

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Monthly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

January, 2024

10 PM Compilation for the Month of January 2024

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Art & Culture & Ancient History

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

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

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

Who among the following has been described above?

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

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Kadambas of Goa served as subordinates to the Chalukyas of Kalyana.
- 2. The study of Kadamba inscriptions has played a crucial role in deciphering the origins of the Chalukya dynasty.
- 3. Telugu language has been used in the majority of Kadamba inscriptions.

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

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

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Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. The tableaux at the Republic Day Parade reflect the country's cultural splendour and diversity.
2. The selection process of tableaux for the Republic Day parade is carried out by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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.6) The collapse of the Indus Valley Civilization marked the beginning of the Indian Dark Age due to:

- a) Invasion by foreign powers
- b) Sudden natural disasters
- c) Gradual environmental degradation and resource depletion
- d) Rise of new religious cults

Q.7) 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.8) 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.9) 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

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Q.10) 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.11) 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

Q.12) 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.13) 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.14) 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

Answer Key

1 - (a)	2 - (b)	3 - (c)	4 - (a)	5 - (a)	6 - (c)	7 - (b)
8 - (b)	9 - (a)	10 - (b)	11 - (c)	12 - (a)	13 - (c)	14 - (c)

Answers & Explanation

1. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Kadambas of Goa, also known as the Kadambas of Hangal or the Kadambas of Bayalnad, were a branch of the Kadamba dynasty that ruled in the Goa and North

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Karnataka regions from the 10th to the 14th centuries CE. They were initially independent but later became subordinates to the Chalukyas of Kalyana, a powerful dynasty that ruled parts of present-day Karnataka and Maharashtra from the 10th to the 12th centuries CE.

- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. While the Kadamba and Chalukya dynasties coexisted in the same general region and had interactions, the study of Kadamba inscriptions is not the primary source for understanding the origins of the Chalukya dynasty. The majority of Kadamba inscriptions are written in Sanskrit and Kannada. The use of Kannada was particularly prominent in the earlier periods of Kadamba rule.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The tableaux at the Republic Day Parade reflects the country's cultural splendor and diversity, showcasing the unique traditions, costumes, and art forms of different states and union territories.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The selection process of tableaux for the Republic Day parade is carried out by the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The MoD coordinates with states and other agencies to conduct the parade and begin preparations months in advance, including the selection and shortlisting of tableaux.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (C)

- Many historians and archaeologists believe that a combination of factors, including changes in climate, environmental degradation, and resource depletion, contributed to the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization. There is evidence of shifts in river courses, reduced rainfall, and ecological stress that could have adversely affected the sustainability of the civilization. Dark Age is the time frame from the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization around 4,000 years ago (early 2nd millennium BCE) until the rise of the Iron Age and Mahajanapada cities like Gandhar, Koshal, and Avanti (6th-5th century BCE).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. 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](#)

8. 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

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identity between the individual soul (Atman) and the ultimate reality (Brahman) is a central theme of Advaita Vedanta.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. 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](#)

10. 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 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](#)

11. 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'.

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Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. 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](#)

13. 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](#)

14. 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 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

Q.1) 'Go Get Education' is a famous poem written by:

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

Q.2) 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.

Answer Key

1 - (c)	2 - (a)
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Answers & Explanation

1. Correct Answer is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. 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

Q.1) Which one of the following passes connects the Ladakh region with the rest of Jammu & Kashmir?

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

Q.2) With reference to the country Angola, consider the following statements:

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.3) Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.4) With reference to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), consider the following statements:

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

1. It is a country situated in the South Africa.
2. It is a landlocked country.
3. Cal Madow is a famous mountain range of this country.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.6) Which one of the geographical features characterizes the Maldives' coral islands?

- a) Volcanic origin
- b) Glacial formations
- c) Limestone composition
- d) Sandstone cliffs

Q.7) Which one of the following islands in Lakshadweep is known for its serene beaches and is a popular tourist destination?

- a) Kavaratti
- b) Minicoy
- c) Kalpeni
- d) Agatti

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Q.8) Consider the following:

1. It requires a cold climate.
2. The ideal growth temperature falls within the range of 18-30°C.
3. It is grown in well-drained loam soils with a neutral pH.
4. It can withstand light frost but are sensitive to extreme heat.

Which one of the following crops requires the above climatic conditions?

- a) Barley
- b) Lentils
- c) Wheat
- d) Chickpea

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Tea is the second most consumed drink in the world.
2. Tea plants grow well in temperatures above 30 degrees Celsius.
3. India is the largest producer of tea globally.
4. Tea Board of India functions as a statutory body of the Central Government under the Ministry of Commerce.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.10) Which one of the following seas is located on the eastern side of Taiwan?

- a) East China Sea
- b) South China Sea
- c) Philippine Sea
- d) Sea of Japan

Q.11) Consider the following:

1. National Framework of Climate Services (NFCS)
2. Panchayat Mausam Sewa Portal
3. Agro-Meteorological Advisory Services

Which of the above services have been launched by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)?

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

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. Kutch is the only place in the world where fresh dates without the need to ripen or soften, are economically grown, traded and consumed.
2. Currently, only one fruit from Gujarat has received the Geographical Indications (GI) tag.

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.13) 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 of 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

Q.14) 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.15) 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 Tsrapping 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.16) 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.17) 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

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Q.18) 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

Q.19) 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.20) 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.21) 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

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Q.22) 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

Answer Key

1 - (a)	2 - (a)	3 - (a)	4 - (b)	5 - (a)	6 - (c)	7 - (d)	8 - (b)	9 - (c)	10 - (c)
11 - (d)	12 - (a)	13 - (a)	14 - (c)	15 - (a)	16 - (a)	17 - (a)	18 - (b)	19 - (a)	20 - (b)
21 - (c)	22 - (a)								

Answers & Explanation

1. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. According to the National Disaster Management Authority of India, there is no provision in the country's disaster management laws to declare any natural disaster as a "national

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disaster." The authority classifies disasters based on their severity and geographical scale, but there is no specific category for "national disasters."

- Statement 2 is incorrect. A disaster can be declared a "Calamity of rare severity" based on its intensity, scale, and impact, regardless of whether it is induced by harsh weather conditions or not.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Somalia is a country located in the Horn of Africa, in the easternmost part of the African continent. It is bordered by Ethiopia to the west, Djibouti to the northwest, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Indian Ocean to the east, and Kenya to the southwest. Somalia is not a landlocked country. It has a long coastline that stretches over 3,000 kilometers along the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.
- Statement 3 is correct. Cal Madow is a mountain range located in the northern part of Somalia, in the autonomous region of Puntland. It is considered one of the highest mountain ranges in Somalia, with peaks reaching up to 2,600 meters.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Maldives is a tropical island nation located in the Indian Ocean, known for its white sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters. The islands that make up the Maldives are composed primarily of limestone, which is a type of rock formed from the accumulation of marine organisms such as corals and mollusks.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (D)

- Agatti is a popular tourist destination in Lakshadweep, known for its serene beaches, coral reefs, and natural beauty. It is a popular destination for water sports like snorkeling, diving, and kayaking, as well as for relaxing on the beach and enjoying the scenic views.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (B)

- Lentils generally require a cool to temperate climate, have an ideal growth temperature range of 18-30°C, are grown in well-drained loam soils with a neutral pH, and can withstand light frost but are sensitive to extreme heat. Lentils are small, lens-shaped seeds that come in various colors, with red and green being popular varieties in India. Lentil is also called Masur and Malka (bold seeded).

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- India is anticipated to lead global lentil (masoor) production in 2023-24, due to increased cultivation. Although India ranks as the second-largest lentil producer, it has predominantly imported from Australia, Canada, Russia, Singapore, and Turkey until now.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 4 are correct. Water is the most consumed drink, and tea consistently ranks as the second most popular beverage globally. The Tea Board of India is a statutory body established under the Tea Act of 1953. The Tea Board of India operates under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, promoting and regulating the Indian tea industry.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Tea plants grow best in temperatures between 20 and 30 degrees Celsius. Higher temperatures above 30 degrees Celsius can be stressful for tea plants and affect their growth and productivity. India is the second largest producer of tea after China globally. The majority of its annual production comes from Assam (55%) and West Bengal. India is among the world's top tea consuming countries, with 80 % of its production consumed domestically.

Source: [ForumIAS](#)

10. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Philippine Sea is located to the east of Taiwan, separating it from the Mariana Islands. The Philippine Sea is a vast expanse of the western Pacific Ocean that covers an area of over 5 million square kilometers.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.
- National Framework of Climate Services (NFCS): This framework was launched by IMD in 2018 to provide climate services to various sectors, including agriculture, health, and disaster management, to support climate-resilient development in India.
- Panchayat Mausam Sewa Portal: IMD launched this portal in 2020 to provide weather services to farmers in local languages, helping them plan their agricultural activities based on weather forecast.
- Agro-Meteorological Advisory Services: IMD has been providing agro-meteorological advisories to farmers for many years to help them make informed decisions about crop management and increase agricultural productivity. In 2019, IMD enhanced these services by introducing location-specific agricultural advisories based on remote sensing data.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Kachchhi Kharek variety of dates, which is indigenous to the Kutch region of Gujarat, is known for its unique characteristic of being edible even in its fresh and unripened form. This is in contrast to other date varieties that require ripening or softening before they can be consumed. Kutch is the only place in the world where this variety of fresh dates is grown, traded, and consumed on a commercial scale.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Recently, Kachchhi Kharek, the indigenous variety of dates of Kutch, has become the second fruit of Gujarat to get a geographical indication (GI) tag, after Gir kesar mango.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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13. 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](#)

14. 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](#)

15. 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](#)

16. 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.
- 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](#)

17. 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

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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](#)

18. 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](#)

19. 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](#)

20. 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 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.

