

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

[4th Week] January, 2024

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

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Art & Culture

Q.1) Adi Shankaracharya is associated with the establishment of four mathas (monastic centers) in different parts of India. Which one of the following is the collective name for these mathas?

- a) Panchayatan
- b) Dashanami
- c) Shuddhadvaita
- d) Vishnuswami

Q.2) Which one of the following is the term used in Advaita Vedanta to denote the 'Ultimate Reality'?

- a) Atman
- b) Brahman
- c) Maya
- d) Shakti

Q.3) With reference to the Veerabhadra temple in Lepakshi, consider the following statements:

- 1. Nagara is the primary architectural style of the Veerabhadra Temple in Lepakshi.
- 2. Chola dynasty is credited with the construction of the Veerabhadra Temple.
- 3. It is known for its exquisite sculptures depicting scenes from Mahabharata.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.4) With reference to the Nagara style of temple architecture, consider the following statements:

- 1. Curvilinear shikhara (sanctum tower) rising in tiers distinguishes the Nagara style from other Indian temple architectural styles.
- 2. Large-scale murals and paintings are commonly found on Nagara temples.
- 3. The Nagara style of architecture reached its zenith during the rule of Chalukya dynasty.
- 4. In the Nagara style, the garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum) is always located under the tallest tower.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.5) Consider the following pairs:

Tribes-----States

- 1. Gonds-----Madhya Pradesh
- 2. Soligas-----Karnataka
- 3. Khasis-----Meghalaya
- 4. Jarawas-----Nagaland

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

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Q.6) Which one of the following architectural styles is predominantly seen in the Guruvayur Temple in Kerala?

- a) Dravidian
- b) Nagara
- c) Vesara
- d) Chola

Q.7) With reference to the features of the Ayodhya Ram temple, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. It has been built in the Nagara style of architecture.
- 2. Bansi Paharpur Pink Sandstone are intricately used for inlay work.
- 3. No iron is used in the construction.
- 4. There are total of five mandaps (halls) in the temple.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.8) In which one of the following states is Moh-Juj, a traditional buffalo fight, commonly practiced?

- a) Kerala
- b) Nagaland
- c) Assam
- d) Tamil Nadu

Modern Indian History

Q.9) Which one of the following is a significant event associated with 'Parakram Diwas'?

- a) The birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.
- b) The death anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.
- c) The day when Subhas Chandra Bose was declared a national hero.
- d) The day when Subhas Chandra Bose was awarded the Bharat Ratna.

Geography

Q.10) With reference to the Western Disturbances, consider the following statements:

- 1. These are low-pressure systems originating in the Bay of Bengal.
- 2. Snowfall in the Himalayas and northern India is one the impacts of Western Disturbances on India.
- 3. Western Disturbances contribute to the winter precipitation in India by generating convective rainfall.

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.11) Which one of the following oceans is primarily associated with the occurrence of El Niño?

- a) Indian Ocean
- b) Atlantic Ocean
- c) Pacific Ocean
- d) Southern Ocean

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the left-bank tributary of the Indus River.
- 2. It flows entirely within Ladakh, India.
- 3. Doda and TsrapLingti Chu (Lungnak river) are its two tributaries.

Which one of the following rivers has been described above?

- a) Zaskar River
- b) Suru River
- c) Shyok River
- d) Hunza River

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Greenland Glacier stands as the largest ice mass in the Northern Hemisphere.
- 2. Glacier terminus position refers to a sudden, short-lived, and rapid movement of a glacier, often characterized by a significant increase in ice flow.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India has the largest area under bamboo cultivation and is the second richest in terms of bamboo genetic resources after China.
- 2. Bamboo composites are materials that blend bamboo fibers with other substances to form composite materials.
- 3. Bamboo plant is a type of shrub.

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.15) Consider the following statements with reference to the country 'Peru':

- 1. Peru is located entirely in the Southern Hemisphere.
- 2. Apurímac River is the longest river of Peru.
- 3. Chancay Port is located in Peru.

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.16) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The northeast monsoon rain has increased by more than 10% in the past decade (2012-2022) in several areas of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.

Statement-II: The Bay of Bengal has witnessed formation of more frequent low-pressure systems and depressions during the northeast monsoon months.

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.17) Consider the following statements:

- 1. A primary factor that distinguishes deep water coral reefs from shallow water coral reefs is salinity levels.
- 2. Shallow-water coral reefs are commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions, while deep-water coral reefs are found in various latitudes, typically in deeper, colder waters with different light and nutrient conditions.
- 3. Shallow-water coral reefs cover more areas of the ocean floor than deep-water coral reefs.

Which of the state statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Q.18) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Icebergs are formed by calving, or splitting, glaciers and are made of fresh water.
- 2. The unseen portion of an iceberg, submerged below the waterline, is typically smaller and less dense than the above-water portion.
- 3. To qualify as an iceberg, the ice must have a height exceeding 16 feet above sea level, a thickness between 98-164 feet, and cover an area of at least 5,382 square feet.
- 4. The salinity (salt content) of an iceberg is lower than seawater.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.19) On which of the following two significant water bodies does 'France' have coastlines?

- a) Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea
- b) Caspian Sea and Coral Sea
- c) Baltic Sea and Guanabara Bay
- d) Bering Sea and Coral Sea

Polity

Q.20) Which one of the following ministries of the Government of India oversees the functioning of the 'India Meteorological Department'?

- a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- b) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- d) Ministry of Home Affairs

Q.21) Which of the following is NOT a ground for disqualification under the Tenth Schedule?

- a) Voting against the party whip in a vote of confidence or no-confidence motion.
- b) Resigning from the party without providing a written explanation to the Speaker.
- c) Joining another political party while remaining a member of the legislature.
- d) Abstaining from voting on a party whip without providing a valid reason.

Q.22) For which of the following has the Supreme Court mandated that 'prior approval' is necessary for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to begin investigations?

- a) All public officials regardless of rank.
- b) Only high-ranking officials like Chief Ministers and Governors.
- c) Only for specific offenses under the Prevention of Corruption Act.
- d) Any offense if the CBI believes that there is a strong possibility of political interference.

Q.23) Consider the following pairs with reference to the Indian Constitution:

Articles -----Specifications

- 1. Article 19(1)(a) -----Freedom of Speech and Expression.
- 2. Article 19(1)(b) -----Freedom to Reside and Settle in any Part of the Territory of India.
- 3. Article 19(1)(c) ----- Freedom to Form Associations or Unions.

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q.24) Which one of the following 'writs' can be filed in the court if a person is unlawfully detained by the police?

- a) Habeas Corpus
- b) Certiorari
- c) Mandamus
- d) Quo Warranto

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Q.25) With reference to the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The funds under the MPLAD scheme can be used for only for specific projects listed by the government.
2. E-SAKSHI mobile app aims to capture the entire MPLADS fund allocation cycle and provide greater convenience and accessibility in monitoring the scheme.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Q.26) With reference to the Competition Commission of India (CCI), how many of the following statements are correct?

1. The primary objective of the CCI is promoting and sustaining competition in the Indian market.
2. The CCI consists of representatives from various industry bodies.
3. It has the authority to conduct investigations and gather evidence of market manipulation.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q 27) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: In India, girls have higher dropout rates compared to boys as the level of education increases.

Statement-II: Higher educational systems and curricula in India are biased towards boys' interests and learning styles.

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.28) The 'Basic Structure Doctrine' is most closely related to which one of the following characteristics of constitutional interpretation?

- a) Textualism
- b) Originalism
- c) Strict constructionism
- d) Living Constitution

Acts & Policies

Q.29) Consider the following:

1. Donations from a foreign source
2. Donations from a Non-Resident Indian (NRI)
3. Donations from a foreigner living in India
4. Donations from an Indian source

Which of the above can be considered as a "foreign contribution" under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)?

