

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

December, 2023 3rd Week

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

Index

| | |
|---|----|
| Art & Culture..... | 2 |
| Geography | 2 |
| Polity | 3 |
| Acts & Policies | 5 |
| Index & Reports..... | 7 |
| International Relations/Organizations | 8 |
| Economy..... | 9 |
| Environment..... | 11 |
| Science & Technology | 13 |
| Answer Key | 15 |
| Answers & Explanation..... | 15 |

Art & Culture

Q.1) Which one of the following types of Mohiniyattam dance performance is based on the world's first science fiction novel?

- a) Thullal
- b) Ashtapadi
- c) Nilakkanavu
- d) Varnam

Geography

Q.2) Which one of the following geographical features is correct with reference to the Maldivian islands?

- a) Volcanic peaks rising from the ocean floor.
- b) Coral reefs surrounding a submerged mountain range.
- c) Sandbars deposited by ocean currents.
- d) River deltas carrying sediment from distant continents.

Q.3) Which of following countries surround the Red Sea?

- a) Nigeria, Chad, Niger, Camerron
- b) Oman, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iraq
- c) Egypt, Sudan, Djibouti, Eritrea
- d) Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Portugal

Q.4) In India, the months of April to November are known as 'cyclone season' because:

1. The monsoon winds create favorable conditions for cyclone formation.
2. Ocean temperatures are at their lowest during this period.
3. There is high atmospheric pressure over the Indian Ocean.
4. The Himalayas block rain-bearing clouds from reaching the subcontinent.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.5) Among the following planets of our Solar System, which one has the greatest number of moons?

- a) Jupiter
- b) Saturn
- c) Uranus
- d) Venus

Polity

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. With the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir lost its special status and became a union territory.
2. The primary rationale behind the abrogation of Article 370 was to promote regional autonomy within the Indian Union.

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.7) With reference to India's governance structure, consider the following statements:

1. In India, the executive branch is entirely independent of the legislative branch.
2. India's governance structure is quasi-federal, meaning it is a mix of unitary and federal systems.

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.8) Which one of the following types of Federalism does India have?

- a) Dual Federalism
- b) Progressive Federalism
- c) Asymmetric federalism
- d) Layered Federalism

Q.9) Which one of the following statements best describes 'Political Equality'?

- a) It means that everyone should have the same level of political influence, regardless of their civic engagement or participation.
- b) It is the principle that all citizens should have equal opportunities to participate in the political process, regardless of their economic, social, or cultural background.
- c) It requires that all citizens have the same level of wealth and economic status.
- d) It means that all political parties have the same amount of support and representation.

Q.10) Consider the following statements with reference to 'Subordinate Legislation':

1. Subordinate legislation is subjected to judicial review.
2. Statutes are a type of subordinate legislation.
3. It has the same force of law as an act of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

1. Article 324 provides for the composition of the Election Commission of India (ECI).
2. The ECI is responsible for the conduct of elections to the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and offices of the President and Vice President.

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.12) Under the Anti-Defection Law, a Member of Parliament (MP) or Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) is disqualified if they:

- a) Resign voluntarily
- b) Vote against the party whip
- c) Criticize the government policies
- d) Attend an opposition party meeting

Q.13) Consider the following characteristics:

1. Deliberation
2. Popular Sovereignty
3. Free and Fair Elections
4. Separation of Powers

How many of the above are the characteristics of a 'Democracy'?

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

Q.14) With reference to the suspension of Members of Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. Four months is the maximum period for which an MP can be suspended.
2. The presiding officers can direct an MP to withdraw from the House for any disorderly conduct.
3. The Constitution empowers courts to intervene in the procedural functioning of legislatures.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.15) A large number of MPs were recently suspended from both houses of Parliament in India. Which of the following could be the potential consequence(s) of the suspension?

1. Loss of salary and benefits for the suspension period.
2. Inability to participate in parliamentary debates and voting.
3. Dissolution of Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

Q.16) According to the Constitution of India, who has the power to include or exclude communities from the list of Scheduled Castes?

- a) Parliament
- b) President
- c) Prime Minister
- d) Governor of each state

Acts & Policies

Q.17) Consider the following components:

- 1. Species and Habitat Conservation
- 2. Nature Tourism
- 3. Wetlands Livelihoods
- 4. Wetlands Mapping

How many of the above components are part of the "Amrit Dharohar Scheme"?

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

Q.18) With reference to the Dare to Dream (D2D) Scheme, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. Under this scheme, annual Dare to Dream Contests are organised to promote innovations by individual and start-ups for advancements in defence and aerospace technologies.
- 2. It was initiated in memory of the former President of India, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- 3. The scheme has been launched by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Select the correct answers using the codes given below:

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

Q.19) Under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006, which one of the following rights can be primarily granted to a tribal community that has traditionally relied on forest bamboo for making handicraft?

- a) The right to possess and trade the bamboo forest.
- b) The right to harvest bamboo for their traditional use, but not for commercial sale.
- c) There are no special rights, as bamboo is not considered forest produce.
- d) The right to manage the bamboo forest in collaboration with the government.