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Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. 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](#)

22. 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

Q.1) With reference to the University Grants Commission (UGC) consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

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Q.3) United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has been involved in negotiations with the government. What significant development took place in 2011 regarding ULFA?

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

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.5) Consider the following:

- 1. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- 2. Community-based organizations (CBOs)
- 3. Religious institutions
- 4. Government agencies and departments

How many of the above-mentioned entities are regarded as components of a 'Civil Society'?

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

Q.6) With reference to the National Medical Commission (NMC) consider the following statements:

- 1. It's one of the objectives is to set up and manage medical colleges in India.
- 2. The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) was introduced as a single entrance exam for all medical courses by the commission.

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.7) With reference to the Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1. They are different from the recognized Indian political parties due to their absence of formal organizational structures.
- 2. As per the new rules set by the Election Commission, they are now required to furnish audited accounts for the last three fiscal years for the allocation of symbols.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Q.8) With reference to the Indian Polity, consider the following statements:

1. 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 aimed at strengthening Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in urban areas.
2. Part IXA of the Constitution contains provisions related to Municipalities.
3. There are 29 subjects addressed in Schedule 11 concerning panchayats.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Article 39A of the Indian Constitution requires the state to make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.
2. The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) aims to offer free and competent legal services to the vulnerable sections of society in cases under the Supreme Court's jurisdiction.

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

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

Q.10) Which one of the following is the most fundamental principle of the 'Rule of law'?

- a) Equality before the law
- b) Separation of powers
- c) Transparency and accountability
- d) Integrated Judiciary

Q.11) In the context of the Minority educational institutions in India, how many of the following statements are correct?

1. The term "minority character" in the educational institutions in India refers to the number of students admitted from minority communities.
2. The primary objective of granting minority character status under the Constitution of India is to ensure equal representation of all communities in educational institutions.
3. If a college has been granted minority character status, University Grants Commission (UGC) is responsible for determining and preserving this status.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.12) Which one of the following is the purpose of Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) in aviation?

- a) To regulate the maximum hours a pilot can spend on non-flying duties
- b) To limit the total time a crew member is on duty, including both flying and non-flying duties
- c) To determine the minimum rest period required for pilots between flights
- d) To establish the maximum speed at which an aircraft can operate

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Q.13) With reference to the Indian Polity, consider the following statements:

1. Remission refers to sending a case back to a lower court or authority for reconsideration or further action.
2. The President can grant pardon to the sentence of any person.

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. There are no written grounds or procedures in the Constitution for removing governors.
2. In SR Bommai vs. Union of India, the Supreme Court has ruled that the determination of whether the State Government has the majority should be assessed on the floor of the House and not solely based on the subjective assessment of the Governor.
3. As per the Government of India Act 1858, the governor acted in accordance with the advice of Ministers of a province's legislature, but retained special responsibilities and discretionary power.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.15) With reference to the Centre for Research and Planning (CRP) of the Supreme Court, consider the following statements:

1. It is the Supreme Court's in-house think tank.
2. It aims to conduct cutting-edge research on fundamental jurisprudence, principles, doctrines of law, and judicial reforms, aiming to enhance justice delivery and uphold judicial independence.

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.16) In the absence of a Speaker, who assumes the Speaker's powers in anti-defection cases?

- a) Deputy Speaker
- b) Prime Minister
- c) Vice-President
- d) President

Q.17) In addition to recommending grants, which one of the following roles does the Finance Commission play in promoting sustainable forest management?

- a) Implementing afforestation projects
- b) Conducting research on forest conservation
- c) Evaluating states' performance in forest conservation
- d) Managing national parks and wildlife sanctuaries

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Q.18) The Anti-Defection Law applies to merger within political parties. Under which one of the following conditions can a merger occur without causing disqualification?

- a) If at least two-third of the party's legislators in the legislature join the new party.
- b) If the split is based on ideological differences within the party.
- c) If the party leadership approves of the split beforehand.
- d) If the merger occurs before elections.

Q.19) 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.20) 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.21) 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.22) 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.23) 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.24) 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.25) 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.26) 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.27) 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

Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (a)	3 - (a)	4 - (b)	5 - (c)	6 - (b)	7 - (b)	8 - (b)	9 - (b)	10 - (a)
11 - (d)	12 - (b)	13 - (b)	14 - (b)	15 - (c)	16 - (a)	17 - (c)	18 - (a)	19 - (b)	20 - (b)
21 - (c)	22 - (c)	23 - (a)	24 - (b)	25 - (b)	26 - (c)	27 - (d)			

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. The University Grants Commission (UGC) was established in 1956 as a statutory body of the Indian government under the UGC Act, 1956. Its primary objective is to coordinate and determine the standards of higher education in India.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. While the UGC sets minimum standards for degrees and recommends the recognition of degrees and institutions, it does not directly set the curriculum for all universities. Curriculum development is typically done by the universities themselves, although they must adhere to the UGC's minimum standards and guidelines. The UGC also does not recognize and provide approval to technical universities in India. The University Grants Commission (UGC) primarily deals with universities offering traditional academic programs in Arts, Humanities, Sciences, Commerce, Education, Law, etc. Technical universities in India come under the purview of a different regulatory body, the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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3. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (C)

- NGOs, CBOs, and religious institutions are regarded as components of civil society. Government agencies and departments, on the other hand, are not considered part of civil society as they are a part of the state and operate within the framework of the government. Civil society refers to the space between the government, the market, and the household, where individuals and organizations come together to express their common interests and work towards the common good.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Setting up and managing medical colleges in India is not the primary function of the National Medical Commission (NMC). The NMC is responsible for regulating medical education and practice in India, including granting recognition to medical qualifications, laying down standards of medical education, and ensuring compliance by medical institutions.
- Statement 2 is correct. The National Medical Commission (NMC) introduced the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) as a single entrance exam for all medical courses in India, including MBBS, BDS, and Ayurveda.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Registered Unrecognized Political Parties (RUPPs) have a formal organizational structure like other political parties. They have a set of rules and regulations that govern their functioning, including a constitution, office-bearers, and members. Their lack of electoral success in securing the required percentage of votes or seats sets them apart from recognized parties.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Election Commission of India introduced new rules requiring RUPPs to submit audited accounts for the previous three financial years to be eligible for the allocation of

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election symbols. This was done to enhance transparency and accountability in the electoral process, and to prevent the misuse of election symbols by shell or non-serious parties.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 aimed at strengthening Rural Local Bodies (RLBs)/Panchayati Raj system in rural areas. It added Part IX to the Constitution, which contains provisions related to the functioning of Panchayats. The 74th Amendment Act, 1992 aimed at strengthening Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in urban areas, adding Part IXA to the Constitution.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Part IXA of the Constitution contains provisions related to Municipalities, which are urban local bodies responsible for providing civic amenities and local governance in urban areas. Part IXA was added by the 74th Amendment Act, 1992. Schedule 11 of the Constitution contains 29 subjects concerning Panchayats. These subjects include agriculture, land improvement, education, health, and social welfare.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 39A specifically mandates the provision of free legal aid to ensure access to justice for all citizens, regardless of their economic status or other disadvantages.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) is a statutory body established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, to provide legal aid in the Supreme Court. Its aim is to offer free and competent legal services to vulnerable sections of society in cases under the Supreme Court's jurisdiction, ensuring that they have access to justice.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10. Correct Answer is (A)

- The most fundamental principle of the rule of law is equality before the law. The principle of equality before the law is a cornerstone of the rule of law, which is a system of governance based on laws that are fairly applied and enforced. It means that everyone, regardless of their status or position, is subject to the same laws and legal procedures, and no one is above the law.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. The term "minority character" in the context of educational institutions in India does not refer to the number of students from minority communities. Rather, it refers to the status of an institution that has been established and managed by a religious or linguistic minority community, as defined in the Constitution of India. It relates to the unique cultural and educational identity of institutions belonging to linguistic or religious minorities.
- The primary objective of granting minority character status to educational institutions under the Constitution of India is not to ensure equal representation of all communities. Instead, it aims to preserve and promote the distinct language, script, or culture of the minorities.
- If a college has been granted minority character status, the responsibility for determining and preserving this status typically lies with the National Commission for Minorities, not the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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12. Correct Answer is (B)

- Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) are regulatory requirements that are designed to prevent fatigue in aircrew members and ensure safe and efficient operation of aircraft.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) recently mandated new regulations on flight duty time limitations (FDTL) for all airlines with effect from June 1.
- These involve the following provisions: 1. Longer rest periods (Now weekly rest periods have been increased to 48 hours from 36). 2. Shorter night duty hours. 3. Less landings (Night landings will be limited to 2 against the 6 earlier). 4. Mandated quarterly “fatigue reports” by airlines.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Remission, in the context of Indian Polity, does not involve sending a case back to a lower court. It refers to reducing the duration or severity of a sentence awarded by a court, without altering the conviction itself. This can involve partial or complete reduction of the sentence, depending on various factors like good conduct, age, or illness of the convict.
- Statement 2 is correct. The President of India has the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment under Article 72 of the Constitution of India. The President's power to grant remission is an important aspect of India's constitutional framework, as it provides a mechanism for the executive to provide relief to individuals who have been convicted of crimes.
- However, the power to grant remission is subject to judicial review, and the Supreme Court has held that it must be exercised in accordance with constitutional principles and the rule of law.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Constitution does not enumerate specific grounds or procedures for the removal of Governors. Unlike certain constitutional offices, such as judges of the higher judiciary, Governors do not have fixed tenures or specific grounds for removal mentioned in the Constitution. In the S. R. Bommai case, the Supreme Court ruled that the governor should give the chief minister an opportunity to prove their majority in the state legislative assembly before recommending the imposition of President's rule. This is known as the "floor test" and is considered a more objective way of assessing the stability of a government than relying solely on the governor's subjective assessment.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. As per the Government of India Act 1935, the governor acted in accordance with the advice of Ministers of a province's legislature, but retained special responsibilities and discretionary power.
- Under the Government of India Act 1858, provincial Governors were agents of the crown, functioning under the supervision of the Governor-General.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Centre for Research and Planning of the Supreme Court is the Supreme Court's in-house think tank. It acts as an internal research body dedicated to supporting the Court's functions. It aims to conduct cutting-edge research on fundamental jurisprudence, principles, doctrines of law, and judicial reforms.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of January 2024

