

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

January, 2024 1st Week

10 PM Compilation for the Month of January [First Week] 2024

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Art & Culture

Q.1) In the Jain philosophy, what does the term "Arihanta" signify?

- a) Enlightened soul who has conquered inner enemies.
- b) Celestial abode of Tirthankaras.
- c) The followers of Tirthankaras.
- d) The sacred scripture of Jainism.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Divya Kala Mela is a temple festival featuring grand processions of decorated elephants, traditional music, and fireworks.
- 2. National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC) functions as an apex institution for the benefit of Persons with Disabilities.

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.3) Consider the following statements:

- 1. He is referred to as Adi Kavi.
- 2. He is credited with composing the Ramayana.
- 3. Pargat Diwas is celebrated annually to commemorate his birth anniversary.

Who among the following has been described above?

- a) Agastya
- b) Vishwamitra
- c) Valmiki
- d) Vashishta

Modern Indian History

Q.4) 'Go Get Education' is a famous poem written by:

- a) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- b) Pandita Ramabai
- c) Savitribai Phule
- d) Annie Besant

Geography

Q.5) Which one of the following passes connects the Ladakh region with the rest of Jammu & Kashmir?

- a) Zoji La
- b) Rohtang Pass
- c) Nathu La
- d) Banihal Pass

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Q.6) With reference to the country Angola, consider the following statements:

1. It is a landlocked country.
2. Windhoek is its capital.
3. It is bordered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. There is no provision in India to declare any natural disaster as a “national disaster”.
2. A disaster can be declared a “calamity of rare severity” if that disaster is induced by harsh weather conditions.

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.8) With reference to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), consider the following statements:

1. It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology in India.
2. It provides predictions for earthquakes.
3. The IMD extensively uses satellite technology.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Polity

Q.9) With reference to the University Grants Commission (UGC) consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body set up by the Indian Union government in accordance with the UGC Act, 1956.
2. One of its functions is to set curriculum for all Universities in India.
3. It recognizes Technical Universities of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. The suffrage (right to vote) movement amongst women gained pace in the West after World War I.
2. France was the first nation to let women vote in national elections.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.11) United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has been involved in negotiations with the government. What significant development took place in 2011 regarding ULFA?

- a) Complete disarmament
- b) Recognition as a political party
- c) Formation of an autonomous region
- d) Exile of ULFA leaders

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. The term "terrorist" has been defined by the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).
2. The central government can designate an individual as a terrorist by publishing a notification in the official gazette and adding their name to the Fourth Schedule of the UAPA.

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

Acts & Policies

Q.13) The Indian government has launched several initiatives to boost the shipping industry. Which one of the following is NOT directly included in the government's initiatives to boost the Indian shipping industry?

- a) Sagarmala Project
- b) Make in India
- c) Coastal Shipping Policy
- d) Green Shipping Policy

Q.14) Which one of the following is the primary objective of the 'Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) scheme'?

- a) It aims to provide scholarships for higher education to students from Scheduled Castes.
- b) It aims to improve the quality of primary education in rural areas.
- c) It aims to bridge the gap in educational opportunities for students from Scheduled Castes in targeted areas.
- d) It aims to promote vocational training and skill development among Scheduled Castes communities.

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Q.15) With reference to Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote exploration and sustainable development of mineral resources.
2. Only major minerals like iron ore and coal are granted through a mining lease under the MMDR Act.

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.16) Consider the following statements with reference to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme:

1. It primarily aims to increase agricultural productivity and production.
2. The payment under the scheme is based on types of crops grown and types of fertilizers applied to the crops.

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.17) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The percentage of urban Indians living in slums has decreased in recent years.

Statement-II: Skill development programs and livelihood opportunities are empowering slum residents.

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

International Relations/Organizations

Q.18) In the context of bilateral relations between India and Russia, consider the following statements:

1. A major factor fostering close India-Russia ties is the common concern over rising Chinese influence in Asia.
2. Diverging strategic interests in the Middle East is one of the key challenges in India-Russia relations.
3. India and Russia are engaged in joint exploration of Arctic resources.

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.19) With reference to Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) consider the following statements:

1. One of its objectives is to promote research and development in renewable energy sources.
2. It regulates oil production mainly through negotiating deals with oil-consuming nations.

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) With reference to India-South Korea relations, consider the following statements:

1. A major pillar of current India-South Korea relations is military cooperation and joint defense exercises.
2. Economic exchange and trade partnerships during decolonization played a significant role in shaping the initial foundation of India-South Korea relations.
3. Environmental protection and climate change is one of the major areas of cooperation between India and South Korea.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.21) India and Pakistan recently exchanged lists of nuclear installations under a bilateral pact. With reference to this pact, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The primary purpose of exchanging lists of nuclear installations was to facilitate nuclear weapon testing.
2. The pact aims to promote economic trade between the two 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.22) Which one of the following international organizations plays a key role in monitoring and regulating nuclear activities to ensure compliance with the Global Nuclear Order (GNO)?

