

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Monthly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

November

10 PM Compilation for the Month of November 2023

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Art & Culture

Q.1) With reference to Dogra architecture, consider the following statements:

1. This architecture often utilizes locally available materials such as wood, stone, and clay, which help in maintaining a comfortable indoor temperature and provide insulation from the harsh weather.
2. Dogra buildings often feature asymmetrical layouts and minimalist detailing.
3. Dogra architecture combines elements of both Hindu and Tibetan styles.

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) It is a traditional martial art that originated in the Vijayanagar Empire in the state of Karnataka. It is characterized by the use of a knuckleduster to strike the opponent. Which one of the following martial arts is described above?

- a) Kalaripayattu
- b) Silambam
- c) Vajra Mushti Kalaga
- d) Kuttu Varisai

Ancient History

Q.3) With reference to Edakkal Caves, consider the following statements:

1. These caves are a series of natural caves that were formed by volcanic activity.
2. These caves were used by ancient humans as a burial ground.
3. These caves are home to a number of ancient Buddhist temples.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.4) The Indian government has launched Project UDBHAV to revive and integrate India's ancient military wisdom with contemporary military practices. In this context, which of the following aspects of Chanakya's military strategy as outlined in the "Arthashastra" could serve as a source of inspiration for Project UDBHAV?

1. It discouraged the use of spies and intelligence gathering, considering it unethical.
2. It recognized the significance of alliances and diplomacy in strengthening a kingdom's position.
3. It emphasized using brute force and overwhelming numbers as the primary strategy in warfare.

Select the correct code given below:

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

Polity

Q.5) With reference to Preventive Detention, consider the following statements:

1. In India, the Constitution itself allows for preventive detention.
2. The states and the central government have distinct laws governing preventive detention.
3. For preventive detention, there are very narrow grounds of judicial review because the Constitution emphasizes the state's "subjective satisfaction" when ordering a detention.
4. Preventive detention is not subject to the same legal safeguards as regular imprisonment.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.6) With reference to the Indian Polity, consider the following statements:

1. A non-MP can be interrogated by the Privilege Committee of the Lok Sabha for actions that attack the authority and dignity of the House.
2. The Ethics Committee can take up only cases of misconduct that involve MPs.
3. The Ethics Committee is a special committee, while the Privilege Committee is a standing committee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Social Issues (Health, Education, Vulnerable Sections)

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that develops in the cervix, which is the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina.
2. Cervical cancer is a sexually transmitted disease (STD).
3. The northeastern regions of India have experienced a decreased survival rate for cervical cancer.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

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Q.8) Consider the following statements with reference to Hypertension:

1. India is the country with the highest number of people with hypertension in the world.
2. The prevalence of hypertension is higher in urban areas than in rural areas in India.
3. Northern States in India have a higher prevalence of hypertension than the national average.
4. United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) strives to achieve healthy lives and well-being for all, with one of its key targets being the reduction of hypertension.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.9) With reference to Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) consider the following statements:

1. It is a system that tracks the academic performance of students in real-time and provides them with personalized feedback to improve their grades.
2. The APAAR ID is linked to the student's Aadhaar number, which ensures that each student has a unique and tamper-proof identification.
3. The APAAR ID is expected to help to reduce the burden on students and their parents, as they will no longer need to maintain multiple academic records for different schools or institutions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.10) With reference to "Blood Transfusion" consider the following statements:

1. It is the process of transferring blood or blood products from one person (the donor) to another person (the recipient).
2. One of the most common reasons for blood transfusion is to replace blood lost due to injury, surgery, or childbirth.
3. Blood transfusions can cure diseases such as anemia, cancer, and HIV/AIDS.

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

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Q.11) With reference to Internationalizing higher education, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It refers to the process of making higher education more globally connected and inclusive.
2. It refers to prioritizing profit over the quality of education, with a focus on attracting international students.
3. Internationalization of education is one of the goals of NEP 2020.
4. It aims to offer opportunities for students to study, work, or engage in research in other countries, promoting cultural exchange and global awareness.

Select the correct code given below:

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

Q.12) Which one of the following characteristics is related to Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser (MRKH) syndrome?

- a) Underdevelopment or absence of the uterus
- b) Absence of menstruation for six months or more
- c) Overproduction of androgens by the adrenal glands
- d) The presence of adhesions or scar tissue in the uterine cavity

Acts and Policies

Q.13) With reference to Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (POSH Act), consider the following statements:

1. It is a gender-neutral legislation that primarily protects both men and women from sexual harassment at the workplace.
2. The POSH Act does not define sexual harassment or provide safeguards against false or malicious charges
3. The POSH Act mandates States to appoint a District Officer in every district.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Make in India is a government initiative that was launched with the aim of making India a global manufacturing hub.

Statement-II: Make in India requires companies to manufacture their products entirely 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

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Q.15) Which one of the following government programs informs consumers about the energy performance of appliances and equipment?

- a) Regulatory Compliance & Labeling Scheme
- b) Standards & Labelling Programme
- c) Benchmarking & Certification Program
- d) Product Accreditation & Rating System

Q.16) With reference to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. It requires women to obtain the consent of their husbands or partners before having an abortion.
- 2. It reduces the number of authorized medical practitioners required to perform a medical termination of pregnancy from three to two.
- 3. According to the Act, if a contraceptive method or device fails, a married woman is allowed to terminate her pregnancy up to 20 weeks.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.17) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recommended the use of Quick Response (QR) codes on food products. Which of the following statements in this context is/are correct?

- 1. QR codes will have comprehensive details about the products ingredients, nutritional information, allergens, manufacturing date among others.
- 2. It is intended to replace the requirement to provide mandatory information on the product label.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Q.18) DNA and face-matching will be implemented by the government at some of the police station in the country. In this regard, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The Criminal Procedure Identification Act (CrPI) Act, 2022 allows the police and Central investigating agencies to collect, store, and analyze physical and biological samples, including retina and iris scans of arrested individuals.
- 2. The use of DNA and face-matching can assist in bridging the educational gap of individuals who have been arrested.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

International Relations/Organisations

Q.19) With reference to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, consider the following statements:

1. It promotes and protects the rights and privileges of diplomatic missions and their personnel.
2. The Vienna Convention only applies to diplomatic relations between states and does not cover relations between international organizations or non-state actors.

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.20) The term "Global South" has often been seen in the news. In this context, which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Global South is disproportionately affected by climate change, despite contributing less to the problem.
2. India's G20 presidency in 2023 has provided it with a unique opportunity to champion the Global South.
3. The Global South is a homogeneous region with similar cultures and traditions.
4. The Global South is a region of the world that is often overlooked by the developed countries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.21) With reference to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) consider the following statements:

1. RCEP is the largest free trade agreement in the world.
2. India decided to opt out of RCEP because it was concerned that the RCEP would open the "floodgates for Chinese goods" to enter India, further raise India's trade deficits, and weaken its anti-dumping duties that it has imposed on Chinese items from the chemicals, iron, and steel industries.
3. India's withdrawal from RCEP means that it is losing its status as a major player in the Asia-Pacific region.

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

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Q.22) With reference to Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relation, consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Under Article 9 of the Convention, the host country can declare a diplomat or their staff to be “persona non grata”, which means that they are no longer welcome in the country.

Statement-II: This decision can be made at any time and the host country is not required to provide a detailed explanation for this decision.

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.23) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Immigration is the process of leaving one country, while emigration is the process of arriving in another country.
- 2. The migration trend between India and OECD countries has been increasing in recent years.

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.24) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Global Solar Stocktake Report is a report that is being compiled by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to assess the progress that has been made in the adoption of solar energy around the world.
- 2. The objective of the Global Solar Facility is to establish connections between tropical countries and the rest of the world to tap into solar energy resources.

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.25) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Japan-India Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership is for only Governments-to-Government (G2G) collaboration in the semiconductor supply chain sector.
- 2. The India-Japan Digital Partnership (IJDP) aims to promote cooperation between the two countries in the areas of digital transformation, information and communication technology (ICT), and start-ups.

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.26) With reference to United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF), consider the following statements:

1. It is a global framework for action to sustainably manage all types of forests and to halt deforestation and forest degradation.
2. Its target is to increase forest area by 3% worldwide by 2030.
3. It promotes forest management practices that ignore the role of forests in mitigating climate change.
4. It is being implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.27) Consider the following statements:

1. The Best Tourism Villages Initiative is a program launched by the Ministry of Tourism.
2. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is responsible for regulating the global tourism industry.

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.28) Consider the following statements:

1. The Gulf of Guinea is located off the western equatorial coast of Africa and extends from Cape Lopez in Gabon, north and west to Cape Palmas in Liberia.
2. The region surrounding the Gulf of Guinea experiences an equatorial climate.
3. Limpopo River, Orange River and the Congo River are some of the rivers that flow into the Gulf of Guinea.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.29) With reference to India and Qatar Relations, consider the following statements:

1. Qatar is a major source of food, textiles, and engineering goods to India.
2. India and Qatar are both members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
3. Qatar is India's fourth largest trading partner.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Economy

Q.30) Consider the following statements:

1. Kasturi Cotton Bharat aims to boost the global competitiveness of Indian cotton by taking charge of branding, traceability, and certification, with a focus on sustainability and benefiting all involved stakeholders.
2. India has the largest area under cotton cultivation in the world.
3. India is the only country in the world that grows all four species of cultivated cotton.
4. The quality of Indian cotton is inferior to that of cotton produced in other nations.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.31) With reference to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act 2003, consider the following statements:

1. The FRBM Act requires the government to publish a medium-term fiscal policy statement (MTFP) every year.
2. The FRBM Act sets a target for the central government's fiscal deficit of 2% of GDP.
3. The FRBM Act is not a flexible and adaptable piece of legislation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.32) Consider the following statements:

1. Nano-DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate) is cheaper than conventional DAP and is economical for the farmers.
2. Nano-DAP will have 8% nitrogen and 16% phosphorus compared to 18% nitrogen and 46% phosphorus contained in the conventional DAP.
3. Nano-DAP reduces pollution of soil, air and water due to excessive use of phosphatic fertilizers.

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.33) Which one of the following defines the Purple Economy?

- a) It is an economic model that is based on the exploitation of natural resources and the production of waste.
- b) It is an economic model that recognizes the importance of care work and the empowerment of women to the functioning of economies, the well-being of societies, and the sustainability of life.
- c) It is an economic model that focuses on the sustainable use of marine resources and the development of coastal communities.
- d) It is an economic model that emphasizes the development and use of renewable energy sources.

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Q.34) Consider the following:

1. Fintech companies
2. Credit unions
3. Peer-to-peer lending platforms
4. Insurance companies

Which of the options provided above possesses the capability to deliver digital lending services?

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

Q.35) With reference to India's Tax base, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India's tax base has significantly declined since 2013-14.
2. The number of returns filed by individual taxpayers in various income ranges has grown.

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

Environment

Q.36) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Microalgae?

1. They are colorless.
2. They are single-celled organisms.
3. They are found only in water.
4. They are the primary producers in the food chain.
5. They play a role in carbon dioxide sequestration.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.37) The term "Little Ice Age (LIA)" was seen in the news sometimes. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the findings of the study related to Little Ice Age in India?

1. LIA in the Western Ghats was characterized by moister conditions, possibly influenced by increased northeast winter monsoon (NEM).
2. The southward shift of the ITCZ and increased northward energy flow across the equator during a cold northern hemisphere contributed to the weakest phase of the Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) during the LIA.

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.38) With reference to Corals, which of the following statements are correct?

1. Corals are primarily vagile organisms, meaning they are capable of swimming freely throughout the ocean.
2. Corals have stinging tentacles that contain nematocysts used for prey capture.
3. Coral reefs are often associated with tropical and shallow waters.

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.39) Consider the following statements:

1. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a measure of the concentration of all pollutants in the air.
2. "Triple dip" La Niña has been one of the factors behind rising air pollution in Mumbai.

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.40) Which of the following are considered as Dust Suppressants?

1. Water
2. Vacuum Cleaner
3. Calcium chloride
4. Asphalt
5. Paint

Select the correct code given below:

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

Q.41) Consider the following statements:

1. The Lemru Elephant Reserve is a protected area located in Tamil Nadu.
2. The Hasdeo River is the largest tributary of the Mahanadi River.

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.42) Consider the following statements with respect to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) framework:

1. ESG investment strategies guarantee higher financial returns compared to traditional investment approaches.
2. ESG criteria are used by investors, stakeholders, and organizations to evaluate a company's commitment to sustainable and responsible business practices.
3. ESG investing only applies to public equity investments, not other asset classes such as private equity, fixed income or real estate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.43) With reference to Energy Transition, consider the following statements:

1. Energy Transition refers to the transformation of the energy sector from fossil-based systems of energy production and consumption to renewable energy sources.
2. India is the fourth-largest renewable energy producer in the world.

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.44) Consider the following statements:

1. At present, India's renewable energy capacity is 131 gigawatts.
2. Green hydrogen is a clean fuel that does not produce any greenhouse gas emissions when burned.
3. Green Hydrogen is the only available sustainable hydrogen.

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

Security, Defense & Related Aspects

Q.45) With reference to the naval exercise "MILAN" consider the following statements:

1. The exercise is focused on enhancing professional interaction between professional armies and gaining experience in multilateral large force operations on land.
2. The exercise originally aligned with India's 'Look East Policy'.

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.46) Consider the following statements:

1. The Chetak Helicopter is a versatile, multipurpose and spacious helicopter.
2. The Cheetah helicopter is designed for long-range combat missions.

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.47) Consider the following statements with respect to the Indian Navy Vessel, INS Imphal:

1. It is the third ship to be launched under Project 15-B.
2. The ship is armed with supersonic Surface-to-Surface 'Brahmos' missiles and 'Barak-8' Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles.
3. It is propelled by a powerful Combined Gas and Gas Propulsion Plant (COGAG).

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.48) Which one of the following is the objective of launching Operation Chakra-II?

- a) To fight against transnationally organized cyber-enabled financial crimes in India.
- b) Harnessing technology to combat UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) attacks.
- c) To facilitate cross-border Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) transactions.
- d) To offer extended medical services to individuals affected by Tuberculosis.

Q.49) The Indian Army has installed its first vertical wind tunnel (VWT) at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS). Which of the following is/are the objective(s) of installing VWT?

1. To train soldiers in combat free fall (CFF)
2. Increased operational readiness
3. Create Special Task Force (STF) for operations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Answer Key

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

Answer and Explanations

Art and Culture

1) Answer: C

- **Statements 1 and 3** are correct. Dogra architecture refers to the traditional architectural style and building practices associated with the Dogra community. They primarily ruled over Jammu and Kashmir from 1846 to 1947.
- Examples of Dogra Architecture: Mubarak mandi, Jharokha style of balcony, Amar Mahal Palace.
- Dogra architecture often utilizes locally available materials such as wood, stone, and clay, which help in maintaining a comfortable indoor temperature and provide insulation from the harsh weather.
- Dogra architecture is influenced by multiple architectural traditions, including elements from Hindu, Tibetan, and other neighboring styles. This blend of influences contributes to the unique character of Dogra architecture in the Jammu and Kashmir region.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. Dogra architecture is characterized by its symmetrical layouts and ornate detailing. It tends to be elaborate and ornate, with intricate carvings, colorful murals, and elaborate domes and spires. Dogra buildings are also often made of stone or brick and feature courtyards and open spaces, which is different from the minimalist approach.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

2) Answer: C

- Vajra Mushti Kalaga is a traditional Indian martial art form that originated in Karnataka during the Vijayanagar Empire. It is a form of wrestling that uses a knuckleduster, called a vajra mushti, to strike the opponent. The vajra mushti is usually made of ivory or buffalo horn and has small spikes at the knuckles.
- The goal of Vajra Mushti Kalaga is to draw blood from the opponent's head. The wrestlers use a variety of techniques, including grappling, striking, and takedowns, to try to land a blow on the opponent's head.
- Vajra Mushti Kalaga was once a popular form of wrestling in Karnataka, but it has declined in popularity in recent years. It is still occasionally performed during the Dasara festival in Mysore, Karnataka.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Ancient History

3) Answer: A

- **Statements 1 and 3** incorrect. the Edakkal Caves are not a series of natural caves that were formed by volcanic activity. They are two natural caves that are believed to have been formed by a large split in a huge rock.
- The Edakkal Caves are located in the Ambukutty hills, which are part of the Western Ghats Mountain range. The Western Ghats are a non-volcanic mountain range, so it is not possible for the Edakkal Caves to have been formed by volcanic activity.

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- Edakkal Caves are not actually caves. They are part of a prehistoric rock shelter formed naturally when one huge boulder got wedged between two bigger ones. That's why the name Edakkal itself means "a stone in between". The caves feature Neolithic-era pictorial writings dating back to at least 6,000 BCE. The caves have engravings of human and animal figures besides symbols and letters.
- The Edakkal Caves are not known for being home to ancient Buddhist temples. Instead, these caves are primarily famous for their prehistoric rock engravings and petroglyphs, which are believed to be of significance for understanding the region's ancient history and culture. They are more closely associated with early human activities rather than religious structures.
- **Statement 2** is correct. The Muniyaras, or ancient burial sites, have been discovered in the vicinity of the Edakkal Caves, and they are believed to have been used by the people who lived in the caves. The discovery of the Muniyaras suggests that the Edakkal Caves were used as a burial ground by the people who lived in the caves.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

4) Answer: B

- Chanakya emphasized the importance of a strong intelligence network. He believed that accurate and timely information about the enemy's intentions, strengths, and weaknesses was essential for victory. Spies and informants played a critical role in gathering this intelligence.
- Chanakya recognized the significance of alliances and diplomacy in strengthening a kingdom's position. He advised rulers to form alliances with friendly neighboring states to deter potential aggressors and ensure support during conflicts. This aligns with modern military practices like international cooperation and soft power projection.
- Chanakya did not advocate for the use of brute force and overwhelming numbers as the primary strategy in warfare. Instead, he emphasized the importance of intelligence, strategy, and adaptability in military operations.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Polity

5) Answer: C

- **Statements 1, 2 and 3** are correct. Preventive detention means detention of a person by the state without trial and conviction by court, but merely on suspicion. The detention could be up to a year unless extended.
- In countries such as Britain, United States and Canada, preventive detention is a wartime measure. In India, the Constitution itself allows for preventive detention.
- Article 22 of Part III of the Constitution, which deals with fundamental rights, grants the state the power to suspend these rights for preventive detention.
- The state can order preventive detention under various laws. At the national level, examples of such laws include the National Security Act and the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA).
- For preventive detention, there are very narrow grounds of judicial review because the Constitution emphasizes the state's "subjective satisfaction" when ordering a detention.
- Judicial review in such cases is often limited to whether the Advisory Board applied its mind, considered all material facts and whether the state showed malicious intention in ordering detention.

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- **Statement 4** is incorrect. Preventive detention is subject to the same legal safeguards as regular imprisonment, with some additional safeguards. In India, preventive detention is governed by the Constitution of India and the Preventive Detention Act, 1950. The Constitution of India provides that no person shall be detained without trial for more than three months, unless an advisory board has reported that there is sufficient cause for such detention.
- In addition to the safeguards provided by the Constitution, the Preventive Detention Act, 1950 also provides for certain additional safeguards. For example, the Act requires that the detaining authority must inform the detenu of the grounds of detention within five days of the detention. The detenu also has the right to make a representation against the detention to the Advisory Board.
- However, the procedural safeguards in preventive detention are often weaker than those in regular imprisonment, which raises concerns about the potential for misuse of this power.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

6) Answer: B

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. A non-MP can be interrogated by the Privilege Committee of the Lok Sabha for actions that attack the authority and dignity of the House. The Privilege Committee has the power to summon any person, including non-MPs, to appear before it and give evidence.
- If a non-MP refuses to appear before the Privilege Committee or fails to answer questions truthfully, they may be held in contempt of the House.
- The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha can take up only cases of misconduct that involve MPs. This is because the Committee's mandate is to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of members.
- **Statement 3** is incorrect. Both the Ethics Committee and the Privilege Committee are standing committees, meaning that they are permanent committees that exist throughout the life of the Lok Sabha. A special committee, on the other hand, is one that is constituted for a specific purpose and is disbanded once that purpose has been fulfilled.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

7) Answer: B

- **Statements 1 and 3** are correct. Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that develops in the cervix, which is the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina. Various strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection, play a role in causing most cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in India, after breast cancer. As per the findings:
- Nearly 52% of patients diagnosed with cervical cancer between 2012 and 2015 survived.
- The highest survival rate was observed in Ahmedabad's at 61.5% followed by Thiruvananthapuram (58.8%) and Kollam (56.1%).
- In contrast, Tripura reported the survival rate at 31.6%.
- The survival rates were lower in India's northeastern region.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Cervical cancer is not classified as an STD, as it is caused by HPV, which is a virus. While HPV can be transmitted through sexual activity, it is not classified as an STD. STDs are diseases that are specifically transmitted through sexual contact, and HPV can be transmitted through other means, such as skin-to-skin contact.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

8) Answer: C

- **Statements 1, 2 and 4** are correct. Hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, is a condition in which blood pressure is consistently too high. Blood pressure is the force of blood against the walls of

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the arteries. When blood pressure is too high, it can damage the arteries and lead to heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, and other health problems. According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 188.3 million people in India have hypertension, which is the highest number of people with hypertension in any country in the world. The prevalence of hypertension is higher in urban areas (12.5%) than in rural areas (10.6%). United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) strives to achieve healthy lives and well-being for all, with one of its key targets being the reduction of hypertension. Hypertension is often underdiagnosed and undertreated in India. A study published in The Lancet Global Health in 2020 found that only 20% of people with hypertension in India are aware of their condition, and only 5% are adequately treated.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Southern States have a higher prevalence of hypertension than the national average. Kerala (32.8% men and 30.9% women) has the highest number followed by Telangana.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

9) Answer: B

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** APAAR is not primarily designed to track academic performance in real-time. Instead, it aims to create a permanent and tamper-proof record of academic achievements and qualifications for students and professionals. While APAAR could potentially provide feedback to students, its primary purpose is to prevent fraud and ensure the authenticity of academic credentials. It is not designed to provide personalized feedback to improve grades.
- **Statements 2 and 3 are correct.** APAAR is a digital identification system for students in India. It is also known as the Education Ecosystem Registry or EduLocker. The APAAR assigns a unique 12-digit ID number to every student in India, from pre-primary to higher education levels. This ID number is linked to the student's Aadhaar number, ensuring accurate identification and reducing the chances of duplication. It is based on the concept of One Nation, One Student ID.
- Currently, students need to maintain separate academic records for each school or institution they attend. This can be a time-consuming and cumbersome process, especially for students who move frequently or attend multiple schools simultaneously.
- With APAAR, students will have a single, permanent academic record that can be shared with any educational institution or other stakeholder. This will eliminate the need for students to maintain multiple copies of their academic records, and it will make it easier for them to transfer their records to new schools when they move. APAAR will also make it easier for parents to track their children's academic progress.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

10) Answer: A

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct.** Blood transfusion is a medical procedure in which blood is transferred from one person (the donor) to another (the recipient). This is done to replace blood that has been lost due to injury, surgery, or illness. Blood can also be transfused to carry oxygen and nutrients to the body's tissues, or to help the body fight infection.
- One of the most common reasons for blood transfusion is to replace blood lost due to injury, surgery, or childbirth.
- Injuries, such as car accidents or gunshot wounds, can cause severe blood loss. Surgery can also lead to blood loss, especially if it is a major surgery. Childbirth can also cause blood loss, especially if it is a prolonged or complicated delivery.
- Blood transfusions can help to restore the blood volume and oxygen levels in patients who have lost a lot of blood. This can help to prevent complications such as shock and organ failure.