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

Q.30) Consider the following statements:

1. The Boeing Sukanya Programme primarily focuses on fostering skill development and employability in the Indian aerospace sector.
2. The Boeing Sukanya programme also aims to establish joint ventures between Boeing and Indian aerospace companies.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Q.31) With reference to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA), consider the following statements:

1. The primary objective of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in India is to regulate the receipt and utilization of foreign contributions by associations.
2. Election candidates are prohibited from receiving foreign contributions under the FCRA.
3. Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for administering the FCRA.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.32) Consider the following statements:

1. Unrefined gold is not a pure gold.
2. Under a zero-duty policy, India imports unrefined gold from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that are exempt from any import duties.
3. The Reserve Bank of India regulates and monitors zero-duty unrefined gold imports in India.

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.33) With reference to the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023, consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to reduce the pressure on wild medicinal plants by encouraging cultivation of medicinal plants.
2. The Act mandates AYUSH practitioners to pay Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) fees.
3. The term 'Ayush practitioner' is not clearly defined in the Act.

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.34) With reference to the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It aims at strengthening and facilitating access to semiconductor design infrastructure for the startups and MSMEs.
2. Embedded software design, material science research and semiconductor equipment manufacturing are eligible for financial incentives under the DLI scheme.
3. It also grants funding for the establishment of semiconductor fabrication plants.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Index & Reports

Q.35) Consider the following statements:

1. In the 2023 Academic Freedom Index released by the V-Dem Institute, India is positioned within the lower 30% among 179 nations.
2. Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution provides a legal framework for defending academic freedom as part of the broader right to free speech and expression.

Which of the statement(s) 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.36) With reference to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 Report, which of the following statements are correct?

1. The ASER 2023 report focuses on rural youth aged 14-18, specifically on their ability to apply reading and math skills to everyday situations, and their aspirations.
2. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is the most popular among rural youth enrolled in higher education (Std XI and above).
3. Females are better at reading in their regional language, while males excel in arithmetic and English.

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

International Relations/Organizations

Q.37) With reference to the World Economic Forum (WEF), consider the following statements:

1. The primary mission of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is economic development and cooperation.
2. It is an advisory body for the United Nations.
3. Global Economic Outlook Report is published by the WEF.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.38) With reference to India and France relations, which of the following statements are correct?

1. Malabar is the flagship bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the French Navy.
2. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was jointly launched by India and France in 2015 to promote the development and deployment of solar energy globally.
3. Both the countries have collaborated in Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

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.39) Which one of the following is the primary objective of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)?

- a) It aims to promote cultural exchange between India, the Middle East, and Europe.
- b) It aims to create a comprehensive transportation network facilitating trade and connectivity.
- c) It aims to establish a new global reserve currency.
- d) It aims to counter the influence of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

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Q.40) Which one of the following specific groups of Indian citizens was the Emigration Check Required (ECR) scheme implemented for?

- a) Skilled workers
- b) Semi-skilled and unskilled workers
- c) Business professionals
- d) Tourists

Q.41) The main objective of the World Trade Organization (WTO's) Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) is to:

- a) Eliminate all agricultural subsidies and trade barriers
- b) Reduce trade distortions in the agricultural sector
- c) Promote sustainable agricultural practices
- d) Ensure food security for all WTO members

Q.42) With reference to the 'Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality', consider the following statements:

- 1. It has been launched by India.
- 2. The alliance emphasizes adopting global best practices, sharing knowledge, and making investments in women's health, education, and enterprises.
- 3. The World Economic Forum (WEF) is the network partner for the alliance.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.43) To which one of the following international organizations does the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) serve as a subsidiary body?

- a) The World Bank
- b) The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- c) The World Trade Organization (WTO)
- d) The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

Q.44) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Increased illegal immigration and border security issues
- 2. Misuse of the regime for insurgent activities
- 3. Inefficiency in healthcare facilities collaboration
- 4. Military coup in Myanmar

How many of the above concerns primarily led India to terminate the India-Myanmar Free Movement Regime (FMR)?

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

Economy

Q.45) With reference to the Green Bonds, consider the following statements:

1. When a Green Bond is issued in a foreign currency, it implies that the bond's proceeds will be used only in the foreign country.
2. A country chooses to issue Green Bonds in other nations' currencies to support domestic industries.

Which of the statement(s) 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 statements is correct with respect to Total Expense Ratio (TER)?

- a) It is a sales charge or fee that investors pay when purchasing shares of a mutual fund.
- b) It is a fee charged by some mutual funds for distribution and marketing expenses.
- c) These are the costs associated with buying and selling securities within the fund's portfolio.
- d) It is a financial metric that represents the total costs associated with managing and operating an investment fund.

Q.47) Which one of the following government policies may further contribute to a rise in 'food inflation' in India?

- a) Investments in irrigation infrastructure and agricultural technology.
- b) Implementation of minimum support prices for farmers.
- c) Boosting domestic production of fertilizers and pesticides.
- d) Promoting exports of agricultural surplus to earn foreign exchange.

Q.48) In recent years, there has been a rise in Indian states' spending on Capital Expenditure. Which one of the following ways would be the best for the central government to further assist and support this increased Capital Expenditure by states?

- a) Providing financial assistance through grants and loans.
- b) Streamlining approval processes for infrastructure projects.
- c) Setting national priorities and coordinating state-level investments.
- d) Imposing stricter regulations on public spending to ensure efficiency.

Q.49) Which one of the following statements best describes the term 'Globalization'?

- a) Globalization refers to the integration of local economies into a single world market.
- b) Globalization refers to the development of similar cultures and practices across the world.
- c) Globalization refers to the process of world governments merging into a single governing body.
- d) Globalization refers to the international exchange of technology and information.

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Q.50) With reference to the fiscal deficit, consider the following statements:

1. The fiscal deficit is primarily financed through taxes.
2. During an economic recession, a government deliberately increase its fiscal deficit to attract foreign investment.
3. Export earnings is a component of fiscal deficit.
4. Fiscal deficit is positively correlated with government borrowing.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.51) In the context of a decrease in forex reserves, which one of the following actions is the most likely to be taken by a central bank to stabilize the situation?

- a) Decrease interest rates
- b) Increase interest rates
- c) Print more currency
- d) Engage in open market operations

Q.52) With reference to the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body formed under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
2. The maximum contribution rate by both the employee and employer towards the Employee Provident Fund (EPF) is 18%.
3. EPFO covers all employees in India, irrespective of their sector of employment.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.53) The 'Vertical devolution' of tax revenue in India refers to:

- a) Sharing of tax revenue between the Central and State governments
- b) Allocation of tax burden across different income brackets
- c) Efficiency of tax collection across different regions
- d) Levying taxes on the corporation based on their profits

Q.54) Consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest producer of milk in the world.
2. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) aims to regulate milk prices across India.
3. The Gir breed of cow has the largest milk producing capacity in the world.

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.55) With reference to the toy industry in India, consider the following statements:

1. The recent growth of the Indian toy industry is attributed to reduced imports due to higher customs duty.
2. Games & puzzles toys comprise the largest share of the Indian toy market.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Environment

Q.56) With reference to the Himalayan Wolf, consider following statements:

1. It is the only carnivore in its ecosystem.
2. They are categorized 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN Red Data List.
3. Himalayan wolves are smaller and more compact than other subspecies, characterized by shorter legs and snouts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.57) Consider the following statements:

1. A Dark Sky Park is a park that aims to preserve the night sky and promote astronomy education and stargazing.
2. The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra is India's first Dark Sky Park.
3. Tropical rainforest is the primary type of forest ecosystem found in Pench Tiger Reserve.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.58) With reference to the Punganur Cow, seen in the news recently, which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Punganur breed of cattle is primarily found in Andhra Pradesh.
2. Its long and curved horns distinguish it from other cattle breeds.
3. They are highly resistance to disease and parasites.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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Q.59) For which one of the following reasons are 'Vultures' considered an indicator species for environmental health?

- a) They are sensitive to noise pollution
- b) They are a source of bioindicators for water quality
- c) Their presence signifies a balanced food web
- d) They are resilient to habitat degradation

Q.60) Which one of the following gases, released from vehicle exhaust, primarily contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone and smog?

- a) Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- b) Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)
- c) Methane (CH₄)
- d) Sulfur dioxide (SO₂)

Q.61) With reference to the Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. It is located at the northeastern edge of the Eastern Ghats.
- 2. The sanctuary is famous for protecting Olive Ridley Turtle.
- 3. Musi river flows through the sanctuary.
- 4. Dongria Kondh tribal communities is associated with Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.62) Which one of the following statements is correct about the Indian Gaur (Bison)?