- a) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- b) United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
- c) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- d) Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

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Q.23) Consider the following statements:

1. The primary objective of the 'India Out' campaign in Maldives is to halt all the infrastructure projects involving India.
2. India considers the Maldives as its primary defense line against terrorism, drug trafficking, narcotics, and various maritime crimes.
3. India is developing the Greater Male Connectivity Project in Maldives.

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.24) Group of Seven's (G7's) role in addressing global health issues has evolved in recent years. In which one of the following ways, has the G7 evolved in its approach to addressing global health issues?

- a) The G7 has become less involved in global health issues due to competing priorities.
- b) The G7 has increased its focus on pandemic preparedness and response.
- c) The G7 has shifted its focus towards promoting access to healthcare in developing countries.
- d) The G7 has established a new health-focused organization to manage global health initiatives.

Q.25) With reference to the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar, consider the following statements:

1. It is an agreement facilitating trade and investment between the two countries.
2. Visa-on-arrival at a Myanmar border checkpoint was required for Indian citizens to avail the FMR benefits in Myanmar.
3. The entire length of the India-Myanmar border is covered under the FMR.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Economy

Q.26) Consider the following:

1. Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)
2. RuPay
3. Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
4. International money transfers
5. Cryptocurrencies

In how many of the above-mentioned areas does the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) have a role?

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

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Q.27) Consider the following statements:

1. Shipping is the cheapest and most efficient method of transporting goods over long distances.
2. The waters of the Indian Ocean carry approximately 80% of the world's oil.
3. Malacca Strait and Hormuz Strait present in the Indian Ocean are narrow passages, also known as "choke points".

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.28) With reference to Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs) consider the following statements:

1. They exist outside of traditional financial systems and are generally not issued by any central authority.
2. All VDAs are based on blockchain technology.

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.29) With reference to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), consider the following statements:

1. In GST, exporters don't pay taxes on their output but are entitled to refunds on the taxes they paid on their inputs.
2. The GST is levied on manufacture and sale of goods only.
3. Under the GST regime, goods and services are classified into different tax slabs based only on their essential nature.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.30) With reference to the Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. D-SIBs are banks whose failure might seriously disrupt the financial system.
2. The primary purpose of identifying D-SIBs is to provide government bailouts to these banks in case of failure.
3. Profitability and financial health are some of the factors considered when identifying D-SIBs in India.

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

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Q.31) Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised guidelines for classifying accounts and deposits as inoperative accounts. With reference to these guidelines, consider the following statements:

1. Banks cannot impose penalties for not maintaining minimum balances in accounts classified as inoperative.
2. Interest on savings accounts should be regularly credited, regardless of the account's operational status.
3. Bank-induced transactions are necessary for an account to be operative.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.32) Consider the following:

1. Trade in goods and services
2. Investment
3. Intellectual property rights
4. E-commerce

How many of the above-mentioned sectors are included within the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement?

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

Environment

Q.33) With reference to Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ), consider the following statements:

1. An ESZ has stricter regulations compared to a National Park.
2. The buffer zone concept in ESZ management refers to an area where stricter regulations apply to minimize impacts on the core zone.
3. Economic potential and development prospects are among the factors considered for designation as an ESZ.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.34) In hydroponics, plants are grown without soil using:

- a) Organic matter like compost
- b) A combination of soil and water
- c) A nutrient-rich water solution
- d) Specialized nutrients sprayed on leaves

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Q.35) Which one of the following is the core strategy of “Project Tiger” for tiger conservation?

- a) It aims to reintroduce tigers in areas where they have become extinct.
- b) It aims at establishment of a network of tiger reserves with protected core areas and buffer zones.
- c) It aims at relocation of human settlements from tiger habitats.
- d) It aims at legal protection of tigers and their prey species.

Q.36) With reference to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), consider the following statements:

- 1. Increased patrolling and anti-poaching measures is one of the key components of the NTCA's strategy for tiger conservation.
- 2. NTCA operates as a statutory body within the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- 3. M-STrIPES system used by the NTCA is a camera trap network for capturing images of tigers and other wildlife.

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.37) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Eurasian Otter holds a conservation status of “Endangered” on the IUCN list.
- 2. Eurasian Otter can be found in Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary.

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.38) Which one of the following is the objective of Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) Mission?