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- The blood transfusion system in India is governed by the National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC), which is a division of the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO). The NBTC is responsible for developing and implementing policies and standards for blood transfusion services in India.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. While blood transfusions can help people manage some of the symptoms of anemia, cancer, and HIV/AIDS, they don't provide a cure. For example, a blood transfusion can boost the level of red blood cells in a person with anemia, but it doesn't address the underlying cause of the anemia.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

11) Answer: D

- **Statements 1, 3 and 4** are correct. Internationalizing higher education refers to the process of making higher education more globally connected and inclusive. The primary goal of internationalization in higher education is to prepare students to engage with and understand global issues, collaborate with individuals from diverse backgrounds, and address the challenges and opportunities presented by an increasingly interconnected world.
- Internationalization of education is one of the goals of NEP 2020. It aims to achieve it by making the Indian education system self-reliant and compliant to global standards & norms. It would help India in attracting students from abroad, in large numbers.
- It also aims to offer opportunities for students to study, work, or engage in research in other countries, promoting cultural exchange and global awareness.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. The core purpose of internationalization is to enhance the overall quality of education by incorporating global perspectives, promoting diversity, and preparing students to thrive in a globalized world.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

12) Answer: A

- Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser syndrome (MRKH), often referred to as MRKH syndrome, is a congenital disorder that affects the female reproductive system. It is characterized by the underdevelopment or absence of the uterus and the upper part of the vagina in women.
- Recently, the Supreme Court has allowed a woman with Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser (MRKH) Syndrome to undergo surrogacy using a donor egg.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Acts and Policies

13) Answer: A

- **Statements 1 and 2** are incorrect. The Act specifically addresses sexual harassment of women in the workplace, and its provisions apply to all organizations that employ women. While the Act does provide for the protection of all individuals in the workplace, regardless of their gender, its main focus is on protecting women from sexual harassment. The POSH Act applies to all workplaces in India, including public and private sector organizations, NGOs, and educational institutions. It also applies to workplaces that are located outside of India, but where the employer is an Indian citizen or an Indian company.
- The POSH Act does define sexual harassment. Section 2(n) of the POSH Act defines sexual harassment as: any unwelcome sexual behaviour, whether directly or impliedly, such as: (i) physical contact and

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advances; or (ii) a demand or request for sexual favours; or (iii) making sexually coloured remarks; or (iv) showing pornography; or (v) any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.

- The POSH Act also provides safeguards against false or malicious charges. Section 14 of the POSH Act states that the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) shall inquire into the complaint and submit a report to the employer within 60 days. The report shall contain the findings of the inquiry and recommendations for action to be taken by the employer. The employer is required to take action on the recommendations of the ICC within 60 days of receiving the report. If the employer finds that the complaint is false or malicious, the employer may take disciplinary action against the complainant.
- Statement 3 is correct. The POSH Act mandates States to appoint a District Officer in every district. Functions of District Officer under POSH Act are: Constitute Local Complaints Committees (LCCs), Appoint Nodal Officers, Submit Annual reports to Government.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

14) Answer: C

- **Statement 1** is correct. Make in India is a government initiative launched in 2014 with the aim of making India a global manufacturing hub. The initiative aims to boost industrial growth, create job opportunities, and reduce dependency on imports. The Make in India initiative has had a number of positive impacts on India such as Increased FDI inflows, Increased manufacturing growth, Job creation, Reduced import dependency, etc.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The goal of Make in India is to promote manufacturing in India and to make India a more competitive manufacturing destination. However, there is no requirement for companies to manufacture their products entirely in India. Companies can still import components and parts from other countries, as long as the final product is assembled in India.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

15) Answer: B

- The Standards & Labelling Programme (S&L Programme) is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Power, Government of India, launched in 2006. The programme aims to promote energy efficiency in the country by informing consumers about the energy performance of appliances and equipment.
- Under the S&L Programme, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) prescribes minimum energy performance standards for appliances and equipment. Appliances and equipment that meet these standards are eligible to display an energy efficiency label. The label indicates how energy efficient the appliance or equipment is, on a scale of 1 to 5 stars, with 5 stars being the most energy efficient.
- The S&L Programme is mandatory for a number of appliances and equipment, including refrigerators, air conditioners, washing machines, and electric fans. It is voluntary for a number of other appliances and equipment, such as televisions, computers, and microwave ovens.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

16) Answer: D

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. The MTP Act gives women the right to make their own decision about having an abortion, regardless of whether they have the consent of their husband or partner. This was confirmed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court and the Supreme Court, who both upheld the woman's right to choose without interference from her partner. This is a crucial right that ensures women have autonomy over their own bodies and reproductive health.
- **Statements 2** and 3 are incorrect. Under the MTP Amendment Act, 2021, if a pregnancy is between 12 and 20 weeks, only two medical practitioners are required to perform a medical termination of

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pregnancy, as opposed to the previous requirement of three. This is a significant change, as it makes it easier for women to access abortion services, especially in areas where there may be a shortage of medical practitioners.

- According to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021, a married woman is allowed to terminate her pregnancy up to 20 weeks if a contraceptive method or device fails. This is a significant expansion of access to safe and legal abortion services for married women in India.

Source: [DNA](#)

17) Answer: A

- **Statement 1** is correct. QR codes will have comprehensive details about the products ingredients, nutritional information, allergens, manufacturing date among others.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. The inclusion of a QR code for the accessibility of information does not replace the requirement to provide mandatory information on the product label.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

18) Answer: A

- **Statement 1** is correct. The Government of India is implementing DNA and face-matching systems at police stations across the country as per Criminal Procedure Identification Act, 2022.
- The act allows the police and the Central investigating agencies to collect, store and analyze physical and biological samples including retina and iris scans of arrested persons.
- This Act replaced the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 whose scope was limited to capturing finger impressions, footprints and photographs of convicted prisoners and a specific category of arrested and non-convicted persons under the orders of a Magistrate.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has been given responsibility to implement this act.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. DNA and face-matching systems can identify individuals, but they can't educate them. Education requires interaction, engagement, and the transfer of knowledge and understanding. DNA and face-matching systems don't offer that.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

International Relations/Organisations

19) Answer: C

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations is an international treaty signed in 1961. It aims to put forth a framework for diplomatic interactions between independent nations and aims to ensure the development of friendly relations among nations. The convention formalizes the longstanding practice of diplomatic immunity. It grants diplomatic missions' privileges that enable diplomats to perform their functions without fear of coercion or harassment by the host country. It promotes and protects the rights and privileges of diplomatic missions and their personnel.
- The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations only applies to diplomatic relations between states. It does not cover relations between international organizations or non-state actors. This is because:
- International organizations have their own set of rules and regulations governing their relations with states and other international organizations. These rules and regulations are typically set out in the constituent instruments of the organizations themselves. For example, the Charter of the United

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Nations establishes the rules and regulations governing the relations between the United Nations and its member states.

- Non-state actors do not have the same legal status as states or international organizations. They are not bound by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations or other treaties that govern diplomatic relations between states. However, non-state actors may still have diplomatic relations with states or international organizations. These relations are typically governed by informal agreements or arrangements.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

20) Answer: C

- **Statements 1, 2 and 4** are correct. The Global South is disproportionately affected by climate change, despite contributing less to the problem. This is because:
- First, the Global South is more vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to its geographical location and economic development. For example, many countries in the Global South are located in low-lying coastal areas, which are at risk of flooding due to rising sea levels. Additionally, many countries in the Global South have economies that are heavily reliant on agriculture, which is particularly vulnerable to drought and other extreme weather events.
- Second, the Global South has fewer resources to adapt to the effects of climate change. Third, the Global South has less access to clean energy technologies. This means that countries in the Global South are more reliant on fossil fuels, which are a major contributor to climate change.
- India's G20 presidency in 2023 has provided it with a unique opportunity to champion the Global South. India has used its presidency to focus on issues of particular concern to developing countries, such as food security, energy security, and sustainable development. India has also invited a number of developing countries to participate in the G20, which has helped to give them a greater voice in global discussions.
- The Global South is a region of the world that is often overlooked by the developed countries. This is due to: Economic inequality, Lack of political representation, Geographic distance, Cultural differences, Media bias, etc.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Global South is not a homogeneous region with similar cultures and traditions. In fact, it is one of the most diverse regions in the world, with a wide range of cultures, languages, and religions.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

21) Answer: C

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a free trade agreement between 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. RCEP is the largest free trade agreement in the world, covering over 30% of the global population and GDP. It aims to reduce tariffs, improve market access, and establish common rules for trade and investment across the region.
- Out of many other reasons, India decided to opt out of RCEP because it was concerned that the RCEP would open the "floodgates for Chinese goods" to enter India, further raise India's trade deficits, and weaken its anti-dumping duties that it has imposed on Chinese items from the chemicals, iron, and steel industries.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. India's withdrawal from RCEP does not necessarily mean that it is losing its status as a major player in the Asia-Pacific region. India is still a large and growing economy, and it is a member of other important regional organizations, such as the South Asian Association for Regional

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Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

- India is also playing an increasingly important role in global affairs, and it is a member of the G20 and the BRICS group of emerging economies.
- However, India's withdrawal from RCEP does mean that it is missing out on an opportunity to boost its trade and investment with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

22) Answer: B

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Under Article 9 of the Convention, the host country can declare a diplomat or their staff to be persona non grata, which means that they are no longer welcome in the country. Article 9 states that the receiving state may at any time and without having to explain its decision, notify the sending state that the head of the mission or any member of the diplomatic staff of the mission is persona non grata and that the sending state must accordingly recall or terminate the functions of that person. This decision can be made at any time and the host country is not required to provide a detailed explanation for this decision.
- Article 11 of the Convention states that if there is no specific agreement on the number of diplomats allowed in a mission, the receiving State (host country) can set limits. The host country can determine the reasonable and normal size of a diplomatic mission. This determination can be made based on the circumstances and conditions in the host country and the specific needs of the mission.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

23) Answer: B

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Immigration is the process of entering and settling in a new country, while emigration is the act of leaving one's own country to reside in another. So, immigration pertains to arriving in a different country, not leaving it.
- Statement 2 is correct. The migration trend between India and OECD countries has been increasing in recent years. In 2021, India was the top source country for new migrants to OECD countries, with over 400,000 new migrants.
- Further, in 2020, India surpassed China as the largest source of migrants to OECD countries. By 2022, 6.1 million permanent-type migrants moved to OECD, a 26% increase. Most migrants went to the Anglosphere, especially the US, UK, and Singapore. 80% of these migrants were working, contributing to the economies. The tech industry absorbed a significant number of these migrants.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

24) Answer: A

- Statement 1 is correct. The Global Solar Stocktake Report is a report that is being compiled by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to assess the progress that has been made in the adoption of solar energy around the world.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The GSF is a financial mechanism that aims to mobilize \$1 trillion in investments in solar energy by 2030, and it is open to all countries, regardless of their location.
- The GSF is designed to make solar energy more affordable and accessible in developing countries. It does this by providing guarantees and insurance to investors in solar projects, and by investing in research and development of new solar technologies.
- It will have three funds: **1) payment guarantee fund 2) Insurance fund to mitigate project risks and 3) Investment fund for technical assistance.**

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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25) Answer: B

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. The Union Cabinet of India has approved a memorandum of cooperation between India and Japan on a Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership. It aims to strengthen cooperation between India and Japan towards enhancement of the semiconductor supply chain. The duration of partnership is five years. The partnership is for both Governments-to-Government (G2G) and Business-to-Business (B2B) collaboration in the semiconductor supply chain sector.
- **Statement 2** is correct. The India-Japan Digital Partnership (IJDP) aims to promote cooperation between the two countries in the areas of digital transformation, information and communication technology (ICT), and start-ups.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

26) Answer: B

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) is a global framework to achieve the sustainable management of all types of forests, including trees outside forests, and to combat deforestation and forest degradation. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2017.
- Its target is to increase forest area by 3% worldwide by 2030. The plan contains a set of six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be reached by 2030. All these are voluntary in nature and universally applicable.
- **Statement 3 and 4** are incorrect. The United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) does not promote forest management practices that ignore the role of forests in mitigating climate change. One of the key objectives of the UNSPF is to recognize and emphasize the critical role of forests in climate change mitigation.
- The UNSPF is implemented by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which is a voluntary partnership of over 15 international organizations.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

27) Answer: D

- **Statements 1 and 2** are incorrect. The Best Tourism Villages Initiative is a global program launched by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2021 to recognize and promote outstanding rural tourism destinations. The program aims to support villages that are committed to sustainable tourism and that exemplify rural and community-based values, products, and lifestyles. The award is given to villages that are leaders in rural development and preservation of landscapes, cultural diversity, local values and food traditions.
- Tourism regulation is primarily the responsibility of national governments. The UNWTO provides guidance and support to governments in developing and implementing tourism policies and regulations, but it does not have the authority to regulate the industry directly.
- The UNWTO's mission is to promote sustainable and inclusive tourism development. It does this by providing a forum for governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders to collaborate on tourism issues, by developing and promoting global tourism standards, and by providing technical assistance to developing countries.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

28) Answer: B

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. The Gulf of Guinea is located off the western equatorial coast of Africa and extends from Cape Lopez in Gabon, north and west to Cape Palmas in Liberia. The region surrounding the Gulf of Guinea experiences an equatorial climate, which includes high temperatures, high humidity, and significant rainfall throughout the year.

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- **Statement 3** is incorrect. Some of the rivers that flow into the Gulf of Guinea include: Niger River, Volta River, Cross River, Ogun River, Sanaga River, Ogooué River, Chiloango River.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

29) Answer: A

- **Statements 1 and 2** are incorrect. India's major exports to Qatar include petroleum products, textiles, pharmaceuticals, and food products. Qatar's major exports to India include liquefied natural gas (LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and petrochemicals.
- India is not a member of GCC. GCC comprises Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- **Statement 3** is correct. India is the sixth largest trading partner of Qatar, while Qatar is the fourth largest trading partner of India.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Economy

30) Answer: C

- **Statements 1, 2 and 3** are correct. Kasturi Cotton Bharat is a website launched by the Ministry of Textiles, the Cotton Corporation of India, trade organizations, and the industry. It aims to boost the global competitiveness of Indian cotton by taking charge of branding, traceability, and certification, with a focus on sustainability and benefiting all involved stakeholders. Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) has been designated as the implementing agency for Traceability, Certification and Branding of "KASTURI Cotton India".
- According to the Ministry of Textiles, India got 1st place in the world in cotton acreage with 120.69 Lakh Hectares area under cotton cultivation, which is around 36% of the world area of 333 Lakh Hectares. Gujarat is the largest producer of cotton in India. 67% of India's cotton is grown on rain-fed areas, and 33% on irrigated areas. India's productivity is ranked 38th, with a yield of 510 kg/ha.
- India is the only country to grow all four species of cultivated cotton: *Gossypium arboreum* (tree cotton), *Gossypium herbaceum* (herb cotton), *Gossypium hirsutum* (upland cotton), and *Gossypium barbadense* (pima cotton). This makes India a major player in the global cotton industry, with a large portion of the world's cotton production and export coming from the country. The different cotton species grown in India are adapted to different growing conditions and have unique characteristics that make them desirable for various textiles and fabrics. India's climate and soil conditions are particularly well-suited for cotton cultivation, making it a natural hub for the industry.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. Indian cotton is known for its high quality and is in high demand around the world. India is the world's second-largest producer of cotton, after China. It is also the largest producer and second largest consumer of cotton. Indian cotton is known for its long staple length, fine fiber, and high strength. These qualities make it ideal for spinning high-quality yarn and fabrics.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

31) Answer: B

- **Statements 1 and 3** are correct. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act requires the government to publish a medium-term fiscal policy statement (MTFP) every year. The MTFP outlines the government's fiscal plans for the next three years. It includes projections for the fiscal deficit, debt-to-GDP ratio, and other key fiscal indicators.

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- The MTFP is an important tool for ensuring transparency and accountability in the government's fiscal management. It allows the public to see how the government plans to manage its finances, and it provides a benchmark for assessing the government's performance.
- The MTFP is also used to guide the government's budget-making process. The government's annual budget should be consistent with the targets set in the MTFP.
- The FRBM Act is not a flexible and adaptable piece of legislation. It sets rigid targets for the fiscal deficit and debt-to-GDP ratio, which makes it difficult for the government to respond to economic shocks.
- For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the government needed to increase spending on healthcare and economic relief. However, the FRBM Act's rigid targets made it difficult for the government to do so. As a result, the government had to borrow more money, which increased the debt-to-GDP ratio.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The FRBM Act mandates the central government to eliminate revenue deficit and reduce fiscal deficit to 3% of GDP by March 31, 2021. The FRBM Act also requires the government to limit the debt of the central government to 40% of the GDP by 2024-25.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

32) Answer: D

- **Statements 1, 2 and 3** are correct. Nano-DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate) is a nanotechnology-based agri-input developed by the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO).
- It will have 8% nitrogen and 16% phosphorus compared to 18% nitrogen and 46% phosphorus contained in the conventional granular bag.
- It is cheaper than conventional DAP and is economical for the farmers. It reduces pollution of soil, air and water due to excessive use of phosphatic fertilizers.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

33) Answer: B

- The Purple Economy is an economic model that recognizes the importance of care work and the empowerment of women to the functioning of economies, the well-being of societies, and the sustainability of life.
- There are four pillars of the purple economy: Universal Care Services, Work-Life Balance in the Job Market, Alleviate Rural Unpaid Work, and New Economic Policies.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

34) Answer: A

- Fintech companies, Credit unions, Peer-to-peer lending platforms, Microfinance institutions are capable of digital lending.
- Digital lending is the process of applying for, receiving, and managing loans through online platforms. It uses technology to automate and streamline the lending process, making it faster, easier, and more convenient for borrowers.
- Digital lending platforms can be offered by traditional banks or by new fintech companies. They typically use a variety of data sources, including bank statements, credit history, and social media data, to assess a borrower's creditworthiness. This allows them to make faster and more informed lending decisions.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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35) Answer: A

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. India's tax base has significantly expanded since 2013-14. The number of income tax returns filed by individuals has increased from 3.36 crore to 6.37 crore between assessment years 2013-14 and 2021-22.
- **Statement 2** is correct. The number of returns filed by individual taxpayers in various income ranges has grown.
 - In the income range up to ₹5 lakh, there has been a 32% increase in the number of returns filed, including those with incomes below the taxable limit.
 - For higher income ranges of ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, the number of returns filed increased by 295%.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Environment

36) Answer: B

- Microalgae are microscopic algae that are invisible to the naked eye. They are single-celled organisms that can be found individually or in colonies. Microalgae are incredibly diverse and come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors. Microalgae are important members of the aquatic ecosystem and play a vital role in the food chain. They are primary producers, which means that they are the base of the food chain and provide food for other organisms, such as zooplankton and fish. Microalgae also play a role in oxygen production and carbon dioxide sequestration. Microalgae can be found in all kinds of environments, including soil, snow, air and water.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

37) Answer: C

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. The Little Ice Age (LIA) was a period of regional cooling, particularly pronounced in the North Atlantic region, that occurred from the early 14th century to the mid-19th century. It was not a true ice age of global extent. The term was introduced into scientific literature by François E. Matthes in 1939. As per the findings of the study:
- The study reconstructs vegetation-based climate changes and monsoonal variability in the Western Ghats from 1219-1942. LIA in the Western Ghats was characterized by moister conditions, possibly influenced by increased northeast winter monsoon (NEM), contrary to previous assumptions.
- It also found that the southward shift of the ITCZ and increased northward energy flow across the equator during a cold northern hemisphere contributed to the weakest phase of the Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) during the LIA.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

38) Answer: C

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. Corals are sessile organisms, meaning they are fixed in place and cannot move around. They are attached to the bottom of the ocean by a root-like structure called a holdfast.
- **Statements 2 and 3** are correct. Corals have stinging tentacles that contain nematocysts used for prey capture. Nematocysts are microscopic stinging capsules that are found in the tentacles of corals, sea anemones, jellyfish, and other cnidarians.
- When coral polyp senses prey nearby, it fires its nematocysts. The nematocysts release a barb that pierces the prey's skin and injects a venom. The venom paralyzes the prey, making it easy for the coral polyp to ingest.

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- Corals use their nematocysts to capture a variety of prey, including zooplankton, small fish, and crustaceans. Corals also use their nematocysts to defend themselves from predators.
- Coral reefs form in warm, shallow waters that are rich in sunlight and nutrients. Coral reefs are found in many parts of the world, but they are most common in the tropics.
- Some of the largest and most famous coral reefs in the world include the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System in Central America, and the Raja Ampat Islands in Indonesia.
- Coral reefs are important ecosystems that provide habitat for a wide variety of marine life. They also protect coastlines from erosion and storms. However, coral reefs are threatened by climate change, pollution, and overfishing.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

39) Answer: B

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a measure of the concentration of six common air pollutants: ozone, particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). It is not a measure of the concentration of all pollutants in the air.
- Statement 2 is correct. La Niña is a climate pattern that occurs when sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean are cooler than average. Triple dip La Niña is a rare and extreme event in which La Niña conditions persist for three consecutive winters.
- Triple dip La Niña can have a number of effects on weather patterns around the world, including changes in wind patterns. In Mumbai, triple dip La Niña has led to weaker winds, which have made it difficult for pollutants to disperse. This had led to hardly any wind reversal from across the Arabian Sea and has contributed to the rising air pollution levels in the city.
- Other factors that have contributed to the rising air pollution in Mumbai include increased vehicular emissions, construction dust, and industrial emissions. However, triple dip La Niña has played a role in trapping pollutants in the air and making the problem worse.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

40) Answer: B

- Dust suppressants are substances or techniques used to reduce the amount of dust in the air. Dust can be a nuisance, but it can also be a health hazard, especially for people with respiratory conditions. Dust can also damage equipment and reduce visibility.
- There are two main types of dust suppressants: physical and chemical. Physical dust suppressants work by adding weight or moisture to dust particles, making them less likely to become airborne. Examples of physical dust suppressants include: Water, Mulch, Geotextiles, etc.
- Chemical dust suppressants work by binding dust particles together or changing their surface properties. Examples of chemical dust suppressants include: Calcium chloride, Magnesium chloride, Lignosulfonates, Asphalt emulsions, Polymers.
- Dust suppressants can be applied in a variety of ways, including: Spraying, Watering, Spreading, Mixing with soil or other materials.
- In Delhi, dust suppressant powder would be mixed along with water and sprayed on roads to keep dust levels lower.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

41) Answer: B

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. The Lemru Elephant Reserve is a protected area located in the Korba district of Chhattisgarh, India. It is one of the largest elephant reserves in the country, covering an area of 1,995 square kilometers. Its objective is to provide elephants with a permanent habitat, reduce property

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damage, and mitigate human-elephant conflicts. The area under the reserve is part of the Hasdeo Aranya forests.

