

# **10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation**

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*For UPSC CSE Prelims*

**December, 2023 4<sup>th</sup> Week**

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

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## Art & Culture, Ancient & Medieval History

**Q.1) With reference to Sahitya Akademi Awards, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the second highest literary honour by the Government of India, after Jnanpith award.
2. Popularity and commercial success of the book is one of the criteria recognized for the award.
3. In order to be eligible for the award, the author must be an Indian national or a person of Indian origin.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Q.2) Which one of the following statements is correct with reference to 'Frescoes', a form of mural painting?**

- a) It is a painting technique that uses pigments mixed with hot, liquid wax.
- b) It involves applying pigments mixed with water onto a wet plaster surface.
- c) It is a small, finely detailed painting, often portrait-based.
- d) It is a painting technique where the paint is applied thickly to create a textured surface.

**Q.3) Consider the following statements:**

1. Monuments of National Importance (MNI) are declared by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
2. The primary function of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is to manage museums and art galleries.

**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.4) Consider the following statements:**

1. Veer Bal Diwas is observed on December 26 to honor the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's youngest sons Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Baba Fateh Singh Ji.
2. Battle of Chanderi was fought between the Sikhs and Mughals in which Guru Gobind Singh's youngest sons were captured by the Mughals.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

## Geography

**Q.5) Which one of the following statements best describes “Katabatic Winds”?**

- a) Warm, dry winds blowing from mountains towards the valleys.
- b) Cold, dense winds sinking down slopes due to gravity.
- c) Strong, gusty winds associated with thunderstorms.
- d) Humid, offshore winds bringing fog and drizzle.

**Q.6) Which one of the following is a key function of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) related to disaster management?**

- a) Tsunami prediction
- b) Earthquake monitoring
- c) Cyclone tracking
- d) Volcanic eruption forecasting

**Q.7) Consider the following pairs:**

**Waterways -----Specifications**

- 1. Suez Canal-----Connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea.
- 2. Panama Canal-----Connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
- 3. Kiel Canal-----Connects the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf.
- 4. Grand Canal-----Connects Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

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

**Q.8) In which one of the following geographical regions is the “Red Sea” situated?**

- a) Between the Arabian Peninsula and East Africa
- b) Between the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea
- c) Between the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal
- d) Between the North Sea and the Baltic Sea

## Polity

**Q.9) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution explicitly prohibits child labor.
- 2. The Directive Principles of State Policy guide the government to enact laws for providing free and compulsory education for all children.

**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 [Fourth Week] 2023

**Q.10) Consider the following statements:**

1. In India, organ trafficking for transplants and medical research is not a common form of trafficking.
2. Article 22 of the Indian Constitution prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labor.

**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.11) Consider the following statements:**

1. Physical training instructors (PTIs) teach students the skills and regulations of different sports and games.
2. Physical training instructors (PTIs) are acknowledged as 'teachers,' irrespective of whether they teach like Professors or Assistant Professors.

**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

## Acts & Policies

**Q.12) Which one of the following is the main objective of the Raising & Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program?**

- a) It aims to provide financial assistance to struggling micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- b) It aims to enhance the overall performance and competitiveness of Indian MSMEs.
- c) It aims to promote entrepreneurship and create new employment opportunities in the MSME sector.
- d) It aims to simplify regulations and compliance requirements for MSMEs.

**Q.13) With reference to Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a flagship program of the Election Commission of India (ECI).
2. It aims at providing voters with information about candidates, parties, and election issues.
3. It recognizes the significance of youth involvement in shaping the democratic landscape, implementing targeted efforts to educate and mobilize young voters.

**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 [Fourth Week] 2023

**Q.14) With reference to the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill 2023, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. The Bill provides for an online mechanism to apply for title verification and grant of certificate of registration from the Press Registrar General.
2. The Bill aims to abolish pre-publication censorship.
3. The Bill proposes to create a new regulatory body called the Media Accreditation Commission.

**Select the correct statements using the codes given below:**

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

**Q.15) With reference to Palna scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to address the urgent need for quality day-care facilities /creches for the children of working women.
2. It also provides financial assistance to orphaned children.
3. Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal ministry for implementing the scheme.

**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.16) With reference to Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), consider the following statements:**

1. One of the key features of DAY-NRLM is the formation of Village Development Committees.
2. Microfinance and credit linkage for income-generating activities are the key components of DAY-NRLM.
3. The mission works on both the demand and supply sides of financial inclusion.
4. Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is the ministry responsible for implementing DAY-NRLM.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Q.17) With reference to Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East (PM-DevINE), consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to rapidly and holistically develop infrastructure and social development projects in the Northeastern region.
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme with 50% Central funding and 50% State funding.
3. Tourism and connectivity sectors are eligible for funding under the PM-DevINE scheme.

