs and tissue donation and transplantation in the country.
- Statement 2 is correct. NOTTO plays a vital role in ensuring the fair and equitable distribution of organs and tissues for transplantation in India. NOTTO maintains a national registry of organ donors and recipients, and it also develops and implements policies and procedures for organ allocation.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

51. Correct option is (B)

- **Statement 1** is correct. A patent is an exclusive set of rights granted for an invention, which may be a product or process that provides a new way of doing something or offers a new technical solution to a problem.
- **Statements 2 and 3** are incorrect. Patents are territorial rights, and the exclusive rights are only applicable in the country or region in which a patent has been filed and granted, in accordance with the law of that country or region. The protection is granted for a limited period, generally 20 years from the filing date of the application.
- **Section 3** outlines what is NOT considered an invention and thus cannot be patented. So, an invention that satisfies the criteria in Section 3 is actually NOT patentable subject matter.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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52. Correct option is (B)

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. Fractals are geometrical shapes that are characterized by their self-similarity at all scales. This means that they exhibit the same intricate structure at different levels of magnification. As you zoom in on a fractal, you will see the same patterns repeating themselves over and over again. This property of self-similarity is what gives fractals their infinite complexity.
- Fractals are not limited to a finite number of iterations. In fact, they are often generated by repeating a simple process infinitely many times. This process of iteration is what leads to the emergence of the fractal's intricate patterns.
- **Statement 2** is correct. Fractals have indeed emerged as a powerful tool for understanding quantum systems and for developing new quantum technologies. Their ability to capture complex, self-similar structures make them well-suited for modeling the behavior of quantum particles and systems.
- In quantum mechanics, fractals are used to: Understand the complex wave functions of quantum particles, Develop new quantum technologies, etc.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

53. Correct option is (B)

- Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka that has been conducted annually since 2002. The exercise is focused on counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.
- Exercise SLINEX is a naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka that has been conducted annually since 2005. The exercise is focused on maritime security and cooperation.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

54. Correct option is (B)

- Emerging technologies are: Artificial intelligence (AI), 3D printing, Gene therapy, Cultured meat, Nanotechnology, Robotics, Stem-cell therapy, etc. However, microprocessors and IC engines are not considered as emerging technologies.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

55. Correct option is (D)

- The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is a statutory body, established under the Pharmacy Act, 1948. It functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. It is constituted by the central government every five years.
- It prescribes the minimum standard of education required for qualifying as a pharmacist. It approves institutions that offer pharmacy education in India. It regulates the profession and practice of pharmacy.
- The National Pharmacy Commission Bill, 2023 aims to repeal the Pharmacy Act of 1948 and replace the Pharmacy Council of India with a national commission.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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56. Correct option is (C)

- **Statements 1 and 3** are correct. A nuclide is a specific type of atom characterized by its number of protons, neutrons, and nuclear energy state. Nuclides can be stable or unstable. Stable nuclides have a nucleus that is stable and does not undergo radioactive decay. Unstable nuclides have a nucleus that is unstable and will eventually undergo radioactive decay to form a different nuclide.
- Nuclides are an important concept in nuclear physics, as they allow scientists to distinguish between different types of atoms with the same atomic number.
- In nuclear physics, drip lines refer to the boundaries beyond which nuclei are unstable and will undergo radioactive decay by emitting protons or neutrons. These boundaries are important in understanding the limits of nuclear stability and the nature of nuclear forces.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. Isotopes are variants of a chemical element that have the same number of protons but different numbers of neutrons. Isotopes of an element have the same chemical properties, but they can have different physical properties, such as different masses and half-lives.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

57. Correct option is (B)

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. The United Service Institution of India (USI) is a national security and defense services think tank. It is a non-profit organization that is managed by a Council of members. The Council is composed of representatives of the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Statement 2** is correct. The Annual UN Forum serves as a space for stakeholders from various sectors, including government, business, civil society, and academia, to come together and discuss trends, challenges, and best practices related to business and human rights.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

58. Correct option is (B)

- **Statements 1 and 2** are incorrect. The International Space Station (ISS) is not in Medium Earth Orbit (MEO). It is in Low Earth Orbit (LEO), at an average altitude of about 250 miles (400 kilometers).
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is not one of the space agencies involved in the ISS. The ISS is a collaborative project involving five space agencies: the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Russia's Roscosmos, Europe's European Space Agency (ESA), Japan's Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and Canada's Canadian Space Agency (CSA).
- **Statement 3** is correct. The ISS serves as a microgravity and space environment research laboratory. Microgravity is the condition of near weightlessness experienced in space. The ISS provides a unique environment for studying the effects of microgravity on the human body, materials, and biological processes. It also serves as a platform for conducting experiments in astronomy, physics, and other fields.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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59. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Amyloidosis is a rare disease that occurs when a protein called amyloid builds up in organs. Amyloidosis is a group of diseases in which abnormal proteins called amyloid fibers accumulate in different organs and tissues, causing serious health problems. Organs that may be affected include the heart, kidneys, liver, spleen, nervous system and digestive tract. Chemotherapy, Bone Marrow Transplant and medications are the treatment used in Amyloidosis.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Lysozyme is an enzyme that breaks down the walls of bacterial cells, helping to protect the body from infection. It is found in tears, saliva, mucus, and breast milk. Lysozyme does not play a role in regulating blood pressure. Large amounts of lysozyme can be found in egg white. It can be regarded as a model protein in studying diseases like Amyloidosis.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)