

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Monthly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

December, 2023

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Art & Culture

Q.1) Consider the following statements with reference to Parthenon Sculptures:

1. They were originally part of Temple of Poseidon at Sounion.
2. The sculptures depict scenes from Greek mythology, including deities and mythological events.

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.2) Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the 'Tantric Buddhism':

- a) In Tantric Buddhism, mandalas refer to the spiritual dance performance.
- b) Vajrayana and Esoteric are the two main branches of Tantric Buddhism.
- c) In Tantric Buddhism, the union of opposites (male and female energies) represents equality.
- d) Snakes are the central symbol often associated with Tantric Buddhist rituals.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding 'Kutiyattam':

1. It is a form of Sanskrit theatre practised in Kerala.
2. It is traditionally performed in theatres called Kuttampalams, which are located in Hindu temples.

Which of the following statements are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q.4) The first edition of the India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale (IAADB) was recently held at which location of historical importance:

- a) Red Fort, Delhi.
- b) Taj Mahal, Uttar Pradesh.
- c) Qutub Minar Complex, Delhi.
- d) Statue of Unity, Gujarat.

Geography

Q.5) Which one of the following statements is correct regarding 'Rat Hole Mining'?

- a) It involves extracting minerals from underground deposits through the creation of tunnels and shafts.
- b) It involves digging narrow, vertical tunnels resembling burrows to extract coal.
- c) It is a method of extracting minerals from loose sediments, such as sand and gravel, often found in riverbeds.
- d) It involves the excavation of large open pits to extract valuable minerals or other geological materials from the Earth's surface.

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Q.6) Consider the following geographical features:

1. Coral Reefs
2. Atolls
3. Lagoons
4. Seamounts

Which of the above features are related to the country 'Maldives'?

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

Q.7) Which of the following countries borders the Golan Heights?

- a) Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran
- b) Israel, Lebanon, and Jordan.
- c) Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar
- d) Iran, Israel and Jordan

Q.8) Consider the following pairs:

Geographical Indication tag	State
1. Lakadong turmeric	Ladakh
2. Larnai pottery	Meghalaya
3. Sea Buckthorn	Sikkim

How many of the above pairs are correct?

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

Polity

Q.9) Which one of the following Articles of the Indian Constitution provides for the creation of an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS)?

- a) Article 132
- b) Article 147
- c) Article 231
- d) Article 312

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

1. Currently, district judges are appointed by the President of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
2. Under Article 312, if Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by a majority of not less than two-thirds of Members present and voting, declares that it is necessary in the national interest, Parliament may by law provide for creation of one or more All-India Services (including an All-India judicial service) common to both the Union and the States.

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) Consider the following statements:

1. Candidates attending religious ceremonies during the campaign period.
2. Candidates organizing public rallies to address the concerns of local communities.
3. Candidates providing financial assistance to underprivileged voters.
4. Candidates engaging in constructive debates with their opponents.

How many of the above actions would be a violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC)?

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

Q.12) With reference to the Fast-Track Special Courts (FTSCs), consider the following statements:

1. Fast-track courts were first introduced on the recommendation of the 11th Finance Commission.
2. The primary aim of the Fast Track Special Courts is to provide legal assistance to underprivileged individuals.
3. Fast Track Special Courts contribute to judicial reforms by ensuring that all cases are resolved within a specific timeframe.
4. Fast Track Special Courts Scheme aims to ensure swift dispensation of justice, offering quick relief to victims while strengthening the deterrence framework for sexual offenders.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.13) With reference to the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) consider the following statements:

1. It is an independent system attached to an EVM that allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended.
2. In case of a discrepancy between electronic results and VVPAT paper slips, the Election Commission decision takes precedence.
3. India was the first country to implement the VVPAT system in an election.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.14) Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Sixth Schedule in relation to tribal areas?

- a) Integration of tribal areas with mainstream governance
- b) Preservation of tribal culture and heritage
- c) Exclusion of tribal representation in local governance
- d) Promotion of indigenization in tribal regions

Q.15) In some parts of the world, adultery is considered a 'tort'. Which one of the following does the statement imply?

- a) It is a crime against the state.
- b) It is a civil wrong that can be compensated with damages.
- c) It is a religious offense.
- d) It is a violation of human rights.

Q.16) University Grants Commission (UGC) is a:

- a) Constitutional Body
- b) Statutory Body
- c) Executive Body
- d) Ad-hoc Body

Q.17) The Bar Council of India (BCI) is a statutory body established under which of the following act:

- a) Legal Practitioners Act of 1879
- b) Advocates Act of 1961
- c) Bar Council of India Act of 1948
- d) Government of India Act of 1935

Acts & Policies

Q.18) Consider the following statements with reference to the Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill:

1. It empowers the courts from inquiring into a privileged communication between Ministers and the President of India.
2. It has been expanded to include any information given electronically that will enable the appearance of witnesses, accused, experts and victims through electronic means.

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.19) Which of the following are the functions/objectives of the "Scheme for providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs)"?

1. Encourage women's participation in the technology-driven agricultural sector.
2. Deliver essential goods and services to women in rural areas.
3. Collect data on women's health and well-being.
4. Enhance the income and livelihood opportunities of women in rural India.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.20) With reference to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), consider the following statements:

1. The Gond Tribe in Madhya Pradesh is recognized as one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
2. Inadequate infrastructure is one of the primary criteria for identifying PVTGs.
3. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is one of the schemes that has benefitted some of the PVTGs.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.21) Which one of the following is the objective of "Sanchar Saathi Portal"?

- a) It provides a user-friendly interface for telecom professionals to engage in forums, discussions, and share best practices, promoting knowledge-sharing within the industry.
- b) Its purpose is to empower citizens by providing information about mobile connections issued in their name, enabling them to disconnect unnecessary connections, block or trace lost mobile phones, and verify the authenticity of devices when purchasing new or used mobile phones.
- c) It plays a pivotal role in promoting transparency and efficiency in the telecom sector by offering a centralized hub for regulatory compliance, licensing, and policy updates.
- d) It acts as a catalyst for fostering collaboration between government agencies, industry players, and other stakeholders to collectively address challenges and opportunities in the telecom sector.

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Q.22) With reference to AICTE Approval Process Handbook for Academic Year 2024-2027, consider the following statements:

1. The handbook elaborates on processes which institutions need to follow while seeking approval from the AICTE to run technical and management programmes/course.
2. The handbook is applicable for the next seven years.
3. Well-performing institutions can offer off-campus programs within the jurisdiction of affiliating Universities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) All the three
- d) None

Q.23) With reference to 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (MGMD) Project', consider the following statements:

1. It has been initiated by the Ministry of Rural development in coordination with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
2. The main objective of project is to culturally map pan India villages on a comprehensive virtual platform.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC):

1. It is a wholly-owned Govt. of India Undertaking under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. It provides free skill development training to sanitation workers and their dependents under Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) and PM DAKSH Yojana.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Index & Reports

Q.25) With reference to the Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report 2023, consider the following statements:

1. As per the report, total annual ground water extraction for the entire country has increased.
2. The report provides that there has been an increase in stage of groundwater extraction level.
3. The report acknowledges the positive impact of initiatives like Atal Bhujal Yojana and Jal Shakti Abhiyan in improving groundwater resource management.

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.26) Consider the following statements regarding NCRB crime in India report 2022:

1. Mumbai ranked the highest in Cyber-crimes.
2. It showed overall increase in crimes and atrocities committed upon Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).
3. The reports indicated a decrease in the number of cases registered under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) while an increase in the number of sedition cases.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.27) Regarding the 'India Infrastructure Report', which of the following statements are correct:

Statement I: It is published by the NITI Aayog.

Statement II: It advocates for completely stopping public-private partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure development due to its various shortcomings.

Select the correct answer using the options given below:

- a) Only Statement I is correct.
- b) Only Statement II is correct.
- c) Both Statement I and II are correct.
- d) Neither Statement I nor II are correct.

International Relation/Organizations

Q.28) With reference to the ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF), consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual forum organized to strengthen partnership between India and ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the area of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).
2. It is a platform exclusively focused on showcasing innovations already in the final stages of development.
3. The AIGIF is only interested in innovations with direct commercial applications.

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

Q.29) With reference to Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a national fisheries management organization responsible for the conservation and management salmon and salmon-like species in the Indian Ocean.
2. The decisions taken by commission are binding on all members.

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.30) Consider the following statements with reference to "Kra Isthmus Project":

1. Isthmus of Kra is a narrow stretch of land connecting Singapore Island to the Malay Peninsula.
2. The Kra Isthmus Project will connect the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand.
3. The project could change global shipping routes, reducing reliance on the Malacca Strait.

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.31) With reference to Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), consider the following statements:

1. The partnership is engaged in providing financial support and carrying out research and development activities in the field of artificial intelligence.
2. India is one of the members of GPAI.
3. The GPAI's principles and guidelines are being used by governments and organizations around the world to develop their own AI policies.

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.32) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: As per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) "Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others".

Statement-II: Disabilities in India are highest in the age group 40-69 years.

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.33) Which one of the following is the primary function of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)?

- a) To promote sustainable shipping practices
- b) To provide maritime education and training
- c) To regulate international shipping
- d) To resolve maritime disputes

Q.34) In the context of the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the UN Security Council.
2. UN Member states contribute their manpower for Peacekeeping forces on a mandatory basis.
3. India is one of the largest contributors of troops to UN Peacekeeping operations.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.35) Regarding Article 99 of the UN Charter, which of the following statements is correct?

- a) The article allows the UN Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the UNSC any matter that may threaten international peace and security.
- b) The article allows the UNSC to initiate military action.
- c) The article allows the UN to dismiss its member states.
- d) The article allows the UN to prosecute international war criminals.

Q.36) With reference to 'Assam Accord' seen in news is related to which of the following

- a) Border settlement pact between Assam and Meghalaya
- b) It was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement for the issue of illegal migration.
- c) It was a peace deal signed between Assam government and ULFA.
- d) It was an agreement signed between Govt of Assam and Govt of Bangladesh for border disputes.

Economy

Q.37) With reference to the Indian aviation sector, which of the following statements are correct?

1. India is the world's third-largest domestic aviation market.
2. The number of operational airports in India has doubled in recent years.
3. Delhi and Mumbai airports have achieved Level 4+ Carbon Accreditation.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.38) Consider the following:

1. Government bonds
2. Equities
3. Loans to consumers

In the context of the items mentioned above, which is/are characterized by the lowest Risk Weight (RW)?

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

Q.39) In the economic context, which of the following implications can be expected if Indian bonds are incorporated into the Global Bond Indices?

1. Strengthening of Rupee
2. High Borrowing Costs
3. Increased Capital Inflows
4. Increased volatility
5. Greater control over interest rates

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- b) 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Q.40) Consider the following:

1. Currency held by banks
2. Currency held by the government
3. Electronic/Digital currencies
4. Currency in the hands of the public

How many of the above items forms the part of Currency in Circulation (CiC)?

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

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Q.41) With reference to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to determine the average wage levels across industries.
2. The term "usual status" in the PLFS refers to employment status at the time of the survey.
3. Ministry of Labour and Employment is responsible for conducting the PLFS in India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.42) In how many of the following ways, does the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) protect consumers in India?

1. By regulating export and import activities
2. By providing legal assistance to consumers
3. By conducting consumer awareness campaigns
4. By regulating consumer complaints and grievances

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.43) Consider the following:

1. Trust
2. Norms and values
3. Physical capital
4. Social media connections

Which of the above form the part of 'Social Capital'?

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

Q.44) With reference to the Dam Infrastructure in India, consider the following statements:

1. India is the most dammed country in the world.
2. India has a poor record of dam safety.
3. India generates approximately 65% of the overall hydropower potential solely from dams situated on the Himalayan rivers.

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.45) Which one of the following statements best describes the term 'Network Effect', seen in the news recently?

- a) It refers to the phenomenon where the value or utility of a product or service increases as more people use it.
- b) It occurs when the cost per unit of production decreases as the scale of production increases.
- c) It suggests that a small change in one part of a system can have far-reaching consequences.
- d) It states that, after a certain point, the addition of one more unit of input (like labor or capital) while keeping other inputs constant, will result in smaller increases in output.

Q.46) Consider the following characteristics:

- 1. Accessibility
- 2. Monetization
- 3. Decentralization
- 4. Reliance on large corporations

How many of the above are the characteristics of a 'Creator Economy'?

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

Q.47) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India is one of members of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC).
- 2. Kasturi Cotton Bharat is a premium cotton brand of India.
- 3. India has the largest area under cotton cultivation and is the second largest cotton producer.