**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 [Fourth Week] 2023

**Q.18) With reference to Mission Karmayogi, consider the following statements:**

1. Technology-driven governance is the core principle that forms the foundation of Mission Karmayogi.
2. The integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) platform of Mission Karmayogi is primarily based on performance appraisal.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.19) Consider the following statements:**

1. Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya is renowned for its underwater robotics program, training students in marine exploration.
2. Disaster management has become an integral part of railway officers training, included in both induction courses and mid-career training programs.

**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 Make in India initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to attract foreign direct investment for infrastructure development.
2. The "Production Linked Incentive (PLI)" scheme introduced under the initiative aims to provide financial subsidies to domestic manufacturers.
3. A foreign company establishes a manufacturing plant in India under the initiative is an example of Portfolio investment.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Q.21) Consider the following:**

1. Structural transformation
2. Organising labour markets
3. Increasing competitiveness
4. Institutional capacity building

**How many of the above are the developmental aspects included under 'Viksit Bharat'?**

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

## International Relations/Organizations

**Q.22) When selecting guests for the Republic Day parade, which one of the following should be the primary consideration?**

- a) Representing the diversity of India's population
- b) Highlighting achievements in specific fields
- c) Maintaining a balance between political and non-political figures
- d) Ensuring high-profile dignitaries from foreign nations

**Q.23) Consider the following statements:**

1. India is a labour-surplus country and has been exporting workers around the world through both formal and informal channels over the years.
2. Migrant workers send a significant portion of their earnings back home, contributing to foreign exchange reserves and boosting economic growth in India.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.24) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Global South refers to countries often characterized as developing, less developed, or underdeveloped, primarily located in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
2. The Maginot Line divides the countries of Global North and the Global South.
3. India played a key role in giving Voice to Global South Members at the high table of G-20 by inclusion of African Union.

**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.25) Which one of the following was NOT a founding principle of the Non-Aligned Movement?**

- a) Anti-colonialism and opposition to imperialism
- b) Rejection of military alliances and bloc politics
- c) Promotion of peaceful resolution of international conflicts
- d) Economic cooperation and development among member states

**Q.26) Consider the following statements:**

1. The US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) aims to make the U.S tax code fairer by imposing a minimum tax of 15% on America's wealthiest, most profitable corporations.
2. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) implemented by the European Union (EU) is a mechanism that relies on direct agreements with trading partners to regulate their emissions.

**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 [Fourth Week] 2023

**Q.27) Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the Ministry of External Affairs' proposal to sign and ratify the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy. With reference to this agreement, consider the following statements:**

1. Under the agreement, Italian companies will be eligible for setting up manufacturing plant in India and receive tax benefits.
2. Indian students completing academic/ vocational training in Italy can obtain temporary residence in the country for up to 12 months to gain initial professional experience.
3. It also formalizes collaboration between the two countries in the efforts to combat irregular migration.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

## Economy

**Q.28) Consider the following statements:**

1. Money laundering is the illegal process of concealing the origin of illegally obtained money, making it appear legitimate.
2. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) does not apply to cash transactions below a certain threshold.

**Select the correct statements using the codes given below:**

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

**Q.29) Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM Act)?**

- a) It aims to balance the government's budget every year.
- b) It aims to control inflation and ensure macroeconomic stability.
- c) It aims to reduce public debt and promote fiscal sustainability.
- d) It aims to increase government spending on social welfare programs.

**Q.30) Consider the following:**

1. Higher Borrowing Costs
2. Increased investor confidence
3. Reduced foreign direct investment
4. Currency Depreciation

**Which of the above will likely be the impact on a country, if it's sovereign credit rating is downgraded?**

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

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

**Q.31) In times of economic recession, many industries experience workforce reductions and organizational downsizing due to a decline in production. Which type of unemployment is most likely to increase in this scenario?**

- a) Structural unemployment
- b) Frictional unemployment
- c) Cyclical unemployment
- d) Seasonal unemployment

**Q.32) Which one of the following statements best defines the term 'Credit-to-GDP Gap', seen in the news recently?**

- a) It measures the total outstanding debt of a country's government or private sector relative to its Gross Domestic Product.
- b) It assesses the level of debt in relation to a financial institution's capital.
- c) It is a measure used in macroeconomics and financial stability analysis to assess the potential buildup of systemic risk in the financial system.
- d) It assesses the difference between a country's savings and its investment, including trade balances.