- **Statement 2** is correct. The Hasdeo River is the largest tributary of the Mahanadi River. It originates in the Amarkantak plateau in Chhattisgarh state and flows for 333 kilometers before joining the Mahanadi River near Shiladehi (Birra). The Hasdeo River is a major source of water for irrigation, industrial use, and domestic consumption in the region. Seonath River is the longest tributary of the Mahanadi River.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

42) Answer: B

- **Statements 1 and 3** are incorrect. ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) investment strategies do not guarantee higher financial returns compared to traditional investment approaches. ESG investments are made with the primary goal of aligning one's portfolio with ethical and sustainable values, and they take into account not only financial factors but also environmental, social, and governance considerations.
- While some ESG investments may perform well financially, their returns are subject to the same market risks and fluctuations as traditional investments.
- ESG investing is a framework for evaluating how companies manage their environmental, social, and governance risks and opportunities. This framework can be applied to any type of investment, regardless of the asset class.
- **Statement 2** is correct. ESG criteria are used by investors, stakeholders, and organizations to evaluate a company's commitment to sustainable and responsible business practices.
- Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria are a set of standards that companies can use to measure and manage their impact on the environment, society, and their own governance practices. ESG criteria are becoming increasingly important to investors, stakeholders, and organizations because they can help to identify companies that are making a positive impact on the world.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

43) Answer: C

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. Energy Transition refers to the transformation of the energy sector from fossil-based systems of energy production and consumption to renewable energy sources. It involves a shift in the energy mix to reduce the carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases.
- India is the world's third-largest consumer of electricity. India stands fourth globally in renewable energy installed capacity, fourth in wind power capacity, and fourth in solar power capacity.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

44) Answer: A

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. As of August 2023, India's renewable energy capacity was 131 gigawatts. Hence, to meet this 2030 green hydrogen goal, India needs to add a similar amount of renewable energy by 2030. This is on top of the commitment to add 500 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030, which is part of the Paris Agreement.
- Green hydrogen is a clean fuel that does not produce any greenhouse gas emissions when burned. Green hydrogen is produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power. When green hydrogen is burned, it only produces water vapor as a byproduct.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Green hydrogen is one type of sustainable hydrogen, but there are also blue and gray hydrogen.

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Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Security, Defense & Related Aspects

45) Answer: B

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. Exercise MILAN is a naval exercise, not a land army exercise. It is focused on enhancing professional interaction between navies and gaining experience in multilateral large force operations at sea. Exercise MILAN is a biennial multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy. The exercise was first held in 1995. MILAN is aimed at fostering cooperation and interoperability between the navies of participating countries. The exercise includes a variety of activities, such as maritime search and rescue, anti-piracy drills, communication exercises, gunnery exercises, anti-submarine warfare exercises, and fleet maneuvers. MILAN also provides an opportunity for participating countries to showcase their naval capabilities and to learn from each other's best practices.
- **Statement 2** is correct. The exercise originally aligned with India's 'Look East Policy'. It later expanded to include more countries as part of India's 'Act East Policy' and the Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative.
- This expansion involved nations from both the western Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and the countries along the IOR coast.
- Exercise MILAN 2024 is likely to witness the largest-ever participation with invites being extended to over 50 countries. The exercise aligns with India's G20 Presidency and the theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" emphasizing global unity.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

46) Answer: A

- **Statement 1** is correct. The Chetak Helicopter is a two-ton class helicopter. It is a versatile, multi role, multipurpose and spacious helicopter. It is designed for seven seaters (two pilots and five passengers). It is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. Cheetah is a five-seater helicopter. It is a high-performance helicopter designed for operation over a very wide range of weight, center of gravity and altitude conditions. It is primarily a utility helicopter that is primarily used for transportation, search and rescue, and surveillance missions. While it is capable of carrying weapons, it is not specifically designed for combat missions. It holds the world record in high altitude flying among all categories of Helicopters. It is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

47) Answer: D

- **Statements 1, 2 and 3** are correct. INS Imphal is the third ship to be launched under Project 15-B. The ship is armed with supersonic Surface-to-Surface 'Brahmos' missiles and 'Barak-8' Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles. The ship has indigenous content of around 75%. It is designed by Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- The ship is armed with supersonic Surface-to-Surface 'Brahmos' missiles and 'Barak-8' Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles. It can accommodate a crew of 312 persons. It has an endurance of 4,000 nautical miles and can carry out a typical 42-day mission.

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- It is propelled by a powerful Combined Gas and Gas Propulsion Plant (COGAG), consisting of four reversible gas turbines, which enables Imphal to achieve a speed of over 30 knots (approximately 55 kilometers per hour).

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

48) Answer: A

- Operation Chakra-II is a crackdown on transnational organized cyber-enabled financial crimes launched by India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The operation aims to tackle organized cybercrime networks in India that are involved in online financial fraud and cryptocurrency scams. For the operation, CBI has partnered with Microsoft and Amazon as well as with national and international agencies to combat and dismantle infrastructure of illegal call centers.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

49) Answer: A

- The Indian Army has installed its first vertical wind tunnel (VWT) at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh.
- Some of the specific benefits of the VWT for the Indian Army are:
 - Improved CFF skills: The VWT will allow soldiers to practice CFF skills in a safe and controlled environment, which will improve their overall performance.
 - Increased operational readiness: The VWT will help the Army to be better prepared to carry out special operations.
 - Reduced training costs: The VWT is a more cost-effective way to train soldiers in CFF than using traditional methods, such as jumping from airplanes.
 - Enhanced safety: The VWT is a much safer way to train soldiers in CFF than traditional methods.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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Geography

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Non-coking coal is a type of coal that can be heated in the absence of air to produce coke.
2. Coal India Limited (CIL) notifies the prices of non-coking coal for different grades and sectors.
3. National Coal Index (NCI) is a price index released monthly that reflects the change of price level of coal in a particular month relative to the fixed base year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.2) Which one of the following straits connects the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea?

- a) Palk Strait
- b) Strait of Hormuz
- c) Strait of Malacca
- d) Sunda Strait

Q.3) It's the world's largest acidic lake. It emits hot, flammable sulphurous gases that ignite upon contact with Earth's oxygen. Belambangan Biosphere Reserve is located near the lake. Among the following lakes, which one exhibits these characteristics?

- a) Yellowstone Lake
- b) Lake Mono
- c) Kawah Ijen Crater Lake
- d) Lake Yanacocha

Q.4) Which one of the following best describes the term "greying" phenomenon?

- a) This refers to the process of people growing older while still facing challenges and issues traditionally associated with youth, such as access to education and employment opportunities.
- b) It is the process by which societies transition from high birth and death rates to lower birth and death rates.
- c) It refers to a cumulative result of increasing longevity, declining fertility and the progression of larger groups of population to older ages.
- d) It is used to describe a sudden and significant increase in birth rates, resulting in a larger cohort of individuals born during a specific period.

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Indian Polity

Q.5) With reference to the Finance Commission, which of the following are its roles/functions?

1. Recommends on the distribution of tax revenues between the central and state governments.
2. Changes the tax rates and policies of the central government.
3. Establishes the principles governing tax allocation among states
4. Shapes the fiscal federalism and development trajectory of India.
5. Responsible for managing the finances of the Indian government.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The Right to Privacy finds a mention in Part III of the Constitution.
2. The Right to Privacy is not absolute, and is subject to reasonable restrictions.
3. The Right to Know is a subset of the right to freedom of speech and expression as enshrined in Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution.

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.7) Enabling Communications on Real-time Environment (ENCORE) was seen in the news recently, is related to which one of the following?

- a) Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR)
- b) Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)
- c) Emergency Response Systems
- d) Election Management Systems

Q.8) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to the Advocate-on-Record (AoR)?

1. Only AoRs can file cases in the Supreme Court.
2. AORs are eligible to appear only before the Supreme Court of India.
3. An AoR must have an office located in Delhi within a 16-kilometer radius of the Supreme Court.
4. An Advocate-on-Record must be appointed by a judge to represent a client.
5. The rules governing the Advocate-on-Record (AoR) system are created by the Bar Council of India (BCI).

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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Q.9) Consider the following statements with reference to electronic First Information Report (e-FIR):

1. It means an automatic registration of an FIR using electronic means.
2. It can be filed for cognizable offenses only.
3. It can be filed from anywhere at any time.
4. It can help to improve the transparency and accountability of the police.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Gambling in India is largely a state subject under seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
2. A ban on online betting is issued under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000.
3. The Indian government has established a government regulator to oversee the online betting industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.11) With reference to the regulations for foreign universities to set up and operate their campuses in India, consider the following statements:

1. Two or more than two universities can collaborate to set up a campus in India, provided each institution meets the eligibility criteria individually.
2. A foreign university cannot set up more than one campus in India.
3. The foreign universities are not allowed to open learning centers, study centres or franchises that may act as representative offices of the parent entity.
4. No programmes can be offered in Open and Distance Learning modes.

Which of the criteria listed above have been established by the Indian government for foreign universities looking to establish their campuses in India?

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

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Acts, Organization, Policies & Reports

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. The goal of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) is to replace traditional educational methods with a focus on innovation and active community participation.
2. The goal of ATL Sarthi is to empower schools to continuously improve the functioning of their ATLs and achieve the desired objectives of fostering curiosity, creativity, and innovation among young students.

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.13) Consider the following statements:

1. The National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP) is a government initiative aimed at promoting the adoption of efficient clay pots for cooking in rural households.
2. Energy Efficient Fans Programme (EEFP) aims to enhance the market for efficient fans by deploying one crore 5-star energy-efficient ceiling fans across India.
3. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has made it mandatory for all new ceiling fans sold in India to be 5-star energy-efficient.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.14) Which of the following are the key pillars of the World Food India 2023, recently inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India?

1. Leveraging India's Super Food for the World
2. Positioning India as the Global Hub for food processing
3. Promoting cultivation of hybrid crops in India

Select the correct answer from 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.15) With reference to the Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) 2023 report, consider the following statements:

1. As per the report, 39% of India's capital cities lack an active master plan.
2. As per the report, southern states have relatively better urban legislations than the eastern Indian states.
3. As per the report, only Assam empowers its city governments to collect all key taxes.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

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Q.16) Consider the following reports:

1. Emission Gap Report
2. Global Environment Outlook
3. Adaptation Gap Report
4. World Development Report

Which of the above reports are published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)?

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

Q.17) Consider the following statements:

1. National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) operates the only mechanized diamond mine in India.
2. NMDC is the single largest producer of iron ore in India.
3. The Mount Celia Gold Project is a gold mining project located in Australia is the first international gold mine project of NMDC.

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.18) With reference to the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, which of the following statements are correct?

1. The registration and benefits under the Scheme are restricted to only one member of the family.
2. It provides financial assistance to artisans to start their own businesses.
3. The scheme provides financial assistance to artisans in the form of grants.
4. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.19) Which one of the following the is the objective of LEAP AHEAD Initiative?

- a) To provide accelerated growth support to tech startups across India.
- b) To establish India as a global leader in the semiconductor industry.
- c) To close the gender gap in employment by encouraging higher Female Labor Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) among women.
- d) To utilize India's cutting-edge space technologies to develop innovative services for global markets.

Q.20) With reference to the Bharat Atta scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Bharat Atta is a fortified wheat flour that is made with a blend of wheat, rice, and pulses.
2. It aims to provide affordable wheat flour to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.

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.21) Which one of the following is the objective of Krishi 24/7 portal, recently launched by the government?

- a) It is an app developed to help farmers in accessing finance and insurance products.
- b) It can connect farmers with experts who can provide them with advice on crop management and pest control.
- c) It is an AI powered tool designed to automatically monitor and analyze agricultural news.
- d) It helps farmers to sell their crops directly to buyers, eliminating the need for intermediaries.

Q.22) Consider the following statements with reference to Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY):

- 1. It is a food security welfare scheme.
- 2. By providing free food grains, PMGKAY helps to boost the economy by increasing consumption and supporting the agricultural sector.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.23) Consider the following missions:

- 1. Skill India Mission
- 2. Deep Ocean Exploration
- 3. Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations (AGNIi)
- 4. National Biodiversity Mission
- 5. Smart Cities Mission

How many of the above missions are included under the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)?

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

Q.24) With reference to the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. It sets minimum energy standards for commercial buildings, with the objective of enabling energy savings of between 25 and 50% in compliant buildings.
- 2. It mandates the use of plants and greenery in buildings to improve air quality.
- 3. It only applies to newly constructed commercial buildings.
- 4. It helps to reduce India's reliance on imported energy.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

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Q.25) Which one of the following is the objective of Production Gap Report?

- It assesses the gap in achieving global education goals and highlights challenges and disparities in education access and quality.
- It provides analysis and information on the gap in global investment trends and policies.
- It assesses the gap between current global greenhouse gas emissions and the necessary reductions to limit global warming to a specific temperature target.
- It focuses on a specific development challenge each year and provides evidence-based analysis and policy recommendations.

Q.26) With reference to the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) consider the following statements:

- It serves as an educational blueprint in India.
- It has been developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- It emphasizes teacher-centered learning, where teachers are active participants in the learning process.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

International Relations/Organizations

Q.27) With reference to the differences between the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), consider the following statements:

- In the UNGA, decisions on important questions, such as peace and security, require a two-thirds majority while there is no such mechanism in the UNSC.
- The UNSC is the most representative of UN organs while the UNGA is less representative.
- The UNGA's resolutions are not binding on Member States while the UNSC's resolutions are binding on all Member States.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Q.28) Consider the following statements:

- An embassy is the primary diplomatic mission of a country in another country and is usually located in the host country's capital city whereas a consulate is a smaller diplomatic mission that is located in a major city in the host country, other than the capital.
- A consulate is the official representation of the sending country to the host country whereas an embassy is a subordinate office of the consulate and provides consular services to citizens of the sending country who are living or traveling in the host country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

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Q.29) With reference to the World Food Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an independent for-profit organization with the objective of offering global policy recommendations to countries for addressing malnutrition.
2. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization.
3. It works on long-term development programs aimed at building the resilience of communities and improving their access to food.

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.30) Consider the following statements:

1. The World Customs Organization (WCO) is the only international organization with competence in customs matters.
2. The primary objective of the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) is to take the lead in implementing initiatives designed to address the issue of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

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.31) With reference to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental organization that develops and promotes policies to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
2. India is one of the members of FATF.
3. As of now, Pakistan and Afghanistan are the black listed countries in the FATF.

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.32) The proposed Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC) is expected to reduce the travel time between India and Russia. Which of the following seas will the corridor be expected to pass through?

- a) Coral Sea, the Sea of Philippines, and the Tasman Sea
- b) Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea
- c) Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, and the South China Sea
- d) Bering Sea, Labrador Sea, and the Barent Sea

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Q.33) In the context of international law, which one of the following best describes the “Doctrine of Dualism”, seen in the news recently?

- a) It recognizes that states may have some discretion in implementing and interpreting international human rights standards within their domestic legal systems.
- b) It states that international law is separate from national law and it must be incorporated into national law through domestic legislation.
- c) It refers to customary practices and norms that have evolved over time and are considered legally binding on states and acts independently of international treaty or law.
- d) It refers to the international law that automatically becomes part of domestic law without the need for specific incorporation.

Q.34) In the context of international relations, the term “Principle of Reciprocity” is used for –

- a) States avoiding taking sides in conflicts and aim to remain impartial and uninvolved in the disputes of other states.
- b) The practice of mutual exchange or give-and-take between states, where one state grants certain benefits or concessions to another with the expectation of receiving similar treatment or benefits in return.
- c) The promotion of the peaceful settlement of conflicts and disputes between states through negotiation, diplomacy, mediation, and other non-violent means.
- d) Allowing people and nations to determine their political, economic, social, and cultural status without external influence.

Q.35) Consider the following initiatives:

1. The Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)
2. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)
3. India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)
4. Artemis Accord

Which of the initiatives mentioned above represent defense cooperation between India and the United States?

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

Economy

Q.36) The term ‘Grey Infrastructure’ was seen in the news recently. In this regard, which one of the following statements is correct?

- a) It is the natural or man-made bodies of water that help to store, clean, and move water, such as rivers, lakes, and constructed wetlands.
- b) It refers to telecommunications infrastructure, such as cell phone towers, broadband networks, and satellites.
- c) It refers to engineered assets that provide one or multiple services required by society, such as transportation or wastewater treatment.
- d) It is the disaster-resilient infrastructure that is designed to withstand natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods.

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Q.37) If an Indian company is listed on foreign stock exchanges, then –

1. It will get access to foreign capital markets.
2. It will increase the liquidity of the company's stock.
3. It will need to spend lesser money on market makers to maintain liquidity.
4. It can help to diversify the company's investor base.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Environment

Q.38) With reference to the Biosphere Reserves, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Human settlement is allowed in the buffer zone of the reserve.
2. Sustainable infrastructure development is permissible in the transition zone of the reserve.
3. Ecotourism is permissible in the core zone of the reserve.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.39) With reference to the White hydrogen, which one of the following statements is correct?

- a) White hydrogen is the most common form of hydrogen on Earth.
- b) White hydrogen is more environmentally friendly than green hydrogen.
- c) White hydrogen is more abundant than other forms of hydrogen.
- d) White hydrogen causes no CO₂ emissions when used as a fuel.

Q.40) With reference to the Dust and Control Management Centre (DCMC), consider the following statements:

1. It monitors real-time data on dust levels at construction sites using sensors and cameras installed at strategic locations.
2. If contractors fail to comply with notices, the DCMC may take enforcement action, such as imposing fines or suspending work at the construction site.
3. The DCMC promotes the adoption of innovative technologies to enhance dust control efforts.

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

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Q.41) Consider the following pollutants:

1. Particulate matter (PM_{2.5})
2. Particulate matter₁₀ (PM₁₀)
3. Ozone (O₃)
4. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)
5. Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)

Which of the pollutants mentioned above are considered in the calculation of the Air Quality Index (AQI)?

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

Q.42) National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation (NCoE-CCU) at IIT Bombay has developed a carbon dioxide (CO₂) conversion technology that converts it into carbon monoxide. On which one of the following processes is the technology based on?

- a) Photolysis
- b) Thermal decomposition
- c) Electrocatalysis
- d) Biomass gasification

Q.43) Birds are called the “canary in the gold mine” because the condition of birds in an ecosystem serves as an indicator of the health of the environment which can be impacted by gold mining. Which of the following is/are the reason(s) associated with the gold mining that impact birds?

1. Bioleaching
2. Exposure to Mercury
3. In-situ leaching
4. Solvent extraction

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.44) Consider the following themes:

1. Restoration of Water Bodies
2. Groundwater
3. Watershed Development
4. Rural Drinking Water
5. Managing Water Cycle
6. Building Dams

How many of the themes mentioned above are included within the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI)?

- a) Only three
- b) Only four
- c) Only five
- d) All six

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Q.45) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: As per the Elephant Corridor Report 2023, West Bengal has the highest number of identified elephant corridors in India.

Statement-II: West Bengal's forests are home to a significant number of elephant population.

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.46) The Clean and Green Village is one of the themes adopted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to transform rural ecosystems with the support of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). Which of the following practices contribute to the formation of Clean and Green Village?

- 1. Organic and Natural Farming
- 2. Agro forestry
- 3. Monocropping
- 4. Smallholder Farming

Select the correct code given below:

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

Science & Technology

Q.47) With reference to Frontier AI sometimes seen in the news, which of the following are benefits associated with it?

- 1. Improved healthcare
- 2. More efficient transportation
- 3. Moral reasoning
- 4. Interpretability

Select the correct code given below:

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

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Q.48) Recently, the Government of India is taking steps to promote Small Modular Reactors (SMR). Which of the following are the reason behind promoting SMRs?

1. Smaller size
2. Flexibility
3. Lower cost
4. Lower Environmental Impact

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.49) Consider the following statements:

1. Asteroids orbit the Sun in the same direction as the planets.
2. Asteroids often have a visible coma (a cloud of gas and dust) and a tail that points away from the Sun.
3. Asteroids are mostly rock and metal, while comets are mostly ice and dust.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.50) Consider the following statements:

1. A binary asteroid is a system of two asteroids that orbit each other around a common center of mass.
2. Trojan asteroids have orbits that cover the boundary between the Kuiper belt and the asteroid belt.

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.51) Consider the following:

1. Monitoring invasive species
2. Air quality monitoring
3. Water quality monitoring
4. Environmental impact assessment
5. Deep-sea environments

Among the areas mentioned above, where is Environmental DNA (eDNA) most commonly used?

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

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Q.52) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Israel's Iron Dome is based on the principle of kinetic interception, which is based on the method of destroying a threat by physically striking it with another object.

Statement-II: Project Kusha is a mission by India's Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to develop a state-of-the-art air defence system similar to Israel's Iron Dome.

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.53) With reference to women in Defence Forces, consider the following statements:

- 1. Women candidates can join the National Defence Academy (NDA) every six months.
- 2. Women officers are being appointed on board warships in the Indian Navy.
- 3. Women are allowed to be the part of core combat arms such as Infantry, Mechanized Infantry, and Armored Corps.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.54) Consider the following vessels:

- 1. INS Visakhapatnam
- 2. INS Mormugao
- 3. INS Imphal
- 4. INS Surat
- 5. INS Coimbatore

How many of the above vessels are part of Project 15B?