16. Correct Answer is (A)

- In the absence of the Speaker of the House, the Deputy Speaker assumes the Speaker's powers and responsibilities, including adjudicating anti-defection cases. This is in line with the constitutional provisions and parliamentary practices that provide for a succession in the event of the Speaker's absence.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

17. Correct Answer is (C)

- Evaluating states' performance in forest conservation is a crucial aspect of the Finance Commission's role. They often link grant allocations to certain performance indicators, such as forest cover area, forest quality, and implementation of conservation plans. This incentivizes states to prioritize sustainable forest management practices and ensure efficient utilization of allocated funds.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

18. Correct Answer is (A)

- According to the Anti-Defection Law, legislators can change their party without disqualification if a split occurs within the party, provided that at least two-thirds of the legislators in the legislature join the new party. This exception is provided in the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution to protect instances of principled defections. The law also allows for mergers between political parties without the risk of disqualification if not less than two-thirds of the members of the legislature party have agreed to merge with another party.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

19. 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](#)

20. 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 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](#)

21. 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](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of January 2024

22. 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](#)

23. 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](#)

24. 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](#)

25. 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](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of January 2024

26. 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](#)

27. 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

Q.1) The Indian government has launched several initiatives to boost the shipping industry. Which one of the following is NOT directly included in the government's initiatives to boost the Indian shipping industry?

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

Q.2) Which one of the following is the primary objective of the 'Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) scheme'?

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

Q.3) With reference to Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), consider the following statements:

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of January 2024

Q.4) Consider the following statements with reference to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

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

Q.6) With reference to the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fiber Connection (KLI-SOFC) project, consider the following statements:

1. The project aims to enhance security and defense capabilities in the Lakshadweep Island.
2. The project is being funded by the World Bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.7) In the context of the "National Transit Pass System", seen in the news recently, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It has been launched to facilitate the seamless transit of timber, bamboo, and other forest produce across the country through a single permit.
2. It is envisioned as a "One Nation-One Pass" regime.
3. Personalized travel plans and recommendations based on user preferences is one of the features included in the vision of NTPS.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of January 2024

Q.8) Which of the following are some of the priority research areas identified under Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research among Teaching Professionals (SMART 2.0) program?

- a) Bal Kasa, Malnutrition, and Insufficient lactation.
- b) Panchakarma and Marma therapy
- c) Cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and Chronic pain management.
- d) Yoga and Naturopathy practices

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India's R&D expenditure is only 0.7% of GDP.
- 2. In India, higher education enrolment is more than 50%.
- 3. The rise in the number of private colleges, industrial training institutes (ITIs) and polytechnic colleges has led to a lowering of quality of higher education in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.10) Consider the following pairs:

Sports Awards-----Specifications

- 1. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar-----To recognize and encourage the contribution of various entities in the promotion of sports.
- 2. The Dronacharya Award-----The award recipients are honored for their exceptional performance in international sports events in the preceding four years.
- 3. The Major Dhyan Chand Award-----It is a lifetime achievement award given to honour sportspersons for their contributions, both during their active sporting career and after retirement.
- 4. The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy-----It is given to recipients recognized for their outstanding performance in international and national sports.

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.11) Consider the following statements with reference to the "PRERANA program":

- 1. It is a week-long residential program for selected students, combining heritage with innovation through experiential and inspirational learning, enhanced with cutting-edge technology.
- 2. It will incorporate the principles of the Indian education system and the value-based education philosophy.

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.12) Consider the following statements:

1. Enhancing and maintaining long-term observations across the atmosphere, ocean, geosphere, cryosphere, and solid earth.
2. Developing predictive models for weather, ocean, and climate hazards.
3. Promoting research in planetary sciences.
4. Exploring polar and high seas regions for new phenomena and resources.

Which one of the above components is NOT part of the "PRITHvi Vigyan" scheme?

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

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. One of the objectives of Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) is to coordinate river basin management and flood control measures across states.
2. Under Maritime India Vision 2030, the government aims to raise inland waterways' cargo modal share from 2% to 5%.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

1. The National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping (NLSM) Programme launched by the government aims to create a dynamic National Landslide Susceptibility Geodatabase for India.
2. National Landslide Susceptibility Map (NLSM) also focuses on developing mitigation strategies for all landslide-prone regions.

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.15) Mulya Pravah 2.0 guidelines have been recently issued by the University Grants Commission.

Which one of the following is correct with reference to Mulya Pravah 2.0 guidelines?

- a) It aims to promote ethical practices and human values in higher education institutions.
- b) It aims to improve academic standards and research output in universities.
- c) It aims to increase funding and resources for higher education infrastructure.
- d) It aims to enhance employability skills of graduates and prepare them for the job market.

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Q.16) With reference to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, consider the following statements:

1. Section 106 (2) of the BNS outlines a maximum punishment of 10 years and a fine in hit-and-run cases.
2. Section 106 (2) is characterized as a bailable provision, allowing for the possibility of bail.

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.17) With reference to Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, consider the following statements:

1. It symbolizes a collective commitment to technological innovation, environmental sustainability, and social equality.
2. PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana are being focused on during the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

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.18) With reference to the Telecommunications Act of 2023, consider the following statements:

1. It introduces flexible spectrum allocation methods, crucial for effective deployment of communication technologies.
2. The Act promotes functional separation to lessen market concentration and support fair competition.
3. The Act withholds giving the government significant powers during public emergencies, thereby safeguarding citizen privacy.

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.19) 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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of January 2024

Q.20) 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.21) 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.22) 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

Q.23) 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

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Q.24) 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

Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (c)	3 - (a)	4 - (d)	5 - (b)	6 - (d)	7 - (a)	8 - (a)
9 - (c)	10 - (b)	11 - (c)	12 - (c)	13 - (b)	14 - (a)	15 - (a)	16 - (a)
17 - (b)	18 - (a)	19 - (b)	20 - (a)	21 - (d)	22 - (b)	23 - (c)	24 - (b)

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) aims to regulate the mining sector in India and promote the scientific development of mineral resources, including coal, lignite, and other minerals, with a view to conserving them for future generations. It also seeks to ensure that the country's mineral resources are used for the benefit of the nation and its people.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of January 2024

- Statement 2 is incorrect. The MMDR Act covers both major and minor minerals. While major minerals like iron ore and coal fall under its purview, the act also extends to minor minerals such as limestone, granite, and sand. Mining leases can be granted for both major and minor minerals as specified in the provisions of the MMDR Act.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. KLI-SOFC project is primarily aimed at improving communication infrastructure and providing faster and more reliable internet connectivity to the Lakshadweep Islands. The KLI-SOFC project is being funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), which is a fund administered by the Government of India to provide telecom services in rural and remote areas.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. National Transit Pass System has been launched to facilitate the seamless transit of timber, bamboo, and other forest produce across the country through a single permit. The NTPS is envisioned as a "One Nation-One Pass" regime, which aims to streamline the movement of forest produce across state boundaries and promote sustainable forest management.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The NTPS focuses on managing the movement of forest produce, not on personalized travel plans. It doesn't involve features like recommending travel routes or catering to individual preferences.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of January 2024

8. Correct Answer is (A)

- The SMART 2.0 program aims to promote research in Ayurveda among teaching professionals, and the priority research areas identified for the program include: Bal Kasa (childhood diseases), Malnutrition, Insufficient lactation, Abnormal Uterine Bleeding, Osteoporosis in post-menopausal women, Diabetes Mellitus (DM) II. The objective of 'SMART 2.0' is to generate tangible evidence to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of Ayurveda interventions and translating it into public health care. These priority areas were identified based on the current health challenges facing the population and the potential for Ayurveda to provide effective and safe solutions.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. India's R&D expenditure has historically been low, currently at around 0.7% of GDP, which is lower than the global average of around 2.2%. The rapid expansion of private institutions has brought challenges, including uneven quality, inadequate infrastructure, and focus on rote learning over critical thinking. Further, the governments and the University Grants Commission did not have the capacity to regulate these colleges.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. According to recent data, the gross enrollment ratio in higher education in India is around 27%, which means that only around 27% of the relevant age group is enrolled in higher education. This is still relatively low compared to other countries.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10. Correct Answer is (B)