**Q.33) Which one of the following statements best describes the 'T+1 settlement cycle'?**

- a) Trades are cleared and funds exchanged one day after the trade execution.
- b) Trades are finalized and settled two business days after the order is placed.
- c) The process of trade confirmation and payment takes place immediately upon execution.
- d) Settlements occur on a weekly basis, regardless of the trade date.

**Q.34) Which one of the following statements is correct regarding Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio?**

- a) It evaluates a bank's operational efficiency by comparing its operating expenses to its revenue.
- b) It measures a bank's profitability by evaluating its net income in relation to its total assets.
- c) It represents the proportion of a bank's total loan book that is classified as non-performing.
- d) It measures the ratio of a loan amount to the appraised value of the collateral provided by the borrower.

## Environment

**Q.35) With reference to Camelids, seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:**

1. They are large animals with long necks, slender legs, and a hump on their back.
2. They are omnivorous animals.
3. They are instrumental in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supplying milk and meat for fighting hunger as well as fiber for clothing and shelter.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

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

**Q.36) With reference to Rare Earth Elements (REEs), which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Rare earth elements (REEs) are considered "rare" despite their abundance in the Earth's crust because they are found in remote and inaccessible locations.
2. Renewable energy technologies like solar panels and wind turbines heavily rely on rare earths elements.

**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.37) Consider the following statements:**

1. It is located at the India-Nepal border in the West Champaran district of Bihar.
2. It is situated on the bank of river Gandak.
3. It has the presence of moist mixed deciduous forest.

**Which one of the following Protected Area (PA) has been described above?**

- a) Valmiki National Park
- b) Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) Kanwar Lake Bird Sanctuary
- d) Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary

**Q.38) Consider the following statements with reference to 'Black tigers':**

1. It is a distinct species of tiger native to the Sub-Himalayan range.
2. They are black because of the presence of pseudo-melanism.
3. They are categorized as 'Endangered' in the IUCN Data.
4. Similipal Tiger Reserve has the highest number of black tigers in India.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Q.39) In the context of the Green Industrial Strategy, seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a coordinated approach to economic growth that emphasizes sustainability and innovation.
2. Under the strategy, industries in India are provided full subsidies for replacing fossil fuel with solar powers.
3. Ethanol Blending is one of the initiatives adopted by India in its green industrial strategy.

**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 [Fourth Week] 2023

**Q.40) Which one of the following statements is correct with reference to 'Adaptation'?**

- a) It involves efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and their concentration in the atmosphere.
- b) It involves making adjustments or changes to social, economic, and environmental practices to minimize the damage caused by the effects of climate change.
- c) It focuses on addressing the root causes of climate change by reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.
- d) It involves long-term strategies to achieve a sustained reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, often requiring significant changes in energy systems, infrastructure, and policies.

**Q.41) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. India is the fifth largest country in the world in renewable energy storage installations.
- 2. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) work on the principle that it directly transmits electricity over long distances.

**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.42) Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary is located at -**

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Assam
- d) Himachal Pradesh

## Science & Technology

**Q.43) Consider the following pairs:**

**Diseases-----Specification**

- 1. Thalassemia-----It causes disorder that hinders the blood's clotting ability.
- 2. Haemophilia-----It is characterized by inadequate hemoglobin production.
- 3. Sickle cell disease-----It is characterized by the presence of abnormal hemoglobin leading to sickle-shaped red blood cells.

**How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?**

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

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

**Q.44) With reference to Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.
2. China is one of the member states of IONS.
3. It aims to establish a collective defense pact against regional threats.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Q.45) With reference to Magnetars, consider the following statements:**

1. These are neutron stars with an ultrahigh magnetic field that are much stronger than the terrestrial magnetic field.
2. They are known for their slow rotation, often exhibiting a low degree of spin.

**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) Which one of the following is the primary significance of "Project 15B" for India's defense capabilities?**

- a) It aims at enhancing long-range strike capacity against land targets.
- b) It aims at strengthening anti-air defense against aerial threats.
- c) It aims boosting maritime security and anti-piracy operations.
- d) It aims at improving underwater surveillance and detection capabilities.

**Q.47) Consider the following statements:**

1. Formaldehyde is a colourless, pungent gas that is used as a preservative commonly in fish.
2. Formaldehyde is found naturally in the environment.

**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.48) Which one of the following is the primary cause of undernutrition in developing countries?**

- a) Genetic factors
- b) Inadequate dietary intake
- c) Lack of healthcare infrastructure
- d) Insufficient physical activity

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

**Q.49) Consider the following statements:**

1. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are responsible for about 60% of all deaths in India.
2. Malaria is a non-communicable disease (NCD) that has significant impact on India.