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

Q.20) Consider the following:

1. Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)
2. Khelo India University Games (KIUG)
3. Khelo India Talent Identification Programme (KITP)
4. Khelo India School Olympics.

Which one of the above components is NOT part of “Khelo India Initiative”?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Only 3
- d) Only 4

Q.21) Consider the following initiatives:

1. Himadri
2. IndARC
3. Maitri

Which of the above are part of research initiatives of India in Arctic?

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

Q.22) Consider the following schemes:

1. National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)
2. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)
3. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
4. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)

How many of the above schemes aim to enhance digital literacy in India?

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

Q.23) Which one of the following places of worship is covered under the Places of Worship Act, 1991?

- a) Only ancient and historical places of worship.
- b) All places of worship open to the public for religious purposes.
- c) Places of worship belonging to notified religious communities.
- d) Places of worship designated by the central government.

Q.24) Consider the following statements with reference to the “Smart India Hackathon”:

1. It is an international competition open to participants from all countries.
2. It aims to foster a culture of product innovation, problem-solving, and out-of-the-box thinking in 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

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

Q.25) With reference to New Swarnima Loan Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The primary objective of the scheme is to finance the purchase of agricultural land and equipment for tribal communities.
2. It has been introduced by National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC).

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.26) With reference to Mission Shakti, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative aimed at revamping the power sector infrastructure and enhancing its efficiency and sustainability.
2. It has been launched by the Ministry of Women Child Development (MWCD).

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.27) With reference to the Telecommunications Bill 2023, consider the following statements:

1. It provides clarity in the context of satellite broadband services.
2. Provisions such as applying for licences and permits for telecom operators have been simplified.
3. The Bill reduces the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) powers in areas like tariffs and dispute resolution.

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

Index & Reports

Q.28) With reference to LEADS ranking, consider the following statements:

1. It's an annual ranking exercise providing insights into the ease of doing business environment in different states across India.
2. The ranking has been inspired by the 'Ease of Doing Business Index' published by the World Bank.

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

International Relations/Organizations

Q.29) Which one of the following is NOT a partner country in the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) initiative?

- a) Australia
- b) Canada
- c) France
- d) Russia

Q.30) With reference to the differences between New Delhi Declaration on AI and Bletchley Declaration, consider the following statements:

1. New Delhi Declaration primarily focuses on mitigating the security risks associated with advanced AI systems whereas Bletchley Declaration emphasizes more on promoting responsible AI development and innovation.
2. New Delhi Declaration promotes a multi-stakeholder approach to AI governance whereas Bletchley Declaration calls for international cooperation and regulation to address security risks associated with AI.

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.31) For which of the following purposes is the 'Indira Gandhi Peace Prize' given?

1. Efforts towards reducing or eliminating weapons
2. Promoting international peace
3. Eliminating Insurgents

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.32) With reference to Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), consider the following statements:

1. It is an international private firm that offers tax evasion consulting services to individuals and corporations.
2. It provides training programs and workshops for local tax officials on various aspects of tax audit and administration.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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

Q.33) With reference to the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), consider the following statements:

1. It is a type of loan offered by the IMF to low-income countries.
2. The role of the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) in the global monetary system is to finance infrastructure projects in developing 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

Economy

Q.34) Consider the following statements:

1. There is presence of neutral third party who makes a decision after hearing the evidence and arguments.
2. The process is formal similar to court proceeding.
3. The decision is often final and binding on the parties, enforceable in court.

Which one of the following Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism has been described above?

- a) Negotiation
- b) Mediation
- c) Arbitration
- d) Conciliation

Q.35) With reference to Social Capital, consider the following statements:

1. The core concept of social capital is the monetary value of social networks and connections.
2. One of the negative aspects of strong social capital is difficulty in integrating newcomers or outsiders.

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.36) In the context of the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF), seen in the news recently, how many of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It primarily aims to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing using crypto-assets.
2. Under the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework, overseas transactions in cryptocurrencies by Indian citizens will be reported to Indian tax authorities.
3. The framework will lead to the creation of new taxes specifically for crypto-assets.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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

Q.37) The Prime Minister has recently inaugurated Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB) in Gujarat. In this regard, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is a global centre for trading of both rough and polished diamonds as well as jewellery.
2. It aims to shift the diamond trading business from Mumbai to Surat.
3. It is the world's largest diamond trading hub.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.38) Which one of the following scenarios would an increase in Terms of Trade (ToT) indicate for a country?

- a) Declining domestic production and increasing reliance on imports.
- b) Strengthening export competitiveness and increased purchasing power for imports.
- c) Devaluation of the currency and rising inflation.
- d) Increased reliance on foreign aid and reduced trade activity.

Q.39) In a floating exchange rate system, which one of the following is likely to happen to a country's currency if it experiences a trade surplus?

- a) Depreciation
- b) Appreciation
- c) Pegging to a fixed rate
- d) Gold standard adoption

Q.40) Consider the following statements:

1. The normal net borrowing ceiling for states is fixed at 3 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).
2. States are allocated an extra 0.5 percent of GSDP in borrowing capacity as a performance-based incentive for power sector reforms.