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

Environment

Q.48) With reference to the 'Axolotl', a species of Salamander, consider the following statements:

- 1. They have the ability to regenerate lost or damaged limbs, hearts, lungs, and even parts of their brains.
- 2. They are cold-blooded vertebrates characterized by scales or scutes on their skin.
- 3. They are omnivorous animal.
- 4. They are categorized Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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Q.49) With reference to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), consider the following statements:

1. It is a regulatory body that enforces environmental laws.
2. It is bound by the procedures laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
3. It has the power to issue binding orders to the government.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.50) Consider the following statements:

1. China leads the world in both clean and dirty energy, responsible for about 30% of annual global emissions.
2. Algeria is one of the countries added to the BRICS-Plus nation.
3. Among the states in India, Madhya Pradesh has shown a significant reduction in the reliance of fossil fuel.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.51) Consider the following statements with reference to the "Loss & Damage":

1. The concept of "loss and damage" refers to financial penalties for non-compliance with emission reduction targets.
2. Taxation on industries contributing to climate change is one of the ways of generating Loss & Damage Fund.
3. Compensating for losses after the occurrence of climate-related events is one of the roles played by Loss & Damage Fund in encouraging climate resilience and risk reduction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.52) Consider the following Sanctuaries:

1. Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary

How many of the above sanctuaries are located in Karnataka?

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

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Q.53) Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs), are designated areas that surround protected areas, such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. In this context, which one of the following is NOT a potential benefit of Eco-Sensitive Zones?

- a) Conservation of biodiversity
- b) Improvement of water quality
- c) Reduction of soil erosion
- d) Promotion of sustainable tourism

Q.54) Consider the following statements:

1. The Global Green Credit (GGC) initiative aims to be a global program promoting environmental action through a standardized credit system.
2. The Green Credit Programme (GCP) is a national program focused on specific environmental activities within India and operates with pre-defined methodologies and a domestic market.

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.55) Recently, at COP-28, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced a new fund called "ALTÉRRRA" for climate investments and transforming emerging markets and developing economies. In this context, if a small solar power company in India wants to expand its operations, then in which one of the following ways could ALTÉRRRA potentially support the company?

- a) It will provide direct funding for the expansion of the project.
- b) It will invest in a larger solar energy company that operates in India.
- c) It will offer technical expertise and facilitate access to finance.
- d) It will help in purchasing carbon credits generated by the solar power plant.

Q.56) Regarding Heat Action Plans (HAPs), which of the following statements are correct?

1. HAPs have been implemented in all States and Union Territories of India.
2. It is colour-coded in shades of red (Very Dark Red, Dark Red, Light Red, etc.)
3. The Union Government is responsible for implementing HAPs.

Answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 only
- d) None of the above is correct.

Q.57) Consider the following statements regarding ethanol production India:

1. In India Ethanol is largely produced through sugarcane-based molasses and grain-based sources as feedstock.
2. The Government has set a target of achieving 20% ethanol blending with petrol by 2024.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

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Q.58) Which international agreement does the Kigali Amendment amend?

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Paris Agreement
- c) Montreal Protocol
- d) Copenhagen Accord

Q.59) The silent valley national park is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Sikkim

Q.60) Regarding Olive Ridley Turtles, consider the following:

1. They are known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada.
2. The coast of Odisha in India is the largest mass nesting site for the Olive ridley.
3. Their IUCN Red List status is 'Endangered'.
4. Operation Olivia is undertaken by the Indian Coast Guard for protecting the species.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.61) The Santiago Network, recently seen in news, is a:

- a) Mexican Drug Cartel.
- b) Chinese Hacker Group.
- c) Type of Splinternet.
- d) Climate Change Mitigation Initiative.

Q.62) With reference to 'Early Warnings for All Initiative' consider the following statements

1. The "Early Warnings for All" initiative is an effort to ensure that everyone on Earth is protected from hazardous climate events through life-saving early warning systems.
2. It was launched by WMO president.
3. The initiative is being led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Science & Technology

Q.63) With reference to the Walking Pneumonia, seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is a type of pneumonia which is characterized by severe respiratory illness.
2. It is more prevalent among children.
3. The strict lockdown measures implemented in China to control the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the reasons behind outbreak of walking pneumonia in China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.64) With reference to the Legion of Honour Award, consider the following statements:

1. It is a science award presented by the President of the United States to recognize the achievements of junior researchers in the field of science.
2. The award is given out every year on Bastille Day.

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.65) With reference to the MAHASAGAR initiative of the Indian Navy, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative aimed at promoting active security and growth for all in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
2. Kenya was one of the participating countries in its virtual meeting.

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.66) Consider the following statements:

1. Polarization is a property of light waves that describes the direction of the electric field oscillations.
2. X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) Mission is India's first dedicated polarimetry mission to study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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Q.67) The Mahe class ships are a valuable asset to the Indian Navy. Which one of the following best describes the Mahe class ships?

- a) Multi-purpose ships
- b) Fast and agile ships
- c) Long-range ships
- d) Heavily armed ships

Q.68) With reference to Methotrexate (MTX), seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is used to treat various medical conditions, primarily cancers, and certain inflammatory conditions.
- 2. It is ineffective in treating autoimmune diseases.

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.69) 'Project Gemini' sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following

- a) A Space exploration program by NASA
- b) A Multimodal AI and Large Language Model developed by Google
- c) A crypto currency platform
- d) A medical research organization

Q.70) With reference to Propulsion module of Chandrayaan-3 Consider the following statements:

- 1. The main objective of propulsion module was to ferry the Lander module from geostationary transfer orbit (GTO) to the final lunar polar circular orbit and separate the Lander.
- 2. It is equipped with a payload called SpectroPolarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE).

Which of the following statements are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q.71) Which of the following countries has its own Satellite Navigation System?

- 1. Australia
- 2. China
- 3. Israel
- 4. Japan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) All of the above
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 4 only

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Q.72) Which of the following statements are correct?

Statement I: Generative AI is defined as the intelligence of machines that allows them to comprehend, learn, and perform intellectual tasks much like humans.

Statement II: Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is a type of artificial intelligence technology that can produce various types of content, including text, imagery, audio, etc.

Select the correct answer using the options given below

- a) Only Statement I is correct.
- b) Only Statement II is correct.
- c) Both Statement I and II are correct.
- d) Neither Statement I nor II are correct.

Q.73) Regarding clinical trials, consider the following statements:

Statement 1: Phase III clinical trials primarily focus on assessing the safety and dosage range of a new drug or treatment in a small group of healthy volunteers.

Statement 2: Phase I clinical trials involve a larger population than Phase II and III and compare the new treatment against standard or existing treatments to assess its effectiveness, safety, and potential side effects.

Which of the following options is correct?

- a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true.
- b) Statement 1 is true, but Statement 2 is false.
- c) Statement 2 is true, but Statement 1 is false.
- d) Neither Statement 1 nor Statement 2 is true.

Q.74) The term 'JT-60SA' sometimes seen in news recently is related to which of the following:

- a) Space communication satellite
- b) New AI model developed by Google
- c) Air defense system
- d) Nuclear Fusion reactor

Q.75) Consider the following statements:

1. Neglected tropical diseases have largely been wiped out in the more developed parts and persist mostly in the poorer countries.
2. As per WHO recent data Malaria is considered to be one of the Neglected tropical diseases.

Which of the following statements are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q.76) Pompe Disease, recently seen in news, is a:

- a) Bacterial disease
- b) Viral disease
- c) Genetic disorder
- d) None of the above

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Q.77) Sickle-Cell disease, recently seen in news, is caused by:

- a) A type of virus.
- b) A type of bacteria.
- c) A type of genetic mutation.
- d) A type of fungi.

Q.78) With respect to applications of genetic engineering, consider the following statements:

Statement I: It cannot be used to create genetically modified crops which can withstand higher temperatures.

Statement II: It can be used to bring an extinct species back to life.

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.79) Golden Rice and BioCassava Plus, often seen in news, are types of:

- a) Climate-resistant crop varieties.
- b) Crop varieties enlisted to be utilised for biofuel production.
- c) Biofortified crop varieties.
- d) None of the above.

Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (b)	3 - (c)	4 - (a)	5 - (b)	6 - (a)	7 - (b)	8 - (a)	9 - (d)	10 - (b)
11 - (a)	12 - (c)	13 - (b)	14 - (b)	15 - (b)	16 - (b)	17 - (b)	18 - (b)	19 - (d)	20 - (a)
21 - (b)	22 - (b)	23 - (b)	24 - (b)	25 - (c)	26 - (a)	27 - (d)	28 - (b)	29 - (b)	30 - (b)
31 - (b)	32 - (c)	33 - (c)	34 - (a)	35 - (a)	36 - (b)	37 - (d)	38 - (a)	39 - (c)	40 - (b)
41 - (d)	42 - (b)	43 - (a)	44 - (b)	45 - (a)	46 - (c)	47 - (d)	48 - (c)	49 - (a)	50 - (a)
51 - (c)	52 - (c)	53 - (d)	54 - (c)	55 - (c)	56 - (d)	57 - (a)	58 - (c)	59 - (b)	60 - (c)
61 - (d)	62 - (b)	63 - (c)	64 - (d)	65 - (c)	66 - (c)	67 - (a)	68 - (a)	69 - (b)	70 - (c)
71 - (c)	72 - (d)	73 - (d)	74 - (d)	75 - (a)	76 - (c)	77 - (c)	78 - (d)	79 - (c)	

Answers & Explanation

Art & Culture

1. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Parthenon Sculptures, also known as the Elgin Marbles, are a collection of classical Greek marble sculptures that once adorned the Parthenon temple (dedicated to the goddess Athena) on the rocky Acropolis hills of Athens. The majority of the sculptures were created under the direction of sculptor and architect Phidias.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Parthenon Sculptures depict a variety of scenes from Greek mythology, including deities, mythological events, and battles between gods and mortals.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct option is (B)

- Mandalas are sacred diagrams that represent the universe and the interconnectedness of all things. They are used for meditation and visualization in Tantric Buddhism, but they are not dance performances.
- The union of opposites in Tantric Buddhism is not about equality. It is about the realization that all opposites are ultimately illusory and that the true nature of reality is non-dual.
- Lotus flowers symbolism is often associated with Tantric Buddhist rituals. In rituals and practices, the lotus flower is often used as a focal point for meditation or as a representation of the Buddha.
- Vajrayana and Esoteric are the two main branches of Tantric Buddhism. Vajrayana Buddhism is the more well-known branch, and it is characterized by its use of powerful mantras, mudras, and mandalas. Esoteric Buddhism is a more secretive tradition, and its practices are only taught to initiated students.
- Tantric Buddhism uses art for teaching, healing, and meditation. In tantrism, art is seen as a powerful instrument for aiding spiritual development through rituals. Paintings of deities are used as a tool to evoke the subject or in some cases make contact directly.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct option is (C)

- Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre, which is practised in the province of Kerala, is one of India's oldest living theatrical traditions. Kutiyattam is traditionally performed in theatres called Kuttampalams, which are located in Hindu temples.

Source- [ForumIAS](#)

4. Correct Option is (A)

- The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the first Indian Art, Architecture & Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023 being held at Red Fort, Delhi. It is India's first Global Cultural Initiative to showcase Indian art, architecture and designs.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Geography

5. Correct option is (B)

- Rat hole mining is a type of underground mining method where small tunnels or "rat holes" are dug to access coal seams. It's called "rat hole mining" because the tunnels are often so small that they resemble the tunnels made by rats. It's often used in areas with shallow coal deposits and can be

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dangerous for miners because the tunnels can collapse easily. Rat hole mining is illegal in many countries, including India, due to the hazardous working conditions and environmental damage it causes. It was prevalent in Meghalaya.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct option is (A)

- The Maldives is renowned for its extensive coral reefs, making it a haven for marine biodiversity. The Maldives is comprised of 26 atolls, which are ring-shaped coral reef formations enclosing lagoons. Each atoll consists of numerous small coral islands. The lagoons within the Maldives atolls are some of the most sheltered and tranquil waters in the world. They are home to a variety of marine life, including fish, corals, and turtles. The lagoons are also a popular destination for swimming, snorkeling, and diving.
- However, Maldives are not generally considered to have seamounts. Seamounts are usually found at depths of 1,000-4,000 meters, but the Maldives is located in shallow waters.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

7. Correct option is (B)

- The Golan Heights is a strategically important plateau in the Middle East, located in southwestern Syria. It is bordered by Israel to the west, Lebanon to the northwest, and Jordan to the south. It is a volcanic plateau that rises to an elevation of 1,600 meters above sea level and overlooks the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan Valley. Golan Heights was part of Syria until 1967. But Israel captured it in the 1967 Six Day War and annexed it in 1981. The area is a key source of water. Rainwater from the Golan's catchment feeds into the Jordan River. The land is fertile, and the volcanic soil is used to cultivate vineyards and orchards and raise cattle. The Golan is also home to Israel's only ski resort.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer: A

- Lakadong turmeric and Larnai pottery recently awarded GI tag both are related to Meghalaya. Sea buckthorn is generally found in dry areas such as the cold deserts of Ladakh. In Ladakh, it is popularly known as the 'Wonder Plant', 'Ladakh Gold', 'Golden Bush', or 'Gold Mine' of cold deserts.