**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.50) With reference to MedTech Mitra portal, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is designed to provide strategic handholding support to MedTech innovators with assessing clinical viability, regulatory facilitation, and adopting new products.
2. It will enable the indigenous development of cost-effective, high-quality MedTech devices and diagnostics, thereby reducing the current import dependence of around 80% in MedTech.

**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

### Answer Key

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



## Answers & Explanation

### Art & Culture, Ancient & Medieval History

**1. Correct option is (B)**

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Jnanpith Award is considered the highest literary honor in India, and the Sahitya Akademi Award is generally considered one of the most prestigious, after the Bharatiya Jnanpith. In order to be eligible for the award, the author must be an Indian national or a person of Indian origin.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Sahitya Akademi Awards are solely based on literary merit. Popularity and commercial success are not considered in the selection process. The focus is on originality, creativity, and the book's contribution to the specific language and literature.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

**2. Correct Answer is (B)**

- Frescoes are a form of mural painting that involves applying pigments mixed with water onto a wet plaster surface. This technique is particularly associated with wall paintings in ancient and classical times, as well as during the Renaissance period in Italy.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

**3. Correct option is (A)**

- Statement 1 is correct. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is responsible for the preservation and maintenance of historical monuments in India. Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, the ASI has the authority to declare monuments as protected sites and maintain a list of Monuments of National Importance (MNI).
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While managing museums and art galleries is one of the functions of the ASI, it is not their primary function. The primary function of the ASI is to conduct archaeological research and preserve cultural heritage. The ASI is responsible for the conservation and preservation of ancient monuments, archaeological sites, and remains of national importance. It also conducts archaeological excavations, carries out conservation and restoration work, and maintains site museums and galleries.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

**4. Correct option is (A)**

- Statement 1 is correct. Veer Bal Diwas is observed on December 26 in India to honor the courage and martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's two younger sons, Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Baba Fateh Singh Ji. They were martyred in 1705 at a young age of 6 and 9 years, respectively, for their refusal to convert to Islam and their commitment to their faith and principles. Veer Bal Diwas was established in 2021 to honor their sacrifice and inspire children across India to follow their example of courage and fearlessness.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Battle of Chanderi was fought between the Marathas and the Mughals in 1738, and it is not associated with the capture of Guru Gobind Singh's sons. However, during the Battle of Chamkaur (1704) fought between the Sikhs and Mughals, Guru Gobind Singh's youngest sons, Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Baba Fateh Singh Ji were captured by the Mughals.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### Geography

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

### 5. Correct option is (B)

- Katabatic winds are cold, dense winds that sink down slopes due to gravity. Katabatic winds are created when the air near the ground becomes denser than the air above it, causing it to sink down slopes due to the force of gravity. These winds are typically cold and dry, as they are formed when cold air is cooled further by contact with snow or ice-covered surfaces.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 6. Correct Answer is (B)

- The GSI's key function related to disaster management is earthquake monitoring, which helps in understanding the seismic activity in the country and providing crucial information for disaster preparedness and response. The GSI also plays a crucial role in landslide and flood hazard mapping, which are other significant natural disasters in India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 7. Correct Answer (B)

- 1 and 2 are correctly matched. The Kiel Canal connects the Baltic Sea with the North Sea, allowing ships to bypass the Danish Straits. The Grand Canal connects Beijing with Hangzhou.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 8. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Red Sea is a narrow sea located between the eastern coast of the African continent and the western coast of the Arabian Peninsula. It extends from the Gulf of Aqaba in the north to the Bab el Mandeb strait in the south, where it connects to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

## Polity

### 9. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, but it does not specifically mention child labor. Right against Exploitation (Article 23) of the Indian Constitution prohibits child labor.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Directive Principles of State Policy in the Indian Constitution guide the government to provide free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years. This is stated in Article 45, which directs the state to endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years, as well as free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 10. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Organ trafficking for transplants and medical research is not a commonly reported form of trafficking in India. While organ trafficking is a serious crime that has been reported in some countries, it is not a prevalent form of trafficking in India.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Article 23 of the Indian Constitution prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labor. Article 23 states that "traffic in human beings and begar and other similar forms of forced labor are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law."