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.41) Which one of the following might be the effect on inflation in other countries when a large oil-producing country experiences political unrest, leading to disruptions in supply?

- a) It could have no impact on inflation in other countries unless they import oil from that specific country.
- b) It could lead to higher oil prices and imported inflation in other countries.
- c) It could lead to lower oil prices and deflation in other countries.
- d) The impact would depend on the specific economic conditions of each country.

Q.42) In the banking sector, what does the term "evergreening of loans" mean?

- a) These are renewing loans with updated interest rates.
- b) It refers to extending the loan tenure without addressing the underlying issues.
- c) It refers to offering loans with perpetually low interest rates.
- d) It means providing loans exclusively for sustainable projects.

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Environment

Q.43) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: There has been a shift in the dependence on the critical minerals in the production of renewable energy technologies.

Statement-II: Significant advancements in alternative energy sources, such as Clean Coal Technology, have been made.

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.44) With reference to Barracuda, India's solar electric boat, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. It is India's fastest solar-electric boat.
- 2. It produces no noise and vibrations.
- 3. The boat will be deployed at Mazagon Dock at the Mumbai dock under the name Saur Sakthi.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.45) Recently, ENACT (Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for an Accelerated Climate Transformation) Partnership has been launched at COP-28. Which of the following organizations are part of the ENACT Partnership?

- a) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- b) World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- c) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- d) World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Q.46) With reference to India's renewable-based power generation, consider the following statements:

- 1. India is the world's fifth largest producer of renewable energy.
- 2. More than 40% of installed electricity capacity comes from non-fossil fuel sources.
- 3. Solar and wind energy forms more than 30% of the total installed capacity.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

Q.47) Consider the following statements:

1. The sanctuary is situated at the tri-junction of Sikkim, Bengal and Bhutan.
2. It is the largest wildlife sanctuary in Sikkim.
3. Rivers like Rangpo and Jaldhaka originate from nearby lakes within the sanctuary.

Which one of the following sanctuaries has the above characteristics?

- a) Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary
- b) Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary
- d) Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary

Q.48) Consider the following statements:

1. Ramsar Sites focus specifically on wetlands, while National Parks can encompass any type of protected area.
2. Ramsar Sites prioritize strict conservation, while National Parks emphasize sustainable use.
3. International framework governs Ramsar Sites, while national legislation manages National Parks.
4. All National Parks are automatically designated as Ramsar Sites, but not all Ramsar Sites are designated as National Parks.

How many of the above statements are correct with respect to the differences between a Ramsar Site and a National Park?

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

Q.49) Consider the following statements:

1. Under the scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat (IDWH), threatened species like marine turtles, humpback whales are prioritized for assessment and monitoring of their populations.
2. Dugong Conservation Reserve has been established in Palk Bay for conservation of Dugongs and seagrass associated marine species.
3. Project Dolphin is the government initiative to conserve only riverine dolphin species.

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.50) With reverence to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of India, consider the following statements:

1. International climate finance support is the only way for India to finance its NDC commitments.
2. India aims to meet 50% of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

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.51) With reference to the Electronic Cigarettes, consider the following statements:

1. They have been proven to be effective for quitting tobacco use.
2. Caffeine is commonly found in e-liquids used in electronic cigarettes.
3. In India, the possession of e-cigarettes and similar devices is a violation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarette Act, 2019.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.52) With reference to the Web Browser, which one of the following statements is correct?

- a) Web browsers are responsible for creating and hosting websites on the internet.
- b) Web Browsers utilize cookies for website designing and layouts.
- c) The speed of a web browser is solely determined by the internet connection speed.
- d) Web browsers fetches information from the internet in various formats.

Q.53) In the context of the JN.1, a subvariant of COVID-19, how many of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a more transmissible variant than Omicron but causes less severe illness.
2. It emerged in India and has not been detected elsewhere.
3. It can substantially escape the protection provided by current COVID-19 vaccines.
4. It is primarily responsible for the recent surge in COVID-19 cases globally.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.54) Consider the following statements:

1. Criticality refers to the state where the chain reaction of nuclear fission in a nuclear reactor is self-sustaining.
2. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) is operated by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).
3. In 2022-23, nuclear energy formed around 2.8 percent of India's total energy production.

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

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

Q.55) The term “Zero Trust Authentication (ZTA)” was seen in the news recently. In this context, which one of the following statements is correct?

- a) It provides a systematic approach to managing sensitive company information, ensuring its confidentiality, integrity, and availability.
- b) It offers a concise and prioritized set of best practices designed to help organizations improve their cybersecurity posture.
- c) It involves layering multiple security measures throughout an information system to provide redundancy in case one layer fails.
- d) It is a security approach that treats all systems, networks, and users as unreliable necessitating ongoing authentication for devices, users, and applications.

Q.56) Which one of the following is a potential consequence of consuming excessive amounts of High in Fat, Salt and Sugar (HFSS) foods?