- 1 and 3 are correctly matched. The Dronacharya Award is given to coaches and trainers who have made exceptional contributions to the development of outstanding sportspersons in India, not based on their own sporting achievements. The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy is awarded to universities for their outstanding performance in inter-university sports competitions, not individual athletes or national teams.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The PRERANA program is a week-long residential program designed for selected students in classes IX to XII, with the goal of combining heritage with innovation through experiential and inspirational learning, enhanced with cutting-edge technology. The program aims to provide students with a holistic learning experience that combines India's rich cultural heritage with modern technological advancements. The program incorporates the principles of the Indian education system, which emphasizes value-based learning and character development, while also promoting critical thinking, creativity, and innovation. The program's curriculum is designed to foster leadership skills, entrepreneurial spirit, and a deep appreciation for India's cultural heritage.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct Answer is (C)

- PRITHvi Vigyan is a comprehensive scheme that will address all five components of the Earth system (atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, cryosphere, and biosphere), enhancing the understanding of Earth System Sciences and delivering reliable services for the country. Promoting research in planetary sciences is not part of the scheme.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of January 2024

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The primary objective of IWDC is to promote the development of India's riverine infrastructure for transportation and tourism. The coordination of river basin management and flood control measures across states is typically the responsibility of other agencies, such as the Central Water Commission or the National Disaster Management Authority.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Maritime India Vision 2030, launched by the government in 2021, aims to transform India into a leading maritime nation by leveraging its vast coastline and inland waterways. One of the key objectives of the vision is to increase the share of cargo transported through inland waterways from 2% to 5%. This is expected to reduce logistics costs, promote economic growth, and support sustainable development by shifting transportation from road to waterways.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping (NLSM) Programme is a project initiated by the Government of India to create a dynamic National Landslide Susceptibility Geodatabase for India. The program aims to generate a comprehensive, spatially explicit database of landslide susceptibility at a national level using advanced remote sensing, geoinformatics, and field validation techniques. The database is intended to serve as a critical input for disaster management, land-use planning, and infrastructure development.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The National Landslide Susceptibility Map (NLSM) does not focus on developing mitigation strategies for all landslide-prone regions. Mitigation strategies are typically developed at the state or local level based on the specific geology, topography, and socio-economic conditions of the region. The NLSM serves as a tool to inform these strategies by identifying areas with high landslide susceptibility and the potential impact of landslides on communities and infrastructure.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct Answer is (A)

- Mulya Pravah 2.0 guidelines have recently been issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) with the aim of promoting ethical practices and human values in higher education institutions.
- The guidelines provide a framework for institutions to incorporate values such as honesty, integrity, empathy, tolerance, respect for diversity, and social responsibility into their curricula, teaching, and campus culture. Mulya Pravah 2.0 is a revised version of the earlier Mulya Pravah guidelines, which were issued in 2015. The new guidelines incorporate key recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes the importance of ethical and value-based education.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Section 106 (2) of the Act outlines a maximum punishment of 10 years and a fine in hit-and-run cases. However, there is no provision which specifies the exact amount of fine to be imposed.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Section 106 (2) is a non – bailable section.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of January 2024

17. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra aims to promote and publicize government welfare schemes. It aims to enroll potential beneficiaries of these schemes by collecting details during the yatra.
- Statement 2 is correct. The schemes that will be publicized through the yatra include Ayushman Bharat; PMJAY PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana; Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana among others.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

18. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Act aims to streamline spectrum allocation by introducing mechanisms like spectrum trading, leasing, and sharing. This flexibility can facilitate faster deployment of technologies like 5G and internet of things (IoT). The Act promotes functional separation to lessen market concentration and support fair competition. It ensures that new service providers have equal access to crucial telecom infrastructure.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Act grants the government significant powers during public emergencies, potentially infringing on citizen privacy with minimal accountability.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

19. 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](#)

20. Correct Answer is (A)

- 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](#)

21. 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

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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](#)

22. 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](#)

23. 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.
- 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](#)

24. 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

Q.1) With reference to Child Marriage in India, consider the following statements:

1. Child marriage is linked to higher infant mortality rates.
2. As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) report, West Bengal's child marriage rate remains high at 41.6% for women aged 20-24.
3. Cultural and religious traditions are major factor contributing to child marriages in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. India has registered a significant decline in multidimensional poverty in recent years.
2. The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI) covers a greater number of indicators than the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (GMPI).

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.3) 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

Q.4) 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

Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (c)	3 - (c)	4 - (c)
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Answers & Explanation

1. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Child marriage is associated with a range of negative health outcomes, including higher infant mortality rates. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), girls who give birth before the age of 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth than women in their twenties. Additionally, children born to young mothers are more likely to be of low birth weight and have a higher risk of death in infancy. As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 Report, West Bengal has one of the highest rates of child marriage in India, with 41.6% of women aged 20-24 having been married before the age of 18.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. While cultural and religious traditions may influence child marriage, they are not the major factor contributing to the problem. Poverty, gender inequality, and lack of education are the main drivers of child marriage in India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement 1 is correct. India has registered a significant decline in multidimensional poverty in recent years. According to the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report by NITI Aayog, India's multidimensional poverty rate declined from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23.
- Statement 2 is correct. The National MPI for India uses 12 indicators across three equally weighted dimensions: health, education, and standard of living. On the other hand, the Global MPI, employs 10 indicators under 3 dimensions.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. 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](#)

4. 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

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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

Q.1) In the context of bilateral relations between India and Russia, consider the following statements:

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.2) With reference to Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) consider the following statements:

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.3) With reference to India-South Korea relations, consider the following statements:

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.4) India and Pakistan recently exchanged lists of nuclear installations under a bilateral pact. With reference to this pact, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The primary purpose of exchanging lists of nuclear installations was to facilitate nuclear weapon testing.
2. The pact aims to promote economic trade between the two countries.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.5) Which one of the following international organizations plays a key role in monitoring and regulating nuclear activities to ensure compliance with the Global Nuclear Order (GNO)?

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

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.7) Group of Seven's (G7's) role in addressing global health issues has evolved in recent years. In which one of the following ways, has the G7 evolved in its approach to addressing global health issues?

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

Q.8) With reference to the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar, consider the following statements:

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.9) Consider the following statements with reference to the 'UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide':

1. It protects social class against the genocide.
2. Genocide is always punishable by death, while crimes against humanity are not.
3. The Convention outlines individual criminal responsibility for genocide which means Individuals who incite, commit, or conspire to commit genocide can be prosecuted.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.10) Which one of the following categories of cases is beyond the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)?

- a) Disputes between two or more states.
- b) Advisory opinions at the request of the UN General Assembly.
- c) Claims brought by individuals or private companies.
- d) Appeals from decisions of other international tribunals.

Q.11) With reference to India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), consider the following statements:

1. One of the core objectives of CEPA is to eliminate all tariffs on goods traded between India and the UAE.
2. Renewable energy, infrastructure development, education, and healthcare sectors are expected to benefit from CEPA.

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.12) Which one of the following bodies is responsible for settling legal disputes between states and giving advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by the UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, and specialized agencies?

- a) International Criminal Court (ICC)
- b) International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- c) Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)
- d) International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

Q.13) In the context of International Relations, what does a Letter of Arrangement (LoA) signify?

- a) A legally binding contract between two parties.
- b) A formal agreement outlining terms and conditions for a future contract.
- c) A non-binding document expressing intent to collaborate.
- d) A letter of credit used in international trade transactions.

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Q.14) With reference to India-UAE relations, consider the following statements:

1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of the UAE have agreed to establish a framework for enabling the use of their local currencies for cross-border transactions.
2. UAE supports India's bid for entry in the UNSC.
3. UAE is India's second-largest trading partner.

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 pairs:

Initiatives-----Specifications

1. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)-----It is a treaty to ensure that appropriate action is taken against people who commit unlawful acts against ships.
2. Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)-----It is a multinational naval partnership with primary focus areas aimed at defeating terrorism, preventing piracy, fostering regional cooperation, and promoting a secure maritime environment.
3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the safety of Maritime Navigation-----
--It establishes the legal framework for combating piracy.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q.16) Consider the following components:

1. Non-Proliferation
2. Disarmament
3. Nuclear Material Security

How many of the above are the components of the Global Nuclear Order (GNO)?

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

Q.17) Which one of the following international organizations primarily focuses on addressing issues related to development in the Global South?

- a) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- c) World Health Organization (WHO)
- d) The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Q.18) Which one of the following advantages does Israel bring to the I2U2 grouping?

- a) Its vast reserves of natural resources, particularly oil and gas.
- b) Its expertise in water management and agricultural technology.
- c) Its experience in cybersecurity and counter-terrorism operations.
- d) Its strong cultural and historical ties with India and the UAE.

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Q.19) In which one of the following ways are the judges appointed to the International Court of Justice (ICJ)?

- a) Elected by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.
- b) Appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- c) Selected by the International Bar Association
- d) Nominated by national governments and subsequent approval by the United Nations General Assembly.

Q.20) With reference to the India and Oman relations, consider the following statements:

- 1. India exports gasoline, iron and steel, electronics, and machinery to Oman.
- 2. Oman is India's third largest export destination among the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
- 3. Bilateral trade between India and Oman has been declining in recent years.

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

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

Q.21) In context of the Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI), which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. The alliance aims to establish India as a global leader in green hydrogen production and export.
- 2. It is an alliance between the Denmark and India.
- 3. Facilitating joint research and development projects on green fuel technologies are some of the key areas of collaboration included in the GFAI.

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.22) With reference to the India-Iran relations, consider the following statements:

- 1. Bilateral ties deteriorated after India stopped Iranian oil imports following US exiting the Iran nuclear deal and imposing sanctions against Iran.
- 2. India's relationship with Iran is strategically important for securing its interest of accessing the Leviathan Gas Field in Israel.
- 3. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has both India and Iran as members, contributing to their diplomatic ties.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.23) 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.24) 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.25) 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.