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 11. Correct option is (C)

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

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Physical training instructors (PTIs) teach students the skills and regulations of different sports and games. The SC recently held that PTIs are acknowledged as 'teachers,' irrespective of whether they teach like Professors or Assistant Professors. This ruling recognizes the important role that PTIs play in education and their contribution to student learning and development. This ruling has important implications for PTIs, as it affects their retirement age, professional standing, and other service conditions. It also highlights the importance of recognizing the diverse roles that educators play in promoting student learning and development.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### Acts & Policies

#### 12. Correct option is (B)

- The main objective of the Raising & Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program is to enhance the overall performance and competitiveness of Indian MSMEs. The RAMP program was launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in India to address various challenges faced by MSMEs and to enhance their productivity, profitability, and resilience.
- Recently, the Union Minister for MSME has launched three sub-schemes under the aegis of the RAMP programme: MSE GIFT Scheme, MSE SPICE Scheme, MSE Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

#### 13. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. SVEEP is a flagship program of the Election Commission of India (ECI) aimed at enhancing voter education and electoral participation in India. It recognizes the significance of youth involvement in shaping the democratic landscape and implements targeted efforts to educate and mobilize young voters.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. SVEEP does not provide information about specific candidates, parties, or election issues, but rather focuses on voter education and awareness about the electoral process.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

#### 14. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Bill aims to streamline the registration process for periodicals by eliminating the need for physical interaction with local authorities. Applicants can now submit all necessary documents and information electronically through a designated online portal, reducing administrative burdens and delays.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The Bill does not specifically address pre-publication censorship, which is not practiced in India. The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill 2023 does not propose the creation of a new regulatory body like the Media Accreditation Commission. The bill primarily focuses on revamping the registration process and penalties for non-compliance with the regulations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

#### 15. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Palna Scheme focuses on establishing safe and reliable crèches, primarily in Anganwadi centres, to provide affordable childcare for working mothers, particularly those from the unorganized sector. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is the central government agency responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing the Palna Scheme across India. They work in collaboration with state governments and other stakeholders to set up and manage the crèches.

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- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Palna Scheme does not specifically provide financial assistance to orphaned children.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 16. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. DAY-NRLM's key feature is the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), not Village Development Committees.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct. Microfinance and credit linkage for income-generating activities are critical components of DAY-NRLM. The mission provides access to financial services to rural poor households through SHGs, facilitating their engagement in various economic activities. DAY-NRLM addresses both demand and supply-side issues in financial inclusion. It aims to increase rural households' access to financial services while improving the capacity of financial institutions to serve them effectively. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is responsible for implementing DAY-NRLM.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 17. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East (PM-DevINE) aims to accelerate infrastructure and social development projects in the Northeastern region. It seeks to promote balanced and inclusive growth by addressing infrastructure gaps, improving connectivity, and boosting social development in the region. Tourism and connectivity sectors are among the focus areas of PM-DevINE. The scheme aims to develop sustainable tourism infrastructure, improve transport connectivity, and enhance digital connectivity in the Northeastern region. Other focus areas of the scheme include agriculture, education, health, and skill development.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. PM-DevINE is not a centrally sponsored scheme with 50% Central and 50% State funding. It is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from the Central government.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 18. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Technology-driven governance is one of the core principles of Mission Karmayogi. The program aims to leverage technology to deliver training and capacity-building programs to civil servants, enabling them to enhance their skills and performance. The iGOT Karmayogi digital platform is a key component of this approach.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. iGOT is not primarily focused on performance appraisal. While the platform may offer some resources or training modules related to performance management principles and best practices, its core function lies in capacity building and skill development for civil servants.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 19. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya is a university focused on the development of infrastructure and transportation in India. Its programs are centered around engineering, planning, and management of infrastructure projects. It subsumes the previously-existing National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI). It aims to create best in class manpower and talent for the entire transportation and logistics sectors. GSV is a "first of its kind" university aiming to fulfill the mandate of the National Developmental Plans (PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan 2021 and National Logistics Policy 2022) across railways, shipping, ports, highways, roads, waterways and aviation etc.

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- Statement 2 is correct. Disaster management has been included in the training programs for railway officers. According to recent reports, disaster management has become an integral part of railway officers training, included in both induction courses and mid-career training programs. This move aims to enhance the safety and preparedness of railway personnel in responding to emergency situations. The training includes topics such as disaster risk assessment, emergency preparedness, and crisis management.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 20. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) for infrastructure development is one of the objectives of the Make in India initiative. The initiative seeks to create a favorable investment climate and encourage multinational companies to set up manufacturing facilities in India, thereby boosting the country's infrastructure and industrial capacity. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is a key component of the Make in India initiative, offering financial incentives to domestic manufacturers to boost production in various sectors. The scheme aims to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities, promote exports, and reduce the country's dependence on imports.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. A foreign company establishing a manufacturing plant in India under the Make in India initiative is not an example of portfolio investment but rather an example of foreign direct investment (FDI). Portfolio investment refers to investments made in financial assets, such as stocks and bonds, while foreign direct investment involves investing in tangible assets, such as establishing a manufacturing plant.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 21. Correct option is (C)