- a) It aims to search for signs of water ice on the Moon's surface.
- b) It aims to deploy a network of seismic sensors for understanding lunar structure.
- c) It aims to test and demonstrate new technologies for future lunar missions.
- d) It aims to collect and analyze lunar soil samples for resource potential.

Q.39) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Increased government control over citizens
- 2. Violations of individual privacy rights
- 3. Identity theft and financial fraud

How many of the above is/are the concerns/risks associated with Pegasus spyware?

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

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Q.40) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Near Field Communication (NFC) technology used in 'UPI Tap and Pay' has a limited range.

Statement-II: Near Field Communication (NFC) technology ensures secure transaction initiation and prevents accidental payments.

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.41) Which of the following are considered as 'Neuropsychiatric Disorders'?

- 1. Depression
- 2. Bipolar disorder
- 3. Dementia
- 4. Malaria

Select the correct code given below:

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

Q.42) 'Huntington's Disease', seen in the news recently, affects -

- a) Heart
- b) Brain
- c) Liver
- d) Kidney

Q.43) Which one of the following is the primary reason for changing the Naval Ensign?

- a) To incorporate modern design elements.
- b) To reflect India's growing maritime power.
- c) To move away from colonial symbols.
- d) To align with the current national flag of India.

Q.44) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Tracking ancient migration patterns
- 2. Analyzing environmental changes through ice cores
- 3. Authenticating historical artifacts
- 4. Determining the age of fossils and archaeological remains

In how many of the above given areas 'Radiocarbon Dating' does NOT find application?

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

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Q.45) With reference to the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) Mission, consider the following statements:

1. The mission's primary objective is to study celestial objects like black holes, neutron stars, and other high-energy phenomena in space.
2. The XPoSat satellite is equipped with advanced X-ray polarimeters, which can measure the polarization of X-rays emitted by these cosmic bodies.

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) It becomes difficult to study X-rays from space because:

1. The Earth's atmosphere reflects most of it.
2. Presence of low energy resolution in X-ray detectors
3. X-rays' high energy makes it difficult to focus with lenses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.47) Which one of the following is the primary purpose of the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)?

- a) It aims to launch satellites into space.
- b) It aims to conduct scientific experiments in microgravity.
- c) It aims to launch India's first manned moon mission.
- d) It aims to conduct astrophysical observations from a stable platform.

Q.48) With reference to the Indian Railways, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Green Building Council's (IGBC's) Green Railway Stations rating system is the first comprehensive rating system in India, addressing environmental sustainability specifically in Indian railway stations.
2. Vande Bharat trains runs on "push-pull" technology featuring locomotives at both ends for better acceleration.

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) Which one of the following distinguishes "Chameleon Trojan Malware" from other types of Trojans?

- a) It replicates itself and spreads to other computers.
- b) It exploits vulnerabilities in software to spread.
- c) It disguises itself as legitimate software and can change its code to evade detection.
- d) It collects personal information without the user's knowledge.

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Q.50) 'DESERT CYCLONE', a joint military exercise was recently conducted between:

- a) India and Australia
- b) India and Saudi Arabia
- c) India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- d) India and Egypt

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

Art & Culture

1. Correct Answer is (A)

- Arihanta denotes an enlightened soul who has conquered inner enemies. In Jainism, the term "Arihanta" refers to a soul that has attained enlightenment and conquered its inner enemies, such as attachment, aversion, and ignorance. This achievement is considered the highest spiritual goal in Jainism.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Divya Kala Mela is not a temple festival featuring elephant processions and fireworks. Instead, it is an annual event organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It provides a platform for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) to showcase their talents and skills in various fields such as art, culture, sports, and entrepreneurship. The event typically features a range of activities such as dance, music, theater, painting, sculpture, and other forms of art.
- Statement 2 is correct. The National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC) is a not-for-profit company established under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Its primary objective is to promote entrepreneurship among Persons with Disabilities by providing access to finance and other support services. NDFDC functions as an apex institution and coordinates with various stakeholders to facilitate economic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (C)

- Valmiki is referred to as Adi Kavi, which translates to the "first/original poet" in Sanskrit. He is credited with composing the Ramayana, one of the earliest and most revered epic poems in the Sanskrit literary tradition. Valmiki Jayanti, also known as Pargat Diwas, is celebrated annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maharishi Valmiki. It is celebrated on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Ashvin (September-October).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Modern Indian History

4. Correct Answer is (C)

- Savitribai Phule was a pioneering Indian social reformer and educator who advocated for the cause of women's education, particularly for low-caste communities. "Go, Get Education" is one of her most famous poems, urging women to break free from societal barriers and seek knowledge. She became India's first woman teacher and first Indian headmistress.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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Geography