- a) It is the largest wild cattle species in the world.
- b) It lives in isolation and prefers dense forest cover for its habitat.
- c) It has a hump on its back, similar to a camel.
- d) It is closely related to the American bison.

Q.63) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Despite the renewable energy push, coal remains the primary source of power, accounting for over 70% of electricity generation in India.

Statement II: Coal-fired power plants in India have well-established technology with high generation capacity.

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

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

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Q.64) Consider the following statements:

1. India aims to achieve 50% of its electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.
2. As of 2023, Tamil Nadu has the highest rooftop solar capacity.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Q.65) Consider the following statements:

1. The Binturong also known as 'Bearcat' is native to South and Southeast Asia.
2. The Binturong is an omnivorous animal.
3. The Small-Clawed otter is listed in Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

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.66) Consider the following:

1. UNESCO World Heritage Site
2. Tiger Reserve
3. Biosphere Reserve

How many of the above-mentioned statuses does the 'Kaziranga National Park' have?

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

Science & Technology

Q.67) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The overuse of antibiotics in livestock can contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Statement-II: Antibiotics are used in livestock to make them reproduce more.

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

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

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Q.68) Which one of the following is the primary objective of the National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL), seen in the news recently?

- a) To standardize diagnostic testing procedures in private hospitals.
- b) To ensure access to affordable and essential diagnostic tests in primary healthcare.
- c) To promote the use of cutting-edge diagnostic technologies in all healthcare facilities.
- d) To regulate the import and export of medical diagnostic equipment.

Q.69) Which one of the following is the primary objectives of the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR)?

- a) It aims to promote air travel for recreational purposes in civil aviation.
- b) It ensures maximum profit for airlines.
- c) It aims to maintain the highest standards of safety and security in civil aviation.
- d) It focuses on developing India's aerospace industry.

Q.70) Which one of the following statements is correct with reference to the India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (InDEA)?

- a) It aims to promote the development of stand-alone, isolated digital systems for different government agencies.
- b) Its purpose is to guide the creation of interconnected and interoperable digital platforms across government departments and sectors.
- c) It aims to incentivize the private sector to develop and manage digital services for citizens without government involvement.
- d) It seeks to establish a centralized control center for managing all digital initiatives across the country.

Q.71) Bread mold rapidly grows on a forgotten slice of bread. Which one of the following types of fungal reproduction is associated with this?

- a) Sexual reproduction
- b) Asexual reproduction
- c) Budding in yeast cells
- d) Fragmentation of mycelial hyphae

Q.72) In the context of land management, which one of the following systems is considered most effective for comprehensive and informed decision-making?

- a) Geographic Information System (GIS)
- b) Cartographic Information Systems
- c) Remote Sensing Systems
- d) Global Positioning System (GPS)

Q.73) Consider the following statements:

1. Tracking weather patterns and cloud cover
2. Monitoring land cover and vegetation changes
3. Providing high-resolution images for urban planning

Which of the above is/are the application(s) of Red-Green-Blue (RGB) imagers used in the INSAT (Indian National Satellite System) satellites?

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

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Q.74) Consider the following statements:

1. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is the ongoing transformation of traditional industries through the integration of advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), and big data.
2. Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) has been established by the World Bank.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Q.75) Distress Alert Transmitter 2.0, recently developed by the ISRO, serves which one of the following purposes?

- a) It sends emergency messages from fishing boats.
- b) It provides weather updates to nearby ships.
- c) It sends location updates for routine navigation.
- d) It monitors ship performance parameters.

Q.76) Which one of the following statements is correct with reference to the "Mpemba effect", seen in the news recently?

- a) It is a phenomenon where warmer solutions dissolve solids quicker than colder solutions.
- b) It is a phenomenon in which hot water freezes faster than cold water under certain conditions.
- c) It is a method of water purification.
- d) It is a phenomenon in which water boils at a lower temperature under high pressure.

Q.77) With reference to the Nuclear Battery, consider the following statements:

1. Nuclear batteries have a longer lifespan than the traditional battery.
2. It converts radioisotope energy into electrical energy.
3. Like traditional batteries, the nuclear battery is inoperative under extreme temperatures of 120 to -60°C.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.78) Which one of the following staining techniques helps differentiate between gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria?

- a) Acid-fast staining
- b) Capsule staining
- c) Gram staining
- d) Flagella staining

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Q.79) Consider the following statements:

1. Hepatitis A is mainly transmitted through blood transfusion.
2. Hepatitis A is a viral infection that primarily causes inflammation of the liver.
3. Havisure is India's first indigenously developed vaccine for Hepatitis A.

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.80) With reference to the Border Security Force (BSF), consider the following statements:

1. One of its mandates is to counter-terrorism operations.
2. It is responsible for guarding the borders of India with China and Nepal.
3. It is one of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (b)	3 - (a)	4 - (b)	5 - (c)	6 - (a)	7 - (c)	8 - (c)	9 - (a)	10 - (a)
11 - (c)	12 - (a)	13 - (a)	14 - (a)	15 - (b)	16 - (a)	17 - (b)	18 - (c)	19 - (a)	20 - (b)
21 - (b)	22 - (c)	23 - (c)	24 - (a)	25 - (b)	26 - (b)	27 - (c)	28 - (d)	29 - (b)	30 - (a)
31 - (d)	32 - (b)	33 - (c)	34 - (b)	35 - (c)	36 - (c)	37 - (a)	38 - (b)	39 - (b)	40 - (b)
41 - (b)	42 - (c)	43 - (b)	44 - (b)	45 - (d)	46 - (d)	47 - (b)	48 - (a)	49 - (a)	50 - (a)
51 - (b)	52 - (a)	53 - (a)	54 - (a)	55 - (a)	56 - (b)	57 - (b)	58 - (c)	59 - (c)	60 - (b)
61 - (d)	62 - (a)	63 - (a)	64 - (a)	65 - (a)	66 - (b)	67 - (c)	68 - (b)	69 - (c)	70 - (b)
71 - (b)	72 - (a)	73 - (d)	74 - (a)	75 - (a)	76 - (b)	77 - (b)	78 - (c)	79 - (b)	80 - (b)

Answer & Explanations

Art & Culture

1. Correct Answer is (B)

- Adi Shankaracharya, an 8th-century Indian philosopher and theologian, established four mathas (monastic centers) in different parts of India to promote the teachings of Advaita Vedanta. These four mathas are collectively known as the Dashanami Sampradaya or the order of Dashanami monks.
- The four mathas established by Adi Shankaracharya are: 1. Dwaraka Matha in Dwarka, Gujarat, 2. Jyotirmath in Joshimath, Uttarakhand, 3. Govardhana Matha in Puri, Odisha, 4. Sharada Peeth in Sringeri, Karnataka
- Each matha is responsible for a specific region of India and is headed by a Shankaracharya, who is considered to be the spiritual leader of the matha. The mathas play an important role in preserving and propagating the teachings of Advaita Vedanta, and they continue to be centers of learning and spirituality in India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (B)

- In Advaita Vedanta, the term "Brahman" is used to denote the ultimate reality, which is the supreme, absolute, and ultimate truth that underlies all existence. Brahman is described as the ultimate source and support of the universe, the underlying reality of everything that exists. The realization of the identity between the individual soul (Atman) and the ultimate reality (Brahman) is a central theme of Advaita Vedanta.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The primary architectural style of the Veerabhadra Temple is Vijayanagara (not Nagara). While Nagara elements are present, the overall structure and ornamentation are characteristic of the Vijayanagara period. The temple was built in the 16th century by the brothers Virupanna and Viramma Nayaka, who were governors under the Vijayanagara Empire.
- Statement 3 is correct. The Veerabhadra Temple is renowned for its exquisite sculptures, which depict scenes from various Hindu epics and mythologies, including the Mahabharata. The temple's walls and pillars are adorned with intricate carvings that illustrate stories and characters from the Mahabharata, adding to the temple's cultural and historical significance.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 4 are correct. The Nagara style of temple architecture is characterized by its curvilinear shikhara, which rises in tiers and is often shaped like a mountain peak. This distinguishing feature sets the Nagara style apart from other Indian temple architectural styles, such as the Dravidian style, which is characterized by its pyramidal tower (vimana). In the Nagara style of architecture, the garbhagriha is always located under the tallest tower, or shikhara, which is the most prominent architectural feature of the temple. The shikhara is designed to symbolize the abode of the deity and to draw attention to the sacred space of the garbhagriha.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Nagara temples are known for their sculptural ornamentation rather than murals or paintings. Sculptures, carvings, and intricate designs are more characteristic of