Q.26) 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.27) 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

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Q.28) 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.29) 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.30) 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

Answer Key

1 - (a)	2 - (d)	3 - (a)	4 - (d)	5 - (a)	6 - (b)	7 - (b)	8 - (d)	9 - (a)	10 - (c)
11 - (b)	12 - (b)	13 - (b)	14 - (a)	15 - (a)	16 - (c)	17 - (d)	18 - (c)	19 - (a)	20 - (b)
21 - (d)	22 - (c)	23 - (a)	24 - (b)	25 - (b)	26 - (b)	27 - (b)	28 - (c)	29 - (b)	30 - (b)

Answers & Explanation

1. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. While military cooperation and joint exercises have increased in recent years, they are not the primary pillar of India-South Korea relations. Trade, cultural exchange, and technology partnerships are more prominent factors.
- Economic exchange and trade partnerships have been an important aspect of India-South Korea relations; however, they were not a significant factor during the decolonization period. India and South Korea established formal diplomatic relations in 1973, nearly two decades after India gained independence from British rule. The initial foundation of the relationship was based on shared values and cultural ties.

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- Statement 3 is correct. Environmental protection and climate change have emerged as key areas of cooperation between India and South Korea. The two countries have signed several agreements and MoUs to collaborate on renewable energy, green technologies, and sustainable development. They have also engaged in joint research projects and knowledge exchanges to address common environmental challenges and support sustainable growth.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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8. Correct answer is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Genocide Convention does not specifically protect social class against genocide. The convention protects four specific groups: national, ethnic, racial, and religious groups. Social class is not one of the protected groups. The Convention doesn't mandate the death penalty for genocide. Each country determines the punishment for genocide based on its domestic laws. Similarly, the punishment for crimes against humanity also varies depending on national legislation and international courts. Both genocide and crimes against humanity are considered serious offenses, and many countries have enacted harsh penalties for perpetrators.
- Statement 3 is correct. The Genocide Convention outlines individual criminal responsibility. Article III of the convention states that individuals who commit genocide, whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials, or private individuals, shall be punished. This includes those who incite, conspire, attempt, or participate in genocide.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10. Correct Answer is (C)

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ), also known as the World Court, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It is located in The Hague, Netherlands, and its primary function is to settle legal disputes submitted to it by states.
- The ICJ can hear four types of cases: 1. Disputes between two or more states, 2. Requests for advisory opinions from authorized UN organs and specialized agencies, 3. Claims brought by states against international organizations, 4. Appeals from decisions of other international tribunals (if the tribunal's statute provides for an appeal to the ICJ)
- However, the ICJ cannot hear claims brought by individuals or private companies. This is because the ICJ's jurisdiction is limited to disputes between states, and it does not have the authority to hear cases brought by non-state entities.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. While reducing tariffs is a significant aspect of CEPA, eliminating all tariffs is not a core objective. The agreement focuses on gradually reducing tariffs on specific goods over a predetermined period.
- Statement 2 is correct. The CEPA is expected to benefit a wide range of sectors, including renewable energy, infrastructure development, education, and healthcare. By promoting investment and cooperation in these sectors, the agreement aims to stimulate economic growth and development in both India and the UAE.

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Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct Answer is (B)

- The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and is responsible for settling legal disputes between states. It is based in The Hague, Netherlands, and consists of 15 judges elected by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. The ICJ handles legal disputes between states and offers advisory opinions on legal matters referred to it by various UN entities. It is the primary judicial organ of the UN and plays a crucial role in maintaining international peace and security through the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- A Letter of Arrangement (LoA) is a formal agreement outlining the terms and conditions for a future contract between two parties, in the context of international relations or defense procurement.
- Letters of Arrangement serve as a precursor to a final contract, allowing the parties to negotiate and establish the framework for their future collaboration. A Letter of Arrangement typically includes provisions on pricing, delivery schedules, and other contractual terms that will be included in the final contract.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of the UAE signed an agreement in 2023 to enable the use of their local currencies for cross-border transactions. The UAE has expressed its support for India's bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- Statement 3 is incorrect. In 2022-23, the UAE was India's third-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade totaling around \$85 billion.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct Answer is (A)

- Only 2 is correctly matched.
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), is a comprehensive treaty that sets out the legal framework for the use of the world's oceans, including rules for shipping, fishing, and the exploitation of marine resources. Its primary focus is on establishing a legal framework for the use of the oceans.
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation primarily addresses unlawful acts against the safety of maritime navigation, including acts of terrorism.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Global Nuclear Order refers to the international framework of agreements, institutions, and norms that aim to promote nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy. Some key components of the GNO include:
- Non-Proliferation: Agreements and mechanisms to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and technology, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT).
- Disarmament: Efforts to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in existence and ultimately achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

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- Nuclear Material Security: Measures to prevent nuclear materials from falling into the wrong hands, including physical protection and cybersecurity.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

17. Correct Answer is (D)

- The UNDP is the primary United Nations agency focused on development issues in the Global South, which refers to low- and middle-income countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The organization's mandate is to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and build resilience to crises and shocks.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

18. Correct Answer is (C)

- Israel's extensive experience and proven track record in cybersecurity and counter-terrorism operations, particularly in a region facing complex security challenges, make it a valuable asset to the I2U2 grouping. This expertise can be instrumental in joint initiatives related to intelligence sharing, cyber defense infrastructure development, and counter-terrorism strategies.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

19. Correct Answer is (A)

- The election process for judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) involves both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. The voting power of both bodies is equal in this process, meaning that candidates must receive an absolute majority in both the General Assembly and Security Council to be elected.
- The General Assembly and Security Council each nominate candidates for the ICJ judgeship. Voting is conducted simultaneously in the General Assembly and Security Council. Candidates must receive an absolute majority in both the General Assembly and Security Council to be elected.
- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, composed of 15 judges elected for nine-year terms.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

20. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India exports gasoline, iron and steel, electronics, and machinery to Oman, and imports petroleum products, urea, propylene, and ethylene polymers. Oman is one of the major trading partners for India in the Gulf region, and it is the third largest export destination among the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Bilateral trade between India and Oman has been increasing in recent years. In 2021-22, the bilateral trade between the two countries stood at USD 5.02 billion, a significant increase from USD 3.97 billion in 2020-21.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Establishing India as a global leader in green hydrogen production and export is one of the objectives of the Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI). This goal aligns with India's larger efforts to promote renewable energy and achieve carbon neutrality. The GFAI is an alliance between Denmark and India, but it is not limited to just these two countries. Facilitating joint research and development projects on green fuel technologies is an important area of collaboration envisaged by the GFAI.

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Source: [Forum IAS](#)

22. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. In 2018, the United States withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal and re-imposed sanctions on Iran, including on its oil exports. India, which was a major importer of Iranian oil, had to reduce its imports significantly to avoid US sanctions. This led to a deterioration in bilateral ties between India and Iran. Both India and Iran are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The shared membership in SCO provides a platform for India and Iran to engage in diplomatic and economic cooperation, as well as discussing regional security issues.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. India's relationship with Iran is not directly related to accessing the Leviathan Gas Field in Israel. While India has shown interest in importing natural gas from Israel, including from the Leviathan field, this is a separate bilateral engagement and does not involve Iran.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

23. 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 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](#)

24. 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](#)

25. 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,

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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](#)

26. 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](#)

27. 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](#)

28. 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](#)

29. 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,

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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](#)

30. 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](#)

Economy

Q 1) Consider the following:

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

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

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.3) With reference to Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs) consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.4) With reference to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), consider the following statements:

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.5) With reference to the Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.6) Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised guidelines for classifying accounts and deposits as inoperative accounts. With reference to these guidelines, consider the following statements:

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.7) Consider the following:

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

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

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

Q.8) With reference to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), consider the following statements:

1. It aims at regulating the securities market and safeguarding the interests of investors.
2. SEBI is accountable to the Reserve Bank of India.
3. It has judicial power in regulating the securities market.
4. It was established on the recommendations of Rangarajan Committee.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.9) In the context of the banking sector, what does the term “Green Deposit” refers to?

- a) Regular savings accounts with a focus on environmental sustainability.
- b) Fixed-term deposits where funds are specifically invested in green projects.
- c) Deposits earned by banks from recycling and waste management initiatives.
- d) Financial instruments linked to the performance of environmentally friendly companies.

Q.10) Which one of the following statements is the most accurate with reference to the term “Structured Negotiation”, seen in the news recently?

- a) It is a process where a neutral third party assists parties in reaching a mutually acceptable resolution.
- b) It is a process where parties and their attorneys work together to resolve disputes without going to court.
- c) It is a collaborative process where parties work together to achieve a shared agreement.
- d) It is a collaborative dispute resolution process that allows parties to resolve legal claims without resorting to formal litigation.

Q.11) Consider the following:

1. Reduce Import bill
2. Addressing protein deficiency
3. Enhancing soil fertility

Which of the above are the benefits of increasing production of ‘Pulses’ in India?

- 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.12) For which one of the following cereals is India the largest producer and exporter?

- a) Wheat
- b) Millets
- c) Rice
- d) Sorghum

Q.13) In a K-shaped economic recovery, which one of the following groups or sectors are likely to benefit and experience growth?

- a) All sectors equally
- b) High-income individuals and technology-related industries
- c) Low-income individuals and traditional manufacturing sectors
- d) Government and public services

Q.14) With reference to the Protection and Indemnity (P&I) club in the maritime industry, consider the following statements:

1. The primary function of a Protection and Indemnity (P&I) club is to offer liability coverage to shipowners and operators.
2. Engine breakdowns and mechanical failures of ships are covered by Protection and Indemnity (P&I) club.
3. International Group of P&I Clubs oversees and regulates Protection and Indemnity (P&I) clubs in the maritime sector.