- Viksit Bharat aims to make India a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of its Independence. The developmental aspects included under 'Viksit Bharat' are: Structural transformation, organizing labor markets, increasing competitiveness, Improving financial and social inclusion, Governance reforms.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

## International Relations/Organizations

### 22. Correct option is (A)

- Representing the diversity of India's population should be the primary consideration when selecting guests for the Republic Day parade. It allows the nation to showcase its unity in diversity on a global stage, fostering a sense of national pride and inclusivity. India is a vast country with a rich cultures, languages, and religions, and the Republic Day parade is an opportunity to showcase this diversity to the world.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 23. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India has a large population and a high unemployment rate, making it a labor-surplus country. Over the years, Indian workers have been migrating to other countries for employment opportunities. According to the United Nations, India is one of the top labor-sending countries in the world.
- Migrant workers from India send a significant amount of money back home in the form of remittances, which are a major source of foreign exchange reserves for the country. According to the World Bank, India is one of the top recipients of remittances globally. These remittances contribute to the country's



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economic growth by increasing household income, stimulating domestic demand, and enabling investment in various sectors.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 24. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Global South is a term used to describe a group of countries, primarily located in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, that are generally considered to be less economically developed than the countries of the Global North. These countries often face challenges such as poverty, inequality, and political instability. India, as the G20 president for the year 2023, has played a key role in giving a voice to the Global South by inviting the African Union as a guest to the G20 summit. This marks the first time that the African Union has been included in the G20 summit, providing a platform for African countries to voice their concerns and priorities at the high table of global governance. India's move is seen as a significant step towards promoting inclusive growth and addressing the challenges faced by developing countries.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Brandt Line divides the countries of Global North and the Global South. The Brandt Line was proposed by Willy Brandt in the 1980s. It is an imaginary line that divides the world into richer countries (mainly in the Northern Hemisphere) and poorer countries (mostly in the Southern Hemisphere). The line basically shows the socio-economic divide between northern countries and southern countries.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 25. Correct option is (D)

- Economic cooperation and development among member states was not one of the founding principles of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
- The Non-Aligned Movement was established in 1961 with the goal of creating a group of states that were not formally aligned with any major power bloc during the Cold War. The founding principles of NAM were centered around promoting independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of all nations, particularly those that were emerging from colonialism.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 26. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The US Inflation Reduction Act includes a provision that imposes a minimum tax of 15% on corporations with profits exceeding \$1 billion, aiming to ensure that these corporations pay their fair share of taxes and contribute to reducing the federal deficit. This is part of the act's broader goal of reducing inflationary pressures, investing in domestic energy production, and promoting clean energy technologies.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) implemented by the European Union is not based on direct agreements with trading partners to regulate their emissions. Instead, it is a mechanism that levies a carbon tax on imports of certain goods into the EU, based on the carbon price embedded in those goods. The aim is to prevent "carbon leakage," where companies relocate their production to countries with less strict emissions regulations, and to encourage other countries to adopt similar carbon pricing policies.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 27. Correct Answer is (B)



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- Statement 1 is incorrect. While the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy does aim to enhance economic ties, it does not specifically mention Italian companies setting up manufacturing plants in India with tax benefits.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The agreement allows Indian students who have completed academic or vocational training in Italy to obtain temporary residence in the country for up to 12 months to gain initial professional experience. This is a significant benefit for Indian students as it provides them with an opportunity to gain international work experience and enhance their employability.
- The agreement also formalizes collaboration between India and Italy in combating irregular migration, which is a key concern for both countries. The agreement will help facilitate cooperation between the two countries in addressing this issue.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### Economy

#### 28. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Money laundering is the illegal process of concealing the origin of illegally obtained money, making it appear legitimate. The primary law in India that addresses and prevents money laundering is the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The PMLA applies to a wide range of transactions, and there is no specific threshold below which it does not apply. The Act covers various financial transactions, and reporting entities are required to comply with its provisions, regardless of the transaction amount.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

#### 29. Correct option is (C)

- The primary objective of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM Act) is to reduce public debt and promote fiscal sustainability.
- The FRBM Act was enacted in 2003 with the aim of institutionalizing financial discipline and reducing India's high public debt levels. It sets targets for the government to reduce its fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, and public debt over time.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