5. Correct Answer is (A)

- Zoji La pass connects the Ladakh region with the rest of Jammu & Kashmir. It is a high mountain pass located in the Kargil district of Ladakh, at an altitude of approximately 3,528 meters. It is an important pass for the movement of people and goods between Ladakh and the rest of Jammu & Kashmir.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Angola is not a landlocked country. It is located on the west coast of southern Africa and has a coastline of approximately 1,600 km. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The capital of Angola is Luanda, which is located on the country's Atlantic coast.
- Statement 3 is correct. Angola is bordered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north, as well as by Zambia to the east and Namibia to the south.
- Recently, Angola has opted to withdraw from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) due to a disagreement concerning oil production quotas.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. According to the National Disaster Management Authority of India, there is no provision in the country's disaster management laws to declare any natural disaster as a "national disaster." The authority classifies disasters based on their severity and geographical scale, but there is no specific category for "national disasters."
- Statement 2 is incorrect. A disaster can be declared a "Calamity of rare severity" based on its intensity, scale, and impact, regardless of whether it is induced by harsh weather conditions or not.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting, and seismology in India. It was established in 1875 and is one of the oldest meteorological departments in the world. The IMD extensively uses satellite technology in its operations. It uses data from various Indian and international satellites to monitor the atmosphere, ocean, and land surfaces, and to improve its weather forecasting and early warning capabilities.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Earthquake prediction falls under the purview of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), and not the IMD.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Polity

9. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. The University Grants Commission (UGC) was established in 1956 as a statutory body of the Indian government under the UGC Act, 1956. Its primary objective is to coordinate and determine the standards of higher education in India.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. While the UGC sets minimum standards for degrees and recommends the recognition of degrees and institutions, it does not directly set the curriculum for all universities. Curriculum development is typically done by the universities themselves, although they

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must adhere to the UGC's minimum standards and guidelines. The UGC also does not recognize and provide approval to technical universities in India. The University Grants Commission (UGC) primarily deals with universities offering traditional academic programs in Arts, Humanities, Sciences, Commerce, Education, Law, etc. Technical universities in India come under the purview of a different regulatory body, the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10. Correct Answer is (A)

- **Statement 1** is correct. The suffrage movement, which advocated for women's right to vote, gained significant momentum in the West after World War I. During the war, many women took on new roles and responsibilities in the workforce and society, which helped to challenge traditional gender roles and stereotypes. This led to increased support for suffrage and ultimately led to the extension of voting rights to women in many countries.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. New Zealand was the first country to grant women suffrage in 1893.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (A)

- The significant development that took place in 2011 regarding the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) was complete disarmament. This agreement was signed by the Indian government, the Assam government, and the ULFA, marking a step towards peace and an end to violence in the region.
- The agreement was seen as a significant development in the ongoing negotiations between the government and the ULFA, and it paved the way for further dialogue and progress towards a peaceful resolution to the conflict.
- Rajkhowa faction of the ULFA signed a ceasefire agreement with the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government only in 2011, and has since been in negotiations with the Centre for a peace deal.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The UAPA doesn't define "terror" or "terrorist," but it defines a "terrorist act" as any action intended to threaten India's unity, integrity, security, economic security, or sovereignty, or to instill terror in the people domestically or internationally.
- Statement 2 is correct. The UAPA was amended in 2019 to allow the central government to designate individuals as terrorists by publishing a notification in the official gazette and adding their name to the Fourth Schedule of the act.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Acts & Policies

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Make in India initiative was launched by the Indian government in 2014 with the aim of transforming India into a global manufacturing hub and boosting the country's economy. While the initiative covers various sectors, it does not specifically focus on the shipping industry.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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14. Correct Answer is (C)

- SHRESHTA is a scheme launched by the Indian government to improve the educational outcomes of Scheduled Castes (SC) students in specific/targeted areas. The scheme aims to bridge the gap in educational opportunities for SC students by providing them with access to high-quality residential education. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal ministry for the scheme. SC students studying in class 8th and 10th in the current academic year are eligible under the scheme.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct Answer is (A)

- **Statement 1** is correct. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) aims to regulate the mining sector in India and promote the scientific development of mineral resources, including coal, lignite, and other minerals, with a view to conserving them for future generations. It also seeks to ensure that the country's mineral resources are used for the benefit of the nation and its people.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. The MMDR Act covers both major and minor minerals. While major minerals like iron ore and coal fall under its purview, the act also extends to minor minerals such as limestone, granite, and sand. Mining leases can be granted for both major and minor minerals as specified in the provisions of the MMDR Act.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct Answer is (D)