Source-1. [Forum IAS](#) 2. [Forum IAS](#)

Polity

9. Correct option is (D)

- Article 312 of the Constitution, as amended by the 42nd Amendment Act in 1976, provides for the creation of an AIJS. It requires a resolution adopted by the Council of States with two-thirds majority of present and voting, and a parliamentary law.
- Under AIJS, district judges will get recruited centrally through an all-India examination and allocated to each State along the lines of the All-India Services.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

10. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Currently, district judges are appointed by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State. This is in accordance with Article 233 of the Constitution of India. The President of India does not have a direct role in the appointment of district judges.

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- Statement 2 is correct. Article 312 of the Indian Constitution empowers the Parliament to create one or more All-India Services (including an All-India judicial service) common to both the Union and the States through a special majority resolution passed by the Rajya Sabha.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct option is (A)

- The model code refers to a set of norms laid down by the Election Commission of India, with the consensus of political parties. It bears no statutory backing and remains unenforceable.
- Candidates attending religious ceremonies during the campaign period is not a violation of the MCC. Candidates are free to attend religious ceremonies as long as they do not use the occasion to campaign for votes.
- Candidates organizing public rallies to address the concerns of local communities is also not a violation of the MCC. Candidates are free to hold public meetings and rallies to address the concerns of voters. However, they must not make inflammatory or provocative speeches, or use the occasion to attack their opponents.
- Candidates engaging in constructive debates with their opponents is not only allowed but encouraged under the MCC. Constructive debates help voters to learn about the candidates' positions on important issues and to make informed decisions about who to vote for.
- However, Candidates providing financial assistance to underprivileged voters would be a violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).
- The MCC prohibits candidates from offering gifts or inducements to voters. This includes providing financial assistance, such as money, food, or other goods or services. The purpose of this rule is to ensure that elections are free and fair, and that voters are not influenced by unfair practices.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Fast-track courts were first introduced on the recommendation of the 11th Finance Commission. The Commission recommended the establishment of 1,734 fast-track courts in the country to expeditiously dispose of long-pending Sessions and other cases.
- The establishment of Fast Track Special Courts is part of judicial reforms to address delays in the legal system. These courts are designed to resolve cases within a specific timeframe, contributing to a more efficient and timely justice delivery system.
- The Fast Track Special Courts Scheme aims to ensure swift dispensation of justice, offering quick relief to victims while strengthening the deterrence framework for sexual offenders. This is because FTSCs provide faster access to justice for victims, which can help them to heal and move on from their traumatic experiences. Additionally, the quick resolution of cases can help to deter potential offenders.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary aim of the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) is to expedite the trial of specific types of cases, such as sexual offenses against women and children. FTSCs are not intended to provide legal assistance to underprivileged individuals, although they may indirectly do so by providing faster access to justice for victims of crime.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

13. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. VVPAT is an independent system attached to an EVM that allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended. India was the first country to introduce Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in elections. VVPAT was first used in India during the general

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elections in 2014 as a pilot project in some constituencies, and its use has since been expanded in subsequent elections to enhance transparency and confidence in the electoral process.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. In reality, the VVPAT paper slips serve as the final and binding record of the voter's choice. In case of a discrepancy, a recount is conducted to reconcile the electronic results with the VVPAT slips. If the discrepancy persists, the VVPAT slips prevail.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct option is (B)

- The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides autonomous status to certain tribal-dominated regions of India. These regions are given special powers to administer their own affairs, including control over land, forests, and local bodies. This helps to preserve tribal culture and heritage by giving tribal communities greater control over their own lives.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct option is (B)

- In legal terms, a "tort" refers to a civil wrong that causes harm or loss to someone, leading to legal liability for the person who committed the tort. The injured party can seek compensation for damages through a civil lawsuit. If adultery is considered a tort in some parts of the world, it means that engaging in adultery could be seen as a civil wrong, and the spouse who has been harmed by the adultery may have the right to seek damages in a civil court.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct Answer: (B)

- The University Grants Commission of India (UGC India) is a statutory body set up by the Indian Union government in accordance with the UGC Act, 1956 under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. It is charged with coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of higher education. UGC also provides recognition to universities in India and disburses funds to such recognised universities and colleges.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

17. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Advocates Act, 1961 was enacted to create a single Act to regulate the legal profession and to provide for the constitution of Bar Councils and an All-India Bar.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Acts & Policies

18. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. BS bill bars the courts from inquiring into any privileged communication between Ministers and the President of India. This will give legal backing to Article 74(2) of the Constitution which states that the advice given by the Council of Ministers to the President of India could not be inquired into by the courts.
- Statement 2 is correct. It has been expanded to include any information given electronically that will enable the appearance of witnesses, accused, experts and victims through electronic means.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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19. Correct option is (D)

- The Central Sector Scheme for providing Drones to Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) is a government initiative aimed at empowering women in rural India and promoting the use of technology in agriculture. Under the scheme, 15,000 selected Women SHGs will be provided with drones to rent out to farmers for agricultural purposes. The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹1,261 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-2026. It aims to provide 15,000 drones to selected Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) for the purpose of offering rental services to farmers for agriculture purposes.
- The objectives of the scheme are to: Enhance the income and livelihood opportunities of women in rural India, promote the use of drones in agriculture for precision farming, crop spraying, and other agricultural activities, create a network of drone service providers in rural India, encourage women's participation in the technology-driven agricultural sector.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

20. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Gond Tribe in Madhya Pradesh is not recognized as one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The criteria for identifying PVTGs are based on a number of factors, including low levels of literacy, poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, and geographic isolation, but inadequate infrastructure is not one of the main criteria used to identify these groups.
- Statement 3 is correct. MGNREGA is an important scheme that has helped improve the livelihoods of many people in rural areas, including some PVTGs. However, the scheme is not specifically designed to target PVTGs. While it has certainly helped some members of PVTGs, the impact of the scheme is more broad-based, aimed at improving the lives of the rural poor more generally.
- Recently, the government has approved The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) scheme. It is a comprehensive scheme launched by the Government of India in 2023 to uplift the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The scheme aims to saturate PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. Correct option is (B)

- Sanchar Saathi Portal is a citizen-centric initiative of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in India. It aims to empower mobile subscribers, strengthen their security, and increase awareness about citizen-centric initiatives of the government. The Sanchar Saathi Portal is designed to empower citizens by allowing them to know the mobile connections issued in their name, disconnect unnecessary connections, block/trace lost mobile phones, and check the genuineness of devices while buying new/old mobile phones.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

22. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 and 3 are correct- The handbook elaborates on processes which institutions need to follow while seeking approval from the AICTE to run technical and management programmes/courses. One of the key features of the handbook is Well-performing institutions can offer off-campus programs within the jurisdiction of affiliating Universities.
- Statement 2 is incorrect- As the handbook is applicable for the next three years.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

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23. Correct Answer: B

- Statement 1 is incorrect- It has been initiated by the Ministry of Culture not by ministry of Rural development in coordination with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
- Statement 2 is correct- The main objective of project is to culturally map India's 6.5 lakh villages, spanning 29 States and 7 Union Territories, on a comprehensive virtual platform.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

24. Correct Answer-(B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect- NSKFDC was set up in January 1997 as a nonprofit company under section 25 of the companies act 1956 (now section 8 of Company Act, 2013). It is a wholly-owned Govt. of India Undertaking under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (M/o SJ&E).
- Statement 2 is correct- It provides free skill development training to sanitation workers and their dependents under Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) and PM DAKSH Yojana. Stipend is also provided during training period.

Source- [ForumIAS](#)

Index & Reports

25. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. As per the report, total annual ground water extraction for the entire country has increased. Total annual ground water recharge is 449.08 billion cubic meters (BCM), marking an increase of 11.48 BCM compared to 2022. The report has acknowledged the positive impact of initiatives like Atal Bhujal Yojana and Jal Shakti Abhiyan in improving groundwater resource management.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The report provides that there has been a decrease in stage of groundwater extraction level. Stage of groundwater extraction is a measure of annual ground water extraction for all uses (irrigation, industrial and domestic uses) over annual extractable ground water resource.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

26. Correct option is (A)

- **Statement 1 and 3** are incorrect- According to NCRB Crime in India report 2022, Bengaluru ranked highest in cyber-crimes. And there is an increase in the number of cases registered under UAPA while decrease in number of sedition cases after Supreme Court 2022 Judgment to keep sedition cases in abeyance.
- **Statement 2** is correct- As it showed overall increase in crimes and atrocities committed upon Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

27. Correct option is (D)

- Statement I: It is the collaborative effort of the IDFC Foundation, Infrastructure Development Corporation (Karnataka) Ltd. (iDeCK) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).
- Statement II: It does not advocate completely doing away with PPP. It is an extreme statement.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

International Relations/Organizations

28. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. AIGIF is an annual forum organized to strengthen partnership between India and ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the area of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

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- **Statements 2 and 3** are incorrect. the AIGIF is not exclusively focused on showcasing innovations in the final stages of development. It also welcomes innovations in the early stages of development, providing support and guidance to grassroots innovators throughout the innovation process.
- The AIGIF is not solely interested in innovations with direct commercial applications. While commercial viability is an important consideration, the AIGIF also recognizes the value of innovations that address social and environmental challenges.
- It recognizes the value of grassroots innovations that address societal challenges, even if they lack direct commercial applications. The forum promotes innovations that have the potential to improve lives and contribute to sustainable development, regardless of their immediate commercial viability.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

29. Correct option is (B)

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) is intergovernmental organization responsible for the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean.
- **Statement 2** is correct. The decisions made by the IOTC, adopted through consensus or voting procedures, are binding on all its Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties. These decisions aim to regulate fishing activities and ensure the sustainable management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

30. Correct option is (B)

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. The Isthmus of Kra is a narrow stretch of land that connects the Malay Peninsula to the Thai mainland, not Singapore Island.
- **Statements 2 and 3** are correct. The Kra Isthmus Project is a proposed canal that would connect the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand, providing a shorter shipping route between Europe and Asia. This would reduce reliance on the Malacca Strait, which is a narrow and congested waterway that is currently the main shipping route between the two regions.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

31. Correct option is (B)

- **Statement 1** is incorrect. GPAI is not directly involved in funding or conducting AI research and development. It's primarily focused on developing principles and guidelines for responsible AI development, rather than conducting research itself.
- **Statements 2 and 3** are correct. India is a founding member of GPAI. The GPAI's principles and guidelines are being used by governments and organizations around the world to develop their own AI policies.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

32. Correct option is (C)

- **Statement 1** is correct. As per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) "Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others".
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. Disabilities in India are highest in the age group 10-19 years.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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33. Correct option is (C)

- The IMO (International Maritime Organization) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that regulates international shipping. Its primary function is to develop and implement international maritime conventions, standards, and regulations that promote safety, environmental protection, and efficiency in shipping. It also provides technical assistance and support to member states to help them implement these regulations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

34. Correct option is (A)

- **Statements 1 and 3** are correct. Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the UN Security Council. The UN Security Council is the only UN body with the authority to authorize the deployment of peacekeeping missions. It does so by adopting resolutions that define the mandate, size, and composition of the mission. India has consistently been one of the top contributors of troops to UN peacekeeping missions, ranking among the top five in recent years. This demonstrates India's commitment to international peace and security and its recognition of the importance of UN peacekeeping operations.
- **Statement 2** is incorrect. Troop contributions to UN peacekeeping missions are voluntary, meaning member states decide independently whether or not to participate and contribute troops.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

35. Correct Answer: A

- Article 99 of the UN Charter is a special and independent political tool given to the UN Secretary-General. The article allows the UN Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the UN Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security. When Article 99 is invoked, the President of the UN Security Council is under the obligation to call a meeting of the Security Council.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

36. Correct Answer: B

- The Assam Accord was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement in 1985. The accord brought an end to the Assam Agitation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Economy

37. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. India is now the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, after the United States and China. The number of operational airports in India has doubled in recent years. In 2014, there were 74 operational airports in India. By 2023, this number had increased to 147. Delhi and Mumbai airports have achieved Level 4+ Carbon Accreditation, showing sustainability efforts in the aviation industry.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

38. Correct option is (A)

- Risk-weighted assets (RWAs) are a measure of a bank's credit risk. The higher the risk weight, the greater the risk that the bank will not be able to collect the full amount of the asset.