- a) Increased energy levels and improved athletic performance
- b) Enhanced cognitive function and memory
- c) Reduced risk of chronic diseases
- d) Development of insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes

Q.57) With reference to Noma, a Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a severe gangrenous disease affecting the mouth and face.
- 2. It is caused by the bacteria spirochete *Borrelia vincenti*, commonly found in the mouth.

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.58) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) receive significant attention and funding from global health organizations.

Statement-II: NTDs have high mortality rates compared to other infectious diseases.

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.59) With reference to India’s defense sector, consider the following statements:

- 1. India has the world's second-largest standing armed forces.
- 2. India has the third-largest defense budget globally.
- 3. India has a very strong military partnership with Malaysia.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanation

Art & Culture

1. Correct option is (C)

- Nilakkanavu is a Mohiniyattam dance performance based on the world's first science fiction novel, "Somnium," written by 17th century German scientist Johannes Kepler. The novel is about a man who travels to the moon, and the dance performance is a beautiful interpretation of this fantastical journey. This dance performance will be performed at the Samanwayam 2023 national dance-music festival in Palakkad, Kerala. The performance will also pay tribute to the scientists who worked hard to make India's Chandrayaan Mission a success.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Geography

2. Correct option is (B)

- The Maldivian islands are a group of over 1,000 tiny coral islands that make up the country of the Maldives. These islands sit atop a submerged mountain range called the Chagos-Laccadive Ridge, which rises from the ocean floor and is surrounded by coral reefs. These reefs serve as a natural barrier that helps to protect the islands from erosion and storm damage. The coral reefs also provide a habitat for a wide variety of marine life, making the Maldives a popular destination for snorkeling and scuba diving.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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

3. Correct option is (C)

- The countries surrounding the Red Sea are - Egypt, Sudan, Djibouti, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Yemen.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The cyclone season in India is from April to November, which coincides with the monsoon season. The monsoon winds, which blow from the southwest over the Indian Ocean, create favorable conditions for cyclone formation.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are incorrect. While ocean temperatures do play a role in cyclone formation, they are generally higher during the monsoon season, not lower. The atmospheric pressure over the Indian Ocean is actually lower during the monsoon season, creating favorable conditions for cyclone formation. While the Himalayas do affect weather patterns in India, they don't directly influence cyclone formation in the Indian Ocean.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct option is (B)

- Saturn has 146 moons, while Jupiter has 92. Uranus and Neptune follow with 27 and 14 moons, respectively. Venus and Mercury have no moons at all.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Polity

6. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The abrogation of Article 370 essentially removed the special status that Jammu and Kashmir had enjoyed since the 1950s. As a result, it became a union territory.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Promoting regional autonomy within the Indian Union was not the primary rationale for abrogating Article 370. The move aimed to reduce J&K's autonomy, bringing it closer to the legal and administrative framework of the rest of India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. In India, the executive branch (i.e., the government) is accountable to the legislative branch (i.e., the Parliament). The Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are responsible to the Lok Sabha and can be removed by a vote of no confidence.
- Statement 2 is correct. India's governance structure is described as quasi-federal. It has features of both a unitary system (a strong central government) and a federal system (state governments with some autonomy).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct option is (C)

- India is a unique case of federalism, where the central government shares power with the states, but also has a degree of control over the states. The Indian constitution provides for a unique form of asymmetric federalism, where the central government has greater powers in some areas, while the states have greater powers in other areas. For example, while the central government is responsible for national security and defense, the states are responsible for law and order and education.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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

9. Correct option is (B)

- Political equality is the principle that emphasizes equal opportunities for all citizens to participate in the political process, irrespective of their economic, social, or cultural backgrounds. This means that every individual, regardless of factors such as wealth, social status, or cultural identity, should have an equal voice, influence, and ability to engage in political activities. Political equality ensures that each citizen has an equal opportunity to express their opinions, vote, and contribute to shaping policies.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. Subordinate legislation refers to laws or regulations created by authorities or bodies under the authority granted by an enabling act of Parliament. The primary legislation (act of Parliament) delegates specific powers to these authorities, allowing them to make detailed rules, regulations, or orders within the framework set by the enabling statute.
- For example, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issuing regulations or guidelines under the authority granted by the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The Banking Regulation Act is the primary legislation passed by the Parliament, and it empowers the RBI to regulate and supervise banks.
- Subordinate legislation can be challenged in court if someone believes it's invalid or exceeds the authority's powers.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Statutes are primary legislation enacted directly by the main legislative body and hold the highest legal force. Subordinate legislation draws its power from enabling statutes. While both have legal force, subordinate legislation holds less weight than an Act of Parliament. It can be overruled by courts or the Parliament itself.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Article 324 provides for the composition of the Election Commission of India (ECI). It specifies that the ECI shall consist of a Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners (ECs) as deemed necessary by the President. The ECI is responsible for the conduct of elections to the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and offices of the President and Vice President. It also has the power to advise the President on matters related to elections and to conduct elections to autonomous district councils and other local bodies as may be referred to it by the President.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct option is (B)