- **Statements 1 and 2** are incorrect. The primary aim of PM-Kisan is not to directly increase agricultural productivity and production. While it aims to support farmers financially, it does not focus on specific production goals or interventions.
- The payment under the PM-Kisan scheme is not based on the types of crops grown or fertilizers used. Instead, it provides a fixed income support of Rs. 6,000 per year to eligible farmer families, which is disbursed in three equal installments of Rs. 2,000 each.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

17. Correct Answer is (B)

- **Statement 1** is correct. As per a recent World Bank report there has been a decrease in the percentage of slum dwellers. Several factors, including economic growth, improved infrastructure, and government initiatives, have contributed to this trend.
- **Statement 2** is correct. Skill development programs and livelihood opportunities are empowering slum residents to improve their socioeconomic conditions. By acquiring new skills and exploring alternative means of earning a living, many slum dwellers have been able to escape the cycle of poverty and build better lives for themselves and their families.
- However, Statement-II does not directly explain Statement-I. The decrease in slum population could be due to various factors like government housing schemes, economic growth, or even migration. While skill development and livelihood opportunities have contributed to the positive trend, they are not the sole or comprehensive explanation for the decrease in slum population.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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International Relations/Organizations

18. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. A major factor fostering close India-Russia ties is the common concern over rising Chinese influence in Asia. Both countries have experienced border tensions and geopolitical disagreements with China. This shared concern for China's growing influence has become a key driver of strategic partnership and diplomatic support between them.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. While there may be some differences in their strategic interests in the Middle East, India and Russia have maintained close cooperation in the region, including in areas such as counterterrorism and energy security. Therefore, diverging strategic interests in the Middle East are not a key challenge in their relationship. While India and Russia have engaged in various energy cooperation projects, joint exploration of Arctic resources is not one of them.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

19. Correct Answer is (D)

- **Statements 1 and 2** are incorrect. Promoting research and development in renewable energy sources is not one of OPEC's stated objectives. OPEC's primary focus is on regulating oil production and stabilizing oil prices in the global market, and it does not have a specific mandate to promote renewable energy.
- The main instrument for regulating oil production is setting individual quotas for each member country. This directly controls the amount of oil each country can produce, limiting the overall supply and influencing global oil prices.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

20. Correct Answer is (A)

- **Statements 1 and 2** are incorrect. While military cooperation and joint exercises have increased in recent years, they are not the primary pillar of India-South Korea relations. Trade, cultural exchange, and technology partnerships are more prominent factors.
- Economic exchange and trade partnerships have been an important aspect of India-South Korea relations; however, they were not a significant factor during the decolonization period. India and South Korea established formal diplomatic relations in 1973, nearly two decades after India gained independence from British rule. The initial foundation of the relationship was based on shared values and cultural ties.
- **Statement 3** is correct. Environmental protection and climate change have emerged as key areas of cooperation between India and South Korea. The two countries have signed several agreements and MoUs to collaborate on renewable energy, green technologies, and sustainable development. They have also engaged in joint research projects and knowledge exchanges to address common environmental challenges and support sustainable growth.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The pact, officially called the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities, emphasizes transparency and aims to prevent accidental or deliberate attacks on each other's nuclear facilities. Sharing the locations of these facilities helps build trust and reduces the risk of miscalculation in times of tension. The specific goal of the pact is to minimize the risk of nuclear conflict, not to boost economic cooperation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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22. Correct Answer is (A)

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the principal international organization responsible for promoting safe, secure, and peaceful nuclear technologies. It plays a crucial role in monitoring and regulating nuclear activities to ensure compliance with international agreements and the Global Nuclear Order.
- The IAEA's mandate includes verifying that countries are complying with their non-proliferation commitments, promoting nuclear safety and security, and facilitating the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

23. Correct Answer is (B)

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. The India Out campaign's primary objective is to reduce Indian influence in the Maldives. It is a political movement to mobilise people in Maldives against India. The campaign is against the presence of Indian military on Maldivian soil.
- **Statements 2 and 3** are correct. India has historically viewed the Maldives as a crucial partner in its defense and security strategy and has invested in strengthening their defense cooperation. Hence, it considers the Maldives as its primary defense line against terrorism, drug trafficking, narcotics, and various maritime crimes.
- The Greater Male Connectivity Project is a large-scale infrastructure project being developed in the Maldives with Indian financial and technical assistance. It is designed to improve connectivity between the Maldivian capital Male and nearby islands, supporting the country's economic and social development.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

24. Correct Answer is (B)

- After the COVID-19 pandemic, the G7 has increased its focus on preventing and responding to future pandemics. The G7 has recognized the need for coordinated global action to prepare for and respond to health crises and has taken steps to strengthen global health architecture. The G7 has launched initiatives like the ACT-Accelerator, which aims to develop and equitably distribute COVID-19 vaccines, tests, and treatments. The G7 also established the Pandemic Preparedness and Response Framework to strengthen health systems and prevent future pandemics.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