#### 30. Correct option is (C)

- Higher Borrowing Costs: When a country's credit rating is downgraded, it indicates an increased risk of default to investors. This makes them demand higher interest rates on loans they provide to the government and businesses in that country. As borrowing becomes more expensive, it can hinder government spending, infrastructure development, and private sector investment, ultimately impacting economic growth.
- Reduced foreign direct investment (FDI): Investors seeking stable and secure investment destinations are less likely to invest in a country with a lower credit rating. This can lead to a decline in foreign direct investment, which can impact economic growth, job creation, and technology transfer.
- Currency Depreciation: A credit rating downgrade can also lead to a loss of confidence in the country's economy, which can put downward pressure on its currency. This is because investors may be more likely to sell the currency and invest in assets from countries with higher credit ratings.
- However, a downgrading of a country's sovereign credit rating will lead to reduce in investor's confidence as investors may become less confident in the country's ability to meet its financial obligations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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### 31. Correct option is (C)

- Cyclical unemployment is most likely to increase during an economic recession when industries experience workforce reductions and organizational downsizing due to a decline in production. Cyclical unemployment directly results from economic fluctuations and is associated with downturns or recessions. In an economic recession, cyclical unemployment typically increases as businesses reduce their workforce in response to declining demand for their products or services.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 32. Correct Answer is (C)

- Credit-to-GDP gap is a measure used in macroeconomics and financial stability analysis to assess the potential buildup of systemic risk in the financial system. The credit-to-GDP gap is specifically used to evaluate the potential risks associated with excessive credit growth and its impact on the stability of the financial system. A widening credit-to-GDP gap can signal potential risks of financial instability, such as asset bubbles or banking crises.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 33. Correct Answer is (A)

- The 'T+1 settlement cycle' means that trades are cleared and funds exchanged one day after the trade execution.
- In the T+1 settlement cycle, the transaction is completed within one day of the trade being executed. This means that the transfer of funds and securities between the buyer and seller is completed within 24 hours, enabling faster settlement and reducing the risk of default.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 34. Correct option is (C)

- The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio is a financial indicator that represents the proportion of a bank's total loan book that is classified as non-performing. In other words, it is the ratio of the total value of non-performing assets (such as bad loans) to the total value of gross advances (total loans extended by the bank). The GNPA ratio is commonly used to assess the asset quality and financial health of a bank. A higher GNPA ratio indicates a higher level of non-performing assets, which may pose risks to the bank's stability.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

## Environment

### 35. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Camelids are large animals that have long necks, slender legs, and a hump (or humps) on their back. They include camels, llamas, alpacas, guanacos, and vicunas. Camelids are a family of mammals belonging to the Camelidae family. They have a three-chambered stomach, split upper lips allowing separate mobility, and elliptical red blood cells, setting them apart from other mammals. They are usually found in herds. They are instrumental in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supplying milk and meat for fighting hunger as well as fiber for clothing and shelter. They are known to survive in harsh conditions.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Camelids are primarily herbivorous. They have a unique digestive system that allows them to digest tough, fibrous plants that other animals cannot eat.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 36. Correct option is (B)

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- Statement 1 is incorrect. While some rare earth elements (REEs) may be found in remote and inaccessible locations, this is not the primary reason why they are considered "rare." The difficulty in extracting and separating REEs from other minerals due to their chemical properties is the main reason for their rarity.
- Statement 2 is correct. Renewable energy technologies like solar panels and wind turbines rely heavily on REEs. These elements are crucial for components like magnets in wind turbine generators and for the photovoltaic cells in solar panels. Permanent magnets made with REEs like neodymium and dysprosium are highly efficient and essential for compact and powerful wind turbines. Similarly, certain REEs like gallium and indium are used in the thin-film solar cells found in some solar panels.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 37. Correct option is (A)

- Valmiki National Park is located at the India-Nepal border in the West Champaran district of Bihar. It is situated on the bank of river Gandak, in the Gangetic Plains. It is surrounded by the Royal Chitwan National Park of Nepal in the north. It has the presence of moist mixed deciduous forest.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 38. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Black tigers are not a distinct species but rather a color variation of the Bengal tiger, which is native to the Indian subcontinent.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct. Most "black" tigers are pseudo-melanistic, meaning their dark appearance is due to closely spaced, thick stripes rather than a complete absence of orange pigment. Bengal tigers are classified as Endangered so are black tigers. Currently, Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha has the highest concentration of reported pseudo-melanistic tigers in India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 39. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Green Industrial Strategy aims to transform various industries – energy, transportation, manufacturing, etc. – to become more environmentally friendly and technologically advanced. This involves promoting renewable energy sources like solar and wind power, developing cleaner production processes, and creating new green jobs. Ethanol blending with gasoline (usually E10 or E20) is included in India's Green Industrial Strategy as a way to reduce carbon emissions from transportation.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While India's Green Industrial Strategy incentivizes the shift from fossil fuels to renewables, it doesn't offer full subsidies. Instead, it uses a combination of mechanisms like: Production-Linked Incentive (PLI), Tax breaks, green bonds, etc.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 40. Correct Answer is (B)