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Nagara style. The Nagara style of architecture reached its zenith during the Gupta dynasty, particularly during the 4th to 6th centuries AD. The Chalukya dynasty is more associated with the Dravida style of architecture.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (C)

- 1, 2 and 3 are correctly matched.
- Gonds - Madhya Pradesh: Gonds are one of the largest tribal groups in India, and Madhya Pradesh is one of the states with a significant Gond population.
- Soligas - Karnataka: Soligas are an indigenous tribal community primarily found in the Biligiriranga Hills of Karnataka. They speak Sholaga, which belongs to the Dravidian family. They have become the first tribal community residing within the core region of an Indian tiger reserve to have their forest rights formally acknowledged by a court of law.
- Khasis - Meghalaya: Khasis are one of the major tribes in Meghalaya, known for their matrilineal society and unique culture.
- Jarawas - Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Jarawas are a tribal group native to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, not Nagaland. Nagaland is a state in Northeast India with several major tribes, including the Angami, Ao, Konyak, and Sema.
- More tribes in news – Yeravas: They are also an indigenous community residing in the Cauvery Basin and the surrounding hills of peninsular India. They inhabit the Western Ghats and the Nilgiri Hills. They speak Revula language. Their settlements are called 'Kunju'.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Guruvayur Temple, located in the Guruvayur town of Thrissur district in Kerala, predominantly exhibits the Dravidian style of architecture. This style is characterized by its towering gopurams (gateway towers), elaborate mandapas (pillared halls), and intricate stone carvings. It is a Hindu temple, often referred to as the Southern Dwarka. It is dedicated to Lord Vishnu in the youthful form of Lord Krishna. It is located in the town of Guruvayur in Kerala, India. It follows the traditional Kerala architectural style. The temple is known for housing a significant number of captive male Asian elephants. The nearby Punnathur Kotta elephant sanctuary is home to 56 elephants.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. The Ayodhya Ram temple has been constructed in the traditional Nagara style. The construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya takes a unique approach by avoiding the use of steel or iron. Instead, the project uses traditional construction methods by giving due attention to the principle of sustainability. There are 5 mandapas Nritya Mandap, Rang Mandap, Sabha Mandap, Prathana Mandap and Kirtan Mandap.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. White Makrana marble and colored marble are intricately used for inlay work.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (C)

- Moh-Juj, a traditional buffalo fight, is commonly practiced in the state of Assam. It was introduced to Assamese culture by 30th Ahom king Swargadeo Rudra Singha about 200 years ago. It is celebrated

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as a sport in Ahatguri town during Assam's Magh Bihu, a key harvest festival in January–February. The event is part of the cultural celebration of Magh Bihu.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Modern Indian History

9. Correct Answer is (A)

- Parakram Diwas, celebrated on January 23rd, specifically commemorates the birth of Subhas Chandra Bose. It has been celebrated annually since 2021. The inaugural event occurred at Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata. It is also known as the Day of Valour or Parakram Divas.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Geography

10. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Western Disturbances are not low-pressure systems originating in the Bay of Bengal. Instead, they are extratropical storms originating in the Mediterranean region. Western Disturbances do not primarily generate convective rainfall. Instead, they cause orographic lifting of moist air masses as they encounter the mountains. This lifting leads to adiabatic cooling and condensation, resulting in precipitation, including snowfall.
- Statement 2 is correct. Western Disturbances bring cold and wet weather, leading to snowfall in the Himalayas and northern regions of India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (C)

- El Niño is a phenomenon that occurs in the Pacific Ocean, specifically in the central and eastern regions. It is characterized by a periodic warming of ocean surface temperatures, which can significantly impact the global weather pattern, including precipitation and temperature. The Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, and Southern Ocean are not directly involved in the El Niño cycle, although they can be indirectly impacted by its effects on global atmospheric circulation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Zaskar River is a left-bank tributary of the Indus River, meaning it joins the Indus River from the left side when facing downstream. Originating northeast of the Great Himalayan range, it drains both the Himalayas and the Zaskar Range in the Zaskar region. It flows entirely within the Ladakh region of India, passing through the Zaskar Valley and joining the Indus River near the town of Nimu. The Doda and Tsrappingti Chu (also known as the Lungnak river) are two of the main tributaries of the Zaskar River. Doda River joins the Zaskar River at Doda village, and Tsrappingti Chu is a significant tributary contributing to the flow of the Zaskar River.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

13. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Greenland ice sheet, also known as the Greenland Glacier, is the largest ice mass in the Northern Hemisphere. It covers an area of approximately 1.7 million square kilometers, which is roughly the size of Mexico. The ice sheet is up to 3 kilometers thick in some places and contains enough ice to raise global sea levels by about 7 meters if it were to melt entirely. It holds approximately 10% of the world's freshwater, making it the largest ice mass outside of Antarctica.

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- Statement 2 is incorrect. Glacier terminus position is a position where glaciers meet the ocean. The position of the glacier terminus is dynamic and can change over time due to various factors, including climate conditions, accumulation of snow and ice, and ablation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India has the largest area under bamboo cultivation and is the second richest in terms of bamboo genetic resources after China. Bamboo is an important economic and cultural resource in India, used in a variety of products including furniture, construction materials, and handicrafts.
- Bamboo composites are materials created by combining bamboo fibers with other substances, such as plastics, resins, or other natural fibers. The resulting composite material combines the strength and durability of bamboo with the versatility and processability of other materials. Bamboo composites are increasingly being used in construction, automotive, and furniture industries due to their eco-friendly nature, high strength-to-weight ratio, and aesthetic appeal.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Bamboo is not a shrub but a type of grass that belongs to the Poaceae family. Bamboo is a fast-growing plant that can reach heights of up to 30 meters, depending on the species.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Peru is located entirely in the Southern Hemisphere. It is situated on the western side of South America. Chancay is a port city in Peru, and it serves as a significant maritime and commercial center. The port is 80 km north of Peru's capital city, Lima. It is primarily owned by the Chinese state-owned company Cosco Shipping, which holds 60% stake in the port. It signifies China's first control of a port in South America.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Ucayali River is the longest river of Peru, which is approximately 1,600 kilometers long. The Ucayali River is a tributary of the Amazon River and plays a crucial role in the transportation of goods and people in the region.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement-I is correct, as several areas in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh have witnessed an increase in northeast monsoon rain of more than 10% in the past decade. This trend has been observed in cities like Chennai, Hyderabad, and Vishakhapatnam.
- Statement-II is also correct, as the Bay of Bengal has seen an increase in the frequency of low-pressure systems and depressions during the northeast monsoon months (October to December). These weather systems are responsible for bringing rainfall to the regions of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, and their increased frequency could explain the rise in northeast monsoon rain in the affected areas.
- Therefore, Statement-II provides an explanation for the trend observed in Statement-I, and both statements are correct.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

17. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The primary factor that distinguishes deep water coral reefs from shallow water coral reefs is the depth at which they are found. Deep water coral reefs are typically found at depths greater than 30 meters, while shallow water coral reefs are found in shallow, sunlit

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waters, usually less than 30 meters deep. Shallow-water coral reefs generally cover fewer areas of the ocean floor compared to deep-water coral reefs.