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- Higher risk weights translate into higher capital requirements, which can constrain banks' lending capacity and reduce their profitability. Conversely, lower risk weights allow banks to hold less capital, potentially boosting their earnings.
- The concept is part of the Basel framework, a set of international banking regulations developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.
- The risk weights for different types of assets are set by regulators. For example, the Basel III Accord sets the following risk weights for different types of assets: Cash: 0%, Government bonds: 0%, Corporate bonds: 20%, Equities: 100%, Loans to consumers: 100%
- Government bonds have the lowest risk weight of 0%, while equities have the highest risk weight of 100%. This is because government bonds are considered to be the safest type of asset, while equities are considered to be the riskiest type of asset.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

39. Correct option is (C)

- When Indian bonds are incorporated into global bond indices, there will be an increase in demand for Indian bonds, leading to an appreciation of the rupee. This is because foreign investors will need to purchase rupees to invest in Indian bonds.
- The inclusion of Indian bonds in global bond indices will make Indian bonds more attractive to foreign investors, leading to increased capital inflows into the Indian economy.
- The inclusion of Indian bonds in global bond indices will expose Indian bonds to global market fluctuations, which could lead to increased volatility in the Indian bond market.
- However, Inclusion in global indices will reduce bond yields and can lead to lower borrowing costs for the Indian government and corporates.
- India's government would have less control over interest rates, as its borrowing costs would be influenced by global market conditions.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

40. Correct option is (B)

- Currency in circulation is the value of all the banknotes and coins that a country's monetary authority has issued, minus the amount that has been removed from circulation. It is a key part of a country's money supply.
- Currency held by banks including the RBI, also known as vault cash, represents the physical cash that banks keep in their reserves to meet daily transaction demands. This cash is part of the total currency in circulation.
- Currency held by the public refers to the physical cash that individuals and businesses hold for daily transactions. This cash is also part of the total currency in circulation.
- Currency held by the government, such as cash held by government agencies or ministries, is not directly considered part of Currency in Circulation.
- Electronic/digital currencies, such as cryptocurrency or digital payments like Paytm or Google Pay, are not considered part of Currency in Circulation. CiC specifically refers to physical currency, banknotes, and coins. Similarly, foreign currency in India is also not considered part of CiC.
- Recently, currency in circulation has increased in India despite a significant growth in digital payments at the same time.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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41. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. The PLFS does not collect data on wages. The primary objective of the PLFS is to estimate employment and unemployment rates.
- The term "usual status" in the PLFS refers to the employment status an individual typically holds during a reference period, usually a year. It's not limited to the time of the survey.
- The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), a government agency under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, conducts the PLFS.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

42. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The CCPA is a statutory body established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The CCPA is responsible for protecting the rights of consumers and ensuring that they are not subjected to unfair trade practices.
- The CCPA does not protect consumers by regulating export and import activities or by providing legal assistance to consumers. These are not within the CCPA's mandate.
- Statements 3 and 4 are correct. The CCPA conducts consumer awareness campaigns to educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities. These campaigns can help consumers to avoid being taken advantage of by businesses. The CCPA regulates consumer complaints and grievances by investigating complaints and taking action against businesses that violate consumer protection laws. This can help to deter businesses from engaging in unfair trade practices.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

43. Correct option is (A)

- Social capital is the ability to get benefits and solve problems by being part of social networks. It includes relationships between people and groups, trust within these relationships, and the advantages gained from these connections. Social capital includes: trust, norms and values, Networks, Reciprocity, etc.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

44. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. India is the 3rd most dammed country in the world, with 6,138 large dams in total.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. India has a poor record of dam safety. According to National Dam Safety Authority, there have been 42 cases of dam failures. India produces around 25,000MW energy from the dams on the Himalayan rivers alone, which is around 65% of the total hydropower potential of these rivers.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

45. Correct option is (A)

- The Network Effect occurs when a product or service becomes more valuable or useful to each user as the number of users increases. A classic example is social media platforms - the more people who use a platform, the more content and connections there are to explore, making the platform more valuable to each individual user.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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46. Correct option is (C)

- Characteristics of the creator economy are accessibility, monetization, and decentralization. Accessibility means that anyone can become a creator, regardless of background or experience. Monetization refers to the fact that creators can make money from their content, either through advertising, sponsorships, or other means. Decentralization means that creators don't have to rely on big tech platforms or media companies to distribute their content - they can use social media or other platforms to reach their audiences directly.
- However, reliance on Large Corporations is not a characteristic of a creator economy as the creator economy is all about empowering individuals and small businesses, not corporations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

47. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. India is one of members of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC). Kasturi Cotton Bharat is a premium cotton brand of India, known for its high quality and unique characteristics. It is a type of cotton that is grown and processed in India and is prized for its softness, strength, and absorbency. India has the largest area under cotton cultivation and is the second largest cotton producer in the world, after China. India produces around 25% of the world's cotton, and it is a major contributor to the global cotton industry.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Environment

48. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Axolotl is a species of salamander. Axolotls are native to the Xochimilco and Chalco lakes in central Mexico. Axolotls are known for their remarkable regenerative abilities. They can regenerate limbs, tails, jaws, and even parts of their brain and spinal cord. This regeneration is thought to be due to their neotenic nature, which means that they retain larval characteristics into adulthood.
- Axolotls are omnivorous animals. Axolotls eat a variety of small invertebrates, such as worms, crustaceans, and insects. They will also eat small fish and amphibians.
- The axolotl is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List due to habitat loss, pollution, and overcollection for the pet trade.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Axolotls are amphibians, not reptiles. Amphibians are cold-blooded vertebrates that have smooth, moist skin. Reptiles, on the other hand, have scales or scutes on their skin.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

49. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The NGT is a quasi-judicial body, not a regulatory body. This means that it has the power to adjudicate disputes and issue binding orders, but it does not have the power to formulate and enforce regulations. The NGT is tasked with resolving disputes between individuals and corporations, and between individuals and the government, arising from environmental issues.
- The NGT is not bound by the procedures laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC), 1908. It has its own set of rules and procedures, which are laid down in the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 and the National Green Tribunal Rules, 2011. The NGT is bound by the principles of natural justice, but it is not bound by the same procedural rules as regular courts.

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- Statement 3 is correct. The NGT has the power to issue binding orders to the government, including orders to take specific actions to prevent or remedy environmental damage. The government is obliged to comply with NGT orders, but it can appeal against them in the Supreme Court.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

50. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. China is a global leader in both clean and dirty energy production. It is the world's largest producer of renewable energy, accounting for over 30% of global renewable energy capacity. At the same time, China is also the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, responsible for about 30% of global emissions. This is primarily due to its reliance on coal for electricity generation and heavy industries.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. BRICS-Plus, added six new countries: Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the UAE.
- Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Punjab still heavily rely on fossil fuels. Whereas, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh have shown a reduction in the fossil fuel usage.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

51. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The concept of "loss and damage" refers to the unavoidable negative effects of climate change, even if mitigation and adaptation efforts are successful. It includes both non-economic losses, such as loss of life, culture, and biodiversity, as well as economic losses, such as loss of property, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Financial penalties for non-compliance with emission reduction targets are a separate concept, often referred to as "climate finance" or "carbon pricing."
- While taxation on industries contributing to climate change could be a way to generate revenue, it is not directly linked to the Loss and Damage Fund.
- Statement 3 is correct. Compensating for losses after the occurrence of climate-related events is one of the important roles played by the Loss and Damage Fund. This helps to provide support to vulnerable communities that have been affected by climate change and to rebuild their livelihoods. Additionally, the fund also supports measures to reduce vulnerability to future climate events.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

52. Correct option is (C)

- Three of the above sanctuaries are located in Karnataka. They are Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary. Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary is located in Tamil Nadu.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

53. Correct option is (D)

- Eco-Sensitive Zones are primarily established to protect ecologically sensitive areas from human activities that can harm the environment. While they can contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, improvement of water quality, and reduction of soil erosion, promoting sustainable tourism is not their primary objective. Sustainable tourism can potentially conflict with these objectives, as it may lead to increased human activity in the area, which could disrupt the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

54. Correct option is (C)

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- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The GGC Initiative is conceptualized as a mechanism to incentivize voluntary pro-planet actions, as an effective response to the challenge of climate change. It envisions the issue of Green Credits for plantations on waste/degraded lands and river catchment areas, to rejuvenate and revive natural eco-systems.
- It aims to facilitate global cooperation and partnership through exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices in planning, implementation and monitoring of environment positive actions through programs/mechanisms like Green Credits.
- The India's Green Credits Programme is a market-based mechanism to incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors, by various stakeholders like individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies. It was first announced in the Union Budget 2023-24 and launched by the Environment Ministry in October 2023.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

55. Correct option is (C)

- ALTÉRRRA is designed to support climate-friendly projects in emerging markets and developing economies, and its primary focus is on providing technical expertise and facilitating access to finance. Rather than providing direct funding or investing in larger companies, ALTÉRRRA will work with small and medium-sized companies like the solar power company in India to help them access the resources they need to expand their operations. ALTÉRRRA may also assist with the sale of carbon credits generated by the solar power plant, but this would likely be a secondary role.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

56. Correct option is (D)

- Statement 1: At present, HAPs have been implemented in 23 States, not all.
- Statement 2: It is colour-coded as Green, Yellow, Orange, Red based on intensity of heatwave.
- Statement 3: State governments are responsible for implementing and monitoring HAP.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

57. Correct Answer: (A)

- Statement 1 is correct- In India, Ethanol is produced from multiple sources. Currently It is largely produced through sugarcane-based molasses and grain-based sources as feedstock.
- Statement 2 is incorrect- The Government has set a target of achieving 20% ethanol blending with petrol by 2025.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

58. Correct Answer: (C)

- In 2016, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol was signed to reduce HFC consumption by 80% by 2047. If achieved, this could avoid more than 0.5 degree Celsius of global warming by 2100.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

59. Correct Answer: (B)

- Silent Valley National Park is a national park in Kerala, India. It is in the Nilgiri hills and has a core area of 89.52 km². It is surrounded by a buffer zone of 148 km². This national park has some rare species of flora and fauna. Silent Valley National Park was explored in 1847 by the botanist Robert Wight.

Source: FORUMIAS

60. Correct Answer (C)

- IUCN Red List Status of Olive Ridley Turtles is 'Vulnerable'. The rest of the statements are correct.

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Source: [ForumIAS](#)

61. Correct Answer (D)

- The Santiago Network was established at COP 25 in Madrid. It was established as part of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It aims to catalyze technical assistance for vulnerable developing countries in order to address loss and damage.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

62. Correct Answer- (B)

- Statement 1 and 3 are correct- The “Early Warnings for All” initiative is a groundbreaking effort to ensure that everyone on Earth is protected from hazardous weather, water, or climate events through life-saving early warning systems by the end of 2027. The initiative is being led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Statement 2 is incorrect- It was launched by UN Secretary-General in March 2022.

Source- [ForumIAS](#)

Science & Technology

63. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Walking pneumonia is typically a mild form of pneumonia, with symptoms that may not be severe enough to require hospitalization. While it can cause respiratory issues, it is not considered a severe respiratory illness. Hence, due to its less severity, it is also known as walking.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Walking pneumonia is more prevalent among children and older age groups. The strict lockdown measures implemented in China to control the COVID-19 pandemic have reduced children's exposure to common respiratory pathogens. This has led to an "immunity gap" among children, making them more susceptible to mycoplasma/walking pneumonia.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

64. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Legion of Honour Award is not a science award presented by the President of the United States. It is the highest French order of merit, both military and civil, established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte. It is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service to France in various fields, including science, but it is not specifically focused on recognizing junior researchers.
- The Legion of Honour Award is not given out every year on Bastille Day. The award ceremony typically takes place in the Grand Hall of the Chancellery of the Legion of Honour in Paris on various dates throughout the year. While some awards may be presented around Bastille Day, it is not a fixed date for the ceremony.
- V R Lalithambika (ISRO scientist) was recently honored with the Legion of Honour Award for promoting Indo-French space cooperation.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

65. Correct option is (C)

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- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Indian Navy successfully conducted the first edition of MAHASAGAR, a high-level virtual interaction between Maritime Heads. The initiative aims to promote active security and growth for all in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Participating countries: Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

66. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Polarization is a fundamental property of light waves that refers to the orientation of the electric field vector. In unpolarized light, the electric field oscillates in random directions, while in polarized light, the electric field oscillates in a specific direction. This property of light provides valuable information about the source of the light and its interactions with matter.
- The XPoSat mission is India's first space-based mission dedicated to measuring the polarization of X-rays from cosmic sources. It aims to study the behavior of bright X-ray sources, such as black holes, neutron stars, and accreting systems, under extreme conditions. By measuring the polarization of X-rays, XPoSat will provide insights into the physical processes occurring in these extreme environments.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

67. Correct option is (A)

- The Mahe class ships are multi-purpose vessels that can perform a range of functions for the Indian Navy. These ships are designed to be versatile and adaptable, capable of carrying out anti-submarine warfare, search and rescue operations, coastal patrol, and a range of other duties. These are Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC). They aim to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and Mine Laying Operations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

68. Correct option is (A)

- **Statement 1** is correct. Methotrexate belongs to a class of drugs known as antimetabolite. It is used to treat various medical conditions, primarily cancers, autoimmune diseases, and certain inflammatory conditions. The MTX overdose in blood plasma is hazardous if it remains in the system for more than 10 hours, resulting in poisoning effects on the lungs, ulcers of the stomach, and heart stroke.
- Hence, scientists have developed a highly fluorescent material that can be used as a visual sensing platform for detecting the anti-cancer drug Methotrexate (MTX).
- **Statements 2** is incorrect. MTX is a cornerstone therapy for several autoimmune diseases, often showing significant effectiveness in controlling symptoms and managing disease progression.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

69. Correct option is (B)

- It is a Multimodal AI and a Large Language Model (LLM) developed by Google. It can understand different types of information including text, audio, images and video. It will be available in three models: Ultra (for highly complex tasks), Pro (for scaling across a wide range of tasks) and Nano (on-device tasks).