- Adaptation is about adjusting to the impacts of climate change that are already happening or are inevitable in the future. This can include changes in behavior, policies, or infrastructure to minimize the negative effects of climate change on humans and the environment. Adaptation is critical because some impacts of climate change are already unavoidable due to the greenhouse gases that have been emitted in the past.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 41. Correct option is (A)

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- Statement 1 is correct. According to the International Energy Agency, India ranks fifth in the world in terms of installed renewable energy storage capacity.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary advantage of BESS is their ability to store excess electricity generated from renewable sources like solar and wind. By providing storage solutions, BESS can help to stabilize the grid, improve the reliability of renewable energy, and support the integration of more renewable energy into the grid.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 42. Correct option is (D)

- Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area located in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, India. It is situated around the Pong Dam, which was constructed on the Beas River in 1975. The sanctuary is known for its rich biodiversity, including a variety of flora and fauna.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

## Science & Technology

### 43. Correct option is (A)

- Only 3 is correctly matched. Thalassemia does not affect the blood's clotting ability but rather causes abnormal hemoglobin production, leading to anemia. Haemophilia is a blood clotting disorder that hinders the blood's ability to clot properly, leading to excessive bleeding.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 44. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is a voluntary initiative aimed at increasing maritime cooperation among the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region. It was established in 2008 with the goal of building trust and confidence among the navies of the region, as well as enhancing maritime security and cooperation.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. China is not a member of IONS. Currently, it has 24 member states and 8 observer states, primarily focusing on countries bordering the Indian Ocean. IONS is not intended to be a military alliance or a collective defense pact. Its focus is on non-traditional security challenges and collaborative efforts like combating piracy, search and rescue, disaster relief, and information sharing. It promotes communication and understanding rather than forming a military bloc.

Sources: [Forum IAS](#)

### 45. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Magnetars are a type of neutron star that possess ultra-strong magnetic fields, which can be hundreds of millions of times stronger than the magnetic field of Earth. Neutron stars are the collapsed cores of massive stars that have undergone supernova explosions. Magnetars are a rare sub-class of neutron stars that have extremely powerful magnetic fields.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Magnetars are known for their rapid rotation, not slow rotation. They often exhibit high degrees of spin, with some magnetars rotating hundreds of times per second. This rapid rotation, combined with their strong magnetic fields, can produce intense bursts of energy, including gamma-ray bursts and X-ray bursts.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 46. Correct Answer is (C)

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- Project 15B aims at boosting maritime security and anti-piracy operations, enhancing India's defense capabilities in the maritime domain.
- Project 15B is a flagship project of the Indian Navy that involves the construction of four stealth-guided missile destroyers - Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal, and Porbandar. These warships are equipped with advanced stealth features, state-of-the-art weaponry, and advanced sensors, making them highly capable platforms for maritime warfare.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 47. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Formaldehyde is a colorless, pungent gas that has been traditionally used as a preservative, including in the preservation of fish. However, its use as a food preservative has been banned in many countries due to its potential toxicity. Formaldehyde is found naturally in the environment, including in the atmosphere, cigarettes, and even in some foods like fruits and vegetables.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 48. Correct Answer is (B)

- While genetic factors, lack of healthcare infrastructure, and insufficient physical activity can contribute to undernutrition, they are not the primary causes. The main reason for undernutrition in developing countries is the lack of access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 49. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), NCDs are responsible for around 60% of all deaths in India. The four main types of NCDs - cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes - account for a large proportion of the disease burden in the country.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Malaria is not a non-communicable disease, but a communicable disease caused by parasites transmitted through mosquito bites. Therefore, it cannot be considered a major NCD affecting India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 50. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Recently, the Union Health Minister has virtually launched 'MedTech Mitra' portal. It's a web platform with an aim to foster development of affordable and accessible indigenous medical devices/ In-vitro diagnostics. It is designed to provide strategic handholding support to MedTech innovators with assessing clinical viability, regulatory facilitation, and adopting new products. MedTech Mitra will address the queries of the innovators and provide personalized guidance in consultation with the Regulator and other relevant stakeholders.
- The portal will be coordinated collaboratively by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), under the guidance of NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission.
- It will enable the indigenous development of cost-effective, high-quality MedTech devices and diagnostics, thereby reducing the current import dependence of around 80% in MedTech. It will facilitate innovation and research and development (R&D) for emerging startups in the field of medical technology.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)