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 India's aviation sector:

1. India has become the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world.
2. UDAN Scheme aims to improve the international footprint of India-based airline services.

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

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

Q.16) Consider the following:

1. Reduced Fiscal Flexibility
2. Increased Risk of Default
3. Crowding In Investment
4. Credit Rating Downgrades

Which of the above will likely be the consequences when a state carries a substantial burden of debt?

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

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Q.17) With reference to India's Agricultural Export Sector, consider the following statements:

1. India's agricultural exports are experiencing consistent growth.
2. Majority of India's exports are low-value and semi-processed.
3. India's agricultural export sector faces challenges related to inadequate infrastructure, high logistics costs, and cold chain facilities.

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.18) A country's Gini coefficient has increased over time. Which one of the following scenarios can be inferred from this?

- a) The income gap between the rich and the poor has narrowed.
- b) The overall standard of living has improved for everyone.
- c) The distribution of income has become more unequal.
- d) The economy is experiencing a recession.

Q.19) With reference to the Cooperative Banks, consider the following statements:

1. Cooperative Banks are owned by the government, while Commercial Banks are privately owned.
2. Cooperative Banks follow the principle of profit maximization.
3. Cooperative Banks in India are regulated by Indian Banking Association (IBA).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.20) Which one of the following is correct with reference to the term "twin-balance sheet problem" in the context of an economy?

- a) It refers to a high budget deficit and trade deficit simultaneously.
- b) It highlights the interconnectedness of the financial health of banks and corporations.
- c) It describes a situation where economic growth is stagnant despite high inflation.
- d) It signifies the widening gap between rich and poor in a society.

Q.21) Consider the following:

1. Linguistic and cultural differences
2. Centralized policymaking
3. Lack of industrial diversification
4. Uneven agricultural land

How many of the above are the primary reasons behind economic divide amongst Indian states?

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

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Q.22) Which one of the following is the primary cause behind the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent shift towards self-regulation and Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs) in the financial sector?

- a) Reducing overall regulatory burden on the RBI
- b) Promoting innovation and adaptability within financial institutions
- c) Enhancing risk management and stability within the sector
- d) Lowering entry barriers for new players in the market

Q.23) Which one of the following statements is correct with reference to the impact of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 on the resolution of non-performing assets (NPAs)?

- a) IBC has significantly reduced the time taken to resolve NPAs.
- b) IBC has led to a decrease in the recovery rate of NPAs.
- c) IBC has had no impact on the resolution of NPAs.
- d) IBC has increased the number of NPAs in the banking system.

Q.24) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Panama is a part of the "Lithium Triangle" along with Chile and Bolivia.
- 2. Currently, India's lithium demand is met through 100% import.
- 3. India's first major lithium reserve has been found in the Jammu and Kashmir.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.25) 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.26) 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.27) 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.

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Q.28) 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.29) 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.

Q.30) 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.31) 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.32) 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

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Q.33) 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.34) 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

Q.35) 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

Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (d)	3 - (a)	4 - (a)	5 - (b)	6 - (b)	7 - (d)	8 - (a)	9 - (b)
10 - (d)	11 - (d)	12 - (c)	13 - (b)	14 - (c)	15 - (a)	16 - (c)	17 - (d)	18 - (c)
19 - (d)	20 - (b)	21 - (c)	22 - (b)	23 - (a)	24 - (b)	25 - (d)	26 - (d)	27 - (b)
28 - (a)	29 - (a)	30 - (a)	31 - (b)	32 - (a)	33 - (a)	34 - (a)	35 - (a)	

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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3. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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7. Correct Answer is (D)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. SEBI's main objective is to regulate the securities market and safeguard the interests of investors. It aims to maintain the stability of the securities market, protect investors from fraudulent activities, and ensure the smooth functioning of the market.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are incorrect. SEBI reports to the finance minister and is accountable to the Parliament through the finance minister. The finance minister can issue directives to SEBI on matters of policy, which SEBI is required to follow. SEBI has quasi-legislative powers in regulating the securities market, which means that it can make rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, and the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. SEBI was established on the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (B)

- Green Deposits in the context of banking are fixed-term deposits where funds are specifically invested in green projects. This means that the money deposited into these accounts is used to finance environmentally friendly projects, such as renewable energy, clean technology, and sustainable infrastructure.
- For example, ICICI Bank's Green Deposits are fixed deposits where the funds are used to finance environmentally responsible projects such as renewable energy, clean transportation, and sustainable water management.
- Recently, the RBI has released updated guidelines to clarify key provisions related to the RBI's Green Deposits [Framework](#).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10. Correct Answer is (D)

- Structured negotiation is an alternative dispute resolution process that enables parties to resolve legal claims or disputes in a non-adversarial manner, without resorting to formal litigation.
- In structured negotiation, parties and their lawyers work together to identify their respective interests and concerns and to explore possible solutions that meet their needs.
- Structured negotiation is often used in disability rights cases, where plaintiffs and defendants work together to find solutions that promote accessibility and inclusion. It has also been used in other areas, such as employment discrimination, civil rights, and consumer protection cases.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (D)

- Reducing the import bill: India is one of the largest consumers and importers of pulses, with a significant portion of its consumption being met through imports. By increasing domestic production, India can reduce its dependence on imports and save on the import bill.

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- Addressing protein deficiency: Pulses are an important source of protein. By increasing the availability and consumption of pulses, India can address protein deficiency and improve the nutritional status of its population.
- Enhancing soil fertility: Pulses are known for their ability to fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and improve soil fertility. By including pulses in crop rotation, farmers can enhance soil health and reduce their dependence on chemical fertilizers.
- Other benefits include: Address food-security concerns, Address environmental challenges, Low Water Requirement.
- India's imports of pulses have come down from a high of 6.61 million tonnes (mt) in 2016-17 to 2.7 mt in 2021-22, and further to 2.52 mt in 2022-23. The imports have declined mainly due to a sharp decline in the import of yellow peas (matar) and chickpea (chana) over the past 10 years. Pulses are also difficult to store and their shelf life is shorter than that of wheat and rice.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct Answer is (C)

- India is the largest producer and exporter of rice globally. India is the world's largest producer and exporter of rice, accounting for around 20% of the world's production and nearly 40% of the global trade in rice. Both basmati and non-basmati rice contribute significantly to these figures.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- A K-shaped recovery is a type of economic recovery in which different sectors or groups of people recover at different rates, resulting in a recovery that looks like the letter K when charted on a graph. In a K-shaped recovery, some sectors or groups experience rapid growth and recovery, while others continue to struggle.
- In a K-shaped recovery, high-income individuals and sectors that are well-positioned for the post-recession economy, such as technology-related industries, are likely to experience rapid growth and recovery.
- On the other hand, low-income individuals and sectors that were hit hardest by the recession, such as traditional manufacturing sectors, may continue to struggle. The K-shaped recovery can exacerbate existing inequalities and create new ones, leading to social and political tensions.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. P&I clubs are mutual insurance associations owned and controlled by their members, who are typically shipowners and operators. P&I clubs provide an important source of protection and risk management for the shipping industry, covering risks that are not typically covered by standard insurance policies. P&I clubs provide liability insurance to shipowners and operators against risks such as damage to third parties, property damage, and pollution. The International Group of P&I Clubs is a collective of 13 P&I clubs that provides oversight and regulation to the sector.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. P&I clubs typically do not cover engine breakdowns and mechanical failures of ships. Coverage under P&I insurance usually extends to third-party liabilities such as bodily injury, pollution, collision damage, and crew-related claims, but not to the physical damage or loss of the ship.
- Recently, India is planning to create its own protection and indemnity (P&I) entity, the India Club, to provide insurance for ships in Indian waters thereby reducing reliance on global firms.

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Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. As of January 2024, India has achieved the position of the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, surpassing Japan. This reflects the significant growth in passenger traffic within the country in recent years.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) Scheme aims to make air travel more affordable and accessible, particularly for people living in remote and underserved areas. The scheme was launched in 2016 with the aim of connecting underserved and unserved airports and making air travel more affordable for the common people.
- Under the scheme, airlines are provided with viability gap funding to operate flights on regional routes, and passengers are offered subsidies to make air travel more affordable.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct Answer is (C)

- Reduced Fiscal Flexibility: As the state accumulates a large debt burden, it may face constraints on its fiscal flexibility. A significant portion of the budget may be allocated to debt servicing, limiting the resources available for other essential public expenditures.
- Increased Risk of Default: A large debt burden raises the risk of default, especially if the state struggles to meet its debt obligations.
- Credit Rating Downgrades: Accumulating a large debt burden may result in credit rating downgrades by credit rating agencies. A lower credit rating indicates a higher risk of default, leading to increased borrowing costs for the state.
- However, crowding in investment is not a typical consequence of a large state debt burden. In most cases, high debt leads to higher interest rates, discouraging private investment and hindering economic growth. High debt levels can often lead to crowding out investment instead, as higher interest rates make it more expensive for private businesses to borrow and invest.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

17. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. According to recent reports, India's agricultural exports have been growing steadily in recent years, with exports reaching a record high of \$50 billion in the financial year 2022-23. Although India's agricultural exports are growing, a large portion of them are low-value, semi-processed commodities such as rice, wheat, and spices. Despite the growth in agricultural exports, India's agricultural export sector faces several challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, high logistics costs, lack of access to finance, and insufficient cold chain facilities, which can impact the quality and shelf life of agricultural products.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

18. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Gini coefficient is a commonly used measure of income inequality, with higher values indicating greater inequality. If a country's Gini coefficient has increased over time, it implies that the gap between the rich and poor has widened, meaning that the distribution of income has become more unequal. The coefficient ranges from 0 (0%) to 1 (100%), 0 representing perfect equality and 1 representing perfect inequality. Higher the value of Gini coefficient, higher the inequality.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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19. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. Cooperative Banks are not owned by the government, but by their members who are also customers. They operate on a cooperative basis, meaning they are owned and controlled by their members, who are often individuals or small businesses in a local community. On the other hand, Commercial Banks can be either privately owned or publicly traded companies, and their shareholders own them.
- Cooperative Banks follow the principle of service to their members, rather than profit maximization. They prioritize providing affordable financial services to their members, especially those with limited access to traditional banking services. Cooperative banks operate on the principle of 'no profit, no loss' and 'one person, one vote'.
- Cooperative Banks in India are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Indian Banking Association (IBA) is an industry body representing the interests of banks in India, but it does not have regulatory powers over Cooperative Banks.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

20. Correct Answer is (B)

- The term "twin-balance sheet problem" is often used to describe the interlinked financial health of banks and corporations in an economy. When corporations struggle with high debt levels and low profits, they may default on loan repayments to banks, leading to an increase in non-performing assets (NPAs) for the banking sector. This, in turn, affects the banks' lending capacity, limiting credit availability for businesses and impacting economic growth.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. Correct Answer is (C)

- Linguistic and cultural differences can lead to disparities in economic opportunities and development across regions, especially when policies and investments are not tailored to local contexts. Centralized policymaking can also contribute to uneven development, as policies designed at the national level may not adequately address the specific challenges and needs of different states. A lack of industrial diversification can limit economic opportunities in some states, leading to dependence on a few industries and vulnerability to economic shocks.
- However, uneven agricultural land may not directly contribute to the economic divide across states. In fact, agricultural productivity can vary significantly based on various factors such as climate, access to resources, and technological advancements.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

22. Correct Answer is (B)

- The primary driver for the Reserve Bank of India's shift towards self-regulation and Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs) in the financial sector is to promote innovation and adaptability within financial institutions. The RBI's move towards SROs is aimed at empowering the fintech sector to operate and innovate responsibly while providing a framework for self-regulation. This approach seeks to balance the need for regulatory oversight with the need for flexibility and adaptability in the rapidly evolving fintech landscape. SRO is a non-governmental organization that sets and enforces rules and standards relating to the conduct of entities in the industry (members) to protect the customer and promote ethics, equality and professionalism.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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23. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 was introduced to provide a time-bound process for resolving insolvency and bankruptcy cases in India. With respect to non-performing assets (NPAs), IBC has been effective in reducing the time taken to resolve these assets.
- Before the implementation of IBC, the process of resolving NPAs was lengthy and often dragged on for several years, leading to increased costs and reduced recovery for lenders. However, under IBC, the resolution process is mandated to be completed within a maximum of 330 days, which has helped in expediting the resolution of NPAs.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

24. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The "Lithium Triangle" refers to a region in South America that encompasses parts of Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia, where the world's largest lithium reserves are located. Panama is not part of the Lithium Triangle.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. India currently has no indigenous sources of lithium and relies entirely on imports to meet its demand. Over 95 per cent of India's lithium imports originate from China and Hong Kong. India's first major lithium reserve has been found in the Salal-Haimana area of Reasi District in Jammu and Kashmir. Some small reserves are also present in Karnataka.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

25. 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](#)

26. 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](#)

27. 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.

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- 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](#)

28. 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](#)

29. 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](#)

30. 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](#)

31. 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

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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](#)

32. 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.
- 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](#)

33. 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](#)

34. 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](#)

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35. 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

Q 1) With reference to Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ), consider the following statements:

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.2) In hydroponics, plants are grown without soil using:

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

Q.3) Which one of the following is the core strategy of "Project Tiger" for tiger conservation?

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

Q.4) With reference to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.5) Consider the following statements:

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

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.6) Green Cover Index is being developed for India’s National Highways. Which one of the following is the primary objective of the “Green Cover Index”?

- a) It aims to calculate the economic value of trees planted along highways.
- b) It aims to rank national highways based on their aesthetic appeal.
- c) It aims to measure and rank the green cover of different national highways.
- d) It aims to monitor air quality levels near highway construction sites.

Q.7) With reference to India’s electric vehicles (EV) Market, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The primary driver behind India's push towards electric vehicles (EVs) is reducing dependence on fossil fuels and air pollution.
2. Passenger cars EVs currently has the highest market share in India.

Select the correct statement(s) using the codes given below:

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

Q.8) With reference to Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to cities for wetland restoration and infrastructure development.
2. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has established the scheme.
3. Presence of a Ramsar Site within the city limits is a criterion required for Wetland City Accreditation.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.9) Consider the following:

1. Soil
2. Contaminated Water
3. Digital Devices
4. Textiles

How many of the above items are potential sources of ‘lead contamination’?

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

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Q.10) Which one of the following species is the 'Corbett Tiger Reserve' most famous for?

- a) Asiatic Lion
- b) One-horned rhinoceros
- c) Bengal tiger
- d) Indian elephant

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

- 1. CTHs focus on protecting specific species, while CWH is about conserving entire ecosystems.
- 2. CTHs and CWHs both focus only on the protection of tiger populations.
- 3. CWHs allow for more human activity than CTHs.
- 4. CTHs are larger in size than CWHs.

How many of the above statements are correct with reference to the Critical Tiger Habitats (CTHs) and Critical Wildlife Habitats (CWHs)?

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

Q.12) With reference to Tricolime, a bio-pesticide and bio-fertiliser, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1. Tricolime is often applied directly to the soil or along with seeds during planting.
- 2. The Trichoderma fungus in Tricolime parasitizes and kills harmful soil-borne pathogens, preventing plant diseases like root rot and wilt.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.13) In which one of the following states is the 'Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary' located?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) West Bengal
- d) Himachal Pradesh

Q.14) With reference to the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims to reduce air pollution levels across India by 20-30% by 2025-26.
- 2. Carbon monoxide and ozone are the focus pollutant under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- 3. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal agency for the implementation of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

Which of the statements give above are correct?

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

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Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. Darjeeling zoo holds the largest captive population of snow leopards in the world.
2. Snow leopards are listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

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.16) With reference to Swachh Survekshan Awards, consider the following statements:

1. Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India.
2. Community involvement and behavioral change in waste management are one of the few focus areas for the evaluation of cities under the Swachh Survekshan.
3. Swachh Survekshan is conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) with Quality Council of India (QCI) as its implementation partner.

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.17) The Indian government has implemented various policies and initiatives to promote renewable energy. Which one of the following is NOT included in these efforts?

- a) Setting ambitious targets for renewable energy capacity addition.
- b) Providing financial incentives and subsidies for renewable energy projects.
- c) Developing smart grid technologies for efficient integration of renewable energy.
- d) Imposing carbon taxes on fossil fuel consumption.

Q.18) Which one of the following periods in Earth's history is characterized by the rise of free oxygen in the atmosphere, leading to the diversification of complex life?

- a) Cambrian Explosion
- b) Great Oxygenation Event
- c) Proterozoic Era
- d) Permian Extinction

Q.19) With reference to the Air Pollution, consider the following statements:

1. Primary air pollutants are harmful gases, while secondary air pollutants are solid particles.
2. One of the roles of the Air Quality Index (AQI) in managing air pollution is that it provides information to the public about air quality and potential health risks.
3. International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) monitors air quality and sets guidelines for pollution control.

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.20) 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.21) 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.22) 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

Q.23) 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.24) 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)

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Q.25) 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.26) 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.27) 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

Q.28) 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.29) 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

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Q.30) 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

Answer Key

1 - (a)	2 - (c)	3 - (b)	4 - (a)	5 - (b)	6 - (c)	7 - (a)	8 - (d)	9 - (b)	10 - (c)
11 - (b)	12 - (c)	13 - (b)	14 - (c)	15 - (a)	16 - (c)	17 - (d)	18 - (b)	19 - (a)	20 - (b)
21 - (b)	22 - (c)	23 - (c)	24 - (b)	25 - (d)	26 - (a)	27 - (a)	28 - (a)	29 - (a)	30 - (b)

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct option is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. National Parks are designated areas for wildlife conservation, and they have the highest level of protection among protected areas in India. On the other hand, Eco-Sensitive Zones are areas around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries that are identified as fragile ecosystems in need of conservation and protection. While ESZs have regulations to protect the environment, they are generally less stringent than those in a National Park.
- Economic potential and development prospects are not among the factors considered for designation as an ESZ. Rather, factors such as the presence of endangered species and unique habitats, ecological fragility and susceptibility to degradation, and cultural and religious significance of the area are considered.
- Statement 2 is correct. The buffer zone concept in ESZ management refers to an area surrounding the core zone where stricter regulations apply to minimize the impact on the core zone's environment. The buffer zone acts as a transition area between the core zone and the outside environment, helping to mitigate the impact of human activities on the fragile ecosystem of the core zone.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (C)

- Hydroponics is a method of growing plants without soil, relying on a water-based solution packed with essential nutrients to sustain the plant's needs. This solution typically contains inorganic salts

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and may be further supplemented with other elements like oxygen, chelating agents, and pH adjusters. Therefore, in hydroponics, plants are grown without soil using a nutrient-rich water solution.