- Resigning from the party does not automatically lead to disqualification. An MP or MLA can resign and contest the next election on a different party ticket without being disqualified. The Anti-Defection Law does not restrict legislators from criticizing the government's policies. They have the right to express dissent within their party platforms or publicly. Attending an opposition party meeting alone is not a ground for disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law.
- However, Vote against the party whip is considered a violation of party discipline and can lead to disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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

13. Correct option is (D)

- Democracy is a form of government in which the people hold the power to make decisions about their society and their government. In a democratic system, citizens have the right to participate in the political process through voting, elections, and other forms of political expression.
- There are several key principles that are essential to democracy: Deliberation, Popular Sovereignty, Free and Fair Elections, Separation of Powers, Political equality, Majority rule, etc.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The maximum period for which an MP can be suspended is the remainder of the current session of Parliament. While the Constitution does provide for judicial review and gives courts the authority to interpret the Constitution and laws, it does not specifically empower courts to intervene in the procedural functioning of legislatures. Article 122 of the Constitution says parliamentary proceedings cannot be questioned before a court.
- Statement 2 is correct. Both the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha have the authority to direct an MP to withdraw from the House for any disorderly conduct that disrupts the proceedings. This is a temporary measure to restore order in the House.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct option is (A)

- Loss of salary and benefits for the suspension period - Suspended MPs are not entitled to receive their daily allowance or any other benefits for the duration of their suspension.
- Inability to participate in parliamentary debates and voting - Suspended MPs are barred from attending parliamentary proceedings and cannot participate in debates or vote on any bills or motions until their suspension is revoked.
- However, dissolution of Parliament is not a consequence of the suspension of MPs.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct option is (A)

- According to the Constitution of India, Parliament has the power to include or exclude communities from the list of Scheduled Castes. Article 341(2) of the Constitution states that "Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any caste, race, or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race, or tribe.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Acts & Policies

17. Correct option is (C)

- The components of Amrit Dharohar Scheme are - Species and Habitat Conservation, Nature Tourism, Wetlands Livelihoods, Wetlands Carbon. Amrit Dharohar Scheme is a government initiative aimed at conserving and sustainably managing India's wetlands. It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The scheme is being implemented in convergence with various Central Government ministries and agencies, State Wetland Authorities and a network of formal and informal institutions.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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

18. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Under Dare to Dream (D2D) Scheme, annual Dare to Dream Contests are organised to promote innovations by individual and start-ups for advancements in defence and aerospace technologies. It was initiated in memory of the former President of India, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The scheme has been launched by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Winners are eligible to secure funding through DRDO's TDF scheme for realizing prototypes, contingent on merit and feasibility.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

19. Correct option is (B)

- Under the Forest Rights Act, tribal communities have the right to harvest and use forest produce, including bamboo, for their traditional use and livelihoods. However, this does not extend to commercial sale or large-scale harvesting for profit. The tribal community's rights are limited to traditional use and not commercial sale.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

20. Correct option is (D)

- Khelo India is a national sports development program launched by the Government of India in 2018. The program aims to improve the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by identifying and developing talent, providing infrastructure and training, and promoting participation in sports. The Khelo India School Olympics is not a component of the initiative.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. Correct option is (A)

- Himadri is India's first Arctic research station, located at Spitsbergen, Svalbard, Norway. It was established in 2008 and supports research in various disciplines, including glaciology, atmospheric sciences, and marine biology.
- IndARC is the Indian Arctic Research Consortium, which was established in 2015 to coordinate and promote Arctic research in India. It brings together researchers from various institutions and disciplines to collaborate on Arctic-related projects.
- However, Maitri is not related to India's Arctic research initiatives, but rather is India's research station in Antarctica. Maitri was established in 1989 and supports research in various fields, including glaciology, geology, and atmospheric sciences.

Sources: [Forum IAS](#)

22. Correct option is (B)

- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) - This scheme aims to provide digital literacy to rural residents and farmers, with the goal of empowering them with essential digital skills.
- National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) - This mission aims to provide digital literacy to Indian youth and adults, with a focus on providing basic digital skills and awareness.
- The other two schemes, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), are focused on overall education and do not specifically target digital literacy.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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

23. Correct option is (B)

- The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 covers all places of worship that are open to the public for religious purposes, regardless of their age, historical significance, or religious denomination.
- According to the Act, the term "place of worship" includes any temple, mosque, gurudwara, church, monastery, or any other place of public religious worship.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

24. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. SIH is not an international competition. It is specifically designed for students in India, primarily focusing on engineering students from Indian institutions.
- Statement 2 is correct. Fostering a culture of product innovation, problem-solving, and out-of-the-box thinking in students is one of the core objectives of SIH. The hackathon challenges students to tackle real-world problems faced by various stakeholders, encouraging them to develop innovative solutions and apply their knowledge and skills in a practically.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

25. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The primary objective of the New Swarnima Loan Scheme is to provide financial assistance to women entrepreneurs from backward classes. It aims to inculcate the spirit of self-dependence among the women of Backward Classes under Term Loan.
- Statement 2 is correct. It has been introduced by National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC). Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal ministry for the scheme.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

26. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Mission Shakti is a mission mode scheme aimed at strengthening interventions for women's safety, security and empowerment. It aims to provide to all women and girls including differently-abled, socially and economically marginalized and vulnerable groups, in need of care and protection, with short-term and long-term services and information for their holistic development and empowerment.
- Statement 2 is correct. The scheme has been launched by the Ministry of Women Child Development (MWCD).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

27. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Bill provides clarity for satellite broadband services, an emerging field of telecom that is expected to expand connectivity to remote areas. The Bill simplifies the process of applying for licenses and permits for telecom operators, promoting ease of doing business in the sector.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Bill maintains the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) powers in areas like tariffs and dispute resolution.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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

Index & Reports

28. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. LEADS ranking is an annual ranking exercise providing insights into improvement of logistics performance at State/UT level. It was inspired by the Logistics Performance Index of the World Bank and has undergone continuous development since its inception. Unlike the LPI, which relies solely on perception-based surveys, LEADS incorporates both subjective and objective measures.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

International Relations/Organizations

29. Correct option is (D)

- The MSP initiative is a partnership among a group of countries aimed at promoting the development of critical mineral resources in a sustainable and responsible manner. The partner countries include Australia, Canada, Congo (DRC), France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Sweden, UK, and the US. Russia is not a partner in the MSP initiative. MSP aims to strengthen global supply chains and ensure access to these minerals for their critical applications in technologies such as electric vehicles, renewable energy, and defense equipment.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

30. Correct option is (B)

- New Delhi Declaration: It primarily emphasizes promoting responsible AI development and innovation. It focuses on equitable access, economic growth, and human-centric AI development. It promotes a multi-stakeholder approach to AI governance, involving governments, businesses, civil society, and academia. It emphasizes the importance of ethical considerations and human values in AI development.
- Bletchley Declaration: It primarily focuses on mitigating the security risks associated with advanced AI systems. It emphasizes the need for international cooperation and responsible development of AI that aligns with human values. It calls for international cooperation and regulation to address security risks associated with AI. It emphasizes the need for international norms and standards for responsible AI development.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

31. Correct option is (A)

- The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize is given for promoting peace, disarmament, and development. It is awarded annually by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust to individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions in these areas. The prize aims to recognize the efforts of individuals and organizations that work to promote peace, reduce conflict, and encourage sustainable development around the world. Eliminating insurgents is not a purpose for which the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize is given.
- Recently, Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad have been jointly awarded Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2023 for their efforts in bringing together the people of Israel and the Arab World for a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

32. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. TIWB is not a private firm. It is an international initiative led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

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

Development (OECD) that provides support and assistance to developing countries in strengthening their tax audit and administration systems.

- Statement 2 is correct. One of the key activities of TIWB is to provide training and capacity-building programs for tax officials in developing countries. These programs help tax officials improve their skills in areas such as international tax cooperation, transfer pricing, and cross-border tax issues.
- Recently, Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) launched a programme in Saint Lucia. India has been selected as the Partner Administration and will contribute Tax Experts to this programme.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

33. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. SDRs are not loans provided by the IMF. They are reserve assets created by the IMF and allocated to its member countries in proportion to their quotas in the organization. SDRs can be used by member countries to settle international payments, supplement their official reserves, and diversify their holdings. SDRs are not specifically used to finance infrastructure projects in developing countries. The primary role of SDRs is to: supplement the official reserves of member countries, promote global financial stability, enhance international cooperation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Economy

34. Correct option is (C)

- Negotiation: Negotiation involves direct communication between the parties themselves, without a neutral third party.
- Mediation: While there is a neutral third party in mediation, the mediator facilitates discussion and compromise, but doesn't make a binding decision.
- Conciliation: The conciliator tries to help the parties reach an agreement, but the resulting agreement is not enforceable in court like an arbitration award.
- Hence the statements describe about the arbitration. Arbitration in India is governed by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

35. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The core concept of social capital is not about monetary value but rather refers to the intangible resources embedded in social relationships, networks, and community bonds. It emphasizes the benefits individuals and communities gain from social interactions, trust, and cooperation.
- Statement 2 is correct. Strong social capital within a close-knit community can sometimes lead to challenges in integrating newcomers or outsiders. The existing social bonds may create barriers for those who are not part of the established network.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

36. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF) primarily aims to increase transparency and reduce tax evasion related to crypto-assets, rather than specifically targeting money laundering or terrorist financing. The CARF is not intended to create new taxes specifically for crypto-assets. Instead, it aims to bring crypto-assets within the existing tax framework and ensure that they are taxed like other financial assets.