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

70. Correct option is (C)

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- The propulsion module was a part of Chandrayaan-3. The primary objective of the module was to carry the Vikram Lander Module from launch vehicle injection till the final lunar 100 km circular polar orbit and separate the Lander Module from the Propulsion Module.
- The module also carried a payload called the SpectroPolarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE). It is an experimental instrument to look back at Earth and study the signatures that make it habitable to identify habitable exoplanets.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

71. Correct option is (C)

- Japan has its own satellite navigation system called the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS). China also has its own satellite navigation system called BeiDou.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

72. Correct option is (D)

- The definitions have been interchanged. The correct definitions are:
- Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence technology that can produce various types of content, including text, imagery, audio, etc.
- Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is defined as the intelligence of machines that allows them to comprehend, learn, and perform intellectual tasks much like humans.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

73. Correct option is (D)

- Phase I clinical trials primarily focus on assessing the safety and dosage range of a new drug or treatment in a small group of healthy volunteers. Whereas, Phase III clinical trials involve a larger population and compare the new treatment against standard or existing treatments to assess its effectiveness, safety, and potential side effects.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

74. Correct Answer: (D)

- JT-60SA is the world's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor. It is a joint initiative between the European Union and Japan aiming to investigate the feasibility of nuclear fusion as a sustainable and near limitless power source.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

75. Correct Answer: (A)

- Statement 1 is correct - As these diseases have largely been wiped out in the more developed parts and persist mostly in the poorer countries, they are absent from the global health agenda and hence called 'neglected'.
- Statement 2 is incorrect - As per WHO data Malaria is not considered in the category of the Neglected tropical diseases.

Source- [Forum IAS](#)

76. Correct Answer: (C)

- Pompe Disease is a rare genetic disorder caused by a deficiency of the enzyme acid alpha glucosidase (GAA).

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

77. Correct Answer (C)

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- Normally, red blood cells are disc-shaped and flexible enough to move easily through the blood vessels. In sickle cell disease, red blood cells become crescent- or “sickle”-shaped due to a genetic mutation. Such a shape makes the flow of hemoglobin through the blood vessels difficult and can block blood flow to the rest of the body. The blocked blood flow through the body can lead to serious problems, including stroke, eye problems, infections, and episodes of pain called pain crises.

Source: **ForumIAS**

78. Correct Answer (D)

- Genetic engineering can be used to create genetically modified crops which can withstand higher temperatures. It can be used to bring an extinct species back to life (as seen in the Dodo de-extinction project).

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

79. Correct Answer (C)

- These are examples of Biofortified crops, which are crops bred to increase their nutritional value. This can be done either through conventional selective breeding, or through genetic engineering.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

Art & Culture

Q.1) Which one of the following traditional instruments is used to accompany Garba music?

- a) Sitar
- b) Tabla
- c) Dhol
- d) Shehnai

Q.2) Which one of the following best describes the key characteristics of Intangible Cultural Heritages (ICH)?

- a) Living and evolving, transmitted through generations, and rooted in specific communities.
- b) Static and unchanging, solely preserved in museums and archives.
- c) Primarily commercialized and marketed for tourism purposes.
- d) Vibrant and adaptable, preserved by the people, and enriched through government funding.

Q.3) With reference to the Koya tribe, consider the following statements:

1. It is a tribe found in the Papikonda hill range, near the Godavari and Sabari rivers in Andhra Pradesh.
2. Dhangar Dance is their traditional dance performed during festivals and marriage ceremonies.
3. The Medaram Jathara festival is celebrated by the tribe.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Geography

Q.4) Which one of the following factors contribute to the formation of "Heat Waves"?

- a) High pressure systems, reduced cloud cover, and dry air.
- b) Changes in ocean currents and volcanic eruptions.
- c) Low pressure systems, increased cloud cover, and high humidity.
- d) Deforestation and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

Q.5) With reference to the country Guyana, consider the following statements:

1. Amazon River flows through the heart of Guyana.
2. Amazon rainforest contributes to Guyana's rich biodiversity and is often referred to as the "lungs of the Earth".
3. It is a landlocked country.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.6) With reference to the formation of Cyclones in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Arabian Sea has seen a decrease in wind shear in recent years, creating a more favorable environment for cyclone formation.
2. Warm sea surface temperatures are essential for cyclone formation because they create strong winds that help the storm to develop.
3. July-September is considered the peak season for cyclones in India.
4. Tropical cyclone is the main type of cyclones that affect India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.7) Consider the following Protected Areas:

1. Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Bandipur National Park
3. Manjira Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Nagarhole National Park
5. Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve

How many of the above Protected Areas (PAs) lie along the Cauvery Basin?

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

Q.8) With reference to the Eastern Ghats, consider the following statements:

1. Eastern Ghats biospheres are rich forests with perennial and semi-perennial streams and other natural resources.
2. The Eastern Ghats are part of a larger mountain system extending from central India to the far south and running parallel to the east coast.
3. They are continuous range of mountains.

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.9) In the process of Cloud seeding, which of the following chemicals are used?

1. Silver iodide
2. Calcium chloride
3. Silver Nitrate
4. Mercury Compounds

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Polity

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. It monitors and evaluates the implementation of the MGNREGA.
2. It prepares annual reports on the implementation of MGNREGA for submission to the Parliament.
3. It oversees state-level employment initiatives under MGNREGA.

In how many of the above ways does the Central Employment Guarantee Council (CEGC) play role(s) in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)?

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

Q.11) The Chief Justice of India (CJI) is considered the "Master of the Roster" regarding the allocation of cases to different benches of the Supreme Court. In this context, the CJI's power to allocate cases is based on:

- a) Constitutional provisions
- b) Judicial precedents established over time
- c) Statutory laws enacted by Parliament
- d) Guidelines issued by the Supreme Court Bar Council

Q.12) Which landmark case in India established the 'Basic Structure Doctrine'?

- a) Keshavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala
- b) Golaknath v. State of Punjab
- c) Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India
- d) Minerva Mills v. Union of India

Q.13) With reference to the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), which of the following statements are correct?

1. IPC is an autonomous institution of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Indian Pharmacopoeia is a document that defines the requirements for the manufacturing and sale of drugs in India.
3. The standards set by the IPC for the drugs are legally binding for all manufacturers, importers, and distributors of drugs in India.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.14) What is the primary rationale behind the introduction of reservation policies in India?

- a) Increase political representation of minorities
- b) Address historical social inequalities
- c) Promote economic development of specific regions
- d) Achieve cultural homogenization

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Q.15) What is the primary objective of invoking President's Rule under Article 356?

- a) To punish the state government for misconduct
- b) To control the state's political processes
- c) To promote economic development in the state
- d) To ensure smooth functioning of the state administration

Q.16) With reference to the Electoral Bond, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. One of the primary purposes of electoral bonds in India's election funding system is to reduce dependence on corporate donations.
- 2. Electoral bonds differ from traditional political donations because they promote transparency through real-time disclosure.

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.17) Which one of the following statements best describes India's current legal status regarding "Refugees"?

- a) India has a comprehensive national legislation that addresses the rights and duties of refugees.
- b) India is a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention, 1951, due to which it grants asylum to refugees.
- c) India lacks a specific refugee law, yet it adheres to the principles of non-refoulement and provides legal frameworks for protection.
- d) India currently lacks a dedicated legal framework or specific policies for managing refugees within its borders.

Q.18) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Visitors' admission, withdrawal and removal in the Lok Sabha is governed by the Parliament Visitor's Entry Act, 1991.
- 2. Strangers can only enter the Lok Sabha with prior permission from a Member of Parliament (MP).

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.19) Consider the following trades:

- 1. Tailors
- 2. Boat Maker
- 3. Blacksmith
- 4. Barber

Which of the above trades are included in the 'PM Vishwakarma Scheme'?

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

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Q.20) With reference to NAMO Drone Didi Scheme (Drone Shakti Scheme) consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to establish India as a global leader in drone technology.
2. The scheme is primarily focused on providing financial assistance to women entrepreneurs.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.21) With reference to the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in India through voluntary third-party certification.
2. Any forest with Forest & Wood Certification is automatically considered a model of sustainable forestry.
3. This Scheme offers market incentives to various entities such as state forest departments, individual farmers, FPOs, and wood-based industries, that practice responsible forest management and agroforestry.

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.22) In the context of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), who of the following bears the responsibility of proving "reasonable grounds" for detention?

- a) The burden lies with the individual to prove their innocence.
- b) The authorities only need to present basic suspicion without concrete evidence.
- c) The burden rests with the authorities to provide substantial evidence justifying detention.
- d) The court determines the burden of proof on a case-by-case basis.

Q.23) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Aspirational Blocks Programme focuses on improving governance to enhance the quality of life of citizens and service delivery in the remotest and less developed blocks of India.

Statement-II: The Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) is a monthly ranking system used to evaluate and incentivize progress among identified "aspirational blocks" in India.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Index & Reports

Q.24) Global Cooling Watch Report is published by -

- a) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- b) World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- c) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- d) International Energy Agency (IEA)

Q.25) With reference to the Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023, consider the following statements:

- 1. It has been released by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- 2. As per the report, India has seen an increase in road traffic fatalities between 2010 to 2021.
- 3. As per the report, road crashes remain a major cause of death among youth.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

International Relations/Organizations

Q.26) With reference to the Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization), consider the following statements:

- 1. Its main function is to investigate and prosecute crimes on an international level.
- 2. It issues Green Notice for missing persons.
- 3. Afghanistan is a member country of Interpol.

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

Q.27) With reference to Free Trade Agreements, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a treaty between two or more countries that aims to reduce trade barriers and promote free trade between them.
- 2. It eliminates competition between countries, allowing them to share resources and technology seamlessly for the betterment of 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.28) With reference to the “New Delhi Declaration” adopted recently at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit, consider the following statements:

1. The declaration aims at promoting inclusive AI by ensuring equitable access to the benefits of AI for all countries and people.
2. The declaration promotes a Western model of AI for global adoption.
3. The declaration commits countries to work on addressing concerns around AI such as unemployment, lack of transparency and fairness, protection of intellectual property and personal data and threats to human rights and democratic values.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Economy

Q.29) Consider the following:

1. Mediation
2. Adjudication
3. Conciliation
4. Arbitration

Which of the terms mentioned above is/are associated with the Group of Companies Doctrine (GOCD), seen in the news recently?

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

Q.30) Which one of the following is the primary distinction between a ‘Mining license’ and a ‘Composite license’ required for mineral exploration and extraction?

- a) A mining license covers only the extraction stage, while a composite license covers both exploration and extraction.
- b) A mining license is required before a composite license can be obtained.
- c) A composite license is a type of mining license with additional exploration rights.
- d) They have no difference in the stages covered, but a composite license allows for longer exploration periods.

Q.31) Consider the following statements:

1. Urea prices are fixed by the companies in the open market.
2. For phosphatic & potassic (P&K) fertilizers, the Department of Fertilizers provides an indicative Maximum Retail Price at which they are to be sold.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Q.32) With reference to the Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) in India, consider the following statements:

1. A woman is considered to be a part of the labour force if she is either employed or actively looking for work.
2. Assam has the lowest FLFPR.
3. According to the World Bank, Indian women's participation in the formal economy is among the lowest in the world.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.33) Which one of the following statements best describes the term 'Rural Enterprise'?

- a) It refers to efforts and strategies aimed at rejuvenating and enhancing the economic and social vibrancy of rural areas.
- b) These are very small-scale businesses, often operated by a small number of people, with limited capital and resources.
- c) It involves agricultural production carried out by a group of farmers who pool their resources, land, and expertise.
- d) It means a group of people with common economic interests who have formed a legally recognized organization to carry out business activities in rural areas.