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

Q.55) With reference to the Poshan Tracker Application, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a mobile-based application implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD).
- 2. The Poshan Tracker is a beneficiary-focused, service delivery application that provides real-time data with statistical analysis.
- 3. It primarily monitors the nutritional status of children going to the high school, aiming to offer services related to nutrition and address the challenges associated with malnutrition.
- 4. The Poshan Tracker enables real-time monitoring of all Anganwadi Centers and services provided to the beneficiaries.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

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Q.56) Consider the following diseases:

1. Dengue fever
2. Zika virus
3. Chikungunya
4. Yellow fever

Which one of the following mosquito's species is responsible for the diseases mentioned above?

- a) Anopheles mosquitoes
- b) Aedes mosquitoes
- c) Culex mosquitoes
- d) Haemagogus mosquitoes

Q.57) With reference to the Wolbachia method, consider the following statements:

1. The Wolbachia method is a novel approach to controlling mosquito populations and reducing the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases.
2. Wolbachia is not always found in *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.
3. In the Wolbachia method, the genetic material of the mosquito is altered.
4. The method poses a high environmental risk.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.58) With reference to Hypertension in India, consider the following statements:

1. Hypertension prevalence in southern states exceeds the national average.
2. Women in India are more prone to hypertension than men.

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.59) Consider the following statements with reference to the Tuberculosis (TB):

1. It is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.
2. It can be spread through air.
3. As per the Global TB Report 2023, India accounted for the lowest number of tuberculosis (TB) cases in the world in 2022.

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

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Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

Geography

1. Correct option is (D)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Coking coal is a type of coal that can be heated in the absence of air to produce coke. Coke is a solid, porous material with a high carbon content (typically over 85%). It is used in the steelmaking process to reduce iron ore to molten iron.
- Non-coking coal is a type of coal that cannot be heated in the absence of air to produce coke. It is typically used for power generation, cement production, and other industrial purposes.
- Coking coal has a higher carbon content and lower ash content than non-coking coal.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Coal India Limited (CIL) notifies the prices of non-coking coal for different grades and sectors. The subsidiaries of CIL, namely Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), and Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), are responsible for notifying the prices of coking coal.
- The National Coal Index (NCI) is a price index released monthly by the Ministry of Coal. It is a composite index that reflects the average price of coal (both coking and non-coking coal) sold through different channels, including notified prices, auction prices, and import prices. The NCI is used by the government to track coal prices and to set coal pricing policies.
- The NCI is calculated with a base year of 2017-18. This means that the price of coal in any given month is compared to the price of coal in 2017-18 to calculate the NCI for that month.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

2. Correct option is (C)

- The Strait of Malacca is located between the Malay Peninsula and the island of Sumatra, connects the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea. It is one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, with a significant volume of trade passing through it.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

3. Correct option is (C)

- Kawah Ijen Crater Lake is located in Indonesia and is known for its extreme acidity and its emission of hot, flammable sulfurous gases. It's the world's largest acidic lake. It is located in the crater of the Kawah Ijen volcano (centre of East Java, Indonesia).
- The lake is filled with a high concentration of sulphuric and hydrochloric acids, as well as dissolved minerals, which makes it unswimmable. The Belambangan Biosphere Reserve is located nearby lake.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

4. Correct option is (C)

- The "greying" phenomenon refers to the process of a population becoming older and having a higher proportion of older individuals. This occurs as a result of increased longevity and declining fertility rates, leading to an aging population. It's a natural demographic trend, and it's happening in many countries around the world. In the 1970s, there were 3 times as many 15 to 24-year-olds then older people. By 2050, these age groups will be equal.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Indian Polity

5. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1, 3 and 4 are correct. One of the primary functions of the Finance Commission is to recommend the distribution of tax revenues between the central government (Union) and the state governments. This ensures that states receive a fair share of tax resources to support their developmental needs.
- The Finance Commission also establishes the principles governing the allocation of taxes among the states. This involves considering various factors such as the population, income levels, and development needs of each state. The aim is to ensure equitable distribution of tax resources across India.
- The Finance Commission's recommendations play a significant role in shaping the fiscal federalism and development trajectory of India.
- Statements 2 and 5 are incorrect. The Finance Commission does not have the authority to directly change the tax rates and policies of the central government. These matters are primarily determined by the central government through legislative processes. It is also not responsible for the overall management of the Indian government's finances. This responsibility falls under the purview of the Ministry of Finance and other relevant ministries and departments.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

6. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Right to Privacy was not directly envisaged by the Constitution makers. It also did not find a mention in Part III of the Constitution relating to Fundamental Rights.
- However, the Supreme Court gave a landmark decision on Right to Privacy in Justice K.S Puttaswamy vs Union of India case (2017).
- It ruled that Right to Privacy is “intrinsic to life and personal liberty”. It is inherently protected under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The SC ruled that the right to privacy is not absolute, but is subject to reasonable restrictions.
- The Right to Know is a subset of the right to freedom of speech and expression as enshrined in Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution. A citizen has a fundamental right to access towards information. It is the duty of the state to protect the fundamental right.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

7. Correct option is (D)

- ENCORE is the Election Commission of India's in-house software for complete Candidate and election management. It's a one-stop-shop for everything related to elections, including candidate registration, nomination management, voter registration, election day management, and results management. It's designed to streamline the election process and make it more efficient and secure.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

8. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Advocate on record (AOR) is a title given to an advocate who can represent a cause or pleading before the Supreme Court (SC). Only these advocates are entitled to file any matter or document before the SC.

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- The Supreme Court Rules, 2013 prescribe eligibility criteria for an AoR: An advocate has to clear an examination set by the Supreme Court and has to meet specific criteria such as:
 1. An advocate must undergo training with a court-approved AoR for at least one year before taking the examination.
 2. The advocate should have at least four years of legal practice before beginning the training.
 3. An AoR must have an office located in Delhi within a 16-kilometer radius of the Supreme Court.
- Statements 2, 4 and 5 are incorrect. While AoRs are primarily recognized for their expertise in representing clients before the Supreme Court, they are authorized to appear before other courts in India as well. This includes High Courts, district courts, and other lower courts.
- An Advocate-on-Record (AoR) does not need to be appointed by a judge to represent a client before the Supreme Court of India. The client has the right to choose their own AoR, and the AoR does not need to obtain the judge's approval before representing the client.
- The rules governing the Advocate-on-Record (AoR) system are created by the Supreme Court of India based on the authority given to it under Article 145 of the Constitution of India.
- The Bar Council of India is a statutory body created under the Advocates Act, 1961, and it regulates the legal profession and legal education in India. However, it does not create the rules for the AoR system.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

9. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. 'e-FIR' does not mean an automatic registration of an FIR using electronic means. e-FIRs need to be reviewed and registered by a police officer before they are considered valid. This is because the police officer needs to verify the identity of the complainant and the details of the complaint before registering the FIR.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct. As per Section 154 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), an FIR can be registered in cognizable offenses only.
- e-FIRs can be filed from anywhere at any time, as long as the complainant has access to the internet. This makes it a convenient and accessible way to report crimes to the police.
- e-FIRs can help to improve the transparency and accountability of the police. e-FIRs are recorded electronically and can be tracked by the complainant and the police department. This makes it more difficult for the police to tamper with FIRs or to ignore complaints.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

10. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Gambling in India is largely a state subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. This means that individual states have the power to regulate gambling within their own borders.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has the authority to block access to online betting platforms under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000.
- This section empowers MeitY to block access to any information or content that is deemed to be "prejudicial to or contrary to sovereignty, integrity, or security of India, friendly relations with foreign states, or is likely to incite violence or hatred against any group of persons."
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Indian government does not have a dedicated government regulator specifically for the online betting industry. While gambling and betting are regulated at the state level in India, there is currently no central body that regulates the online betting industry as a whole.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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11. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 3, and 4 are correct. A foreign university looking to establish campus in India should be: Ranked among the top 500 universities in the world according to a list approved by the University Grants Commission (UGC). It must be ranked among the top 500 universities in a specific subject according to a list approved by the UGC. It must have exceptional expertise in a particular field, as determined by the UGC.
- Two or more than two universities can collaborate to set up campuses in India, provided each institution meets the eligibility criteria individually. In case a Foreign University wants to receive or utilize foreign contributions, it will have to obtain registration or prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.
- The foreign universities are not allowed to open learning centers, study centres or franchises that may act as representative offices of the parent entity.
- No programmes can be offered online or in Open and Distance Learning modes. However, lectures in online mode not exceeding 10% of the programme requirements are allowed.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Each foreign university can set up more than one campus in India. However, they shall make a separate application for each proposed campus to the UGC.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Acts, Organizations, Policies & Reports

12. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. ATLS are not meant to replace traditional schooling methods, but to complement them by providing an additional layer of experiential learning.
- The goal is to create a space where students can explore, experiment, and tinker with new ideas, in addition to their traditional schooling. While community involvement is a key aspect of ATLS, it's not meant to replace the traditional role of educators and teachers.
- Statement 2 is correct. The goal of ATL Sarthi is to empower schools to continuously improve the functioning of their ATLS and achieve the desired objectives of fostering curiosity, creativity, and innovation among young students.
- The program aims to help schools assess the effectiveness of their ATLS, identify areas for improvement, and take action to enhance their ATLS.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

13. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP) is a government initiative in India aimed at promoting the adoption of energy-efficient cooking technologies, such as induction cookstoves, to reduce household energy consumption and improve air quality. The program is being implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Power.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Energy Efficient Fans Programme (EEFP) aims to enhance the market for efficient fans by deploying one crore 5-star energy-efficient ceiling fans across India. It was initiated during the G20 Energy Transitions Working Group in Goa in July 2023.

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- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has made it mandatory for all new ceiling fans sold in India to be 5-star energy-efficient. This mandate is part of BEE's broader efforts to promote energy efficiency in the country and reduce the overall energy consumption of household appliances.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

14. Correct option is (A)

- The key pillars of the World Food India 2023, recently inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India are: Shree Anna (Millets) – Leveraging India's Super Food for the World, Strategic Segments – Unlocking Potentials for Growth, Exponential Food Processing – Positioning India as the Global Hub, Efficient Ecosystem – Harnessing Opportunities with Inclusion, Sustainable Development – Processing for Prosperity.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

15. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) 2023 report is released by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, a non-profit institution. It aims to highlight the challenges and constraints faced by the Local Governments in Indian Cities.
- As per the report, 39% of India's capital cities lack an active master plan. Only nine cities have prepared sectoral plans for key aspects such as sanitation, comprehensive mobility, and sustainability.
- Majority of local governments are financially dependent on their state governments. Only Assam empowers its city governments to collect all key taxes. Except five States — Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Meghalaya, and Rajasthan — all the others have to get approval from the State before borrowing money.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the report, Eastern states, comprising Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal have relatively better urban legislations followed by southern states.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

16. Correct option is (B)

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) publishes Emission Gap Report, the Adaptation Gap Report, the Global Environment Outlook, Frontiers, Invest into Healthy Planet. The World Development Report is published by the World Bank.
- Recently, The Adaptation Gap Report 2023 was issued by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). According to the report, the world is underprepared, under invested and lacks the necessary planning for adaptation to climate change.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

17. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. NMDC is the Nartana Public Sector Enterprise. It is involved in the exploration of minerals like iron ore, copper, limestone etc. It is the single largest producer of iron ore in India. It operates the only mechanized diamond mine in India at Panna, Madhya Pradesh. The Mount Celia Gold Project is a gold mining project located in Australia is the first international gold mine project of NMDC.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

18. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. The Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme (PMVS) is a central sector scheme launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

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- The scheme aims to provide holistic and end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools.
- Under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, the registration and benefits under the Scheme are restricted to only one member of the family.
- The scheme offers low-interest loans that can be used to buy equipment, materials, and other resources that are necessary for starting a business.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The PM Vishwakarma Scheme provides financial assistance to artisans in the form of loans, not grants. The loans are collateral-free and have a concessional interest rate of 5%.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

19. Correct option is (A)

- The LEAP AHEAD (Launchpad for Tech Entrepreneurs towards Accelerated Growth and Pioneering AHEAD) Initiative is a pan-India initiative launched by the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) in collaboration with The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Delhi-NCR.
- This comprehensive program aims to provide accelerated growth support to tech startups across India, enabling them to scale their ventures and make a significant impact in the tech ecosystem.
- Eligibility: Startups involved in software product development, registered with DPIIT under the Startup India program and have demonstrated revenue generation and external investment.
- Benefits given to startups include: Intensive Three-Month Mentorship Program, One-on-One Mentorship with investors and industry experts, Funding Potential of upto ₹1 crore, Access to networks and exposure in the global market, One year of free associate membership with TiE Delhi-NCR.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

20. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Bharat Atta is a fortified wheat flour that is made with a blend of wheat, rice, and pulses. It is a good source of protein, iron, and other essential nutrients.
- The scheme aims to provide relief to people from the rising prices of food items, especially wheat flour, ahead of the Diwali festival. The flour will be sold through various outlets such as Kendriya Bhandars, NAFED, and other outlets. It aims to provide affordable wheat flour to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.
- Bharat Atta is offered at a reduced price of ₹27.50 per kilogram, which is lower than the earlier rate of ₹29.50 at Kendriya Bhandar.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

21. Correct option is (C)

- Krishi 24/7 app has been developed by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) in partnership with Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence (Wadhvani AI). It is an AI powered tool designed to automatically monitor and analyze agricultural news.
- It scans news articles in multiple languages and translates them into English. It extracts essential information from news articles including headline, crop name, event type, date, location, severity, summary and source link to ensure the government receives timely updates.
- Krishi 24/7 is an efficient mechanism for the government to identify and handle important agricultural news for quick decision-making.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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22. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. PMGKAY is a food security welfare schemes and it helps to boost the economy by increasing consumption and supporting the agricultural sector.
- It was launched by the Government of India in 2020 to provide free food grains to vulnerable households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The scheme was initially launched for three months, but it has been extended several times due to its effectiveness in providing food security to millions of people.
- Under PMGKAY, each beneficiary gets free 5 kg of food grain per month, in addition to the PDS scheme (an extra 5 kg of food grain per month supplied at a subsidised price).
- PMGKAY has also provided support to the agricultural sector by increasing demand for food grains and providing an additional source of income for farmers. This has helped to stabilize agricultural prices and support the incomes of farmers, which is crucial for ensuring food security in India.
- In addition to the direct economic benefits, PMGKAY has also had other positive impacts, such as reducing food insecurity and malnutrition, and improving the health of poor and vulnerable households.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

23. Correct option is (B)

- The Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) is an overarching council that facilitates the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to assess the status, challenges, and interventions needed in specific science and technology domains. It formulates interventions, develops a futuristic roadmap, and advises the Prime Minister accordingly.
- PM-STIAC has two main functions. First, it acts as a high-level advisory body to several ministries, providing guidance on science, technology, and innovation-related matters. Second, it executes mission-oriented programs to address various socio-economic challenges through innovation and technology-based solutions.
- PM-STIAC has identified nine national missions to ensure India's sustainable growth. These missions include: Natural Language Translation, Quantum Frontier, Artificial Intelligence, National Biodiversity Mission, Electric Vehicles, Bioscience for Human Health, Waste to Wealth, Deep Ocean Exploration, Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations (AGNIi).

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

24. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 4 are correct. ECBC is a set of guidelines and standards for energy-efficient design and construction of buildings and their systems in India. It sets minimum energy standards for commercial buildings, with the objective of enabling energy savings of between 25 and 50% in compliant buildings.
- By reducing energy consumption, ECBC helps to reduce India's reliance on imported energy, which can improve energy security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. ECBC doesn't specifically require the use of plants or greenery, though it does promote the use of natural ventilation, daylighting, and other passive design strategies that can improve indoor air quality.
- It is applicable to commercial buildings like hospitals, hotels, schools, shopping complexes and multiplexes which have a connected load of 100 kW or more, or contract demand of 120 kVA or more. The code is for both new buildings and retrofitting existing buildings.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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25. Correct option is (C)

- Production Gap Report is published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). It assesses the gap between current global greenhouse gas emissions and the necessary reductions to limit global warming to a specific temperature target. The report analyzes emissions trends for 20 major fossil-fuel-producing countries. One among them is India.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

26. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) serves as an educational blueprint in India. It is a comprehensive document that provides guidance on the goals, objectives, and content of education at different levels.
- It is developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in consultation with various stakeholders, including educators, experts, and parents.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) emphasizes student-centered learning, where students are active participants in the learning process.
- In teacher-centered learning, the teacher is the sole source of information and students are expected to passively absorb it. The NCF, on the other hand, encourages teachers to create a learning environment where students can learn by doing and by applying what they learn to real-world situations.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

International Relations/Organizations

27. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Decisions on important issues in the General Assembly require a two-thirds majority of the member states present and voting.
- However, the UN Security Council operates differently. Its decisions are made by a vote of the 15 members, and any one of the five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) can veto a decision, even if the other 14 members support it.
- Resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) are not legally binding on Member States, while resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) are legally binding on all Member States.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is often considered the most representative UN organ. The UNGA includes all 193 member states of the United Nations, and each member state has one vote, giving it a high degree of representativeness.
- On the other hand, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is less representative because it consists of 15 member states, with 5 permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

28. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. An embassy is the primary diplomatic mission of a country in another country and is usually located in the host country's capital city whereas a consulate is a smaller diplomatic mission that is located in a major city in the host country, other than the capital.

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- Statement 2 is incorrect. An embassy is the official representation of the sending country to the host country whereas a consulate is a subordinate office of the embassy and provides consular services to citizens of the sending country who are living or traveling in the host country.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

29. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The World Food Programme is a UN agency not an independent for-profit organization. It doesn't offer policy recommendations, but rather works directly with governments and other organizations to provide humanitarian assistance and improve food security in developing countries.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The WFP is the world's largest humanitarian organization - it assists over 100 million people in more than 80 countries every year.
- It also focuses on long-term development programs to build resilience and improve access to food. These include initiatives like school feeding programs, cash transfers, and agricultural support to smallholder farmers.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

30. Correct option is (A)

- **Statement 1** is correct. The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an intergovernmental organization that facilitates cooperation and standardization among customs administrations worldwide. It was established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) and changed its name to the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 1994.
- The WCO has 189 member states and territories, representing over 98% of world trade. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. It is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters.
- Its main functions include developing standards for customs procedures, capacity building of its members and promoting cooperation between the customs administrations of its members.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. The International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) is a global trade association for seaports worldwide. It is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. Formed in 1955, it is now recognised as the NGO representing ports worldwide.
- The primary objective of IAPH is to promote the interest of ports worldwide through strong member relationships, collaboration, and information-sharing that help resolve common issues, to advance sustainable practices, and to continually improve how ports serve the maritime industries.
- Its focus areas are: Climate and energy, risk and resilience of port services and guiding the ports in digitalization.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

31. Correct option is (A)

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. FATF is an intergovernmental organization that develops and promotes policies to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. India is one of the members of FATF since 2001.
- **Statement 3** is incorrect. **Black List:** Countries known as non-cooperative are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. As of now, **Iran, North Korea and Myanmar** are the three black listed countries.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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32. Correct option is (C)

- The Eastern Maritime Corridor is a proposed sea route between Chennai, India, and Vladivostok, Russia. The corridor would pass through the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, the South China Sea, and the Malacca Strait to reach the Bay of Bengal and then cut across through the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago to reach Chennai.
- The Eastern Maritime Corridor is a proposed sea route between India and Russia that is expected to reduce the travel time between the two countries by up to 40%.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

33. Correct option is (B)

- The Doctrine of Dualism in international law is a legal concept that refers to the separation of international law and domestic (national) law within a state's legal system. This doctrine asserts that international law and domestic law are distinct and separate legal systems, and they operate independently of each other.
- It states that the international law, in and of itself, does not automatically apply within a state's legal system. Domestic laws must be enacted or modified to reflect the state's obligations under international law.
- In other words, international treaties do not automatically become part of domestic law without proper incorporation.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

34. Correct option is (B)

- The principle of reciprocity is a fundamental concept in international relations and diplomacy. It refers to the practice of mutual exchange or give-and-take between states, where one state grants certain benefits or concessions to another with the expectation of receiving similar treatment or benefits in return.
- Reciprocity is a key element of many international agreements, negotiations, and interactions. It is based on the idea that cooperation and mutual respect between states are often achieved through a balance of benefits and obligations.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

35. Correct option is (B)

- The Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) is a bilateral initiative between India and the United States aimed at promoting cooperation in defense technology and trade.
- While the Quad is not exclusively a defense cooperation initiative, it has a significant focus on defense and security cooperation. The four countries have conducted joint military exercises, shared information on maritime security, and promoted cooperation in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing.
- INDUS-X is a joint initiative between India and the US to promote defense innovation collaboration.
- The Artemis Accords, on the other hand, are a set of principles for responsible and peaceful exploration and use of space.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Economy

36. Correct option is (C)

- Grey infrastructure refers to man-made, built systems and facilities that are designed to manage and control natural processes, particularly in the context of urban and environmental planning. These engineered structures are often used to address various challenges, such as water management, transportation, and energy distribution. Grey infrastructure stands in contrast to "green infrastructure," which involves the use of natural systems and processes for similar purposes. Examples include: Water management, Roads and highways, etc.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

37. Correct option is (B)

- If an Indian company is listed on foreign stock exchanges, it can potentially benefit from: Increased visibility and exposure to a wider pool of investors, Access to foreign capital markets, Enhanced liquidity and trading volumes, Higher valuations and potential for higher returns, diversifying the company's investor base, access to foreign currency, raising the company's profile and enhance its brand recognition among international investors and consumers.
- However, the challenges include: Increased regulatory and compliance costs, Currency exchange risks, Differences in accounting and financial reporting standards, Communication and cultural barriers, Potential political and economic instability in foreign markets. Companies may need to spend more money on market makers to maintain liquidity. They may also need to deal with higher trading costs. Companies may need to spend more money on marketing and investor relations to reach new investors. Companies may need to comply with more stringent accounting and reporting standards.
- Further, currently, any company already listed in India is eligible for foreign secondary listing. Now, the government has allowed certain unlisted companies to directly list on foreign stock exchanges.
- However, unlisted companies are unlikely to be allowed to list anywhere they want. The government is expected to provide a list of jurisdictions where Indian firms will be allowed to list. IFSC in Gift City, Gandhinagar is expected to be part of permitted jurisdictions for overseas listing.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Environment

38. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Human settlement is allowed in the buffer zone. People can live in the buffer zone as long as they don't engage in activities that threaten the reserve's conservation goals.
- Sustainable infrastructure development may be allowed in the transition zone of a Biosphere Reserve, provided it aligns with the principles of sustainable development and does not cause significant harm to the environment.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Ecotourism activities are typically restricted or regulated in the core area of a Biosphere Reserve to minimize human impact and preserve the natural environment. The core area is meant to be a strict nature reserve, free from human interference.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of November 2023

39. Correct option is (D)

- White hydrogen is a naturally occurring form of hydrogen found in underground deposits and created through fracking. It is a relatively new discovery and is not as common as other forms of hydrogen.
- Both white hydrogen and green hydrogen are environmentally friendly fuels that produce no harmful emissions. However, green hydrogen is considered to be more sustainable because it is produced using renewable energy sources, while white hydrogen can be produced from fossil fuels.
- White hydrogen is rare compared to other forms of hydrogen. Gray hydrogen is by far the most abundant form of hydrogen, making up more than 90% of all hydrogen produced globally.
- When white hydrogen is used as a fuel, it produces water vapor (H₂O) as its only emission. Water vapor is a natural component of the atmosphere and does not contribute to climate change.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

40. Correct option is (D)

- **Statements 1, 2 and 3** are correct. The Dust and Control Management Centre (DCMC) is a body set up by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to monitor and control dust pollution at construction sites along national highways in India. The center was established in accordance with the directions issued by the Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) to improve air quality in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- DCMC monitors real-time data on dust levels at construction sites using sensors and cameras installed at strategic locations. This allows the DCMC to track dust levels and identify construction sites that are not complying with dust control regulations.
- If contractors fail to comply with notices, the DCMC may take enforcement action, such as imposing fines or suspending work at the construction site. The DCMC has the authority to enforce dust control regulations and can take steps to ensure that construction companies are complying with these regulations.
- The DCMC actively promotes the adoption of innovative technologies to improve dust control measures at construction sites. This includes encouraging contractors to utilize dust suppression techniques, such as water sprinkling, covering exposed materials, and using wind barriers.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

41. Correct option is (D)

- The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a measure of air quality that is based on the concentration of five major air pollutants: PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, O₃, NO₂, and SO₂. The AQI is a number between 0 and 500, with higher numbers indicating worse air quality.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

42. Correct option is (C)

- The NCoE-CCU's CO₂ conversion technology is based on electrocatalysis, which is a process that uses electricity to drive chemical reactions. In this case, the electricity is used to convert CO₂ into CO. The CO produced can then be used as a fuel for various applications, such as the production of synthetic fuels or chemicals.
- One of the key advantages of the NCoE-CCU's technology is that it can be operated at ambient temperatures and pressures. This makes it much more energy-efficient than other CO₂ conversion technologies that require high temperatures or pressures.
- Currently, the process for CO₂ to CO conversion occurs at elevated temperatures (400-750 °C) making it an energy-intensive process. But this newly developed CO₂ conversion process requires only minimal energy as it can proceed under ambient temperatures (25-40 °C) in the presence of water.