25. Correct answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. Although the FMR aimed to improve border relations and connect communities, it wasn't primarily focused on facilitating trade or investment. It was designed for temporary cross-border movement for specific purposes like trade, farming, and family visits. Visa requirements were not a part of the FMR, and Indian citizens could avail of its benefits without a visa. The FMR was a visa-free arrangement based on a longstanding understanding between the two countries. The FMR was restricted to a specific area within 16 km on either side of the border, not the entire 1,643 km length.
- Note: Recently, the Indian government has announced its intention to end the FMR along the India-Myanmar border. This is being done as a measure to enhance border security.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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Economy

26. Correct Answer is (B)

- NPCI has a role in 3 out of the 5 mentioned areas:
 1. Immediate Payment Service (IMPS): NPCI operates and manages IMPS, which allows real-time fund transfers between bank accounts within India.
 2. RuPay: NPCI promotes and develops the RuPay card network, offering an alternative to international card brands for debit and prepaid card transactions in India.
 3. Unified Payments Interface (UPI): NPCI built and manages UPI for instant cashless payments between bank accounts in India.
- However, NPCI does not play a role in:
 4. International money transfers: NPCI currently focuses on domestic transactions. Sending or receiving money internationally requires other platforms and intermediaries like SWIFT or specialized money transfer services.
 5. Cryptocurrencies: Cryptocurrencies operate outside the traditional banking system and are not regulated by NPCI or any other central bank in India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

27. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Shipping is often the most cost-effective and efficient method of transporting goods over long distances, especially for bulky or heavy items. It is particularly advantageous for transporting goods between different continents. The Indian Ocean carries a significant amount of the world's oil, approximately 80% of the world's oil. Both Malacca Strait and Hormuz Strait are important global trade routes in the Indian Ocean and are considered strategic choke points due to their narrowness. They can be vulnerable to disruptions, impacting global oil and trade flows.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

28. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs) operate independently of traditional financial systems and are typically not issued or controlled by any central authority, such as a government or a bank. VDAs exist on decentralized networks and use distributed ledger technologies to facilitate secure and transparent transactions without intermediaries.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While blockchain technology is commonly used for VDAs like cryptocurrencies, it's not universally required. Some VDAs utilize different technologies like centralized databases or peer-to-peer networks.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

29. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. In GST, exports are zero-rated, which means that exporters don't pay taxes on their output but are entitled to refunds on the taxes they paid on their inputs.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. GST is levied on the supply of goods and services, not just manufacture and sale. While the essential nature of goods and services is a factor in their tax classification under GST, it's not the sole determinant. Other factors like economic utility, luxury vs. necessity, revenue potential, and social considerations also influence the tax slabs assigned to different goods and services.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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30. Correct Answer is (B)

- **Statement 1** is correct. Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) are those banks whose failure has the potential to seriously disrupt the overall financial system and economy due to their systemic importance.
- **Statements 2 and 3** are incorrect. The primary purpose of identifying D-SIBs is not to provide government bailouts. Instead, the identification is part of a regulatory framework to ensure that these banks are subject to additional regulatory requirements and higher capital buffers to mitigate the risks they pose to the financial system. The idea is to prevent their failure and minimize the impact on the economy. Profitability and financial health are not typically considered as direct factors when identifying Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) in India. The criteria for identifying D-SIBs commonly include factors such as size, interconnectedness, complexity, and cross-jurisdictional activities.
- Recently, the RBI has retained the status of the State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

31. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. According to the revised guidelines, banks cannot impose penalties for non-maintenance of minimum balances in accounts classified as inoperative. Interest on savings accounts should be credited regularly, regardless of the account's operational status, according to the guidelines.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. To classify an account as operative, only transactions initiated by the customer will be taken into account, excluding those initiated by the bank.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

32. Correct Answer is (D)

- All four sectors are included within the RCEP agreement. The RCEP also covers other areas such as competition policy, government procurement, and labor and environmental protections. Overall, the agreement aims to create a comprehensive framework for economic cooperation among its members, with the goal of boosting trade and investment flows and fostering sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Environment

33. Correct option is (A)

- **Statements 1 and 3** are incorrect. National Parks are designated areas for wildlife conservation, and they have the highest level of protection among protected areas in India. On the other hand, Eco-Sensitive Zones are areas around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries that are identified as fragile ecosystems in need of conservation and protection. While ESZs have regulations to protect the environment, they are generally less stringent than those in a National Park.
- Economic potential and development prospects are not among the factors considered for designation as an ESZ. Rather, factors such as the presence of endangered species and unique habitats, ecological fragility and susceptibility to degradation, and cultural and religious significance of the area are considered.