Q.34) With reference to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF), consider the following statements:

1. It has been established under Companies Act, 1956 by way of Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999.
2. The amounts such as dividends, applications money, matured deposits, which have remained unpaid or unclaimed for a period of 7 years are required to be transferred to the IEPF.
3. The amount credited to IEPF is maintained under the Consolidated Fund of India.

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.35) Which one of the following statements best describes the term 'Anarcho-Capitalism', seen in the news recently?

- a) It is an ideology advocating for strong centralized authority and strict obedience to the government.
- b) It emphasizes individualism, rational self-interest, and laissez-faire capitalism.
- c) It advocates for the elimination of government intervention in economic and social affairs, promoting a society based on voluntary exchanges and free markets.
- d) It is an economic ideology where the means of production are commonly owned, and there is no private ownership.

Q.36) Consider the following:

1. Printing Rupees
2. Selling forex reserves
3. Pegging the Rupee to the Dollar

How many of the above measures would be the most appropriate for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to take when the Rupee depreciates against the U.S. dollar?

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

Q.37) With reference to the Circular Economy, consider the following statements:

1. In a circular economy, the primary goal regarding resource use is to achieve a balance between resource extraction and replenishment.
2. Compared to a linear economy, a circular economy emphasizes disposal of waste in landfills and incineration.
3. Recycling materials into new products aligns with the principles of a circular economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Environment

Q.38) In the context of Plastic pollution, consider the following statements:

1. The main environmental concern associated with plastic pollution is the soil erosion.
2. Montreal Protocol aims to reduce the production and use of single-use plastics.
3. Burning plastic waste can help reduce plastic pollution in the oceans.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.39) Which one of the following international agreements has influenced India's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting clean energy?

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Paris Agreement
- c) Montreal Protocol
- d) Copenhagen Accord

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Q.40) If a developing country with a rapidly growing economy is requesting financial assistance for transitioning to clean energy, then which one of the following principles of 'Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)' will be applied in this context?

- a) Equal sharing of responsibilities
- b) Historical responsibility
- c) Differential treatment based on economic facilities
- d) Common Responsibilities

Q.41) Global Cooling Pledge was signed recently during the COP28 climate summit. In this context, which of the following is NOT a key strategy outlined in the Global Cooling Pledge?

- a) Investing in renewable energy sources.
- b) Increasing energy efficiency.
- c) Protecting forests and other natural carbon sinks.
- d) Developing carbon capture and storage technologies.

Q.42) With references to the differences between 'Underground Mining and Open Pit Mining', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Open Pit Mining has a minimal disturbance to the surface compared to the Underground Mining.
- 2. Open-pit mining has a lower environmental impact than the Underground Mining.

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.43) With reference to the Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:

- 1. Tropical rainforest is mostly found in the sanctuary.
- 2. The sanctuary is located in Andhra Pradesh.
- 3. Barking Deer is found in the sanctuary.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.44) With reference to the Budgett Frog, seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

- 1. They are primarily nocturnal, spending most of the day submerged in water or mud.
- 2. The size of females is larger than males.
- 3. They are categorized as 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List.

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.45) With reference to the Ethanol, consider the following statements:

1. Fermentation of sugars is one of the ways of producing ethanol.
2. The combustion of ethanol releases methane gas into the atmosphere.
3. The use of ethanol as fuel raises concerns about increased water usage for crop production.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.46) Recently, the central government has approved a proposal to set up a cheetah conservation breeding centre in "Banni grasslands" in Gujarat. How many of the following are the key features of Banni Grassland?

1. Abundant freshwater sources
2. Salt-Tolerant Vegetation
3. Arid Landscape

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.47) Which one of the following is the main objective of the Global River Cities Alliance (GRCA), recently launched at COP-28?

- a) It promotes riverfront development and tourism in member cities.
- b) It aims to advocate for the sustainable management and protection of global rivers.
- c) It aims to facilitate economic partnerships and trade between riverine cities.
- d) It coordinates scientific research and data sharing on river health.

Science & Technology

Q.48) With reference to the Spacecraft Propulsion Module, consider the following statements:

1. Its primary function is to maintain communication with ground stations.
2. Solar-powered engine is a common type of engine used in spacecraft propulsion module.
3. Chandrayaan-3 Propulsion Module was used to deliver the Vikram lander to the Moon's surface.

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.49) With reference to the Deepfakes, consider the following statements:

1. Augmented Reality (AR) is the technology commonly used in the creation of deepfake content.
2. Financial fraud and identity theft are some potential dangers of deepfake technology.
3. Preserving historical figures and cultural artifacts is one of the positive applications of deepfake technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.50) Consider the following statements:

1. Fusion produces less radioactive waste compared to fission.
2. Uranium and plutonium are the primary fuel sources for nuclear fusion.
3. Nuclear fusion does not produce carbon dioxide.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.51) Consider the following statements:

1. Fostering healthy competition and discouraging collaboration
2. Creating diverse and conflicting regulations across borders
3. Harmonizing standards and promoting consistent ethical guidelines

Which of the above role(s) can international collaboration play in regulating Artificial intelligence (AI)?

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

Q.52) A foreign company wants to patent their invention in India. Which one of the following actions would be the most appropriate for the company to take?

- a) Partner with an Indian company and file a joint application
- b) Obtain permission from the Indian government
- c) File a patent application with the Indian Patent Office
- d) Publish the details in an Indian scientific journal

Q.53) With reference to the Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a software program designed to perform a specific task better than humans.
2. AGI is capable to learn new information and skills on its own, without being explicitly programmed.
3. Self-driving cars are example of AGI.

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.54) Consider the following statements:

1. DRESS syndrome (Drug Rash with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms) is a severe, idiosyncratic reaction to a drug such as such as abacavir, allopurinol, and lamotrigine.
2. Meftal is an over-the-counter medication used to treat pain and inflammation.

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.55) With reference to Generative AI, consider the following statements:

1. The primary goal of generative models in AI is to optimize decision-making processes.
2. Generative adversarial networks (GANs) are a common technique used in Generative AI.

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.56) Recently, Arsenic and Metal Removal by Indian Technology (AMRIT) has been developed by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras. Which one of the following underlying principles is AMRIT based on?

- a) Use of reverse osmosis membranes
- b) Chemical precipitation and coagulation
- c) Adsorption onto specific, engineered nanomaterials
- d) Biological treatment processes

Q.57) Exercise VINBAX is a joint military exercise between –

- a) India and Vietnam
- b) India and Indonesia
- c) India and Sri Lanka
- d) India and France

Q.58) CRISPR-Cas9 is a revolutionary gene-editing technology that allows scientists to make precise changes to the DNA of living organisms. In this context, which one of the following is the function of Cas9 protein in CRISPR-Cas9 technology?

- a) Recognize and bind to specific DNA sequences
- b) Amplify the target DNA sequence
- c) Repair double-strand DNA breaks
- d) Transcribe DNA into RNA

Q.59) Recently, “AKTOCYTE tablets” have been approved by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). For which one of the following purposes is the tablet approved?

- a) Cancer
- b) Malaria
- c) Tuberculosis
- d) AIDS

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Q.60) With reference to Net Neutrality, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It provides a resolution for the issue of congested internet highways by enabling Internet Service Provider (ISPs) to effectively oversee traffic and allocate bandwidth in a more efficient manner.
2. It prevents Internet Service Provider (ISPs) from investing in network infrastructure and innovation.

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 - (c)	2 - (a)	3 - (b)	4 - (a)	5 - (a)	6 - (b)	7 - (b)	8 - (a)	9 - (b)	10 - (b)
11 - (a)	12 - (a)	13 - (d)	14 - (b)	15 - (d)	16 - (a)	17 - (c)	18 - (b)	19 - (d)	20 - (d)
21 - (c)	22 - (c)	23 - (b)	24 - (c)	25 - (c)	26 - (d)	27 - (a)	28 - (b)	29 - (d)	30 - (a)
31 - (b)	32 - (c)	33 - (d)	34 - (d)	35 - (c)	36 - (a)	37 - (d)	38 - (d)	39 - (b)	40 - (b)
41 - (a)	42 - (d)	43 - (b)	44 - (c)	45 - (d)	46 - (b)	47 - (b)	48 - (a)	49 - (c)	50 - (b)
51 - (d)	52 - (c)	53 - (a)	54 - (c)	55 - (b)	56 - (c)	57 - (a)	58 - (a)	59 - (a)	60 - (d)

Answers & Explanation

Art & Culture

1. Correct option is (C)

- Garba is a traditional dance form that originated in the western Indian state of Gujarat, and it's usually accompanied by lively and upbeat music, including singing and the sound of the dhol, which is a large barrel-shaped drum. Recently, garba has been included in the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. It is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

2. Correct option is (A)

- ICH is dynamic and constantly adapts to changing circumstances while retaining its core essence. Communities actively shape and modify their traditions over time, ensuring their continued relevance. ICH is not solely preserved in museums or archives; it is passed down through oral traditions, observations, and active participation within communities. This ensures its survival and cultural continuity. ICH is deeply intertwined with the history, values, and identity of specific communities. It reflects their unique perspectives and experiences, forming an integral part of their cultural heritage.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Koya tribe is found in the Papikonda hill range, near the Godavari and Sabari rivers in Andhra Pradesh. They are also found in Telangana where they are the second largest tribal community. The Medaram Jathara is one of the most significant festivals for the Koya tribe in honour of the goddesses Sammakka and Saramma. It's a vibrant celebration of tribal culture, attracting thousands of people from various communities. It features rituals, dances, music, and a vibrant market showcasing traditional crafts and artwork.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Permakok ata, also called the Bison Horn Dance, is practiced during festivals and marriage ceremonies by the tribe.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Geography

4. Correct option is (A)

- High pressure systems: When high pressure systems persist over an area, they suppress rising air and cloud formation. This allows more sunlight to reach the surface, leading to increased heating.
- Reduced cloud cover: Clouds act like a blanket, reflecting sunlight and preventing some of it from reaching the Earth's surface. Reduced cloud cover allows more solar radiation to reach the ground, further contributing to warming.
- Dry air: Dry air holds less moisture than humid air, which allows for more rapid heating. Moisture in the air acts as a buffer, absorbing some of the incoming solar radiation and preventing the temperature from rising as quickly.
- Therefore, the combination of these three factors creates favorable conditions for heat waves to develop and persist.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

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5. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The Amazon River does not flow through the heart of Guyana. It is the Essequibo River. Guyana is not a landlocked country. It has a coastline on the Atlantic Ocean to the north.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Amazon rainforest covers a significant portion of Guyana and contributes to its rich biodiversity. It is often referred to as the "lungs of the Earth" due to its role in absorbing carbon dioxide.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 4 are correct. Reduced wind shear allows cyclones to maintain their vertical structure and intensify. Studies show a decrease in wind shear over the Arabian Sea, facilitating cyclone formation.
- Tropical cyclones are the most common type affecting India, forming over warm ocean waters.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. While warm sea surface temperatures are crucial for cyclone formation, they don't directly create strong winds. These winds result from the pressure difference between the cyclone's low-pressure center and the surrounding high-pressure areas.
- The peak season for the cyclone formation is from April to May and September to November.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct option is (B)

- The Cauvery River originates in the Western Ghats and flows through the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry. Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Bannerghatta National Park and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary lie along the Cauvery Basin.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Eastern Ghats are home to diverse biospheres, including tropical rainforests, dry deciduous forests, and scrublands. These biospheres contain a variety of flora and fauna, with several perennial and semi-perennial streams providing a source of water and supporting ecosystems. The Eastern Ghats are part of a larger mountain system extending from central India to the far south and running parallel to the east coast.,
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Eastern Ghats are not a continuous range of mountains. They are a series of discontinuous hill ranges interspersed with valleys and plains.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct option is (B)

- Cloud seeding is a kind of weather modification technology to create artificial rain. It works only when there are enough pre-existing clouds in the atmosphere. Silver iodide, Calcium chloride, dry ice are some of the common chemicals used in the process of cloud seeding. However, silver nitrate and Mercury Compounds are not used for cloud seeding process as they have significant environmental impact.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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Polity

10. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Central Employment Guarantee Council (CEGC) plays a vital role in overseeing the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). This council acts as a bridge between the central government and state governments, ensuring the smooth and effective operation of the program across the country.
- It monitors and evaluates the implementation of the MGNREGA. It regularly reviews data and reports on the program's implementation, identifying areas for improvement and ensuring effective program delivery.
- It prepares annual reports on the implementation of MGNREGA for submission to Parliament. The CEGC compiles and submits annual reports to the Parliament, providing detailed information on the program's performance, including key statistics, achievements, and challenges.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The CEGC does not directly oversee state-level employment initiatives under MGNREGA. That responsibility lies with the State Employment Guarantee Councils (SEGCs) and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct option is (A)