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- Moreover, the energy required for this electrocatalysis reaction can be harnessed directly from a renewable energy source (in the form of a solar panel or windmill) for a carbon-neutral conversion process.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

43. Correct option is (B)

- Bioleaching, In-situ leaching and Solvent extraction are the different types of methods used in mining gold. However, all these three processes are considered safer for the environment or birds.
- Whereas, mercury is commonly used in small-scale gold mining to separate gold from other minerals due to its ability to bind to gold and form amalgam.
- Due to this, small-scale gold mining releases large amounts of mercury to the environment and is estimated to contribute approximately 37% of mercury emissions on a global scale. This becomes harmful for the birds.
- According to the study:
 1. Mercury may be playing a role in the declining biodiversity of tropical birds like kingfishers, wrens, warblers among others.
 2. Birds living within 7 km (4 miles) of such gold mining activity were found to have mercury concentrations over four times higher than those living at other sites across the tropics of Central and South America.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

44. Correct option is (B)

- The Composite Water Management Index consists of 9 key themes which are: 1. Restoration of Water Bodies, 2. Groundwater, 3. Major and Medium Irrigation, 4. Watershed Development, 5. Participatory Irrigation Practices, 6. Sustainable on-farm Water Use Practices, 7. Rural Drinking Water, 8. Urban Water Supply and Sanitation, 9. Policy and Governance.
- The Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) is a tool developed by NITI Aayog to assess and compare the performance of Indian states in managing their water resources.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

45. Correct option is (A)

- According to the Elephant Corridor Report 2023, in terms of state, West Bengal has the highest number of identified elephant corridors in India, with 26 corridors.
- In terms of region, the east-central region has 52 corridors, the northeast region with 48 corridors, the southern region with 32 corridors, and the northern region with 18 corridors.
- The report also found that the intensity of use of elephant corridors has increased by 40% since 2010.
- West Bengal has the highest number of identified elephant corridors in India for a number of reasons. These include: **Large elephant population** which further contributes to the identification of more corridors in the state, **Forest Cover**: West Bengal has a significant forest cover, which is essential for the survival and movement of elephants, **Geographical Location**: West Bengal is located in the eastern part of India, which is known for its rich biodiversity and forested areas. This favorable geographical location provides suitable habitats for elephants, **Efforts in Identification**: The state government of West Bengal, in collaboration with the central government, has been proactive in identifying and reporting elephant corridors.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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46. Correct option is (B)

- The Clean and Green Village is the fifth among the nine themes adopted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to transform rural ecosystems with the support of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).
- Further, the government is trying to promote Clean and Green Village through Agro-ecological approach.
- Agro-ecological approach is an integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts, to the design and management of food and agricultural systems. It seeks to optimise the interactions between plants, animals, humans and environment.
- The following practices forms the part of Clean and Green Village: Organic and Natural Farming, Waste to Wealth- Biogas and organic manure, Agro forestry, Smallholder Farming, Social Equity, Crop Diversity, etc.
- However, Monocropping is the practice of growing the same crop on the same piece of land year after year. This practice can deplete the soil and make it more susceptible to pests and diseases. Therefore, monocropping is not a practice that contributes to a Clean and Green Village.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Science & Technology

47. Correct option is (C)

- Frontier AI is defined as highly capable foundation generative AI models that could possess dangerous capabilities and that can pose severe risks to public safety. These are highly capable artificial intelligence (AI) models that have the potential to significantly impact society. These models are often characterized by their ability to learn and adapt to new situations, their ability to perform complex tasks, and their ability to generate creative outputs. For example, Biometric Authentication, Automation, etc.
- Frontier AI can be used to develop new drugs and treatments, diagnose diseases more accurately, and provide personalized medical care. For instance, AI-powered systems can analyze medical images to detect anomalies and assist doctors in making informed decisions.
- Frontier AI can be used to develop self-driving cars, optimize traffic flow, and improve public transportation systems.
- Some Frontier AI systems are becoming more interpretable, which means that it is easier to understand how they make decisions. This can help to build trust in AI systems and making transparency and interpretation a key part of machine decision making.
- Moral reasoning is the ability to make judgments about right and wrong, and it is something that AI systems are not yet capable of doing.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

48. Correct option is (D)

- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are a class of nuclear reactors that are smaller in size compared to traditional, large-scale nuclear power plants. They are designed to be more flexible, scalable, and easily deployable in various settings.
- The Government of India is planning to offer incentives along the lines of a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacturing small modular reactors (SMR).

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- This is because: SMRs are smaller in size than the conventional reactors, they are flexible and can be scaled up or down to meet changing power demands, making them more adaptable to changing market conditions, has lower costs and lower Environmental Impact.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

49. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Asteroids orbit the Sun in the same direction as the planets, but their orbits are often more elliptical, or oval-shaped. This means that they can get closer to the Sun at one point in their orbit and farther away at another point.
- Asteroids are mostly rock and metal, while comets are mostly ice and dust. Asteroids are generally made up of rocky and metallic material and are considered to be remnants of the early solar system.
- On the other hand, comets are made up of frozen water, methane, ammonia, and other ices, as well as dust and rock. They are thought to have formed in the outer reaches of the solar system,
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Comets often have a visible coma (a cloud of gas and dust) and a tail that points away from the Sun. Comets are known for their tails of gas and dust that are visible when they come close to the Sun.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

50. Correct option is (A)

- **Statement 1** is correct. A binary asteroid is a system of two asteroids that orbit each other around a common center of mass. This center of mass is called the barycenter. Binary asteroids are relatively common, with about 10% of all known asteroids being part of a binary system.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. Trojan asteroids are not located between the Kuiper belt and the asteroid belt, but instead orbit near Jupiter in two large groups, leading and trailing the planet in its orbit. These asteroids are thought to have been captured by Jupiter's gravitational field as they traveled through the solar system, and now they stay put in these special positions.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

51. Correct option is (C)

- Environmental DNA (eDNA) is genetic material that is found in the environment. It can be shed from organisms through their feces, urine, skin cells, and other bodily fluids. eDNA can also be found in the water, soil, and air.
- eDNA can be used to identify and track the presence of organisms in the environment, even if the organisms themselves are not directly observed. This is because eDNA is relatively stable and can persist in the environment for long periods of time.
- eDNA is a powerful tool used in environmental monitoring and biodiversity studies. It allows scientists to detect the presence of organisms without directly observing them.
- eDNA can be applied in a variety of areas such as: Monitoring Invasive species, water quality monitoring, Environmental impact assessment, deep-sea environments, Biodiversity surveys, Disease surveillance, Ecosystem monitoring, etc.
- However, eDNA is not commonly used in air quality monitoring because DNA is typically found in water and soil, and it is not as abundant in the air.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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52. Correct option is (B)

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. Israel's Iron Dome is based on the principle of kinetic interception which is based on the method of destroying a threat by physically striking it with another object.
- It works by firing an interceptor missile that is specifically designed to collide with and destroy the incoming projectile. The interceptor is guided by radar and other sensors, which track the trajectory of the incoming threat and help the Iron Dome system calculate the most effective intercept point. The key benefit of kinetic interception is that it doesn't rely on any sort of explosive payload - it's all about the direct impact.
- Project Kusha is a mission by India's Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to develop a state-of-the-art air defense system similar to Israel's Iron Dome. The project aims to develop an indigenous long-range air defense system that can detect and destroy enemy projectiles and armor, including cruise missiles, stealth fighter jets, and drones at long range.
- It seeks to establish a formidable three-layered defense system with the capability to neutralize enemy aircraft and missiles from extended distances effectively.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

53. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Women candidates can join the National Defence Academy (NDA) twice a year, i.e., every six months. The NDA conducts two examinations annually for this.
- In 2019, the Indian Navy announced that it would allow women officers to serve on board warships. This was a significant step forward for women in the Indian Armed Forces.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Women are not eligible in core combat arms such as Infantry, Mechanized Infantry, and Armored Corps. The Indian Army is not open to women fighting wars at the borders as foot soldiers.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

54. Correct option is (C)

- Project 15B is a follow-on project of the Project 15A Kolkata-class destroyers, designed and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, India. The Project 15B destroyers are stealthier, more automated, and more heavily armed than their predecessors.
- Project 15B is a significant development for the Indian Navy, as it will provide the Navy with a new class of modern and technologically advanced destroyers. The ships will enhance the Navy's ability to defend India's maritime interests and protect its coastline from threats.
- The Indian Navy plans to build a total of four Project 15B destroyers: INS Visakhapatnam, INS Mormugao, INS Imphal, INS Surat.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

55. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Poshan Tracker Application is a mobile-based application implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD). The Poshan Tracker is a beneficiary-focused, service delivery application that provides real-time data with statistical analysis. The Poshan Tracker enables real-time monitoring of all Anganwadi Centers and services provided to the beneficiaries.
- It is built using a centralized data architecture that converges with the digital technology systems of other Ministries and Programs.

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- The objective is to provide a complete view of Anganwadi Centers (AWCs), service delivery of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and complete beneficiary management for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Poshan Tracker focuses on children under 10, as well as pregnant women and adolescent girls. High school-aged children are not part of the program's scope.
- The aim of the Poshan Tracker is to monitor and improve the nutritional status of these vulnerable groups by providing real-time data and analysis on their nutritional status and offering services to address any challenges they may be facing.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

56. Correct option is (B)

- Aedes mosquitoes are a genus of mosquito known for their significance in the transmission of various viral diseases to humans. They are small to medium-sized mosquitoes with distinctive characteristics and are primarily recognized for their distinctive black and white markings.
- Aedes mosquitoes are vectors for these diseases, meaning they can pick up the virus from an infected person, transmit it to another person when they bite them, and then continue to spread the virus to more people.
- Aedes mosquitoes are originally found in tropical and subtropical zones but are now found on all continents except Antarctica. Unlike most native mosquito species, Aedes mosquitoes bite during the day.
- Several diseases caused by Aedes mosquitoes are: dengue, zika virus, yellow fever, malaria, chikungunya, Mayaro virus, Rift Valley fever, and several types of encephalitis.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

57. Correct option is (B)

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. The Wolbachia method is a novel approach to controlling mosquito populations and reducing the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases. It involves introducing Wolbachia, a bacterium that is naturally found in many insects, into populations of mosquitoes that transmit diseases such as dengue fever, Zika virus, and chikungunya virus (Aedes mosquitoes).
- Wolbachia method can significantly change the reproductive biology of the insects they infect.
- For example, Wolbachia-modified male mosquitoes can transmit the modified Wolbachia bacteria into the infected female partners with virus, which can prevent the females from producing viable offspring. This is called cytoplasmic incompatibility (CI).
- Aedes aegypti mosquitoes do not always have Wolbachia naturally present in their bodies. The presence of Wolbachia varies depending on the location and environmental conditions.
- Further, the Wolbachia bacterium that occurs naturally in Aedes aegypti mosquitoes doesn't have any real impact on the mosquitoes or their ability to transmit diseases.
- However, the modified Wolbachia that's introduced into the mosquito population through the Wolbachia method is able to control the mosquitoes' ability to transmit viruses, like dengue and Zika.
- **Statements 3 and 4** are incorrect. The Wolbachia method doesn't actually alter the mosquito's genetic material. Instead, it just introduces the modified Wolbachia bacteria into the mosquito population.
- The method is considered to have low environmental risk because it doesn't involve the use of insecticides or other chemicals. Wolbachia is safe for humans, animals and the environment.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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58. Correct option is (A)

- **Statement 1** is correct. Hypertension prevalence in southern states slightly exceeded the national average (29.9% vs. 26.8%). The proportion of diagnosed individuals with hypertension was similar in southern states but showed higher treatment and control rates compared to the national average.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. Men are more prone to hypertension. But women are more likely to be diagnosed, treated and have controlled blood pressure.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

59. Correct option is (A)

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis. This bacterium is spread through the air when someone with active TB disease coughs, sneezes, speaks, sings, or laughs. The bacteria can travel through the air and be inhaled by other people.
- Once the TB bacteria are inhaled, they travel to the lungs and begin to multiply. The bacteria can damage the lungs and cause inflammation.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. As per the Global TB Report 2023, India accounted for the highest number of tuberculosis (TB) cases in the world in 2022. It contributed 27% of the total TB cases.
- Two-thirds of the global TB cases was in eight countries namely: India (27%), Indonesia (10%), China (7.1%), the Philippines (7.0%), Pakistan (5.7%), Nigeria (4.5%), Bangladesh (3.6%) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (3.0%).
- The report also found that the global TB burden is declining, but progress is too slow.

Ancient India, Art & Culture and Medieval India

Q.1) Which one of the following represents the correct chronological order of capturing the Kondaveedu Fort?

- a) Reddi dynasty- Vijayanagara empire- Golconda Sultans- French
- b) Gajapati Dynasty- Hoysala Dynasty- Chola Dynasty- Vijayanagara Empire
- c) Wodeyar Dynasty-Nizams of Hyderabad- Maratha Empire- British East India Company
- d) Gupta Empire-Mewar Dynasty- Delhi Sultanate- Mughal Empire

Q.2) Consider the following pairs:

Tribes-----Festivals

- 1. Ao-----Moatsu
- 2. Sumi-----Tuluni
- 3. Sangtam-----Sekrenyi
- 4. Zeliang-----Ngada

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Modern Indian History

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Tribal Pride Day (Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas) is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.

Statement-II: The state Odisha was founded on the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.

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.4) Consider the following statements:

- 1. He was an Italian Jesuit missionary and Tamil scholar.
- 2. He had maintained a close friendship with Chanda Sahib, the Nawab of the Carnatic.
- 3. He abstained from the "use of flesh and fish".

Which one of the following personalities has been described above?

- a) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- b) Constantine Joseph Beschi
- c) Benjamin Franklin
- d) Thomas Jefferson

Geography

Q.5) With reference to the Ogasawara Island chain, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.
2. The Ogasawara Islands are part of the Ryukyu Islands.
3. The Ogasawara Islands have a subtropical climate with warm, humid summers and mild, wet winters.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.6) Which one of the following statements best describes the “Phreatomagmatic Volcanic Eruptions”?

- a) It occurs when magma interacts with water.
- b) These eruptions are characterized by frequent, relatively small explosions of gas and volcanic fragments, often producing incandescent lava fountains and ejecting volcanic bombs and ash into the air.
- c) These are eruptions that occur beneath glaciers or ice caps
- d) These are characterized by the relatively gentle effusion of basaltic lava from fissures or vents.

Q.7) Consider the following pairs:

Dams-----Functions

1. Gravity dams-----Resists water pressure by its own weight
2. Earth dams-----Resists water pressure by transferring the force to the bedrock through its arched shape
3. Buttress Dam----- Resists water pressure by the strength of the earth and rock materials used in its construction

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q.8) Subansiri River is the tributary of –

- a) Ganga River
- b) Narmada River
- c) Brahmaputra River
- d) Krishna River

Q.9) With reference to Geoglyph, consider the following statements:

1. These are winding pathways often created on the ground, typically using stones or other materials.
2. They primarily served as a burial site during the Iron Age.

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.10) Consider the following statements:

1. It is the highest navigable lake globally.
2. It is the largest freshwater lake in South America.
3. The lake was once seen as a deity by the pre-Columbian people that lived on its shores.

Which one of the following lakes has been described above?

- a) Nahuel Huapi Lake
- b) Lake Titicaca
- c) Lake Maracaibo
- d) Lake General Carrera

Q.11) Which of the following is/are the reasons behind the surge in seismic activity in Iceland?

1. Geological Location
2. Magma Activity beneath the surface
3. Weather Conditions
4. Cosmic Events

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. The United States is the largest producer of gold.
2. The largest resources of gold ore (primary) in India are located in Bihar.
3. Gold supply in India is primarily met through imports.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. Pench-Kanhan Coalfield comprises about 98 percent of the total reserves and 99 percent of the production of coal in India.
2. India's largest ignite deposits are at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu.
3. India is a major importer of coal, and its imports have been steadily increasing in recent years.

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

Indian Polity

Q.14) With reference to the Indian Polity, consider the following statements:

1. Speaker's jurisdiction to adjourn sine die can be utilised to keep the House in a perpetual session.
2. The Governor has the right to address and send message, summon, prorogue and dissolve the State Legislature.
3. When an ordinary Bill is reserved by a Governor for the consideration of the President, the President may declare assent, withhold assent, or direct the Governor to return the bill for reconsideration.
4. Money bills in the State Legislature are introduced only with the prior approval of the Governor.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.15) Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the 'Delimitation Commission'?

- a) The Commission has the power to make changes to the electoral process.
- b) The Commission's primary goal is to ensure equal representation for all demographic groups within electoral boundaries.
- c) The Commission analyzes the census data to identify areas with significant population changes.
- d) The Commission is responsible for conducting regular censuses to determine population changes and redraw electoral boundaries accordingly.

Q.16) Under the Indian criminal law, "life imprisonment is the rule and death penalty the exception".

Which one of the following best explains the statement?

- a) The death penalty cannot be imposed in India in cases where life imprisonment is adequate.
- b) The death penalty in India should be imposed only for heinous crimes.
- c) Life imprisonment is more effective at deterring crime than the death penalty.
- d) Life imprisonment is a more humane punishment than the death penalty

Acts, Policies, Schemes, Reports

Q.17) Consider the following statements:

1. Consumer Protection Act, 2019 establishes consumer protection councils to protect the rights of the consumers at both the national and state levels.
2. Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) is responsible for protecting consumer privacy and preventing data breaches.

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.18) Consider the following statements:

1. The FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament is a French-system of tennis tournament, forming part of the qualification for the World Tennis Championship.
2. India has become the winner in both men's and women's category at the FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament 2023.

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.19) Consider the following pairs with reference to the operations launched by the Railway Protection Force (RPF):

Operations----- Purpose

1. Operation Uplabdh-----To curb illegal selling of railway tickets
2. Operation Sanraksha--- ---To provide security to lady passengers travelling in trains
3. Operation Seva-----To curb Illegal Goods Transport
4. Operation AAHT----- Against Human Trafficking

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) is an officer in the government who is responsible for safeguarding the rights and interests of persons with disabilities.

Statement-II: The Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) is responsible for providing educational opportunities to persons with disabilities.

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.21) Consider the following statements:

1. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is responsible for issuing evacuation orders during natural disasters.
2. **Prime Minister acts as chairman of the NDMA.**
3. NDMA Cell Broadcast Alert System is a state-of-the-art technology that allows government to send critical and time-sensitive messages for disaster management to all mobile devices within a designated geographical area.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

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Q.22) With reference to the Digital Advertisement Policy 2023, how many of the given statements are correct?

1. It introduces competitive bidding for rate discovery, ensuring transparency and efficiency.
2. Digital audio platforms are recognized as one of the entities for government advertisements.
3. The policy establishes a grievance redressal mechanism for consumers to address issues related to digital advertisements.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.23) With reference to 'AAINA Dashboard for Cities' portal, recently launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to create a robust database of the key performance metrics of Urban Local Bodies.
2. The dashboard will rank Urban Local Bodies based on their performance using a set of predefined criteria and metrics.
3. Delivery of Basic Services is one of the pillars that will be used by the portal in providing information on status and progress of the Urban Local Bodies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.24) With reference to the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India Scheme), consider the following statements:

1. The scheme only covers electric vehicles manufactured in India.
2. It provides financial support for the electrification of public and shared transportation, including electric and hybrid buses, electric three-wheelers, electric four-wheeler passenger cars, and electric two-wheelers.

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.25) Which one of the following is the objective of Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS)?

- a) It offers financial support to SC/ST/OBC students pursuing higher education at the post-matric level.
- b) It aims to provide financial assistance in the form of fellowships and interest subsidy to eligible students from OBCs and EBCs to pursue higher education in various recognized universities, research, and scientific institutions.
- c) It offers financial assistance to SC students pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D. programs in recognized universities and institutions.
- d) It offers scholarships to students with disabilities to facilitate their access to education and skill development programs.

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Q.26) Which one of the following is the objective of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, recently launched by the Prime Minister of India?

- a) It aims to promote sustainable growth and infrastructure development in rural areas.
- b) It aims to inspire young entrepreneurs to invest in rural India and contribute to its economic development.
- c) It aims to inform the people of India about the government's various schemes and programs that are aimed at promoting inclusive growth and development.
- d) It encourages sustainable agricultural practices and entrepreneurship in rural areas.