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- **Statement 2** is correct. The buffer zone concept in ESZ management refers to an area surrounding the core zone where stricter regulations apply to minimize the impact on the core zone's environment. The buffer zone acts as a transition area between the core zone and the outside environment, helping to mitigate the impact of human activities on the fragile ecosystem of the core zone.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

34. Correct Answer is (C)

- Hydroponics is a method of growing plants without soil, relying on a water-based solution packed with essential nutrients to sustain the plant's needs. This solution typically contains inorganic salts and may be further supplemented with other elements like oxygen, chelating agents, and pH adjusters. Therefore, in hydroponics, plants are grown without soil using a nutrient-rich water solution.
- Other than hydroponics, studies have revealed about electronic soils (eSoil). eSoil serves as a low-power bioelectronic growth substrate capable of electrically stimulating both the root system and the growth environment of plants. This innovative substrate has been derived from cellulose and the conductive polymer PEDOT. Its active material is an organic mixed-ionic electronic conductor. It is also a sustainable way for urban agriculture and ensuring food security.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

35. Correct Answer is (B)

- The core strategy of Project Tiger for tiger conservation is the establishment of a network of tiger reserves with protected core areas and buffer zones.
- The program aims to create a system of tiger reserves across India, each with a core area where tigers can live without human disturbance and a buffer zone that serves as a migration corridor and a buffer against external pressures.
- This strategy aims to ensure that tigers have sufficient habitat to support a viable population and can move freely between different areas. The protected core areas also help to safeguard tigers from poaching and other human-induced threats.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

36. Correct Answer is (A)

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. Increased patrolling and anti-poaching measures are essential components of the NTCA's strategy to protect tigers and their habitats. The NTCA provides support to state governments for the deployment of protection force and modernization of patrolling equipment to prevent poaching and other illegal activities in tiger reserves. The NTCA is a statutory body constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and it functions under the guidance of the MoEFCC.
- **Statement 3** is incorrect. The M-STripes system is not a camera trap network, but a monitoring system that uses data collected from various sources, including camera traps, to track tiger movements, record sightings, and collect information on threats to tiger conservation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

37. Correct Answer is (B)

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. The Eurasian Otter holds a conservation status of "Near Threatened" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

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- **Statement 2** is correct. The Eurasian Otter has been spotted in the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala. This is significant because it is the first time the species has been recorded in the state.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Science & Technology

38. Correct option is (C)

- SLIM is Japan's first lunar surface mission. The primary objective of this mission is to demonstrate a highly-accurate lunar soft-landing using a lightweight architecture. It aims to test and demonstrate new technologies that can be used in future lunar missions, such as a vision-based navigation system and observational data from previous lunar missions.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

39. Correct Answer is (C)

- Increased government control over citizens: Pegasus spyware has been used by governments to monitor and track the activities of citizens, including activists, journalists, and political opponents, which raises concerns about government overreach and violations of civil liberties.
- Violations of individual privacy rights: Pegasus spyware can access sensitive personal information stored on infected devices, such as messages, photos, and location data, without the knowledge or consent of the device's owner. This raises serious concerns about violations of individual privacy rights.
- Identity theft and financial fraud: Pegasus spyware has the capability to steal sensitive personal information, including login credentials and financial data, which can be used for identity theft and financial fraud.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

40. Correct Answer is (B)

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. Near Field Communication (NFC) technology is a short-range wireless technology. It typically requires a distance of 4 cm or less to initiate a connection. It allows NFC-enabled devices to communicate with each other and transfer information quickly and easily with a single touch — whether to pay bills, exchange business cards, download coupons or share a document.
- NFC transmits data through electromagnetic radio fields to enable communication between two devices.
- Near Field Communication (NFC) technology ensures secure transaction initiation. It uses cryptographic credit card processing to generate a new authentication code for each transaction without revealing the raw card details. This adds an extra layer of security to prevent accidental payments.
- Hence, both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct. However, Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I. The limited range of NFC technology does not directly relate to its ability to ensure secure transaction initiation and prevent accidental payments. NFC technology incorporates other security features, such as data encryption and secure element technology, which help prevent fraud and protect user information.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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41. Correct Answer is (A)