- The CJI's power to allocate cases is derived primarily from Article 145 of the Indian Constitution. This article grants the CJI the authority to allocate cases to different benches of the Supreme Court. The CJI exercises this power in consultation with other senior judges, but ultimately holds the final say in the allocation process.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct option is (A)

- Keshavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973) was the landmark case that defined the concept of the basic structure. The 13-judge bench in Keshavananda Bharati ruled that Parliament could not alter the Constitution's foundational principles. This established the Basic Structure Doctrine as a cornerstone of Indian constitutional jurisprudence.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

13. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. IPC is an autonomous institution of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. IPC is created to set standards of drugs in the country. Its basic function is to regularly update the standards of drugs commonly required for treatment of diseases prevailing in the region. It publishes official documents for improving Quality of Medicines by way of adding new and updating existing monographs in the form of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP). IP serves as a reference standard that defines the essential requirements for the manufacturing and sale of drugs in India. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and its associated rules legally enforce compliance with the IP standards for all entities involved in the pharmaceutical industry within India. This ensures the quality and safety of drugs available in the country.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct option is (B)

- Reservation policies in India were introduced to address the historical social inequalities that have existed in the country for centuries, particularly among marginalized communities such as the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. The goal of reservation policies is to

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provide access to education, employment, and political representation to these communities, who have historically faced discrimination and exclusion.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct option is (D)

- Article 356 of the Indian Constitution is invoked to ensure the smooth functioning of the state administration when the government of a state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. One of the primary purposes of electoral bonds is to reduce the reliance on corporate donations, which can often lead to a potential conflict of interest. It aims to diversify the sources of funding for political parties.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Electoral bonds are designed to promote anonymity of donors, not transparency. Unlike traditional political donations where the donor's identity is disclosed to the public and Election Commission, electoral bonds allow donors to remain anonymous.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

17. Correct option is (C)

- India doesn't have a comprehensive national law specifically for refugees. While various laws and regulations influence their status and rights, there's no single, dedicated legislation. India is also not a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention, 1951.
- While India lacks a dedicated refugee law, it does have legal frameworks and policies in place. The Foreigners Act, 1946, and other related laws offer some protection and govern the entry, stay, and departure of foreigners, including refugees.
- Hence option (c) is correct.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

18. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Visitors' admission, withdrawal and removal in the Lok Sabha is governed by Rule 386 and 387 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.
- Statement 2 is correct. Strangers can only enter the Lok Sabha with prior permission from a member of Parliament (MP). Visitors such as academics, students, and members of the general public are frequently admitted in the Parliament. They ask MPs for passes so they can observe how laws are made. MPs requesting visitor passes must give a declaration that they know the guest personally and take full responsibility for him or her.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Acts & Policies

19. Correct option is (D)

- The trades included in the PM Vishwakarma Scheme are: Carpenter (Suthar/Badhai), Boat Maker, Armourer, Blacksmith (Lohar), Hammer and Tool Kit Maker, Locksmith, Goldsmith (Sonar), Potter (Kumhaar), Sculptor (Moortikar, stone carver), Stone breaker, Cobbler (Charmkar)/ Shoemith/Footwear artisan, Mason (Rajmistri), Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver, Doll & Toy Maker (Traditional), Barber (Naai), Garland maker (Malakaar), Washerman (Dhobi), Tailor (Darzi).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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20. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The scheme does not have the primary objective of establishing India as a global leader in drone technology. Its main aim is to empower women by providing them access to drone technology and training to improve their livelihoods through agriculture. The scheme does not provide direct financial assistance to women entrepreneurs. It focuses on providing access to drone technology and training to improve their agricultural practices and increase their income.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. IFWCS encourages voluntary participation from various stakeholders like forest departments, communities, and wood-based industries to adopt sustainable practices for forest management and agroforestry. Third-party certification ensures independent verification and adherence to the IFWCS standards. The IFWCS offers several market incentives like premium prices for certified wood products, access to international markets, and preferential procurement by government agencies. This encourages stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices, leading to improved resource utilization, environmental benefits, and economic growth.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Having an IFWCS certification doesn't automatically make a forest a model of sustainable forestry. While certification is an important indicator of responsible management practices, it's not the only criterion for determining sustainability. Other factors such as the forest's biodiversity, the well-being of local communities, and the long-term health of the ecosystem should also be taken into account.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

22. Correct option is (C)

- The authorities need to provide substantial evidence to establish "reasonable grounds" for detention under UAPA. In other words, the burden of proof is on the government to show that there's a legitimate reason to detain someone. "Reasonable grounds" requires concrete evidence that suggests the person has committed or is about to commit an unlawful activity.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

23. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Aspirational Blocks Programme focuses on improving governance to enhance the quality of life of citizens and service delivery in the remotest and less developed blocks of India. It is a development initiative aimed at improving the performance of areas that are lagging on various development parameters. The program aims to uplift the quality of life of citizens in these blocks by addressing their specific needs and challenges.
- The Delta Ranking is a key component of the Aspirational Blocks Programme. It is a monthly ranking system that evaluates the progress made by identified "aspirational blocks" in various development parameters. The ranking is based on the incremental progress made across key performance indicators (KPIs) under different socio-economic themes such as health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, etc. The ranking system aims to incentivize and encourage the blocks to improve their performance and compete with each other for better development outcomes.
- Therefore, both statements are correct, but Statement-II does not provide an explanation for Statement-I.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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Index & Reports

24. Correct Option is (C)

- The Global Cooling Watch Report is a product of UNEP's Cool Coalition, which is a global network of organizations and individuals working to advance the transition to efficient, climate-friendly cooling. The report assesses the current state of the cooling sector and identifies the policies and investments needed to shift to efficient and sustainable cooling solutions.
- Recently, the Global Cooling Watch 2023 Report titled "Keeping it Chill: How to meet cooling demands while cutting emissions" was released.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

25. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023 has been released by the World Health Organization (WHO). As per the report, India saw a 15% increase in road traffic fatalities rising from 1.34 lakh in 2010 to 1.54 lakh in 2021. Road crashes remain a major cause of death among youth (5-29 years) and the 12th leading cause of deaths among all age groups.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

International Relations/Organizations

26. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Interpol does not directly investigate or prosecute crimes. Its primary function is to facilitate cooperation between national police forces in different countries. It does this by providing a communication channel, sharing information, and coordinating investigations. Yellow Notices are issued for missing persons.
- Statement 3 is correct. INTERPOL has 196 member countries, making it the world's largest police organization. They work together and with the General Secretariat to share data related to police investigations. Afghanistan is a member of Interpol.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

27. Correct option is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. FTA is a treaty between two or more countries that aims to reduce trade barriers and promote free trade between them. By lowering tariffs, quotas, and other trade restrictions, FTAs aim to facilitate the flow of goods and services between member countries, fostering economic growth and cooperation.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While FTAs can facilitate cooperation between countries, they don't eliminate competition. Companies within the FTA will still compete for market share, investment, and technological advancements. This competition can drive innovation and efficiency, ultimately benefiting consumers. FTAs don't guarantee seamless sharing of resources and technology. This depends on various factors like intellectual property rights, technological capabilities, and willingness to collaborate. Countries often protect their own strategic industries and technologies. Resource and technology sharing can also be unevenly distributed, potentially benefiting developed countries more than developing ones.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

28. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The New Delhi Declaration emphasizes the importance of inclusive AI, advocating for equitable access to its benefits for all countries and individuals. This includes efforts to bridge the digital divide, promote open-source AI solutions, and support capacity building in

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developing nations. The declaration commits countries to work on addressing concerns around AI such as unemployment, lack of transparency and fairness, protection of intellectual property and personal data and threats to human rights and democratic values.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. The declaration does not promote a specific model of AI. It seeks to establish global principles and norms for the responsible development and use of AI, adaptable to diverse contexts and needs. It encourages countries to develop their own AI strategies while aligning them with the shared principles outlined in the declaration.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Economy

29. Correct option is (D)

- The Group of Companies Doctrine (GOCD) is related to the process of arbitration. The GOCD is a legal principle that states that two or more related companies, or companies within the same group, can be treated as one entity for the purposes of arbitration. It allows for the consolidation of multiple disputes involving different companies in the same group, into a single arbitration proceeding.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

30. Correct option is (A)

- Mining License: This license grants the right to extract minerals from an area where the presence and quantity of the mineral resource are already established. It doesn't cover exploration activities like surveying, drilling, or resource estimation, which are required before extraction can begin.
- Composite License: This license combines both exploration and extraction rights. It allows the holder to conduct exploration activities to determine the presence, extent, and quality of the mineral resource in the specific area, followed by extraction if the results are economically viable.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

31. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Urea is the only fertilizer with statutorily controlled price & movement. Urea prices in India are controlled by the government through a policy called the New Pricing Scheme. The government sets a maximum retail price for urea and also provides subsidies to farmers to make it more affordable.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Department of Fertilizers provide an indicative Maximum Retail Price for phosphatic & potassic (P&K) fertilizers. These prices serve as a guideline for retailers and distributors, but they are not mandatory.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

32. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. A woman is considered to be a part of the labour force if she is either employed or actively looking for work. According to the World Bank, Indian women's participation in the formal economy is among the lowest in the world.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Based on the latest data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), there are only four states (Assam, Bihar, Haryana and Delhi) with an FLFPR of less than 25%. Among UTs, Delhi has the lowest at 14.8% whereas Bihar (10%) has the lowest among states.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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33. Correct option is (D)

- Of the options mentioned above, (d) best describes the term Rural Enterprise. Rural Enterprise means a group of people with common economic interests who have formed a legally recognized organization to carry out business activities in rural areas.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

34. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. IEPF has been established under Companies Act, 1956 by way of Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999. The amounts such as dividends, applications money, matured deposits, which have remained unpaid or unclaimed for a period of 7 years are required to be transferred to the IEPF. The amount credited to IEPF is maintained under the Consolidated Fund of India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

35. Correct option is (C)

- Anarcho-capitalism is a political philosophy that advocates for a society without a centralized state or government, where voluntary exchanges and free markets govern economic and social interactions. It's often associated with individualism and libertarianism. It basically argues that the free market can provide all the goods and services needed for society to function without the need for a government.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

36. Correct option is (A)

- Printing Rupees: Printing more rupees simply increases the money supply in the system, leading to inflation and worsening the rupee's depreciation. It has detrimental long-term consequences.
- Selling forex reserves: By selling US dollars from its reserves and buying rupees, the RBI can directly increase the supply of rupees in the market, putting upward pressure on its value. This is a standard intervention technique, better and a suitable approach.
- Pegging the Rupee to the Dollar: While pegging the rupee to the dollar might stabilize the exchange rate, it comes at a significant cost. It limits flexibility because the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would have to follow the interest rate decisions of the U.S. Federal Reserve. This means the RBI would lose control over its own monetary policy, possibly hurting India's domestic economic requirements.
- In addition to selling forex reserves, the RBI can also consider other measures, such as: Raising interest rates, Selling government securities, structural reforms, etc.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

37. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. In a circular economy, the primary goal regarding resource use is to minimize resource use and promote regeneration, not necessarily to achieve a balance between extraction and replenishment. Compared to a linear economy, a circular economy emphasizes minimizing waste and promoting recycling rather than disposal in landfills and incineration.
- Statement 3 is correct. Recycling materials into new products aligns with the principles of a circular economy. It allows materials to stay in the production cycle for longer, reducing the need for extraction and waste generation. Recycling is a crucial component of a circular system. However, the circular economy aims to go beyond recycling and explore other approaches like designing for durability, upcycling, and resource recovery.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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Environment

38. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. While plastic pollution can have negative impacts on soil health and fertility, the main environmental concern associated with it is the devastating impact on marine ecosystems and wildlife. Studies show that plastic accounts for 85% of all marine litter, posing a significant threat to marine life through entanglement, ingestion, and habitat destruction.
- The Montreal Protocol is an international agreement to protect the ozone layer, not to reduce single-use plastics. The Basel Convention aims to reduce the generation and movement of hazardous wastes, including plastic waste, across borders.
- Burning plastic waste releases harmful pollutants into the air, contributing to air pollution and respiratory problems. Moreover, burning plastic does not eliminate it; instead, it converts it into harmful ash and toxic gases that can further contaminate the environment. Burning plastic is not an effective solution for plastic pollution and can actually exacerbate the problem.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

39. Correct option is (B)

- India ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016, committing to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and moving towards a more sustainable, low-carbon economy. The agreement set targets for reducing emissions, including a commitment to increase the share of renewable energy in India's energy mix to 40% by 2030.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

40. Correct option is (B)

- The CBDR principle recognizes that developed countries have greater historical responsibility for the causes of climate change, and thus should bear a greater responsibility for addressing it. So, by requesting financial assistance to transition to clean energy, the rapidly growing developing country is invoking the principle of historical responsibility.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