International Relations/Organizations

Q.27) With reference to the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the topmost decision-making body of the WTO.
- 2. The decisions made at the conference are legally binding for all member countries.
- 3. The conference is restricted to the individuals who are members of the WTO.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.28) With reference to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) dedicated to international cooperation in the field of meteorology, operational hydrology, and related geophysical sciences.
- 2. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Reports is published by the WMO.
- 3. India is an active member of the WMO and contributes to its work in a number of ways.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.29) The UK government is planning to add India into the "Safe States List". Which of the following may be the implications of the decision for India?

- 1. Indian citizens who enter the UK legally will have a higher chance of being granted asylum.
- 2. Indian citizens who are in the UK illegally will have less access to support services, such as housing and healthcare.
- 3. If an Indian citizen is found to have no right to remain in the UK, they will be removed from the country more quickly.

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

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Q.30) With reference to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) consider the following statements:

1. It is a UN organization focused on promoting and regulating the use of animals in medical research.
2. It has been recognized as the reference organization for international animal health standards by the World Trade Organization (WTO)
3. India is one of the members of the WOAHA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.31) Consider the following statements with reference to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC):

1. It is a regional economic organization that promotes trade liberalization and economic cooperation among its member economies in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. It also ensures the security of member countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. APEC economies make up roughly 60% of global GDP.
4. India is one of the member countries of APEC.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.32) Which one of the following is correct regarding the Ben Gurion Canal Project, seen in the news recently?

- a) It is a shipping route in the Arctic Ocean that is opening up as the polar ice caps melt.
- b) It is a proposed canal that would connect the Caribbean Sea with the Pacific Ocean and potentially rival the Panama Canal.
- c) It is proposed alternative route for shipping between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.
- d) It is a proposed waterway that would cut through Thailand and connect the Indian Ocean with the Pacific Ocean, potentially reducing travel times for ships.

Q.33) With reference to the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD), consider the following statements:

1. It is an exclusive forum for India and its immediate neighbors to discuss regional security issues.
2. The IPRD is attended by all the representatives of the QUAD nations.
3. It promotes mutual understanding and trust among maritime stakeholders, fostering a more secure and stable Indo-Pacific region.

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

Economy

Q.34) Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL) is an independent body established by the Reserve Bank of India. Which one of the following best describes its function?

- a) It provides investment advice and manage assets of the Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFCs).
- b) It assists the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in regulatory and supervisory activities.
- c) It offers financial services such as insurance to the public.
- d) It provides training and education to researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in banking and finance.

Q.35) With reference to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016, which one of the following statements is correct?

- a) It allows companies to indefinitely delay the resolution process for their insolvency issues, leading to a delay for creditors and stakeholders.
- b) It emphasizes maximizing the value of the assets of the insolvent entity for the benefit of all stakeholders, including creditors, employees, and shareholders.
- c) It prevents creditors from pursuing debtors for repayment.
- d) Under the IBC, debtors have the flexibility to employ a wide-range of approach of their choice for settling their debts, including the utilization of cryptocurrencies.

Q.36) With reference to the Surety bonds, consider the following statements:

- 1. Surety bonds are a type of investment where one can earn guaranteed high returns.
- 2. If one purchases a surety bond, one can make money when the principal defaults.
- 3. Surety bonds are primarily used by individuals to secure personal loans and mortgages.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.37) Consider the following statements with reference to the “Sovereign Green Bonds”:

- 1. Purchasing Sovereign Green Bonds exempts investors from paying taxes on their other investments, resulting in significant tax savings.
- 2. Investing in Sovereign Green Bonds guarantees a financial return equal to the value of the carbon emissions reduced by the issuing government.
- 3. Investing in Sovereign Green Bonds contributes to reducing a country's national debt.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Environment

Q.38) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Pusa-44 paddy often leads to stubble burning, leading to air pollution and environmental concerns.

Statement-II: Pusa-44 is a high-yielding variety of long-duration paddy taking around five months to mature from sowing to harvesting.

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.39) The government is planning to establish Pump Storage Projects (PSP) in de-coaled coal mines.

Which of the following are the potential advantages of PSPs?

- 1. PSPs absorb excess electricity from the grid and store it in underground batteries, making them ideal choice for storing renewable energy.
- 2. PSPs are well-suited for all types of geographic locations.
- 3. PSPs provides a reliable and rapid response to changes in electricity demand, generating power during peak periods to helping in grid stability.
- 4. PSPs power plants can be designed to manage water resources effectively, ensuring responsible use and minimizing environmental impact.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.40) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Forest Conservation Amendment Act of 2023 for the first time has defined the term forests and shifted it from the State to the Concurrent List, allowing both state and central legislation.
- 2. Under the Indian Forest (IF) Act of 1927, State Forest Departments oversee Reserve Forests (RF), as well as Protected Forests (PF).

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.41) Consider the following gases:

1. Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)
2. Methane (CH₄)
3. Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)
4. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)
5. Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Which of the gases listed above are classified as greenhouse gases, and are also responsible for causing air pollution?

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

Q.42) Consider the following missions:

1. National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)
2. National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)
3. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat (NMSH)

How many of the above missions are only focused on restoring the Himalayan Ecosystem?

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

Science & Technology

Q.43) Consider the following events:

1. Communication problems
2. Volcanic eruptions
3. Meteor Strikes
4. Navigation issues
5. Satellite damage
6. Auroras
7. Lunar Eclipse

Which of the above events will likely be caused by a Geomagnetic storm?

- a) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 only
- b) 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- c) 1, 4, 5 and 6 only
- d) 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7 only

Q.44) The “loop quantum gravity” and “bounce-out theory” was seen in the news sometimes, are used in the context of –

- a) White Holes
- b) Trojan Stars
- c) Earth’s Gravitational Pull
- d) Solar Eclipse

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Q.45) Consider the following statements:

1. The Sukhoi Su-30MKI, also known as the Flanker-H, is a multirole fighter jet developed by Sukhoi Aviation Corporation and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force.
2. The Su-30MKI is a highly maneuverable aircraft, and it is capable of performing a wide range of air-to-air and air-to-surface missions.

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.46) Consider the following statements:

1. They are found both in freshwater and saltwater environments.
2. They are prokaryotic organisms.
3. They lack the specialized tissues and organs that characterize land plants.

Which of the characteristics mentioned above are correct with respect to algae?

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

Q.47) With reference to the Electric Batteries, consider the following statements:

1. An electric battery is a device that stores electrical energy in the form of chemical energy and releases it as electrical power when needed.
2. The first true battery was invented by the Italian physicist Alessandro Volta.
3. Electric batteries are a source of perpetual energy.
4. Lead Acid Batteries can be used in electronic devices.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.48) Exercise BONGOSAGAR is a naval exercise conducted between which one of the following?

- a) India and Sri Lanka
- b) India and Myanmar
- c) India and Bangladesh
- d) India and Maldives

Q.49) At times, Saturn's ring system becomes nearly invisible when viewed from Earth. Which one of the following phenomena is linked to this disappearance of Saturn's rings?

- a) Gravitational pull of Jupiter
- b) Ring Material Migration
- c) Ring plane crossing
- d) Moon shadow on the rings

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Q.50) In the context of physics, which of the following statements are correct with reference to the concept of 'Force'?

1. A force-carrier is any species of particle that mediates the interactions between particles that experience that force.
2. Force is an agent that induces an object to change its velocity.
3. The stronger the force, the faster an object will move.
4. Weak force is responsible for certain kinds of radioactive decay.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanation

Ancient India, Art & Culture and Medieval India

1. Correct option is (A)

- The Kondaveedu Fort was constructed by Prolaya Vema Reddy and was used as the capital by the Reddy dynasty between 1328 and 1482. It was taken by the Vijayanagara emperor Krishnadevaraya in 1516. The Golconda Sultans fought for the fort in 1531, 1536, and 1579, and Sultan Quli Qutb Shah finally captured it in 1579, renaming it Murtazanagar. The French also captured the fort in the 18th century. It passed on to the British East India Company who got control of the fort in 1788 but abandoned it in the early 19th century in favour of Guntur.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

2. Correct option is (A)

- 1 and 2 are correctly matched. Sangtam tribes celebrate Ngada Festival while Zeliang tribes celebrate Chapchar Kut Festival.
- Further, Putu Mende is a governance system of the Ao community. Aos were the first nagas to embrace Christianity and incorporate Western education.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Modern Indian History

3. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is correct. Tribal Pride Day (Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas) is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda (15th November). It is an annual celebration in India that commemorates the contributions of tribal communities to the nation's history, culture, and development.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The state of Odisha was not founded on the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda. Birsa Munda was born on November 15, 1875, while Odisha was established as a separate state on April 1, 1936. However, the state of Jharkhand was founded on the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

4. Correct option is (B)

- Constantine Joseph Beschi, also known under his Tamil name Veeramamunivar, was an Italian Jesuit priest, missionary in South India, and Tamil language littérateur. Beschi made significant contributions to Tamil literature in several genres, including poetry, prose, and grammar. He is best known for his epic poem "Tembavani," which is considered one of the greatest masterpieces of Tamil literature. He had also maintained a close friendship with Chanda Sahib, the Nawab of the Carnatic. He had even acted as his Dewan.
- He held the office of Dewan in Tiruchi till 1740. He abstained from the "use of flesh and fish". He also studied Sanskrit, Telugu, and Tamil assiduously and became a master of these languages, especially Tamil.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Geography

5. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Ogasawara Islands chain is a volcanic archipelago of over 30 subtropical and tropical islands located around 1,000 kilometers south-southeast of Tokyo, Japan. The

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Ogasawara Islands are a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to their unique biodiversity and undisturbed ecosystems.

- The Ogasawara Islands are part of the Izu-Bonin-Mariana Arc, a chain of volcanic islands formed by the subduction of the Pacific Plate beneath the Izu-Bonin Plate. The islands are primarily composed of basalt and andesite, and they are still volcanically active.
- The Ogasawara Islands have a subtropical climate with warm, humid summers and mild, wet winters.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Ogasawara Islands are part of the Nanpo Islands, which are a chain of small islands that extend from Japan to Guam. The Ryukyu Islands are a separate chain of islands that are located to the southwest of the Ogasawara Islands, closer to Taiwan and the Philippines.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

6. Correct option is (A)

- Phreatomagmatic eruptions occur when magma comes into contact with water, causing the water to flash into steam, resulting in explosive eruptions. These eruptions are characterized by the explosive release of steam, water, and volcanic materials, such as ash, rocks, and volcanic gases. New islands in Japan are mainly formed through phreatomagmatic eruptions.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

7. Correct option is (A)

- a) Gravity Dam – Resists the horizontal thrust of water by its own weight.
- b) Arch Dam – Resists the horizontal thrust of water by transferring it to the gorge walls by transferring the force to the bedrock through its arched shape
- c) Buttress Dam – Resists the horizontal thrust of water by transferring it to a series of buttresses.
- d) Earth Dam – Resists the horizontal thrust of water by its own weight and the shear strength of the earthfill.
- e) Rockfill Dam – Resists the horizontal thrust of water by its own weight and the shear strength of the rockfill.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

8. Correct option is (C)

- Subansiri River is the tributary of the river Brahmaputra. It originates in the Tibet Plateau and enters India through Miri hills in Arunachal Pradesh. It is also known as Gold River due to the presence of gold deposits in its riverbed and due to the presence of gold particles in its waters and the alluvial deposits along its banks. It passes through Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

9. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Geoglyph refers to a design that is drawn on the earth. Geoglyphs are not typically used as pathways, but rather as large designs or patterns created on the ground. They can be made from various materials, including stones, but also earth, vegetation, and other natural materials. Geoglyphs are primarily artistic or symbolic creations on the landscape and are not intended for burial purposes. Burial sites from the Iron Age are generally marked by features such as barrows, cairns, or megalithic structures, but they are not the same as geoglyphs. Examples of Geoglyph: Nazca Lines in Peru, Uffington White Horse in England.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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10. Correct option is (B)

- Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable lake globally, situated at an elevation of 3,810 meters above sea level. It is also the largest freshwater lake in South America, covering an area of 8,372 square kilometers.
- The lake is divided into two nearly distinct subbasins, and these are connected by the Strait of Tiquina. The Pre-Columbian cultures, such as the Incas and the Aymara, considered Lake Titicaca a sacred site, believing it to be the birthplace of the sun and the moon.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

11. Correct option is (A)

- Iceland is currently facing a notable surge in seismic activity due its geological location as Iceland's position on top of a volcanic hotspot and on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge plays a role in the increased seismic activity. The movement of magma beneath the surface also contributes to earthquakes and volcanic activity.
- While weather conditions can affect the severity of earthquakes, they are not directly responsible for the increased seismic activity. There's also no scientific evidence to suggest that cosmic events, such as solar flares or asteroid impacts, are responsible for the increased seismic activity in Iceland.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

12. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. As of 2022, China is the largest producer of gold, followed by Australia and Russia. The United States ranks fourth in gold production.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Bihar is home to the largest gold deposits in India, primarily located in the Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) region. These deposits are estimated to hold over 600 million tonnes of gold ore. Bihar (44%) is followed by Rajasthan (25%), Karnataka (21%), West Bengal (3%), Andhra Pradesh (3%) and Jharkhand (2%).
- India is a net importer of gold, with domestic production only meeting a small portion of the country's demand. The countries from which India imports most of its gold are Switzerland and UAE. India's share in the global gold production is less than 0.05%.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

13. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Gondwana coal comprises about 98 percent of the total reserves and 99 percent of the production of coal in India. Gondwana coal is said to be about 250 million years old.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. India's largest lignite deposits are indeed at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu. Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL) operates the lignite mines in Neyveli, which are crucial for the country's energy production.
- India is the world's second-largest coal importer, after China. In the financial year 2022-23, India imported 254 million tonnes of coal, worth around \$23 billion. This was a 22% increase from the previous year. The 5 major coal importers to India are Indonesia, Australia, South Africa, USA & Russia.
- Further, India is the world's second-largest coal producer and 5th largest country in terms of coal deposits. During 2022-2023, the four major coal producing states were Odisha (24.52%), Chhattisgarh (20.70%), Jharkhand (17.52%) and Madhya Pradesh (16.35%). These four states together contributed about 79.08% of the total coal production in the country.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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Indian Polity

14. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. A perpetual session refers to a situation where a legislative body or parliamentary session is kept in continuous or indefinite session without a specific end date or adjournment. Hence, speaker's jurisdiction to adjourn sine die cannot be utilised to keep the House in a perpetual session.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct. The governor has the right to address and send message, summon, prorogue and dissolve the State Legislature. When an ordinary Bill is reserved by a Governor for the consideration of the President, the President may declare assent, withhold assent, or direct the Governor to return the bill for reconsideration. Money bills in the State Legislature are introduced only with the prior approval of the Governor.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

15. Correct option is (C)

- The Delimitation Commission is a statutory body established by the Indian government under the Delimitation Commission Act, and its primary function is to redraw the boundaries of each assembly and Lok Sabha seat based on population changes to ensure fair representation.
- The commission analyzes the census data to identify areas with significant population changes and redraws the electoral boundaries accordingly.
- The commission does not have the power to make changes to the electoral process, the commission's primary goal is not equal representation for all demographic groups, but rather fair representation based on population distribution, the commission does not conduct censuses. Hence, option C is correct.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

16. Correct option is (A)

- The statement "life imprisonment is the rule and death penalty the exception" means that in Indian criminal law, life imprisonment is typically considered the standard or default punishment, while the death penalty is reserved for specific and exceptional circumstances.
- Hence, the statement "The death penalty cannot be imposed in India in cases where life imprisonment is adequate" reflects the legal principle that life imprisonment is the primary form of punishment, and the death penalty is reserved for exceptional cases where life imprisonment is deemed inadequate. This aligns with the legal framework and the emphasis on the rule of law in determining the appropriateness of the death penalty in India.
- Further, the Indian Supreme Court has held that the death penalty should only be imposed in cases where life imprisonment is not enough to satisfy the "interests of justice." This means that if the court determines that life imprisonment will adequately address the gravity of the crime and protect the public, then the death penalty should not be imposed.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Acts, Policies, Schemes, Reports

17. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 establishes three-tier consumer protection councils at the national, state, and district levels. These councils are responsible for protecting the rights of consumers and promoting consumer awareness.

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- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 repeals and replaces the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The new Act aims to provide a more comprehensive and effective framework for consumer protection in India.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The CCPA's primary function is to protect consumer rights and interests in the context of unfair trade practices and consumer exploitation. While data privacy and data breach prevention are related to consumer protection, they fall under the purview of different regulatory bodies in India.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

18. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament is a Swiss-system chess tournament, forming part of the qualification for the World Chess Championship. It is held every two years, and the top two players in the tournament qualify for the Candidates Tournament, which is the next step in the qualification process for the World Chess Championship.
- Statement 2 is correct. India made a historic sweep at the FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament 2023, held on the Isle of Man from October 25 to November 5, 2023. Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi emerged victorious in the men's category, while International Master R. Vaishali claimed the top spot in the women's section.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

19. Correct option is (B)

- 1 and 4 are correctly matched. Operation Sanraksha was to maintain passenger safety and protect railway services and Operation Seva was to assist those in need during rail travels.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

20. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) is an officer in the government who is responsible for safeguarding the rights and interests of persons with disabilities. The CCPD works to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to the same opportunities and protections as everyone else.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While the CCPD advocates for disability-inclusive education, they do not directly provide educational opportunities or services. Providing educational opportunities to persons with disabilities is the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which works in coordination with the CCPD.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

21. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The NDMA is not responsible for issuing evacuation orders during disasters. The responsibility for issuing evacuation orders lies with the local authorities, such as the district administration or the police. The NDMA's role is to provide guidelines and support to the local authorities in their evacuation planning and response efforts.
- NDMA is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India. its vision is to build a safer and disaster resilient India by a holistic, pro-active, technology driven and sustainable development strategy.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Prime Minister is the chairperson of the NDMA and has the ultimate responsibility for its functions and performance.

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- NDMA Cell Broadcast Alert System is a state-of-the-art technology that allows government to send critical and time-sensitive messages for disaster management to all mobile devices within a designated geographical area. It has been developed by Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) under Department of Telecommunication.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

22. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Digital Advertisement Policy 2023 enable and empower the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) to undertake campaigns in the Digital Media Space.
- The policy allows CBC to empanel five types of entities for government advertisements: Internet websites and mobile apps (news websites and apps, travel websites, etc.), Over the top (OTT) video on demand platforms (such as Disney+Hotstar), Digital audio platforms (such as Spotify), Social media platforms (such as Facebook, Twitter) and Media agencies for digital campaigns.
- It introduces competitive bidding for rate discovery, ensuring transparency and efficiency. Rates discovered through this process will remain valid for three years and will be applicable to all eligible agencies. The policy establishes a grievance redressal mechanism for consumers to address issues related to digital advertisements.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

23. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. AAINA Dashboard for Cities' portal aims to create a robust database of the key performance metrics of Urban Local Bodies.
- Its objective is to help cities to see how they are faring vis-à-vis other cities, inspire them by pointing to possibilities and areas of improvement and provide opportunity to learn and engage with frontrunners.
- The dashboard will provide information on status and progress of the ULBs on five pillars: 1) Political & Administrative Structure, 2) Finance, 3) Planning, 4) Citizen Centric Governance and 5) Delivery of Basic Services.
- This dashboard will inspire the ULBs by pointing to possibilities and areas of improvement and providing them the opportunity to learn and engage with frontrunners.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. AAINA dashboard will not rank ULBs. It would serve as a tool for comparing similarly placed cities and promoting peer learning among cities.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

24. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The FAME India Scheme provides incentives for both electric vehicles manufactured in India and those imported into the country.
- Statement 2 is correct. FAME Scheme provides financial support for the electrification of public and shared transportation, including electric and hybrid buses, electric three-wheelers, electric four-wheeler passenger cars, and electric two-wheelers. The scheme aims to reduce India's dependence on fossil fuels and promote the use of clean and sustainable transportation. It provides financial incentives to both manufacturers and consumers of EVs.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

25. Correct option is (B)

- The Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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- The scheme aims to provide financial assistance in the form of fellowships and interest subsidy to eligible students from Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) to pursue higher education in various recognized universities, research, and scientific institutions. The duration of the scheme is from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

26. Correct option is (C)

- The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra aims to inform the people of India about the government's various schemes and programs that are aimed at promoting inclusive growth and development. It also aims to enroll potential beneficiaries of these schemes by collecting details during the yatra. The Yatra is being conducted in two phases and is being conducted by a team of government officials and volunteers. The team is visiting villages, towns, and cities across the country. The schemes that will be publicized through the yatra include Ayushman Bharat; PMJAY PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana; Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana among others. Five specially designed IEC (Information, Education and Communication) Vans will carry the message of the Government's flagship welfare programmes.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

International Relations/Organizations

27. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Ministerial Conference is the highest decision-making body within the WTO structure. It brings together all WTO members, which are countries or customs unions, to review and address trade-related issues.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. While the decisions made at the conference are important, they are not legally binding for all member countries. The WTO operates on a consensus-based decision-making process, which means that all members must agree to any decision made at the conference.
- The Ministerial Conference is not restricted to individuals who are members of the WTO. While only WTO members can participate in the decision-making process, the conference is open to observers, including non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and the media.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

28. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. WMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) dedicated to international cooperation in the field of meteorology, operational hydrology, and related geophysical sciences. It handles international cooperation and coordination on the state of the Earth's atmosphere. It is formed for exchanging weather data and research. It was established in 1950-originated from the International Meteorological Organisation (IMO). It headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland.
- India is an active member of the WMO and contributes to its work in a number of ways. For example, India hosts a number of WMO regional training centers and provides technical assistance to developing countries. India also participates in a number of WMO research programs.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The IPCC reports are actually produced by the IPCC, which is a separate intergovernmental body established by the UN.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

29. Correct option is (B)

- The UK government's proposed addition of India to the Safe States List is expected to have several implications for Indian citizens seeking asylum in the UK. The Safe States List is a designation given to countries that are deemed to be safe and stable, and where there is no widespread human rights abuse.