- Neuropsychiatric disorders are a complex group of conditions that involve both neurological (brain) and psychiatric (mental) symptoms. They affect the way we think, feel, and behave, and can significantly impact our daily lives.
- Neuropsychiatric disorders include disorders such as autism, Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and intellectual disability in childhood. It also includes mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, eating disorder, addictions, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder.
- And traumatic brain injury, spinal injury, epilepsy, stroke. Neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's dementia and Parkinson's disease that appear in old age.
- However, Malaria is not a neuropsychiatric disorder. It is a mosquito-borne infectious disease caused by a parasite that infects red blood cells. While malaria can cause fever, chills, and flu-like symptoms, it is not classified as a neuropsychiatric disorder.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

42. Correct Answer is (B)

- Huntington's Disease affects the brain. It is a neurological disorder that causes degeneration of certain areas of the brain, leading to symptoms like involuntary movements, cognitive decline, and behavioral changes.
- Huntington's Disease is caused by a mutation in a specific gene that leads to the production of an abnormal protein that damages brain cells. It is an inherited disorder, meaning it is passed down from parent to child through a defective gene.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

43. Correct Answer is (C)

- The primary reason for changing the Naval Ensign was to remove the colonial symbols from the Indian Navy's flag and replace them with a more indigenous design.
- The new Naval Ensign, which was adopted on September 2022, replaces the Saint George's Cross with a blue octagon with twin golden borders, containing the Indian Navy's emblem at the center.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

44. Correct Answer is (A)

- Radiocarbon dating is not applicable in the context of analyzing environmental changes through ice cores. While it is commonly used in tracking ancient migration patterns, authenticating historical artifacts, and determining the age of fossils and archaeological remains, its effectiveness is limited when it comes to dating ice cores.
- Ice cores are typically dated using other methods such as annual layer counting, isotopic analysis, and sometimes radioisotope methods other than radiocarbon dating.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

45. Correct Answer is (C)

- **Statements 1 and 2** are correct. XPOsat mission is specifically designed to observe sources that emit strong X-rays, including black holes, neutron stars, supernova remnants, and active galaxies. By studying their X-ray emissions, scientists hope to understand their physical processes, structure, and evolution. XPOsat carries two key instruments: POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) and XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing). POLIX is the primary polarimeter, capable of measuring

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the degree and angle of polarization of X-ray light. This information provides crucial insights about the magnetic fields and acceleration mechanisms around these high-energy objects.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

46. Correct Answer is (C)

- Earth's atmosphere absorbs most X-rays, not reflect them. X-rays are high-energy electromagnetic radiation, and the molecules in our atmosphere, particularly nitrogen and oxygen, absorb them. Hence, it becomes difficult to observe X-rays from space on the ground.
- Low energy resolution in X-ray detectors: Energy resolution refers to the ability of a detector to distinguish between X-rays of different energies. This is important for identifying the specific elements present in astronomical objects, as each element has a unique X-ray emission signature. Modern X-ray detectors used in space-based telescopes have high energy resolution, allowing for precise identification of elements.
- X-rays' high energy makes it difficult to focus with lenses: X-rays have high energy and short wavelengths, making them challenging to manipulate with traditional lenses or mirrors used for visible light. Unlike visible light, X-rays are not easily refracted or reflected, requiring specialized techniques and instruments, such as X-ray telescopes with grazing incident mirrors, to focus and capture X-rays for scientific observations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

47. Correct Answer is (B)

- The PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) is a platform designed to utilize the spent fourth stage (PS4) of the PSLV rocket as an orbital platform for scientific experiments in microgravity. This innovative concept enables further utilization of the PS4 stage after its primary role in launching satellites. POEM provides a unique opportunity for researchers and scientists to utilize the microgravity environment of space for their experiments.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

48. Correct Answer is (A)

- **Statement 1** is correct. The IGBC's Green Railway Stations rating system is the first comprehensive rating system in India that specifically addresses environmental sustainability in railway stations. It evaluates the environmental performance of railway stations across several criteria, including energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, and more.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. Vande Bharat trains do not use "push-pull" technology. They are electric multiple units (EMUs) with motors distributed throughout the trainset, eliminating the need for a separate locomotive at either end.
- Note: Vande Bharat trains run on distributed power technology whereas Amrit Bharat trains run on push pull technology.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

49. Correct Answer is (C)

- Chameleon is a type of Trojan malware that targets Android devices. It is designed to evade detection by disguising itself as legitimate software and changing its code to avoid being identified by security software. This makes it particularly dangerous and difficult to remove. Chameleon is capable of stealing sensitive information from infected devices, including banking credentials, personal data, and other confidential information. It can also evade detection by malware scanning apps.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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50. Correct Answer is (C)

- "Desert Cyclone" is a joint military exercise that commenced recently in Rajasthan, India, involving troops from the Indian Army and the UAE Army. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability between the two armies through the exchange of best practices and experiences in counter-terrorism operations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