- Statement 2 is correct. Shallow-water coral reefs are commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions, where they thrive in warm, clear, shallow waters. On the other hand, deep-water coral reefs are found in various latitudes, from tropical to polar regions, but they are typically found in deeper, colder waters with different light and nutrient conditions. Deep-water coral reefs are often found in waters below 30 meters, where the light intensity decreases significantly, and the water temperature is colder than in shallow waters.
- Researchers have mapped the largest deep sea coral reef found in the ocean off the Atlantic coast of the United States using new underwater mapping. The width of the reef is about 68 miles (109 kilometers). The depth of reef ranges from 200 meters to 1000 meters where even sunlight does not penetrate.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

18. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Icebergs are formed by calving, or splitting, glaciers and are made of fresh water. They are formed when large chunks of ice break off from glaciers or ice shelves and float freely in the ocean. Since they originate from freshwater sources, icebergs themselves are composed of freshwater. To qualify as an iceberg, the ice must have a height exceeding 16 feet above sea level, a thickness between 98-164 feet, and cover an area of at least 5,382 square feet. The salinity (salt content) of an iceberg is lower than seawater because the freshwater ice freezes out the salt.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Due to Archimedes' principle, only about 10% of an iceberg's volume is visible above the waterline. The submerged portion, which is much larger and denser due to the ice being less buoyant underwater, accounts for the remaining 90% of its mass.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

19. Correct Answer is (A)

- France has coastlines along the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. These two significant water bodies play a crucial role in shaping the geography and climate of different regions in France. The Atlantic Ocean borders the western part of the country, influencing the climate of areas like Brittany and providing access to important ports. The Mediterranean Sea, located to the southeast, influences the climate of regions such as Provence and offers access to the Mediterranean trade routes.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Polity

20. Correct Answer is (B)

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is a government agency responsible for providing meteorological services to the country. It functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, which is the administrative ministry for meteorology, oceanography, seismology, and climate science in India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. Correct Answer is (B)

- Resigning from the party without providing a written explanation to the Speaker is not a specific ground for disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. While resigning from

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the party may lead to a member losing the benefits and privileges associated with the party, it, in itself, is not a ground for automatic disqualification.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

22. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Supreme Court of India has ruled that prior approval is necessary for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate offenses under the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 1988, when the accused is a public servant above the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, or an equivalent officer in a state government, or a public servant in a corporation or company owned or controlled by the state or central government.
- According to section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 1988, if a public servant commits an offense under the Act during official duties, investigators must receive approval from the central/state government or a competent authority to initiate an inquiry or investigation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

23. Correct Answer is (C)

- 1 and 3 are correctly matched. Article 19 of the Constitution of India guarantees certain fundamental rights related to freedom of speech and expression. These rights are crucial for the functioning of a democratic society, ensuring that citizens can express their thoughts and opinions without fear of censorship or persecution. Article 19(1)(b) provides for freedom to Assemble Peacefully. "All citizens shall have the right to assemble peaceably and without arms."
- Note: Recently, Delhi HC held in a judgement that foreigners cannot claim the right to reside in India under Article 19(1)(e) of the Constitution of India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

24. Correct Answer is (A)

- Habeas Corpus is a legal writ used to challenge the unlawful detention of a person. It literally means "to have the body" and requires the detaining authority to bring the person before the court to justify their detention. If the court finds the detention to be unlawful, it can order the person's immediate release.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

25. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The MPLAD Scheme funds can be used for various development works recommended by MPs, including creating durable community assets and improving the quality of life of their constituents. The government provides a list of eligible projects under the scheme, but it's not limited to those specific projects. MPs can recommend projects based on local needs, as long as they meet the scheme's guidelines and eligibility criteria.
- Statement 2 is correct. The E-SAKSHI mobile app aims to enhance transparency and accessibility in the MPLAD Scheme implementation by capturing the entire fund allocation cycle. MPs can use the app to recommend and monitor projects, track fund utilization, and receive updates on work progress and beneficiary details. The app's objective aligns with the government's broader efforts to digitize public services and promote citizen engagement in development initiatives.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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26. Correct answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The primary objective of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) is to promote and sustain competition in the Indian market. The CCI was established under the Competition Act, 2002, with the aim of creating and maintaining a competitive environment in the Indian economy. It seeks to prevent practices that adversely affect competition, such as cartels, abuse of dominance, and anti-competitive agreements. The CCI has extensive powers to investigate suspected anti-competitive practices, including market manipulation. It can conduct raids, search premises, summon witnesses, and collect evidence to enforce the Competition Act, 2002.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The CCI is an independent body established by the Government of India. Its members are appointed by the central government based on their expertise in law, economics, finance, and management. Industry representatives are not directly included in the CCI's composition.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

27. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement-I is correct: Numerous studies and reports have consistently shown that in India, girls have higher dropout rates than boys at all levels of education, particularly as the level of education increases.
- Statement-II is incorrect: Higher educational systems and curricula in India are planned for each and every one to study and learn, without being gender-specific. Factors such as socio-economic conditions, cultural norms, and access to resources primarily contribute to the differential dropout rates. This is also due to greater barriers to schooling for girls due to social norms and gender stereotypes correlated with female adolescence.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

28. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Basic Structure Doctrine is most closely related to the concept of a "Living Constitution." This means that the interpretation of the constitution evolves over time, adapting to changing societal norms and values. Unlike textualism, originalism, or strict constructionism, which emphasize adhering to the original intent or plain text of the constitution, the Living Constitution approach allows for a more flexible interpretation to meet the needs and challenges of contemporary society. The Basic Structure Doctrine shares this characteristic by recognizing the need for the Constitution to remain relevant and adaptable while safeguarding its fundamental principles.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Acts & Policies

29. Correct Answer is (B)

- Donations from a foreign source: Donations from any individual or organization located outside India, including foreign governments, foreign companies, and foreign nationals, are considered foreign contributions under FCRA.
- Donations from a foreigner living in India: If a foreigner is living in India on a long-term visa, their donations are considered foreign contributions under FCRA.
- However, Donations from an NRI and donations from an Indian source are not considered foreign contributions under FCRA.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

30. Correct Answer is (A)

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- Statement 1 is correct. The Boeing Sukanya Programme is an initiative by Boeing India to promote skill development and employability in the Indian aerospace sector. It provides vocational training and employment opportunities for underprivileged women in India's aerospace and defense manufacturing sector. The programme will provide opportunities to girls and women to learn critical skills in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in the aviation sector. The programme will create labs at 150 planned locations to generate interest in STEM careers. The programme will provide scholarships to women who are training to be pilots.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Boeing Sukanya programme does not involve establishing joint ventures between Boeing and Indian aerospace companies. It is primarily focused on skill development and employability, with the aim of empowering women and providing them with career opportunities in the aerospace sector.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

31. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The primary objective of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA) in India is to regulate the receipt and utilization of foreign contributions by individuals, associations, and companies. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is responsible for administering the FCRA. It is the nodal agency for overseeing the registration process, granting prior permission, and ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Act. The FCRA Division of the MHA processes all applications related to the FCRA and takes necessary action against violations of the Act. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) of 2010 prohibits election candidates from accepting foreign contributions.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

32. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Unrefined gold, also known as gold dore, is a semi-pure alloy of gold and other precious metals like silver and copper, obtained from mining and other sources. It usually contains between 50% to 95% of gold, and the remainder is made up of other metals. Therefore, unrefined gold is not pure gold and requires further processing to reach purity levels suitable for commercial use. India has a zero-duty policy for imports of unrefined gold from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as part of the Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme. However, it's important to note that the exemption from import duties only applies to countries that are designated as LDCs by the United Nations. For gold imported from non-LDCs, standard import duties apply.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The authority responsible for regulating and monitoring zero-duty unrefined gold imports in India is the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The DGFT formulates and implements India's foreign trade policy, including the Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme, which allows duty-free imports of unrefined gold from Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

33. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 seeks to reduce the pressure on wild medicinal plants by encouraging cultivation of medicinal plants. This aims to reduce dependence on wild harvesting and protect biodiversity. The Act does not provide a specific definition for "Ayush practitioner," which has led to ambiguity and potential loopholes in its implementation.