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

- Statement 2 is correct. Under the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework, Overseas transactions in cryptocurrencies by Indian citizens will be reported to Indian tax authorities. This information exchange aims to increase transparency and prevent hiding crypto-asset holdings and income from the government.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

37. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB) is a global centre for trading of both rough and polished diamonds as well as jewellery. It has been designed by an architecture firm named Morphogenesis. It aims to shift the diamond trading business from Mumbai to Surat, which is the hub of diamond cutting and polishing with thousands of factories across the city. It is the world's largest diamond trading hub. It is also the world's largest office building ahead of The Pentagon.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

38. Correct option is (B)

- Terms of Trade (ToT) refers to the ratio of the prices at which a country sells its exports to the prices at which it buys its imports. In an economic context, TOT refer to the relationship between how much money a country pays for its imports and how much it earns from exports. It is expressed as a ratio of import prices to export prices.
- An increase in ToT means the country's exports are becoming more valuable relative to its imports. It also strengthens the currency, as exports bring in more foreign exchange. An increase in ToT indicates improved trade performance. A higher ToT means the country can buy more imports with the same number of exports.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

39. Correct option is (B)

- In a floating exchange rate system, if a country experiences a trade surplus, meaning it exports more goods and services than it imports, it can lead to an appreciation of its currency.
- This is because a trade surplus leads to an increased demand for the country's currency, as foreigners need to purchase the currency to pay for the country's exports. This increased demand can cause the currency's value to appreciate or rise against other currencies.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

40. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The normal net borrowing ceiling for states is fixed at 3 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). This is the base level set by the 15th Finance Commission as part of their recommendations for the 2023-24 financial year. This means that states can generally borrow up to 3% of their GSDP without requiring additional approvals or incentives. However, it varies from year to year as the Finance Commission determines the borrowing limit for each state based on several factors, including the state's revenue and fiscal management.
- In addition to the normal borrowing ceiling, states can be allocated an extra 0.5% of GSDP in borrowing capacity as an incentive for undertaking power sector reforms. This incentive is offered by the Ministry of Power, and states that meet the reform criteria can avail this additional borrowing limit.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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

41. Correct option is (B)

- If a large oil-producing country experiences political unrest and disruptions in supply, it could lead to higher oil prices and imported inflation in other countries.
- It could have no impact on inflation unless they import oil from that specific country: This is unlikely as oil prices fluctuate based on global supply and demand, not just individual import relationships.
- c) It could lead to lower oil prices and deflation: Disruptions usually lead to higher prices, not lower.
- The impact would depend on the specific economic conditions of each country: The impact of oil price changes on inflation varies across countries depending on their specific economic conditions, such as their reliance on imported oil and their ability to substitute other energy sources. However, a significant disruption in oil supply is likely to have inflationary effects on many countries.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

42. Correct option is (B)

- Evergreening of loans refers to the practice of extending the loan tenure without addressing the underlying issues, such as the borrower's inability to repay the loan or the deteriorating quality of the collateral. Evergreening involves renewing or rolling over a loan that is nearing maturity, without the borrower making any substantial repayments.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Environment

43. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is correct. There has been a shift on the dependence on critical minerals in the production of renewable energy technologies. Research and development efforts have led to advancements in materials science and technology, allowing for the development of renewable energy technologies that require less critical minerals or use alternative materials entirely. For example, research into lithium-free battery technologies is ongoing.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While Clean Coal Technology aims to reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants, it is not considered an alternative energy source as it still relies on a fossil fuel. Further, critical minerals remain essential for most major renewable energy technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries. This demand is projected to increase significantly in the coming years to meet ambitious climate goals. Research into new materials and technology to reduce reliance on specific critical minerals is ongoing. However, there still has not been enough/significant development in alternative energy resources that would replace the demand of critical minerals in the renewable energy technologies.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

44. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Barracuda is India's solar electric boat. It has been named after a swift, long fish named Barracuda. The boat can attain a top speed of 12 knots and has a range of 7 hours in a single charge. The vessel harnesses twin 50 kW electric motors, a marine-grade LFP battery, and 6 kW solar power. It is an eco-friendly vessel. It produces no noise and vibrations. It can accommodate upto 12 passengers and cargo. The boat will be deployed at Mazagon Dock at the Mumbai dock under the name Saur Sakthi.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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

45. Correct option is (A)

- The ENACT Partnership is led by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and its members include a number of countries, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions. The partnership aims to promote Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as an effective way to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and other environmental challenges.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

46. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. India is the third largest producer of renewable energy in the world.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. As of July 2023, India's non-fossil fuel capacity (including large hydro and nuclear) has crossed 40%, reaching approximately 43% of the total installed electricity capacity. Solar and wind power are the leading renewable energy sources in India, collectively contributing over 30% of the total installed capacity. As of July 2023, solar power accounts for roughly 70.1 GW and wind power for 43.7 GW, exceeding 30% combined.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

47. Correct option is (B)

- Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Sikkim and is known for its unique high-altitude habitat, which is home to a diverse flora and fauna, including the tiger. This sighting at an elevation of 3,640 meters sets a new record for the highest altitude where tigers have been spotted in India. The sanctuary is home to Red Panda (Sikkim's state animal), Himalayan Black Bear, Musk Deer among others. The sanctuary encompasses various eco-regions like Terai-Duar savanna, Eastern Himalayan broadleaf forests, Himalayan subtropical pine forests among others.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

48. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Ramsar Sites are designated specifically for the conservation of wetlands, while National Parks can cover various types of ecosystems. Ramsar Sites fall under an international treaty, the Ramsar Convention, while National Parks are typically managed by national legislation and regulations.
- Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect. National Parks generally prioritize strict conservation with limited human activities rather than emphasizing sustainable use. Whereas, Ramsar Sites focus on sustainable use. While some areas may overlap and hold both designations, being a National Park does not automatically make an area a Ramsar Site. However, some National Parks may also be designated as Ramsar Sites if they meet the criteria for wetland importance.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

49. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Under the scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat (IDWH), threatened species like marine turtles, humpback whales are prioritized for assessment and monitoring of their populations. Dugong Conservation Reserve has been established in Palk Bay for conservation of Dugongs and seagrass associated marine species.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Project Dolphin is the Government initiative to conserve both oceanic and riverine dolphin species.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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

50. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. While India plans to seek international climate finance support to help finance its NDC commitments, it is not the sole source of funding. India plans to leverage a combination of public and private investment, as well as domestic and international financing.
- Statement 2 is correct. India's NDC includes a target to achieve 50% of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. This target is an ambitious goal that will require significant investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other low-carbon technologies.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Science & Technology

51. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Electronic Cigarettes are often promoted as a less harmful alternative to conventional cigarettes. But they are not shown to be effective for quitting tobacco use at the population level. The World Health Organization (WHO) has cautioned against using e-cigarettes as a way to quit tobacco, as they can still lead to addiction and other health risks. Caffeine is generally not a common ingredient in e-liquids. The vast majority of e-liquids focus on flavors and nicotine content.
- Statement 3 is correct. India implemented a complete ban on the manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage, and advertisement of e-cigarettes and similar devices through the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarette Act, 2019. Possession of these devices, including personal use, is illegal and can lead to penalties.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

52. Correct option is (D)

- Web browsers fetch information from the internet in various formats. Browsers are designed to interpret and display different types of content, such as text, images, videos, and other multimedia formats. The formats that browsers can handle include HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and other multimedia formats such as JPEG, GIF, PNG, and MP4.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

53. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. JN.1 is a more transmissible variant than Omicron but causes less severe illness.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are incorrect. JN.1 was first detected in the United States and has since been identified in several other countries, including India. While JN.1 might exhibit some immune escape, data suggests existing vaccines still offer protection against severe illness and hospitalization. It is also not primarily responsible for the recent surge in COVID-19 cases globally.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

54. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Criticality refers to the state where the chain reaction of nuclear fission in a nuclear reactor is self-sustaining. This means that each fission event produces enough neutrons to cause further fissions, maintaining a constant rate of fission and energy release. It's the first step in nuclear energy generation. In 2022-23, nuclear energy formed around 2.8 percent of India's total energy production.

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

- Statement 2 is incorrect. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) is a nuclear power plant located in Surat, Gujarat. It is operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). The plant uses Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) which use natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as coolant and moderator. NPCIL presently operates 23 reactors with a total capacity of 7,480 MW.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

55. Correct option is (D)

- Zero Trust Authentication (ZTA) is a security model that requires all users and devices to be authenticated and authorized before they can access a network or system, regardless of their location or previous authentication status. The model is based on the principle that all network traffic, both internal and external, should be treated as potentially hostile, and that trust should never be assumed. This approach helps to protect against cyberattacks by limiting the access that attackers can gain if they manage to penetrate the network perimeter.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

56. Correct option is (D)

- HFSS are foods that are high in saturated fats, added sugars, and sodium. These foods can contribute to several negative health outcomes when consumed in excess, including the development of insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

57. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently added 'Noma' to its official list of neglected tropical diseases (NTD). It is a severe gangrenous (decaying because the blood has stopped flowing there) disease affecting the mouth and face. Noma eats away facial tissue and bones if not treated early. It is caused by the bacteria spirochete *Borrelia vincenti*, commonly found in the mouth. It typically begins as inflammation of gums but progresses rapidly, leading to extensive tissue destruction and eventually exposing facial bones. It is also called cancrum oris or gangrenous stomatitis. It has a mortality rate of around 90%.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

58. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is correct. Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) have gained increasing attention and funding from global health organizations in recent years. The World Health Organization (WHO) and other organizations have made significant efforts to raise awareness and mobilize resources for the prevention and control of NTDs.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Neglected Tropical Diseases generally have low mortality rates compared to other infectious diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, or HIV/AIDS. They are called "neglected" because they have been historically overlooked due to their limited impact on mortality, primarily affecting impoverished communities in tropical and subtropical regions.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

59. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India has the world's second-largest standing armed forces, with over 1.4 million active personnel. As of 2023, India has the third-largest defense budget globally, following the United States and China.

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

- Statement 3 is incorrect. While India and Malaysia do maintain cordial diplomatic relations and have collaborated on defense training exercises, their current level of military partnership wouldn't be considered very strong. India has strong military partnerships with key allies like the US, France, and Israel, providing access to advanced technology and training.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