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- Following will be the implication of the decision:
 - a) It will be more difficult for Indian citizens to claim asylum in the UK on the basis of persecution in their home country.
 - b) Those found to be in the UK illegally will be removed more quickly, as they will no longer have the right to claim asylum.
 - c) Indian citizens who enter the UK illegally will have a significantly reduced chance of being granted asylum. This is because the Safe States List designation means that the UK government will not consider India to be a country from which people are fleeing persecution.
 - d) Indian citizens who are in the UK illegally will have less access to support services, such as housing and healthcare. This is because the Safe States List designation means that they will not be considered to be refugees and will not be entitled to the same level of support.
 - e) Indian citizens who are found to be in the UK illegally are likely to be deported more quickly. The Safe States List designation means that the UK government will prioritize the deportation of Indian nationals.
- However, it is important to note that Indian citizens who are in the UK legally will not be affected by this decision. They will still be able to access support services and live and work in the UK as before.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

30. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is not focused on promoting and regulating the use of animals in medical research. Instead, it focuses on safeguarding the trade of animals and animal products worldwide, improving public sanitation, and promoting international cooperation in the joint defense of epidemic diseases.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. WOAH has been recognized as the reference organization for international animal health standards by the World Trade Organization (WTO). This means that the WOAH's standards are the basis for the WTO's sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures that regulate the international trade in animals and animal products.
- India is one of the members of the WOAH.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

31. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to promote free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- APEC's member economies aim to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.
- It promotes trade liberalization and economic cooperation among its member economies in the Asia-Pacific region. APEC economies make up roughly 60% of global GDP.
- Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect. APEC is solely focused on economic matters, not security. India is not currently a member of APEC.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

32. Correct option is (C)

- The Ben Gurion Canal Project is a proposed alternative route for shipping between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. The Suez Canal is currently the main route between these two bodies of water, but the Ben Gurion Canal would offer an alternative that is shorter and potentially faster.

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- The proposed project is to cut a canal through the Israeli-controlled Negev Desert from the tip of the Gulf of Aqaba – the eastern arm of the Red Sea that juts into Israel’s southern tip and south-western Jordan – to the Eastern Mediterranean coast. The canal would also potentially provide economic benefits to Israel, as it could become a hub for trade and transportation in the region.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

33. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The IPRD is not an exclusive forum for India and its immediate neighbors. It is a multilateral dialogue involving many countries in the Indo-Pacific region. IPRD is an annual multilateral forum hosted by the Indian Navy. It brings together a diverse group of countries from the Indo-Pacific region to discuss and collaborate on maritime security challenges.
- It was first held in 2018 and aims to bring together maritime stakeholders from the Indo-Pacific region to discuss common security challenges and opportunities.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The IPRD is attended by a wide range of countries from the Indo-Pacific region. Some of the key participants include: India, Japan, Australia, and the United States (the QUAD countries), Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand (the ASEAN countries), etc.
- The IPRD is an open forum, and new participants are welcome to join the dialogue each year.

It also promotes mutual understanding and trust among maritime stakeholders, fostering a more secure and stable Indo-Pacific region.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Economy

34. Correct option is (D)

- The Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL) is an independent body set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2005. It is a non-profit research institution dedicated to promoting high-quality research and learning in banking and finance. CAFRAL is located in Mumbai. CAFRAL’s primary goal is to advance research and learning in the fields of banking and finance. It strives to achieve this objective by conducting high-quality research, fostering collaboration among researchers, and providing training and education opportunities. It conducts research and provides insights into India’s financial sector, including non-bank financial companies (NBFCs).

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

35. Correct option is (B)

- IBC emphasizes maximizing the value of the assets of the insolvent entity for the benefit of all stakeholders, including creditors, employees, and shareholders. The IBC’s primary objective is to maximize the value of the assets of the insolvent entity for the benefit of all stakeholders, including creditors, employees, and shareholders. The IBC recognizes that a successful resolution process can result in a better outcome for all involved, rather than a liquidation, which could result in the loss of jobs and a lower recovery for creditors.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

36. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. Surety bonds are not a type of investment that guarantees high returns, nor do they provide a way to make money when the principal defaults. Surety bonds are also not primarily used by individuals to secure personal loans and mortgages.

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- Instead, surety bonds are a legally binding contract between three parties: the principal, the obligee, and the surety. The surety bond is a promise by the surety to be liable for the debt, default, or failure of another party.
- The purpose of a surety bond is to guarantee that the principal will fulfill its contractual obligations and comply with relevant laws and regulations. The surety bond does not protect the bondholder from liability if claims are filed.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

37. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. Purchasing Sovereign Green Bonds does not typically exempt investors from paying taxes on their other investments. Tax treatment of investments can vary by country and region, but buying Sovereign Green Bonds does not automatically lead to tax exemptions on unrelated investments.
- Investing in Sovereign Green Bonds does not guarantee a financial return equal to the value of carbon emissions reduced by the issuing government. The return on Sovereign Green Bonds is typically based on fixed interest rates or other predetermined criteria, not directly tied to emissions reduction.
- Investing in Sovereign Green Bonds does not directly contribute to reducing a country's national debt. These bonds are issued to raise funds for environmentally sustainable projects and are a form of government borrowing, which may add to the national debt rather than reduce it.
- Sovereign Green bonds are fixed interest-bearing financial instruments issued by any sovereign entity/inter-governmental organization/corporation. The proceeds of these bonds are used only for environmentally conscious, climate-resilient projects.

Further, if a government wants to go global to raise funds, it needs to improve its credit rating as all bonds issued globally are closely linked to the credit rating of the issuing country.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Environment

38. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Pusa-44 is a high-yielding variety of long-duration paddy (rice) developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in 1993. It is a popular choice among farmers in India, particularly in the northern states of Punjab and Haryana, due to its high yield potential and resistance to pests and diseases.
- Pusa-44 is relatively resistant to various pests and diseases that commonly affect paddy crops, such as brown spot, blast, and gall midge. This reduces the need for pesticides and contributes to higher yields.
- Pusa-44 can thrive in a range of soil conditions, including saline and alkaline soils, making it a versatile variety suitable for cultivation in different regions.
- It is a long-duration variety that takes 155-160 days to mature leaving less window period for field preparation to sow the next crop.
- The long duration of Pusa-44 often leads to stubble burning, leading to air pollution and environmental concerns.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

39. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Pumped storage is a type of hydropower energy storage system used for grid energy storage. It is a form of clean energy storage that is ideal for electricity grids reliant on

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solar and wind power. This technology absorbs surplus energy at times of low demand and releases it when demand is high.

- PSPs do not utilize underground batteries for energy storage. They store energy by pumping water from a lower reservoir to a higher reservoir. PSPs are not well-suited for all types of geographic locations. They require specific geographical features, such as two interconnected bodies of water with significant elevation difference.
- Statements 3 and 4 are correct. PSPs provide a reliable and rapid response to changes in electricity demand, generating power during peak periods to help in grid stability. PSPs are fundamentally energy storage projects designed to cater to the need for grid stability during peak hours. They offer a reliable and rapid response to changes in electricity demand, generating power during peak periods to assist in grid stability.
- PSPs power plants can be designed to manage water resources effectively, ensuring responsible use and minimizing environmental impact.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

40. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, shifted Forests from the State to the Concurrent List, allowing both state and central legislation. The Forest Conservation Amendment Act of 2023 has redefined the term forest but not defined it for the first time.
- Statement 2 is correct. Under the Indian Forest (IF) Act of 1927, State Forest Departments oversee two primary types of forests: Reserve Forests (RF), where rights are restricted unless specified, and Protected Forests (PF), where rights are generally allowed unless prohibited.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

41. Correct option is (A)

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) are classified as greenhouse gases and are also responsible for causing air pollution. Whereas, sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and carbon monoxide (CO), are air pollutants but not greenhouse gases.
- Greenhouse gases are gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, contributing to global warming. CO₂ is the primary greenhouse gas, responsible for about 60% of global warming. It is primarily released from the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gas.
- CH₄ is another potent greenhouse gas, with a global warming potential 25 times higher than CO₂. It is primarily emitted from agricultural activities, such as livestock production and rice cultivation, and from the decomposition of waste in landfills.
- Moreover, air pollutants are substances in the air that can have adverse effects on human health and the environment. SO₂, NO₂, and CO are all air pollutants that can cause respiratory problems and other health problems.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

42. Correct option is (A)

- Only the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) has a direct and exclusive focus on the restoration and preservation of the Himalayan ecosystem. While the other two missions, the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and the National Mission on Sustainable Habitat (NMSH), include components aimed at environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable practices, their scope extends beyond the Himalayan region.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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Science & Technology

43. Correct option is (C)

- Geomagnetic storms are caused by coronal mass ejections (CMEs), which are large clouds of plasma that are ejected from the Sun. When a CME reaches Earth, it can interact with the Earth's magnetic field, triggering a geomagnetic storm. Geomagnetic storms can range in intensity from minor to severe.
- A Geomagnetic storm can cause: Communication problems, Navigation issues, Satellite damage, Auroras, among others.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

44. Correct option is (A)

- The 'loop quantum gravity' and "bounce-out theory" are used in the context of white holes.
- Loop quantum gravity is a theory that attempts to reconcile quantum mechanics with general relativity. It proposes that space and time are not continuous, but instead are made up of tiny loops or knots. This theory suggests that the universe began in a state of infinitely small size and density, and then bounced back in a Big Bang.
- The bounce-out theory is a hypothesis that suggests that the universe will not end in a Big Crunch, but instead will continue to expand forever. This theory is based on the idea that the universe is made up of dark energy, a mysterious force that is causing the universe to expand at an accelerating rate.
- White Hole is the reverse of Black Hole. Black hole is a region from which nothing, not even light, can escape due to the overwhelming gravitational pull.
- On the other hand, white hole is envisioned as a region into which nothing can fall. Instead of matter and energy being pulled inward, a white hole would expel matter and light, but nothing could enter it.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

45. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a twin-engine, multi-role fighter jet. Developed by Russia's Sukhoi and India's HAL, it's used by the Indian Air Force.
- Key features include thrust vectoring for enhanced maneuverability and a range of up to 3,000 km. It's equipped with advanced avionics, radar, and can carry a variety of weapons. Introduced in 2002, it remains a cornerstone of India's air defense.
- It is a highly maneuverable aircraft, and it is capable of performing a wide range of air-to-air and air-to-surface missions.
- The Su-30MKI has been in service with the Indian Air Force since 2002 and has since become a key component of India's air defense. Recently, India is trying to upgrade the jet in line with the global practices or demand.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

46. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Algae are photosynthetic, i.e., they use sunlight to convert carbon dioxide and water into energy and oxygen. Algae lack the specialized tissues and organs that characterize land plants, such as roots, stems, and leaves. This is why they are not considered to be true plants. They are found both in freshwater and saltwater environments. Algae have a wider variety of photosynthetic pigments than land plants. This allows them to absorb sunlight in a wider range of wavelengths, which helps them to survive in different environments. Algae have a wide variety of life cycles. Some algae are simple and reproduce asexually, while others are more complex and reproduce sexually.

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- Recently, *P. salinarum* (one of the smallest green algae) has been found in hypersaline soda lake Sambhar, Rajasthan. It can survive extreme environments.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Algae are eukaryotic organisms, meaning that their cells have a nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles. This distinguishes them from prokaryotic organisms, such as bacteria, which have a simpler cellular structure.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

47. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. An electric battery is a device that stores electrical energy in the form of chemical energy and releases it as electrical power when needed.
- American scientist and inventor Benjamin Franklin first used the term “battery” in 1749 when he was doing experiments with electricity using a set of linked capacitors. However, the first true battery was invented by the Italian physicist Alessandro Volta in 1800.
- Electric battery consists of one or more electrochemical cells, each composed of two electrodes (anode and cathode) separated by an electrolyte.
- During discharge, a chemical reaction within the battery allows electrons to flow from the anode to the cathode through an external circuit, creating an electric current. This process converts chemical energy into electrical energy.
- Factors such as moisture, humidity, and the presence of certain chemicals can contribute to corrosion in the battery.
- Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect. Perpetual energy suggests the creation of a system that can operate indefinitely without the need for an external energy source or without losing energy due to friction or other factors. In other words, it's a device that can provide continuous energy output without ever stopping or slowing down.
- However, in real world application a battery cannot be perpetual source of energy.
- **Lithium-ion batteries** are used in smartphones, laptops, digital cameras, electric vehicles, portable electronic devices. **Lead Acid Batteries** are used in automotive starting batteries, backup power systems, UPS. **Nickel-Cadmium (NiCd) Batteries** are used in Portable power tools, medical equipment, and emergency lighting.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

48. Correct option is (C)

- Exercise BONGOSAGAR is an annual bilateral naval exercise between India and Bangladesh. The exercise is aimed at developing interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations between the two navies. Exercise SAMPRITI is another annual joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

49. Correct option is (C)

- Saturn's rings are not actually disappearing, but rather they become temporarily invisible from Earth every 17.5 years due to a phenomenon called ring plane crossing. This occurs when Saturn's rings align edge-on with Earth, making them too thin to be seen through telescopes.
- The planet's enormous ring system, composed of bits of ice, dust and rocks, spreads out over a huge distance. Saturn's rings will become almost invisible from Earth in 2025 due to the edge-on perspective from our viewpoint.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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50. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Force-carriers are the particles that "carry" forces between other particles. Examples include photons (which carry the electromagnetic force), gluons (which carry the strong nuclear force), and W and Z bosons (which carry the weak nuclear force).
- Force causes objects to accelerate, which means their velocity (speed and direction) changes.
- Weak force is responsible for certain types of radioactive decay, like beta decay and neutrino emission. Weak force is one of the four fundamental forces in nature, along with the strong force, the electromagnetic force, and gravity.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. While a stronger force can cause an object to accelerate more rapidly, the actual speed depends on both the force and the object's mass. Newton's second law of motion provides the relationship: force equals mass times acceleration.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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

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

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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.

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

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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

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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

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

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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

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

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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

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 reference 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

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

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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.

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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

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

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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

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

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

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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

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

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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

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.
- 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

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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](#)

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.

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- 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.
- 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 (NHCE) 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)

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- 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).
- 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

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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 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](#)

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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 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](#)

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.

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- 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](#)

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](#)

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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.
- 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.

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- 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](#)

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](#)

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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 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.

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- 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](#)

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.

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- 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.
- 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.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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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](#)

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.

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- **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](#)

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](#)

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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](#)

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](#)

Art & Culture

Q.1) Which one of the following features is associated with 'Mahima Dharma', a Hindu sect?

- a) Rigidity of the Caste System
- b) Rejection of Idol Worship
- c) Polytheism
- d) Mortality of the Soul

Geography

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The ionosphere is the warmest layer of the atmosphere.
- 2. The ionosphere grows and shrinks depending on the energy it absorbs from the Sun.
- 3. The earthquakes have effects on the ionosphere.
- 4. The ionosphere is most dense during the night and less dense during the day.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.3) Which one of the following statements best describes the term 'Gender Inclusive Communication'?

- a) It focuses on using language that affirms and respects individuals' gender identities, particularly for transgender and non-binary individuals.
- b) It involves being aware of the impact language can have on different genders and adjusting communication to be sensitive to these differences.
- c) It refers to the use of language and communication practices that aim to include and respect all gender identities, acknowledging and affirming diversity.
- d) It refers to language that avoids gender-specific terms, using neutral terms that do not reinforce traditional gender roles.

Q.4) With reference to the Urbanization in India, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. India's urban infrastructure is struggling to keep up with the pace of urbanization.
- 2. India's urban population is expected to reach 68% by 2050.
- 3. Urbanization can lead to increased economic growth by creating new jobs and businesses.

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

Polity

Q.5) Social Audit aims to ensure the transparency and accountability of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme. In this context, which one of the following is responsible for publicizing the dates and venues for the social audits in the village?

- a) Gram Panchayat
- b) Gram Sabha
- c) Panchayat Secretary
- d) Panchayat Samiti

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The Governor, being a part of the State legislature, has the authority to utilize his/her constitutional powers to disrupt the regular course of lawmaking within the State.
2. Once the State legislature reconsiders the Bill and passes it again, whether with or without amendments, and presents it to the Governor for assent, the Governor is obligated to grant assent without withholding it.

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.7) With reference to the Special Category Status (SCS), consider the following statements:

1. SCS guarantees rapid economic development and prosperity for a state.
2. The criteria for SCS are the same for all states.
3. All states with Special Category Status receive the same level of financial assistance from the Central Government.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.8) With reference to the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:

1. Disputes between two or more states can be heard at the Supreme Court in the form of appellate jurisdiction.
2. A Constitution Bench in the Supreme Court should comprise a minimum of five judges for deciding a case involving a “substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution”.
3. The Supreme Court can issue advisory opinions that override the decisions of lower courts.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.9) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) cannot be automatically applied in India simply because it has been signed or ratified by India and the other contracting state.

Statement-II: Article 73 of the Constitution states that the executive can make international agreements, but they need legislative backing to become enforceable laws 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

Schemes & Policies

Q.10) With reference to Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims to move away from selective health care to a more comprehensive range of services spanning preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care for all ages.
- 2. Tele-consultation and health promotion including wellness activities like Yoga are the services provided by the centers.

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

International Relation/Organization

Q.11) With reference to the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. India is a founding member of the IPEF and has been actively participating in negotiations.
- 2. The IPEF is designed to counter China's economic influence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- 3. The IPEF is a free trade agreement that will help to ensure that all IPEF countries adhere to reduce tariffs or eliminate trade barriers.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. Houthis are in power in northern Yemen.
2. Yemen is located at the junction of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
3. The Red Sea is connected to the Indian Ocean in the south through the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.13) Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the 'Golden Gate Declaration', seen in the news recently?

- a) It is a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally, and locally by organizations of the United Nations, governments, and major groups in every area in which humans impact the environment.
- b) It outlines the rights that every child is entitled to, emphasizing the need for special protection and assistance.
- c) It outlines eight Millennium Development Goals aimed at addressing global challenges such as poverty, hunger, gender equality, and health.
- d) It is a significant step towards creating a more resilient, sustainable, interconnected, innovative, and inclusive Asia-Pacific region.

Q.14) With reference to Commission on Social Connection, consider the following statements:

1. The Commission's ultimate goal is to eliminate loneliness entirely by 2025.
2. The Commission is advocating for a mandatory "social connection" class in schools, where students are taught how to make friends and form positive social connections.
3. It aims to promote social connection as a priority.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.15) With reference to the International Sugar Organisation (ISO), consider the following statements:

1. The ISO collects and publishes statistics on sugar production, consumption, trade, and prices.
2. The ISO facilitates dialogue between producers and importers on issues of common interest, such as market stability, trade policy, and sustainable development.
3. The ISO provides technical cooperation to its members, including training courses, workshops, and seminars on sugar production, processing, and marketing.

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

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Q.16) With reference to the International Labour Organization (ILO), consider the following statements:

1. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations, founded with the primary purpose of promoting workers' rights, improving working conditions, and advancing social justice globally.
2. It is mainly concerned with protecting the rights of workers in the formal economy.
3. India has ratified 'Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention' of the ILO.

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

Economy

Q.17) With reference to Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) Platform, consider the following statements:

1. It is a platform that provides insurance coverage to investors in case of investment losses.
2. IRRA can be invoked by trading members when there's a technical glitch at their end across exchanges.

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.18) Consider the following statements with reference to the International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) Project:

1. It is a Transshipment port project being built at Galathea Bay in Great Nicobar Island.
2. It is expected to handle more containers than all the ports of India combined.
3. It aims to reduce India's dependency on foreign ports for transshipment cargo handling.
4. The project is being developed under the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model.

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.19) With reference to the Indian Sugar Industry, consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest consumer and second largest producer of sugar in the world.
2. India is the fourth largest country in the world in ethanol production.
3. The domestic sugar industry in India is characterized by a surplus production compared to consumption.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.20) Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to the “Purple Sector in the Economy”?

1. It is the term used to describe the business of sustainable resource management and environmental protection.
2. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can provide significant benefits to the Purple Sector.

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.21) Consider the following:

1. Reduced inflation
2. Lower interest rates
3. Financial Stability
4. Increased seigniorage revenue
5. Rise in monetary autonomy

How many of the above mentioned are the benefits of ‘Dollarization’?

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

Environment

Q.22) In the context of Pollution, the term ‘Airshed’ refers to –

- a) It is the lowest part of the Earth's atmosphere, where turbulent mixing is strongly influenced by the Earth's surface.
- b) It refers to the geographic area where the movement of air is somewhat contained or confined.
- c) It is a localized area with elevated concentrations of pollutants, often due to specific sources such as industrial facilities, traffic congestion, etc.
- d) It refers to the specific origin or site where pollutants are released into the atmosphere, such as a factory, power plant, or vehicle.

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Q.23) Consider the following methods:

1. Steam methane reforming (SMR)
2. Coal gasification
3. Green Hydrogen Electrolyzer
4. Solid oxide electrolysis (SOE)
5. Photoelectrochemical (PEC) water splitting

Which of the methods mentioned above are suitable for the production of green hydrogen?

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

Q.24) Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary is located at

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Assam

Q.25) Consider the following statements:

1. Critical Tiger Habitats (CTHs) are legally protected under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. All Protected Areas (PAs) have Critical Tiger Habitats (CTHs).
3. The notification of CTH is done by the state government in consultation with the expert committee constituted for the purpose.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.26) Consider the following statements:

1. Compressed Biogas (CBG) has methane content of more than 90%.
2. CBG Blending Obligation (CBO) is a roadmap for mandatory blending of compressed biogas (CBG) in the transportation and domestic segments of the city gas distribution (CGD) sector in a phased manner.
3. When CBG is released into the atmosphere, it contributes to the oxygen content by releasing a portion of oxygen into the environment.

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

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Q.27) With reference to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), consider the following statements:

1. It is produced from renewable sources such as agricultural waste, municipal solid waste, and forestry residues.
2. Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) is not a viable alternative to traditional jet fuel because it is less efficient.

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

Science & Technology

Q.28) With reference to Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), consider the following statements:

1. It is a bacterial disease transmitted through contaminated water sources.
2. The disease is found only in India.
3. It is a rare disease that can cause severe illness and death.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.29) Which one of the following is the objective of Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE), recently launched by NASA?

- a) to investigate solar radiation absorption to gain insights into how it permeates Earth's atmosphere and shapes the dynamics of regional weather conditions.
- b) to study the global properties and effects of atmospheric gravity waves.
- c) to study seismic waves to understand their propagation through Earth's interior and their role in shaping geological processes and seismic events.
- d) to examine biodiversity patterns to elucidate how different species contribute to ecosystem stability and influence environmental conditions on Earth.

Q.30) Consider the following statements:

1. Gene editing can be used to eliminate genetic differences.
2. Casgevy is a revolutionary gene-editing therapy designed to treat sickle cell anaemia.

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.31) Consider the following statements:

1. Currently, most space communication is carried out using infrared waves.
2. NASA's Deep Space Optical Communications (DSOC) experiment seeks to use near-infrared laser signals for communication with spacecraft.

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.32) The Union Health ministry has made available generic drugs for rare diseases for the first time. For which of the following rare diseases, generic drugs have been made available?