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- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Act exempts AYUSH practitioners from paying ABS fees for using codified traditional knowledge associated with medicinal plants. This has been a controversial aspect, with concerns that it might deprive local communities of rightful benefits. ABS is a compensatory amount typically paid to tribal and other communities with a tradition of gathering, safeguarding, and utilising herbs and medicinal plants crucial for the Ayush industry.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

34. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. Design Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme provides financial support and design infrastructure access to domestic companies, startups, and MSMEs involved in semiconductor design across various stages, from development to deployment.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The DLI scheme focuses specifically on semiconductor design, not fabrication, software design, material science research, or equipment manufacturing. While the DLI scheme aims to boost the semiconductor ecosystem, it doesn't directly fund fabrication plant establishment. The focus is on design capabilities and encouraging domestic chip development.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Index & Reports

35. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The 2023 Academic Freedom Index ranked India at 123 out of 179 countries, which falls within the lower 30% of the index. The index measures academic freedom across various dimensions, such as freedom of research and teaching, institutional autonomy, and campus integrity. The Constitution of India guarantees freedom of speech and expression as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a). This right is applicable to academics and scholars, and it includes the freedom to express their opinions, ideas, and research findings without fear of censorship or retribution. While the Constitution does not explicitly mention academic freedom, the broader right to free speech encompasses it.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

36. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The ASER 2023 report focuses on assessing the ability of rural youth aged 14-18 to apply their reading and math skills in everyday situations, as well as their aspirations and economic perceptions. The ASER 2023 report states that among rural youth aged 14-18, females tend to perform better in reading in their regional language, while males perform better in arithmetic and English. The report also highlights gender disparities in digital access and skills, with males having greater access to digital devices and being more proficient in using them.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The report mentions that the most commonly chosen fields of study are Arts/Humanities/Commerce, followed by Engineering/Technology/Science, and Medical/Paramedical.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

International Relations/Organizations

37. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The WEF is primarily focused on promoting economic development and cooperation by providing a platform for public-private collaboration. Its mission is to improve the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape

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global, regional, and industry agendas. The WEF promotes economic development and cooperation as a means to achieve its mission.

- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The WEF is an independent international organization and is not an official advisory body for the United Nations. However, the WEF collaborates with the UN on various initiatives and projects aimed at achieving sustainable development goals. The Global Economic Outlook Report is not published by the WEF. The WEF is known for its "Global Competitiveness Report" and various other reports.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

38. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Malabar exercise involves the navies of India, Japan, the United States, and Australia. Varuna is the bilateral exercise of the Indian and French navies, initiated in 1993.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was jointly launched by India and France in 2015 at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris. The alliance aims to promote solar energy globally, particularly in solar-rich countries lying between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. The ISA has the broader objective of reducing dependence on fossil fuels and addressing climate change. India and France have collaborated on various initiatives to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. In 2019, the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in combating IUU fishing, particularly in the Indian Ocean region. The MoU includes information sharing, capacity building, and technical assistance to develop effective monitoring, control, and surveillance systems.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

39. Correct Answer is (B)

- The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) aims to create a comprehensive transportation network that facilitates trade and connectivity between India, the Middle East, and Europe. This initiative aims to boost economic development in these regions by improving transportation infrastructure, streamlining customs procedures, and promoting cross-border cooperation. IMEC envisions to develop multimodal transport corridors, including railways, roads, ports, and air cargo routes, to facilitate efficient movement of goods and services. The primary objective is to leverage the economic potential of these regions and foster greater collaboration among businesses, governments, and communities.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

40. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Emigration Check Required (ECR) scheme was implemented for semi-skilled and unskilled workers. If an Indian passport holder is not 10th standard pass, they require ECR. It means they need special safe guards like proper and valid work permit/work visa/job agreement, etc., between their employer in foreign country where they want to go and them, which is to be ensured by an office called Protectorate of Emigrants (POE) in India, like that of the Passport office/Visa Consulate. The e-Migrate project is designed for facilitating emigration of ECR category emigrants going to notified countries for employment purposes. e-Migrate is integrated with Passport Seva Project (PSP) of Ministry of External Affairs for online validation of passport details of the ECR category workers being registered.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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41. Correct Answer is (B)

- The main objective of the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) is to reduce trade distortions in the agricultural sector. It provides a framework for the long-term reform of agricultural trade and domestic policies, with the aim of leading to fairer competition and a less distorted sector. The overall aim is to establish a fairer trading system that will increase market access and improve the livelihoods of farmers around the world. The agreement will create a level playing field for farmers around the world, particularly those in poor countries and cannot compete with rich countries that artificially boost their exports through subsidies. The Agreement on Agriculture has three major pillars: Market access, Domestic support (subsidies), Export subsidies/competition.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

42. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The Alliance was launched by India on the sidelines of the 54th annual World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos, Switzerland, in January 2024. It reflects India's commitment to promoting women's empowerment and gender equality as a leading voice in the Global South. The alliance emphasizes adopting global best practices, sharing knowledge, and making investments in women's health, education, and enterprises. The concept for this alliance originated from the G20 Leaders' Declaration, emphasizing India's commitment to women-led development. The WEF has endorsed the Alliance and serves as a network partner, leveraging its global reach and convening power to connect the Alliance with relevant stakeholders and resources. Other partners include the Government of India, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Centre for Women Leadership, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

43. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) serves as a subsidiary body to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It stands as the sole global inter-governmental platform dedicated to the examination of significant international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues. COFI membership is open to FAO Members and non-Members are eligible to be an observer of the Organization. Representatives from the UN, its bodies, specialized agencies, regional fishery bodies, and international non-governmental organizations participate in debates without voting rights. COFI assesses the FAO work program related to fisheries, conducts regular reviews of global fishery issues, and puts forth potential solutions. COFI played a key role in negotiating the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Agreement on Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

44. Correct Answer is (B)

- Increased illegal immigration and border security issues: The border enabled by the FMR made it difficult to control illegal crossings and activities like smuggling, posing security risks.
- Misuse of the regime for insurgent activities: Concerns arose that insurgent groups used the FMR to cross the border freely after carrying out attacks in India, further jeopardizing national security.
- Inefficiency in healthcare facilities collaboration and Military coup in Myanmar: These were not the main reasons behind terminating FMR by India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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Economy

45. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Green Bonds are issued to finance projects with environmental benefits, and the proceeds can be used in any country, regardless of the currency in which the bond is issued. The currency in which a Green Bond is issued does not necessarily determine the location of the projects it finances. Green Bonds can be issued in any currency, regardless of where the funded projects are located. The proceeds must be used for eligible green projects, which can be anywhere in the world. The primary purpose of Green Bonds is to raise capital for environmentally friendly projects, not to support domestic industries. Countries typically issue Green Bonds in other nations' currencies to tap into a wider pool of global investors and diversify their investor base. The primary goal is not to support domestic industries directly but to raise funds for environmentally sustainable projects.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

46. Correct Answer is (D)

- The total expense ratio (TER) is a measure of the total costs associated with managing and operating an investment fund, such as a mutual fund. It consists of management fees, trading fee, legal fee etc. It is a measure of a fund's operational efficiency. Investors pay attention to the expense ratio to understand if a fund is an appropriate investment for them after fees are considered. The higher the expense ratio, the lower are the returns on the investment.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

47. Correct Answer is (B)

- The government policy of implementing minimum support prices (MSP) for farmers can potentially exacerbate food inflation in India. MSP is the minimum price guaranteed by the government to farmers for their crops, which is intended to ensure fair remuneration and protect farmers from exploitation.
- While MSP may benefit farmers, it can also lead to increased production costs for farmers, as they may invest in inputs like fertilizers and pesticides to increase yields and meet the MSP targets. These increased costs can get passed on to consumers in the form of higher food prices. Additionally, the government's procurement of crops at MSP can create an artificial demand, leading to a shortage of supply in the market and further pushing up prices.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

48. Correct Answer is (A)

- Capital expenditure refers to the spending on the acquisition or improvement of physical assets, such as infrastructure and equipment, which can contribute to long-term economic growth. Increased capital expenditure by Indian states can drive infrastructure development, boost economic activity, and attract investment. The central government can support this increased capital expenditure by providing financial assistance to states through grants and loans. Grants can provide direct funding for capital projects, while loans can help states access capital at lower interest rates. This financial assistance can help states implement infrastructure projects that may not be financially feasible otherwise.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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49. Correct Answer is (A)

- Globalization refers to the integration of local economies into a single world market. It involves the increasing interconnectedness and interdependence of economies, businesses, and people across the world. It refers to the process through which the world has become a single place to live and work. This integration is facilitated by various factors, including technological advancements, international trade, and cultural exchange. Globalization results in a single, global market, where goods, services, and resources can flow freely across borders.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

50. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. Taxes are the primary source of government revenue, but they don't directly finance the deficit. The deficit is financed by borrowing from various sources like bonds or loans. During an economic recession, a government might increase its fiscal deficit to stimulate the economy by increasing spending or cutting taxes. However, attracting foreign investment is not a direct result of an increased fiscal deficit. Export earnings are not a component of the fiscal deficit. The fiscal deficit is calculated as the difference between a government's total expenditure and total revenue, which includes taxes, non-tax revenues, and borrowings. Export earnings, while contributing to a country's economic growth and government revenue, do not directly form a part of the fiscal deficit.
- Statement 4 is correct. Fiscal deficit is positively correlated with government borrowing. When a government runs a fiscal deficit, it needs to borrow funds to cover the shortfall between its expenditure and revenue. As the fiscal deficit increases, the government's borrowing requirements also increase, leading to a positive correlation between the two.