41. Correct option is (A)

- The Global Cooling Pledge, launched at COP28, aims to tackle the growing challenge of emissions from air conditioning and refrigeration. While investing in renewable energy sources is a critical step in addressing climate change, it's not specifically listed as a strategy in the pledge. The other three options - increasing energy efficiency, protecting natural carbon sinks, and developing carbon capture and storage technologies - are all mentioned as key strategies in the pledge.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

42. Correct option is (D)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Open-pit mining involves digging large pits on the surface, leading to significant land clearing, deforestation, soil erosion, and habitat fragmentation. This has a major negative impact on ecosystems and biodiversity. In contrast, underground mining has a much smaller footprint compared to the widespread disruption caused by open-pit mining.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Open-pit mining generally has a higher environmental impact than underground mining due to several factors such as: Dust and pollution, Water pollution, leave lasting scars on the landscape, affecting scenic beauty and potentially impacting tourism potential which also leads to habitat fragmentation, deforestation, and soil erosion.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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43. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary is classified as a dry evergreen forest mixed with scrub and meadows.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary is located near Visakhapatnam in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Barking deer are among the mammals found in the Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary. They are small, herbivorous deer known for their distinctive barking call.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

44. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Budgett Frog is a species of frog which belongs to the horned frog family, Ceratophryidae. They are primarily nocturnal, spending most of the day submerged in water or mud. The size of females is larger than males. They are categorized as 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

45. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Fermentation of sugars from crops like corn, sugarcane, or wheat is the most common method of industrial ethanol production. Growing crops for ethanol production requires significant amounts of water, which can strain water resources in some regions.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Ethanol combustion primarily releases carbon dioxide and water vapor, not methane.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

46. Correct option is (B)

- Banni grasslands is located in the Kutch region of Gujarat. It's known for its salt-tolerant vegetation and diverse wildlife, including many bird species and domesticated animals like sheep, goats, and camels. It's an interesting habitat because it's arid and salt-tolerant, which means that it can support a unique ecosystem. The Banni Grassland's key features are: Arid landscape with seasonal wetlands, Salt-tolerant vegetation and diverse fauna, Traditional pastoralism and cultural significance, ongoing conservation efforts and unique soil composition, Seasonal variations in landscape and ecology.
- While the Banni has the Chhari Dhand lake which fills up seasonally, it generally lacks permanent rivers or streams. The aridity and scarcity of water are defining characteristics of the Banni. Wetlands and grasslands coexist in Banni. Maldari tribe are found here.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

47. Correct option is (B)

- The GRCA aims for sustainable river management, advocating for policies and practices that prioritize the health and wellbeing of rivers. The alliance aspires to promote awareness about the importance of healthy rivers and to inspire governments, corporations, and communities to take action to conserve and maintain these critical resources by bringing together a broad range of cities and partners. While riverfront development and economic partnerships are important aspects of the GRCA's work, its primary focus is on sustainable management and protection of global rivers.
- The GCRA extends the River Cities Alliance, initially established by NMCG in 2021.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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Science & Technology

48. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The primary function of the Spacecraft Propulsion Module is to provide the thrust and power needed to move the spacecraft through space, not to maintain communication with ground stations.
- Solar-powered engines are not a common type of engine used in spacecraft propulsion modules. They're still a relatively new and experimental technology, and not yet widely used in spacecraft.
- Statement 3 is correct. The Chandrayaan-3 Propulsion Module was used to deliver the Vikram lander to the Moon's surface, as part of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

49. Correct option is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Augmented reality (AR) puts digital stuff on the real world, like adding filters to one's face on a camera. Deepfakes, on the other hand, use smart computer programs to make fake videos and pictures that look real. They are two different technologies.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Financial fraud and identity theft are significant dangers associated with deepfake technology. Malicious actors can use deepfakes to impersonate individuals, manipulate financial records, and deceive victims into transferring money or revealing sensitive information.
- Preserving historical figures and cultural artifacts is a valuable application of deepfakes. By using deepfakes, we can create realistic recreations of historical figures and events, making history more engaging and accessible to a wider audience. Additionally, deepfakes can be used to restore damaged or lost cultural artifacts, preserving them for future generations.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

50. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Fusion reactions produce significantly less radioactive waste compared to fission reactions. This is because fusion reactions involve the merging of light nuclei, while fission reactions involve the splitting of heavy nuclei. Fusion doesn't produce carbon dioxide like fossil fuels do. It's considered a clean energy source because it doesn't produce air pollution or contribute to climate change.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Uranium and plutonium are the primary fuel sources for nuclear fission, not fusion. Fusion reactions require isotopes of hydrogen, primarily deuterium and tritium, as fuel.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

51. Correct option is (D)

- International collaboration provides a platform for diverse stakeholders to come together, share perspectives, and develop common ground on ethical principles and best practices for AI development and deployment.
- This collaborative approach can lead to the creation of consistent and widely accepted AI standards that can be implemented across different countries and regions.
- By working together, governments, industry leaders, civil society organizations, and academics can create a global framework for responsible AI development that benefits all stakeholders.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

52. Correct option is (C)

- Joint application: While partnering with an Indian company can offer some advantages, it's not essential for filing a patent application. The company can file directly with the Indian Patent Office.
- Government permission: This is typically required only for specific types of inventions related to national security or sensitive areas. It's not a general requirement for patenting most inventions.
- Publication in a scientific journal: Sharing information through publication can be helpful, but it might make it harder to get a patent for the invention because it could no longer be considered new or novel. Publishing details before filing a patent application is not advisable.
- Filing a patent application: This is the primary and crucial step for securing patent protection in India. The company can submit the application directly to the Indian Patent Office, adhering to the established procedures and document requirements.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

53. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. AGI is not designed to perform a specific task better than humans, but to perform any intellectual task on a human-like level. Self-driving cars are classified as Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI). They are designed to excel at specific tasks like driving, but lack the general intelligence and broader cognitive abilities of AGI.
- Statement 2 is correct. AGI is characterized by its ability to learn and adapt to new information and skills, similar to how humans learn.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

54. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. DRESS syndrome (Drug Rash with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms) is a severe, idiosyncratic reaction to a drug such as such as abacavir, allopurinol, and lamotrigine. It is characterised by a delayed onset of symptoms including fever, skin rash, lymphadenopathy (swelling of lymph nodes), eosinophilia (an increase in a type of white blood cells) and various systemic manifestations. The syndrome has an estimated mortality rate of 10 per cent.
- Meftal is an over-the-counter medication used to treat pain and inflammation. It contains the active ingredient mefenamic acid, which belongs to a class of drugs known as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). It is often prescribed for conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, menstrual pain, dental pain, inflammation, fever, etc.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

55. Correct option is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The goal of generative models is not to optimize decision-making processes, but rather to generate new data that resembles the training data. This can be used for a variety of purposes, such as data augmentation, synthetic data generation, or creative applications like art and music generation.
- Statement 2 is correct. Generative adversarial networks (GANs) are a popular technique used in Generative AI. GANs consist of two neural networks that work against each other to generate high-quality, realistic data. The generator network creates new data based on the training data, while the discriminator network tries to differentiate between real and generated data.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

56. Correct option is (C)

- In the AMRIT process, arsenic and other metal ions are removed from contaminated water by adsorbing onto the surface of specially designed nanomaterials. This process works by taking advantage of the high surface area-to-volume ratio of nanoparticles, which allows for more adsorption sites and a higher rate of removal. One of the advantages of this approach is that it's highly selective and efficient, meaning that it can effectively remove contaminants without removing other beneficial minerals from the water. This makes AMRIT a promising technology for water treatment in areas with contaminated groundwater.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

57. Correct option is (A)

- Exercise VINBAX is a joint military exercise between India and Vietnam. The objective of the exercise is to foster collaborative partnership and promote interoperability between the armed forces of the two countries. The exercise includes training in counter-insurgency operations, counter-terrorism operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and other areas of mutual interest.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

58. Correct option is (A)

- CRISPR-Cas9 is a powerful gene-editing technology that allows scientists to precisely alter the DNA of living organisms. It's considered a revolutionary tool with the potential to transform various fields, including medicine, agriculture, and biotechnology. Recognizing and binding to specific DNA sequences is the primary function of the Cas9 protein in CRISPR-Cas9 technology. It relies on the guide RNA to guide it to the target DNA sequence and then binds to it tightly. This allows for precise targeting and editing at specific locations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

59. Correct option is (A)

- AKTOCYTE tablets have been granted approval by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for the purpose of cancer treatment. AKTOCYTE tablets are designed to be used during cancer treatment to minimize the side effects of radiotherapy. The Department of Atomic Energy and M/s. IDRS Labs Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru have collaborated to develop AKTOCYTE tablets. The tablets have been developed with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness of cancer treatment while reducing its adverse effects.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

60. Correct option is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Net Neutrality does not enable ISPs to oversee traffic and allocate bandwidth in a more efficient manner. Instead, it prevents ISPs from blocking, throttling, or prioritizing certain types of internet traffic. This means that ISPs cannot intentionally slow down or speed up specific content or services based on their own preferences or financial interests.
- Net Neutrality does not prevent ISPs from investing in network infrastructure and innovation. It simply ensures that these investments do not result in discriminatory practices that could harm competition, limit consumer choice, or stifle innovation. Net Neutrality promotes a level playing field for all internet users and encourages ISPs to compete based on the quality and affordability of their services, rather than by manipulating internet traffic.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Art & Culture

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

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

Geography

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

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

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

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

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

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

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

Polity

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Q.11) Consider the following statements:

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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

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

Q.13) Consider the following characteristics:

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

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

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

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

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

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

Acts & Policies

Q.17) Consider the following components:

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

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

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

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

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

Select the correct answers using the codes given below:

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

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

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

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Q.20) Consider the following:

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

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

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

Q.21) Consider the following initiatives:

1. Himadri
2. IndARC
3. Maitri

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

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

Q.22) Consider the following schemes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Index & Reports

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

International Relations/Organizations

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

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

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

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Economy

Q.34) Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

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

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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

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

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

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

Q.40) Consider the following statements:

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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

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

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

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

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Environment

Q.43) Consider the following statements:

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

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

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

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

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

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

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

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.47) Consider the following statements:

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

Which one of the following sanctuaries has the above characteristics?

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

Q.48) Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

Q.49) Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Science & Technology

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

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.54) Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.58) Consider the following statements:

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

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

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

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

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanation

Art & Culture

1. Correct option is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Geography

2. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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3. Correct option is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct option is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Polity

6. Correct option is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct option is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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9. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct option is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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13. Correct option is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct option is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct option is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct option is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Acts & Policies

17. Correct option is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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18. Correct option is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

19. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

20. Correct option is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. Correct option is (A)

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

Sources: [Forum IAS](#)

22. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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23. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

24. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

25. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

26. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

27. Correct option is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Index & Reports

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28. Correct option is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

International Relations/Organizations

29. Correct option is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

30. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

31. Correct option is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

32. Correct option is (B)

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

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

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

33. Correct option is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Economy

34. Correct option is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

35. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

36. Correct option is (A)

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

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

37. Correct option is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

38. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

39. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

40. Correct option is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

41. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

42. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Environment

43. Correct option is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

44. Correct option is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

45. Correct option is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

46. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

47. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

48. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

49. Correct option is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

50. Correct option is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Science & Technology

51. Correct option is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

52. Correct option is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

53. Correct option is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

54. Correct option is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Criticality refers to the state where the chain reaction of nuclear fission in a nuclear reactor is self-sustaining. This means that each fission event produces enough neutrons to cause further fissions, maintaining a constant rate of fission and energy release. It's the first step in nuclear energy generation. In 2022-23, nuclear energy formed around 2.8 percent of India's total energy production.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) is a nuclear power plant located in Surat, Gujarat. It is operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). The plant uses Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) which use natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as coolant and moderator. NPCIL presently operates 23 reactors with a total capacity of 7,480 MW.

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Source: [Forum IAS](#)

55. Correct option is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

56. Correct option is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

57. Correct option is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

58. Correct option is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

59. Correct option is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India has the world's second-largest standing armed forces, with over 1.4 million active personnel. As of 2023, India has the third-largest defense budget globally, following the United States and China.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. While India and Malaysia do maintain cordial diplomatic relations and have collaborated on defense training exercises, their current level of military partnership wouldn't be considered very strong. India has strong military partnerships with key allies like the US, France, and Israel, providing access to advanced technology and training.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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

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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

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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

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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

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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](#)

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Geography

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](#)

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11. Correct option is (C)

- 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

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Scheme across India. They work in collaboration with state governments and other stakeholders to set up and manage the crèches.

- 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

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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.

- 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.

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- 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 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](#)

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27. Correct Answer is (B)

- 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](#)

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36. Correct option is (B)

- 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](#)

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41. Correct option is (A)

- 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](#)

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46. Correct Answer is (C)

- 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](#)