1. Tyrosinemia-Type 1
2. Gauchers Disease
3. Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP)
4. Moyamoya Disease

Select the correct code given below:

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

Q.33) With reference to Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), consider the following statements:

1. CERT-In is responsible for investigating cybercrimes and prosecuting cybercriminals.
2. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is the nodal ministry for CERT-In.

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.34) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Spectrum is a limited resource and it needs to be allocated judiciously in order to ensure that users do not interfere with each other.

Statement II: In India, 'Spectrum Common' is a method adopted to allocate spectrum in which users of the spectrum are allowed to use it on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

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Q.35) If there is an oil spill in the water of Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), then which one of the following organizations will likely be responsible for tackling it?

- a) Indian Ports Association (IPA)
- b) Indian Navy
- c) Indian Coast Guard
- d) Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA)

Q.36) Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Dark Sky Reserve':

- 1. It is a type of astronomical observatory.
- 2. They are designated to protect light pollution from the night sky.
- 3. The land must only be publicly owned to be designated for Dark Sky Reserve.
- 4. Dark Sky Reserve in Ladakh will be South East Asia's first Night Sky sanctuary.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.37) Decentralised Autonomous Organisations (DAOs) was seen in the news recently, is related to -

- a) Blockchain Technology
- b) Environmental Impact Assessment
- c) Primary Healthcare Facilities
- d) Establishment of Protected Areas

Q.38) Consider the following statements:

- 1. An optical fiber is a flexible glass or plastic fiber that can transmit light from one end to the other.
- 2. Optical fibers exhibit low attenuation, meaning that they suffer minimal signal loss over long distances.
- 3. Total internal reflection occurs when light travels from a rarer medium to a denser medium and the angle of incidence is greater than the critical angle.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (c)	3 - (c)	4 - (d)	5 - (b)	6 - (b)	7 - (d)	8 - (a)	9 - (a)	10 - (c)
11 - (a)	12 - (b)	13 - (d)	14 - (a)	15 - (d)	16 - (b)	17 - (b)	18 - (b)	19 - (b)	20 - (b)
21 - (b)	22 - (b)	23 - (d)	24 - (a)	25 - (d)	26 - (a)	27 - (a)	28 - (a)	29 - (b)	30 - (b)
31 - (b)	32 - (a)	33 - (b)	34 - (c)	35 - (c)	36 - (b)	37 - (a)	38 - (b)		

Answers & Explanation

Art & Culture

1. Correct option is (B)

- Mahima Dharma is a monotheistic Hindu sect that rejects idol worship. Mahima Dharma followers believe that God is formless and cannot be contained in an idol. They also believe that idol worship is a distraction from true devotion to God. They oppose the caste system. The sect believes that all people are equal in the eyes of God, and that caste is a man-made construct. Mahima Dharma teaches the concept of immortality of the soul. The sect believes that the soul is eternal and never dies. Bhima Bhoi was the founder of Mahima Dharma.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Geography

2. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 4 are incorrect. The ionosphere is quite cold, typically ranging from -100°C to 0°C . The warmest layer of the atmosphere is the troposphere, the lowest layer of the atmosphere. The ionosphere is most dense during the day due to solar ionization. At night, with the absence of solar radiation, it becomes less dense.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The ionosphere's density varies with solar activity. During the day, the Sun's energy ionizes the upper atmosphere, causing the ionosphere to expand. At night, it contracts as ionization decreases. Scientists have found that the earthquakes, even smaller ones, affect the ionosphere, causing disruptions known as coseismic ionospheric perturbations (CIP).

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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3. Correct option is (C)

- Gender-inclusive communication refers to the use of language and communication practices that aim to include and respect all gender identities, acknowledging and affirming diversity. It seeks to avoid language that reinforces traditional gender norms and stereotypes, and instead, promotes an inclusive and respectful environment for people of all gender identities.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

4. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Urbanization is a major trend in India, with millions of people moving from rural areas to cities every year. This rapid urbanization is putting a lot of strain on the country's infrastructure, including housing, transportation, and sanitation. India's urban population is projected to continue growing rapidly over the coming decades, and is expected to reach 68% of the total population by 2050. Urbanization can lead to increased economic growth by creating new jobs and businesses, and by increasing productivity and innovation. However, there are also potential downsides to urbanization, such as increased pollution and traffic congestion.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Polity

5. Correct option is (B)

- The Gram Sabha is the general body of the village and is made up of all adult members of the village. It is the primary forum for public engagement and participation in village affairs. The Gram Sabha has the right to participate in the social audit process, and it is responsible for publicizing the dates and venues for the audits.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

6. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. While the Governor does have certain powers that can affect the legislative process, the Governor does not have the authority to disrupt the regular course of lawmaking. The Governor's role in the legislative process is primarily to review and approve bills passed by the State legislature.
- Statement 2 is correct. Once the State legislature reconsiders the Bill and passes it again, whether with or without amendments, and presents it to the Governor for assent, the Governor is obligated to grant assent without withholding it.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

7. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. SCS is a support mechanism that can provide additional resources and assistance to states facing unique challenges, but it does not guarantee economic growth. Economic development depends on a variety of factors, including state policies, investments, infrastructure, and overall economic conditions. SCS can help create a more favorable environment for development, but it cannot guarantee success.
- The Central Government considers a range of factors when determining whether or not to grant SCS to a particular state, including the state's geographical features, socio-economic conditions, infrastructure development, and overall development needs. The specific criteria that are considered may vary depending on the individual state's circumstances.
- The amount of financial assistance that SCS-granted states receive varies depending on their individual needs and priorities. The Central Government may provide additional funds for specific projects, schemes, or programs in a particular state based on its unique circumstances.

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Source: [ForumIAS](#)

8. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The Supreme Court typically exercises its original jurisdiction in disputes between two or more states, meaning it has the authority to hear such cases directly, without them having to go through lower courts first. The Supreme Court of India does not have the power to issue advisory opinions that override the decisions of lower courts. The Supreme Court only has the power to issue binding judgments, which are rulings that are legally enforceable and must be followed by lower courts. Advisory opinions, on the other hand, are non-binding and do not have the force of law.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Supreme Court of India requires a minimum of five judges to form a Constitution Bench for deciding cases involving substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

9. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Supreme Court of India's ruling in the case of Assessing Officer Circle (International Taxation) New Delhi Vs Nestle SA has significant implications for the way Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) are implemented in India. The Court held that a formal notification under Section 90(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 is mandatory for giving effect to a DTAA or any protocol that alters its terms or conditions.
- This means that a DTAA or its modification cannot be automatically applied in India simply because it has been signed or ratified by India and the other contracting state. They need to be notified in the official gazette by the Indian government to become enforceable in India.
- Article 73 of the Constitution gives the executive the power to make international agreements, but the agreements must be approved by the Parliament to become enforceable laws in India. The ratification of international agreements is the prerogative of the Parliament, and the agreements have to be in conformity with the Constitution of India. In other words, the executive cannot bypass the Parliament to implement international agreements.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Schemes & Policies

10. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. AB-HWCs aims to move away from selective health care to a more comprehensive range of services spanning preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care for all ages. AB-HWCs offer a wide range of services, including tele-consultation, which allows patients to connect with doctors remotely using video conferencing technology. Additionally, AB-HWCs promote wellness activities like Yoga to encourage healthy lifestyle habits and improve overall well-being.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

International Relations/Organizations

11. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. India is one of the 14 founding members of the IPEF, along with the United States, Japan, Australia, and several other countries in the Indo-Pacific region. India has been actively engaged in negotiations and has emphasized the importance of the IPEF as a platform for promoting economic growth and integration in the region.

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- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The IPEF is not specifically designed to counter any one country's economic influence, but rather to promote economic cooperation and integration among a diverse group of countries in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The IPEF is not a free trade agreement, but rather a framework for economic cooperation and integration among its 14 member countries. While the IPEF seeks to promote free, fair, and open trade commitments that build upon the rules-based multilateral trading system, it does not mandate the reduction or elimination of tariffs or trade barriers among its member countries.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

12. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Houthis have been largely in control of northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa, and have been a significant force in the ongoing conflict in Yemen. They are named after the Houthi tribe who follow Zaydi Shia beliefs. They are supported by Iran.
- Yemen is located at the junction of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, which is a strategic location for shipping and trade in the region. Yemen is located in the Arabian Peninsula (Western Asia). It is bordered by Saudi Arabia and Oman. Its maritime borders are Djibouti, Eritrea and Somalia. Largest Island of Yemen is Socotra Island.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Red Sea is connected to the Indian Ocean in the south through the Bab el Mandeb strait and the Gulf of Aden. The Red Sea is a seawater inlet of the Indian Ocean lying between Africa and Asia. To the north of the Red Sea lies the Sinai Peninsula, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez. Bordering Countries: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

13. Correct option is (D)

- The Golden Gate Declaration was adopted at the 30th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in San Francisco, USA. This declaration builds upon previous APEC work and focuses on key areas such as resilience, sustainability, interconnection, innovation, and inclusion.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Commission on Social Connection, launched by the World Health Organization (WHO), aims to address loneliness as a pressing health threat, promote social connection as a priority, and accelerate the scaling up of solutions in countries of all incomes. The commission aims to see the issue recognized and resourced as a global public health priority, but it does not set a specific target to eliminate loneliness entirely by 2025.
- While the Commission aims to promote social connection as a priority and analyze the central role social connection plays in improving health for people of all ages, it does not specifically advocate for mandatory "social connection" classes in schools as a solution.
- Statement 3 is correct. Promoting social connection as a priority is a central objective of the Commission on Social Connection. The Commission recognizes that strong social connections are essential for individual well-being, community resilience, and societal progress. It advocates for policies, programs, and initiatives that enhance social interaction, reduce isolation, and foster meaningful connections among individuals and communities.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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15. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The International Sugar Organization (ISO) is an intergovernmental organization based in London, United Kingdom. It was established by the International Sugar Agreement of 1968 to promote orderly and efficient world sugar trade and to assist its members in developing their sugar industries. Its main functions are: the ISO collects and publishes statistics on sugar production, consumption, trade, and prices. The ISO facilitates dialogue between producers and importers on issues of common interest, such as market stability, trade policy, and sustainable development. The ISO provides technical cooperation to its members, including training courses, workshops, and seminars on sugar production, processing, and marketing.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. ILO is a specialized agency of the United Nations, founded with the primary purpose of promoting workers' rights, improving working conditions, and advancing social justice globally. India is a founding member of ILO.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The ILO's objective of decent work marks an explicit concern for all workers, including those outside the formal labor market. The ILO has also developed a number of initiatives to promote decent work in the informal economy, including the Employment Transitions Programme and the Social Protection Floor Recommendation.
- Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention, Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, Occupational Safety and Health Convention, Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 **are the ILO conventions not ratified by India.**

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Economy

17. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The IRRA Platform is not an insurance platform that provides coverage to investors in case of investment losses. It is a platform developed to reduce risks faced by investors in case of technical glitches at the end of trading members or stock brokers registered with SEBI. It will provide investors an opportunity to close their open positions and cancel pending orders in case of technical glitches or outages which render the trading member's site inaccessible.
- Statement 2 is correct. IRRA can be invoked by trading members when there's a technical glitch at their end across exchanges from both – the primary site and disaster recovery site. Even stock exchanges can suo moto initiate the service, if needed, irrespective of any such request by the trading members.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

18. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) Project is being built at Galathea Bay in Great Nicobar Island. It is being developed by the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust (SMPK). One of the primary objectives of the ICTP project is to reduce India's dependence on foreign ports for transshipment cargo handling. Currently, a significant portion of India's transshipment cargo is handled at ports in Singapore, Colombo, and Klang. The ICTP aims to capture this cargo and keep it within India. The project is Envisaged under Maritime India vision 2030.
- Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect. While the ICTP is expected to be a major transshipment hub, it is unlikely to handle more containers than all the ports of India combined. The ICTP project is expected

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to handle around 16 million containers per year in its ultimate phase, which is still less than the total container handling capacity of all Indian ports combined. The ICTP project is being developed under the Landlord-Port Model, which means that the government will develop and maintain the port infrastructure, while private companies will operate the port facilities. Private companies will be allowed to bid for concessions to develop and operate specific terminals within the port.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

19. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. India consumed 27.1 million tonnes of sugar in 2022, making it the world's largest consumer. It also produced 36 million tonnes of sugar in 2022, making it the world's second-largest producer after Brazil.
- The domestic sugar industry in India tends to produce a surplus compared to consumption. This surplus is often exported, which helps to support the global sugar market.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. India is the 3rd largest country in the world in ethanol production after the USA and Brazil. The ethanol blending percentage in India has increased from 5% in 2019-20 to 12% in 2022-23.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

20. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Purple Sector, also known as the Care Economy, refers to the economic activities and services that contribute to the well-being of individuals and communities, particularly those related to caregiving, education, and social services. It does not specifically focus on environmental protection or sustainable resource management.
- Statement 2 is correct. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can significantly benefit the Purple Sector by providing access to technology, improving communication, and enhancing efficiency.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

21. Correct option is (B)

- Dollarization can help to reduce inflation by pegging the local currency to a stable foreign currency, such as the US dollar. This can help to anchor inflation expectations and make it more difficult for inflation to take hold.
- Dollarization can also help to lower interest rates by making the local economy more attractive to foreign investment. This is because foreign investors are more likely to invest in a country with a stable currency and a low risk of inflation.
- Dollarization can help to promote financial stability by reducing the risk of financial crises. This is because a dollarized economy is less vulnerable to shocks, such as currency depreciation or sudden changes in capital flows.
- Seigniorage revenue is the profit a government makes from issuing its own currency. When a country adopts a foreign currency, it loses control over its own currency and the associated seigniorage revenue.
- Adopting a foreign currency reduces monetary autonomy as the country gives up control over its own currency and monetary policy.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Environment

22. Correct option is (B)

- An airshed is a region of the atmosphere that is defined by the topography and meteorology of the area. The movement of air within an airshed is somewhat restricted, and pollutants can become

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trapped within the airshed. This can lead to high levels of air pollution, especially in urban areas. An airshed can be as small as a few kilometers or as large as a whole country. For example, the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) airshed encompasses the city of Delhi and several surrounding districts, and it's considered one of the most polluted airsheds in the world.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

23. Correct option is (D)

- Some of the methods used to produce green hydrogen are: Green Hydrogen Electrolyzer, Solid oxide electrolysis (SOE), Photoelectrochemical (PEC) water splitting, Alkaline electrolysis, Proton exchange membrane (PEM) electrolysis, Thermochemical water splitting, Photobiological water splitting, electrolysis.
- Methods 1 and 2 (SMR and coal gasification) are not suitable for producing green hydrogen because they rely on fossil fuels and produce significant carbon emissions.
- Further, Finland and India recently discussed manufacturing green hydrogen electrolyzer in India.
- A normal Hydrogen Electrolyzer is an electrochemical device that use electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. Whereas, green hydrogen electrolyzer uses electricity generate from renewable sources to power the electrolysis process, by means of which hydrogen is obtained from water. One of the world's largest electrolyzers is located in Fukushima, Japan, at the site of the well-known nuclear disaster.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

24. Correct option is (A)

- Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Mysore district of Karnataka state, to the north of the Bandipur National Park. It's a small sanctuary with an area of just 30.32 square kilometers, and it's not yet open to tourists.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

25. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Critical Tiger Habitats (CTHs) are legally protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, not the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Not all Protected Areas (PAs) have Critical Tiger Habitats (CTHs). CTHs are only designated in PAs that meet specific criteria for tiger conservation, such as having high tiger density, abundant prey, and suitable habitat.
- Statement 3 is correct. The notification of a CTH is done by the state government in consultation with an expert committee, which includes scientists, wildlife experts, and representatives from relevant government agencies.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

26. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Bio-gas is produced naturally (through a process of anaerobic decomposition) from waste/biomass sources like agriculture residue, cattle dung, municipal solid waste, etc. After purification, it is compressed and called as Compressed Bio Gas (CBG). CBG has methane content of more than 90% which is similar to commercially available natural gas in composition and energy potential. It can help reduce carbon emissions and provide additional revenue source for farmers. It can also help reduce import of natural gas and crude oil, ensuring energy security.

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- The CBG Blending Obligation (CBO) is an initiative by the Indian government to mandate the blending of CBG with natural gas in the city gas distribution (CGD) sector. This blending obligation is being implemented in a phased manner, with the target of achieving 5% blending by 2028-29.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. CBG is primarily composed of methane (CH₄), and it does not contain oxygen. Upon combustion, CBG produces carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water vapor (H₂O), but no oxygen is released into the atmosphere.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

27. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Sustainable Aviation Fuel is produced from renewable sources such as agricultural waste, municipal solid waste, and forestry residues. It has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 80 percent.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. In terms of efficiency, SAF has the same energy density as traditional jet fuel, meaning that it can power aircraft for the same amount of time. However, they are more expensive than traditional jet fuel.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Science & Technology

28. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) is a tick-borne viral hemorrhagic fever endemic to the western and central districts of Karnataka State. It is caused by Kyasanur Forest Disease virus (KFDV), a member of the Flaviviridae family of viruses. The disease is characterized by fever, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, and bleeding. In severe cases, it can lead to neurological complications and death. KFD is not found only in India. The disease is also endemic to other parts of Southeast Asia, including Nepal, Myanmar, and Thailand.
- Statement 3 is correct. Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) can cause severe illness and death if left untreated. It is a zoonotic disease. It is also referred to as Monkey disease/ monkey fever because of its association with monkey deaths. It is transmitted through the bite of ticks and bonnet. Black-faced langur monkeys are highly susceptible to the infection. They play a significant role in the spread of the virus in the human population. There is no specific treatment for monkey fever. A vaccine (Formalin inactivated KFDV vaccine) does exist for KFD and is used in endemic areas of India.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

29. Correct option is (B)

- The Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) is a NASA mission that is designed to study atmospheric gravity waves, which are large-scale ripples in Earth's atmosphere. These waves can travel for thousands of kilometers and can have a significant impact on weather patterns. AWE is the first mission to study atmospheric gravity waves on a global scale.
- Atmospheric gravity waves are generated by a variety of sources, including storms, mountains, and tropical cyclones, and they can propagate vertically and horizontally across the globe. These waves can have a wide range of effects, including influencing the distribution of temperature, moisture, and winds in the atmosphere, and affecting cloud formation and precipitation.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

30. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Gene editing is a tool that can be used to modify specific genes in an organism, but it cannot eliminate genetic differences. Every individual has a unique genetic makeup,

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including variations in their DNA sequence that are responsible for many of the differences between individuals.

- Statement 2 is correct. Casgevy is a revolutionary gene-editing therapy designed to treat sickle cell anaemia. It utilizes the advanced CRISPR-Cas 9 tool for editing genes. It works by editing the patient's genes to revive fetal haemoglobin, which is normally switched off after birth. This compensates for the defective haemoglobin in sickle cells, reducing the disease's severe symptoms and complications.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

31. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Space communication is primarily carried out using radio waves, not infrared waves. Radio waves are a type of electromagnetic radiation with a longer wavelength than infrared waves. Radio waves can travel long distances through the vacuum of space and are not affected by Earth's atmosphere, making them ideal for space communication.
- Statement 2 is correct. NASA's Deep Space Optical Communications (DSOC) experiment is a cutting-edge technology that has the potential to revolutionize deep space communications. By using near-infrared laser signals, DSOC can transmit data at rates that are up to 100 times faster than traditional radio frequency (RF) systems. This would allow NASA to send and receive high-resolution images and videos from spacecraft in deep space, as well as conduct real-time scientific experiments.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

32. Correct option is (A)

- The Union Health ministry has made available generic drugs for rare diseases for the first time. Presently, they are made available for four rare diseases Tyrosinemia-Type 1, Gauchers Disease, Wilson's Disease, and the Dravet-Lennox Gastaut Syndrome. In the next few months, the Ministry also plans to include Phenylketonuria and Hyperammonemia to the list.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

33. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. CERT-In is not responsible for investigating cybercrimes or prosecuting cybercriminals. These are the responsibilities of law enforcement agencies. CERT-In's primary function is to prevent cyberattacks and respond to cybersecurity incidents.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is the nodal ministry for CERT-In. This means that MeitY is responsible for overseeing CERT-In's activities and ensuring that it is fulfilling its mandate.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

34. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is correct. Spectrum allocation is the process of dividing the radio frequency spectrum into different frequency bands and assigning them to different users and services. Spectrum is a limited resource; it needs to be allocated judiciously to ensure users do not interfere with each other.
- To prevent interference, spectrum is divided into different frequency bands, and each band is assigned to specific users, such as telecom operators, broadcasters, and government agencies. This allocation process ensures that users can operate within their assigned frequency ranges without interfering with each other.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. In India, spectrum is allocated either through the method of auctions, lotteries or administrative allocation. Under an auction model, companies bid for spectrum above the

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reserve price set by the state allocating such spectrum, whereas, in administrative allocation, the state allocates spectrum to qualified communications companies.

- While "spectrum commons" is a method used in some countries, it is not used in India.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

35. Correct option is (C)

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is the primary agency responsible for coordinating oil spill response operations in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The ICG has a dedicated Oil Spill Response Cell, which is responsible for developing and implementing oil spill response plans, conducting training exercises, and coordinating with other agencies in the event of an oil spill.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

36. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Dark Sky Reserves (DSRs) are not astronomical observatories, although they are valuable for astronomy and scientific research. Observatories are specifically designed facilities equipped with powerful telescopes for observing the night sky, while DSRs are broader areas designated to protect the night sky from light pollution. Dark Sky Reserves can be on public, private, or a combination of both types of land. However, the designation process typically requires cooperation between landowners and government agencies to ensure that the necessary light pollution controls are in place.
- Statements 2 and 4 are correct. DSRs are designated to protect the night sky from light pollution, preserving the natural darkness of the sky. Dark Sky Reserve in Ladakh will be South East Asia's first Night Sky sanctuary.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

37. Correct option is (A)

- Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs) are a type of organization that uses blockchain technology to automate decision-making and operations. Blockchain is a distributed ledger technology that allows for secure and transparent record-keeping. This makes it an ideal platform for DAOs, which are designed to be decentralized and transparent. They are controlled by the respective organization members and not influenced by the government.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

38. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. An optical fiber is a flexible glass or plastic fiber that can transmit light from one end to the other. Optical fibers are used in a wide variety of applications, including telecommunications, fiber optic sensors, and medical imaging. It works on the process of total internal reflection (TIR).
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Total internal reflection occurs when light travels from a denser medium to a rarer medium and the angle of incidence is greater than the critical angle. This is because when light enters a rarer medium, the angle of refraction is always greater than the angle of incidence.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)