Source: [DNA](#)

51. Correct Answer is (B)

- If a country is experiencing a decrease in its foreign exchange (forex) reserves, the central bank might decide to increase interest rates as a way to stabilize the situation. Higher interest rates make the country's currency more attractive to foreign investors. These investors are likely to convert their funds into the local currency to invest in the country's financial markets, leading to an increase in the demand for the local currency. The increased demand for the local currency can help to stabilize its exchange rate and potentially increase the country's forex reserves.
- Decrease interest rates: Lowering interest rates could potentially weaken the domestic currency further, leading to a faster depletion of forex reserves. This is generally not the preferred course of action when facing declining reserves.
- Print more currency: Printing more currency can lead to inflation, which can further depreciate the domestic currency and worsen the situation.
- Engage in open market operations: Open market operations, involving the buying or selling of government securities, can influence the supply and demand for the domestic currency. However, the effectiveness of this option depends on various factors, and it may not be as direct and immediate as increasing interest rates. Open market operations are often used for broader monetary policy goals rather than specifically targeting forex reserves.

Source: [Live Mint](#)

52. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) is a statutory body formed under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. It provides social security benefits to its members in the form of provident fund, pension, and insurance.

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- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The employee and the employer contribute to the EPF India scheme on a monthly basis in equal proportions of 12% of the basic salary and dearness allowance. The EPFO primarily covers employees in the organized sector of India, which includes establishments with 20 or more employees. It does not cover all employees in India, as it excludes those in the unorganized sector, such as small businesses, self-employed individuals, and casual workers.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

53. Correct Answer is (A)

- The vertical distribution of tax revenue in India refers to sharing of tax revenue between the Central and State governments. This distribution is mandated by Article 280 of the Constitution, which requires the Finance Commission to make recommendations about the division of net tax income, commonly known as vertical and horizontal devolution, between the Union and the states and among the states. The share of states in the central taxes for the 2021-26 period is recommended to be 41%, as per the key recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

54. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. India is the world's leading producer of milk, contributing approximately 24% of global milk production.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The NDDB is not legally mandated to directly regulate milk prices across India. The primary objective of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is to promote, finance, and support producer-owned and controlled organizations, and to boost milk production and processing capacity. The NDDB is a statutory body and an institute of national importance, established by an act of the Indian Parliament in 1965. It was founded by Dr Verghese Kurien, often called 'India's milkman'. **Holstein Friesian** has the highest milk production of all breeds worldwide. The Holstein Friesian is the most widespread cattle breed in the world.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

55. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Indian toy industry has witnessed a decline in imports by 52% and a rise in exports by 239% between FY 2014-15 and FY 2022-23, which is attributed to factors such as increased tariffs and import restrictions, including the rise in import duty from 20% to 60% in 2020 and then to 70% in 2023. Another factor is increased domestic production and quality improvement.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Outdoor and sports toys comprise the largest share of the Indian toy market, comprising 25-30% of the market, followed by infant & pre-school toys, and dolls.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Environment

56. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Himalayan wolf is not the only carnivore in its ecosystem. The Himalayan wolf inhabits the high-altitude regions of the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau, where it shares its ecosystem with other carnivores such as the snow leopard, Tibetan wolf, and red fox.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Himalayan wolf is currently classified as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The population of Himalayan wolves is declining due to habitat loss, poaching, and conflict with humans. Himalayan wolves are known for their smaller and more compact body size compared to other wolf subspecies. They have shorter legs and snouts, which are

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adaptations to their high-altitude habitat. This physical characteristic allows them to conserve heat and navigate the rugged terrain of their habitat effectively.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

57. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Dark Sky Parks are designated areas where efforts are made to reduce light pollution, preserving the natural darkness for stargazing and astronomy education. The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra is India's first Dark Sky Park and Asia's fifth Dark Sky Park. The International Dark-Sky Association certifies the Dark Sky Park.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Pench Tiger Reserve is located in central India and is primarily made up of dry deciduous forest, not tropical rainforest. The reserve is known for its diverse flora and fauna, including tigers, leopards, wild dogs, and a variety of bird species.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

58. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Punganur breed of cattle is indigenous to the Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, where it has been reared for centuries. It is named after the town of Punganur, where it was originally bred. The breed is known for its hardiness and resilience, particularly in drought conditions. Punganur cows are highly resistant to disease and parasites, and they can survive exclusively on dry fodder. They are also known for their ability to produce milk even in adverse conditions. Gir, Sahiwal, Bargur, Onglore, and Kaangayam represent some other well-known indigenous cow breeds in India.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Punganur cow is known for its short, crescent-shaped horns, not long and curved ones. It has short and curved horns that are usually black or brown in color. The breed also has small and pointed ears that are usually forwardly directed. One of the unique features of this cow breed is that it can produce milk proportionally higher than its body weight. Despite being small in size, the Punganur cow can produce up to almost 3 to 5 liters of milk per day. This is the reason why this cow breed is an ideal breed for rearing, especially for small-scale dairy farmers. The Vijayanagar Emperors supported this breed, and it has a historical connection to wealth and prosperity.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

59. Correct Answer is (C)

- Vultures play a crucial role in the ecosystem by scavenging on dead animals, which helps to prevent the spread of disease and maintain a balanced food web. Their presence in an ecosystem can indicate a healthy and functioning food chain, where predators and scavengers are able to thrive. India is home to 9 species of Vulture namely the Oriental white-backed, Long-billed, Slender-billed, Himalayan, Red-headed, Egyptian, Bearded, Cinereous and the Eurasian Griffon. Vultures are widely distributed, but they are absent from Australia and most oceanic islands.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

60. Correct Answer is (B)

- Nitrogen dioxide is a pollutant released from vehicle exhaust that contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone and smog. When nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), react in the presence of sunlight, they form ground-level ozone, a major component of smog. Carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) are also emitted

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from vehicle exhaust, but they do not directly contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone and smog.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

61. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 4 are correct. Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the northeastern edge of the Eastern Ghats, in the Khurda and Cuttack districts of Odisha. The Dongria Kondh tribal community is associated with the Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary. There are three tribal villages within the sanctuary - Bentsahi, Nuakua, and Dholkatha - consisting of around 188 families of the Dongria Kondh tribe. The Dongria Kondh are an indigenous tribe living in the Niyamgiri Hills of Odisha.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The sanctuary is not particularly known for protecting Olive Ridley Turtles. Instead, it is famous for its population of elephants, as well as other animals like blackbuck, sambar, and spotted deer. The Brahmani River flows through the Chandaka-Dampara wildlife sanctuary. The Brahmani River is a major east-flowing river in Odisha, and it plays a crucial role in the ecosystem of the sanctuary. Manjra River also flows through the sanctuary and provides a vital water source for the wildlife.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

62. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Indian Gaur, also known as the Indian Bison, is the largest wild cattle species in the world. It is a majestic and powerful animal, known for its strong and muscular build. Indian Bisons are mostly found in the hilly parts of the Western Ghats region such as Bandipur, Wayanad and Mudumalai. Gaur is the state animal of Goa and Bihar. Conservation Status: IUCN Status: Vulnerable, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

63. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement-I is correct. Despite India's efforts to promote renewable energy, coal remains the primary source of power generation, accounting for over 70% of electricity production. This dominance of coal in the energy mix highlights its significance in meeting the country's growing energy demands.
- Statement-II is also correct. Coal-fired power plants are a mature technology with a proven track record of high energy generation capacity. Their established infrastructure and operational efficiency make them a reliable source of power, especially compared to some renewable sources that are still in their developmental stages.
- Therefore, Statement-II directly explains the reason behind the dominance of coal in power generation in Statement-I.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

64. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. India aims to achieve 50% of its electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. This is an ambitious target set by the Indian government as part of its efforts to combat climate change and promote renewable energy. As of October 2023, India has already achieved around 43.82% of its installed power generation capacity from non-fossil sources, including renewable energy and nuclear power.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. As on 31.12.2023, Gujarat has the highest rooftop solar capacity.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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65. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Binturong also known as bearcat is native to South and Southeast Asia. These arboreal mammals with their prehensile tails can be found in the rainforests of India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and parts of Indonesia and the Philippines. The Binturong is an omnivorous animal.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Small-Clawed otter is also known as Asian small clawed otter/Oriental Small Clawed Otter. The small-clawed otter is an otter species native to South and Southeast Asia. It is nocturnal in nature as it is mostly active after the dark. In India, it is mainly found in West Bengal, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, and in coastal regions of Odisha and Karnataka. It is also found in the Nilgiri and Palni hills in Tamil Nadu. Conservation status: IUCN: Vulnerable, Wildlife Protection Act of 1972: Schedule I, CITES: Appendix I.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

66. Correct Answer is (B)

- Kaziranga was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1985 for its exceptional biodiversity and as a prime habitat for the endangered one-horned rhinoceros. Kaziranga was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2007, acknowledging its crucial role in the conservation of the majestic Bengal tiger. Hence, Kaziranga National Park holds the status of a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Tiger Reserve. It does not hold the status of a Biosphere Reserve.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Science & Technology

67. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement-I is correct: The overuse of antibiotics in livestock can contribute to AMR due to the selective pressure it puts on bacteria, leading to the emergence of resistant strains.
- Statement-II is incorrect because antibiotics are not used in livestock to make them reproduce more. Instead, antibiotics are used to prevent and treat diseases in livestock, and in some cases, to promote growth.
- Hence, Statement-I is correct and Statement-II is incorrect.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

68. Correct Answer is (B)

- The primary objective of the National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) is to ensure that people have access to affordable and essential diagnostic tests as part of primary healthcare. The NEDL is a list of diagnostic tests that are essential for the diagnosis and management of common diseases in a particular country or region. These facilities include primary health centers, health and wellness centers, sub-health centers, and the village level.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

69. Correct Answer is (C)

- Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) are a set of standards, practices, and guidelines issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India to maintain the highest standards of safety and security in civil aviation. The primary objective of CAR is to ensure the safety and security of aircraft, passengers, and crew.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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70. Correct Answer is (B)

- InDEA aims to provide a common framework for government agencies to develop digital systems that are interconnected and interoperable. It promotes collaboration and standardization across different sectors and departments, enabling seamless exchange of information and services. It provides a common framework for the development of digital systems, ensuring that they are aligned with national priorities and strategies.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

71. Correct Answer is (B)

- The rapid growth of bread mold on forgotten bread is primarily due to asexual reproduction, where a single fungus can produce large numbers of offspring quickly and without the need for a mate. Bread mold, also known as Rhizopus, is a common mold that grows on bread and other starchy foods. It reproduces asexually through a process called sporangium formation, where the mold produces spores that can spread and grow into new mold colonies.
- Scientists have recently discovered a new species of fungus in Kerala, named 'Paramyrothecium indicum'. It is a new species of phytopathogenic fungus. Phytopathogens are parasites that thrive on a host plant. Phytopathogen fungi are responsible for serious plant diseases which might negatively affect crop productivity.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

72. Correct Answer is (A)

- Geographic Information System (GIS) is the best suited system for land management. GIS is a powerful tool that enables users to capture, store, analyze, and present spatial and geographic data. It integrates various types of data, such as cartographic, satellite imagery, and census data, to provide a comprehensive view of a particular area.
- GIS can be used for various land management applications, such as land use planning, natural resource management, disaster management, urban planning, and infrastructure development. It helps land managers to visualize, analyze, and manage their resources more effectively by providing a spatial context to their data. While the other options have their own uses, they are not as comprehensive as GIS when it comes to land management.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

73. Correct Answer is (D)

- Tracking weather patterns and cloud cover, colour determination or snow: RGB imagers provide visible-light images of the Earth's surface, which are used to monitor cloud cover and track weather patterns, determine colors, etc.
- Monitoring land cover and vegetation changes: RGB images captured by INSAT satellites can be used to monitor changes in land cover, including deforestation, urbanization, and changes in agricultural land use.
- Providing high-resolution images for urban planning: The high-resolution images captured by RGB imagers can be used for urban planning and development. These images provide detailed information about the layout of cities, infrastructure, and land use patterns, which can help planners make informed decisions about urban development, transportation planning, and disaster management.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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74. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, also known as Industry 4.0 is characterized by the integration of advanced technologies into traditional industries, leading to increased automation, improved efficiency, and new business models. The Fourth Industrial Revolution has the potential to transform various sectors, including manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, and energy.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution has been established by the World Economic Forum (WEF), not the World Bank.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

75. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT-SG) developed by ISRO is a device that enables fishermen at sea to send emergency messages from their fishing boats. It operates using satellite communication and can transmit messages to the nearest coastal station or rescue coordination center, enabling prompt rescue operations in case of emergencies. The DAT-SG is an upgraded version of the earlier Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT) system, which has been operational since 2010. The new version has additional features like a panic button and a GPS receiver for enhanced accuracy and reliability.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

76. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Mpemba effect refers to the observation that, under specific circumstances, hot water can freeze more quickly than cold water. This phenomenon was named after Erasto Mpemba, a Tanzanian student who noticed it while making ice cream. The conditions under which the Mpemba effect occurs can include factors such as the initial temperature of the water, the surrounding environment, and the container used.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

77. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Chinese startup Betavolt has developed a 'Nuclear battery' that can generate power for 50 years without needing charging or maintenance. The core principle behind nuclear batteries lies in harnessing the energy released during the decay of radioactive isotopes (radioisotopes) and converting it into electricity. Different conversion methods like thermoelectric or direct conversion technologies are employed.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Unlike traditional batteries, this nuclear battery operates safely under extreme conditions, from temperatures of 120 to -60°C, and is resistant to punctures and gunfire without catching fire or exploding.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

78. Correct Answer is (C)

- Gram staining is a differential staining technique that separates bacteria into two groups based on the differences in their cell wall structure. Gram-positive bacteria have a thick peptidoglycan layer that retains the crystal violet stain used in the staining process, giving them a purple color under the microscope. In contrast, Gram-negative bacteria have a thinner peptidoglycan layer and an outer membrane that prevents the crystal violet stain from penetrating, causing them to appear red or pink after counterstaining with safranin.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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79. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The main transmission routes for Hepatitis A are contaminated food and water, fecal-oral contact, and close contact with an infected person.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Hepatitis A is a viral infection that primarily affects the liver, causing inflammation and various symptoms like fatigue, nausea, abdominal pain, jaundice, and fever. Havisure is a significant achievement in India's vaccine development efforts. It is the first indigenously developed and manufactured Hepatitis A vaccine, making it a crucial step towards self-sufficiency and affordability in Hepatitis A prevention. It is a two-dose vaccine. The first dose is given to those above 12 months of age and the second dose is administered at least six months later. The vaccine is advised for routine immunization in children and individuals at risk due to exposure or travel to regions with high Hepatitis A prevalence.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

80. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. While border guarding is the BSF's primary focus, it also plays a vital role in counter-terrorism efforts. They're deployed in vulnerable areas and have specialized units trained for counter-insurgency and anti-terror operations. The BSF is one of the CAPFs, alongside the AR, NSG, CRPF, CISF, SSB, and ITBP. These forces function under the Ministry of Home Affairs and play crucial roles in maintaining internal security and safeguarding India's borders.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The BSF's area of expertise lies in securing India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is entrusted with guarding the Sino-Indian border, while the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) takes care of the Nepal and Bhutan borders.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)