- Other than hydroponics, studies have revealed about electronic soils (eSoil). eSoil serves as a low-power bioelectronic growth substrate capable of electrically stimulating both the root system and the growth environment of plants. This innovative substrate has been derived from cellulose and the conductive polymer PEDOT. Its active material is an organic mixed-ionic electronic conductor. It is also a sustainable way for urban agriculture and ensuring food security.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Eurasian Otter holds a conservation status of "Near Threatened" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Eurasian Otter has been spotted in the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala. This is significant because it is the first time the species has been recorded in the state.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Green Cover Index is being developed to measure and rank the green cover of different national highways in India, with the aim of promoting sustainable development and environmental conservation.
- The index is being developed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in collaboration with ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).

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- The index will be calculated using remote sensing and geographic information system (GIS) techniques to assess the tree cover, vegetation, and other green features along the highways.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Reducing dependence on fossil fuels and air pollution is the primary driver behind India's push towards electric vehicles (EVs). The government has set ambitious targets to increase the adoption of EVs and has implemented various policies and incentives to encourage their use.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Two-wheelers (scooters and motorcycles) currently account for the highest market share of EVs in India. While passenger cars EVs are gaining popularity, they have not yet overtaken two-wheelers in terms of market share.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. The Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) Scheme does not provide financial assistance to cities for wetland restoration and infrastructure development. The scheme's primary objective is to recognize and promote the conservation and wise use of urban wetlands, as well as to support cities in their efforts to protect these critical ecosystems. The Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) Scheme has been established by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. While having a Ramsar Site within the city limits can be an advantage and showcase strong wetland conservation efforts, it's not a mandatory criterion for WCA. Cities without Ramsar Sites can still be accredited based on their demonstrably significant wetland resources and effective management practices.
- Recently, MoEF&CC has nominated Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), and Udaipur (Rajasthan) for Wetland City Accreditation (WCA).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (B)

- Lead contamination is a serious environmental and public health issue that arises from the presence of lead in various substances, posing risks to both humans and the ecosystem. Soil and contaminated water are the primary sources of lead contamination. Digital devices and textiles are generally not considered significant sources of lead exposure as they generally don't contain significant amounts of lead.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10. Correct Answer is (C)

- Corbett Tiger Reserve is one of the oldest and most successful tiger reserves in India. It played a crucial role in tiger conservation efforts and currently houses a significant population of these magnificent creatures. Tigers are the main attraction for visitors and the focus of much conservation work within the reserve. The reserve is known for its high population of Bengal tigers, which are a major tourist attraction and a key focus of conservation efforts.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Critical Tiger Habitats (CTHs) primarily aim to protect specific species, especially focusing on tiger populations, while Critical Wildlife Habitats (CWH) have a

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broader focus on conserving entire ecosystems. Generally, Critical Wildlife Habitats (CWHs) may allow for some human activities, while Critical Tiger Habitats (CTHs) have more stringent protection measures with limited human intervention.

- Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect. While CTHs specifically focus on the protection of tiger populations and their habitats, CWHs have a broader scope and aim to conserve various wildlife species and their habitats. The size of both Critical Tiger Habitats and Critical Wildlife Habitats can vary based on ecological considerations and the specific requirements for the conservation of targeted species.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Trichoderma is a fungal biocontrol agent present in all soils. In simple term, it is a genus of fungi that can be found in most soils. ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode has developed a new granular lime-based Trichoderma formulation which is a fungal bio-control agent. Tricolime serves as a bio-pesticide and bio-fertiliser in crop production. Being a bio pesticide, it promotes plant growth and shields crops from soil-borne pathogens, all in a single application. Tricolime can be applied directly to the soil or along with seeds during planting to promote healthy growth and productivity in crops. Trichoderma helps to prevent plant diseases by parasitizing and killing harmful soil-borne pathogens, such as those that cause root rot and wilt.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, in northeastern India. The sanctuary is known for its rich biodiversity and is home to a wide variety of plant and animal species, including many rare and endangered species. It is situated in the biodiversity hotspot of Eastern Himalayas. It conjoins Sessa Orchid Sanctuary to the northeast and Pakhui Tiger Reserve across the Kameng river to the east. Eagle Nest's Wildlife Sanctuary is considered amongst the topmost birding destinations in the World. Dense strands of bamboo & patches of broadleaved evergreen forest covers the large altitudinal range. This Sanctuary is inhabited by two tribes, Bugun and Sherdukpen. The rare Bugun Liocichla bird (IUCN status: Critically Endangered) is found only in the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. NCAP aims to reduce air pollution levels across India by 20-30% by 2025-26. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is the nodal agency responsible for overseeing and coordinating the implementation of NCAP across various government departments and states.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary focus of NCAP is on particulate matter (PM), specifically PM10 and PM2.5. These microscopic particles pose the most significant health risks from air pollution in India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Darjeeling zoo, also known as the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, holds the largest captive population of snow leopards in the world. It is the largest high-altitude zoo in India. It specializes in breeding animals adapted to alpine conditions. It has successful captive breeding programs for the snow leopard, the endangered Himalayan wolf and the red panda. The zoo

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serves as the central hub for Central Zoo Authority of India's red panda program. It is a member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

- Statement 2 is incorrect. Snow leopards are classified as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. This means that they are facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future unless the threats to their survival are reduced.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to evaluate the cleanliness and sanitation levels in cities and towns across India.
- The Quality Council of India (QCI) is the implementation partner for Swachh Survekshan, responsible for conducting the survey and assessing the participating cities based on various parameters.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Community involvement and behavioral change in waste management are not specific focus areas for evaluation under the Swachh Survekshan Awards. Door-to-door waste collection and processing, public toilet access and cleanliness, street sweeping and cleaning of public spaces are some of the focus areas for evaluation under the Swachh Survekshan Awards.
- Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023: In the state rankings, Maharashtra came first, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Indore has been adjudged the cleanest city for the seventh time in a row.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

17. Correct Answer is (D)

- Carbon taxes on fossil fuel consumption are not typically considered a part of initiatives to promote renewable energy.
- The government has set ambitious targets for renewable energy capacity addition, such as achieving 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022 and 500 GW by 2030.
- B) Financial incentives and subsidies have been provided for renewable energy projects through various programs and schemes, such as the Solar Park Scheme, the Wind Energy Scheme, and the National Biofuel Policy.
- C) Developing smart grid technologies has been a focus area for efficient integration of renewable energy, and the government has launched initiatives like the Smart Grid Mission and the Green Energy Corridors Program.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

18. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Great Oxygenation Event, also known as the "Oxygen Catastrophe" or "Oxidation Catastrophe," occurred approximately 2.4 billion years ago during the Paleoproterozoic era. It marks a period when the Earth's atmosphere experienced a significant increase in oxygen levels due to the evolution of oxygen-producing organisms like cyanobacteria. This event had a profound impact on the Earth's atmosphere, allowing for the proliferation of oxygen-dependent life forms and paving the way for the diversification of complex life.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

19. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The distinction between primary and secondary air pollutants is not based on their physical state. Rather, primary pollutants are emitted directly into the atmosphere from sources like vehicles, industries, and biomass burning, while secondary pollutants are formed in

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the atmosphere from reactions between primary pollutants. For example, ground-level ozone, a secondary pollutant, is formed from the reaction of primary pollutants like nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) does not monitor air quality or set pollution control guidelines. IPCC's primary role is to provide scientific information on climate change to governments and other stakeholders, assisting them in developing climate policies and solutions.

- Statement 2 is correct. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a tool used to communicate air quality and associated health risks to the public. It converts complex air quality data into a simple numerical scale, making it easy for people to understand and take necessary actions to protect their health.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

20. 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 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](#)

21. 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](#)

22. 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.

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The Vijayanagar Emperors supported this breed, and it has a historical connection to wealth and prosperity.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

23. 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](#)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

25. 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](#)

26. 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](#)

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27. 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](#)

28. 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](#)

29. 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](#)

30. 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

Q.1) Which one of the following is the objective of Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) Mission?

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

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

Q.4) Which of the following are considered as 'Neuropsychiatric Disorders'?

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

Select the correct code given below:

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

Q.5) 'Huntington's Disease', seen in the news recently, affects -

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

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Q.6) Which one of the following is the primary reason for changing the Naval Ensign?

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

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

Q.8) With reference to the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) Mission, consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.9) It becomes difficult to study X-rays from space because:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.10) Which one of the following is the primary purpose of the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)?

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

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Q.11) With reference to the Indian Railways, consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.12) Which one of the following distinguishes "Chameleon Trojan Malware" from other types of Trojans?

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

Q.13) 'DESERT CYCLONE', a joint military exercise was recently conducted between:

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

Q.14) Consider the following statements with reference to Central Armed Police Force (CAPF):

1. They are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
2. The largest CAPF in terms of personnel strength is the Border Security Force (BSF).
3. The primary role of CAPFs is to assist the state police in emergencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.15) Consider the following:

1. Ayurveda
2. Siddha
3. Unani
4. Homeopathy

How many of the above Indian System of Medicines are covered under the purview of National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)?

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

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Q.16) Which one of the following statements best describes the term “Cyber Kidnapping”?

- a) It involves unauthorized use of a person's or organization's computing resources to mine cryptocurrencies without their knowledge or consent.
- b) It involves using digital means to coerce individuals or entities into paying a ransom or facing negative consequences, such as the release of compromising information.
- c) It involves manipulating individuals into disclosing confidential information or taking specific actions through psychological manipulation and deception.
- d) It impersonates high-ranking executives or authorities to trick employees into transferring funds, disclosing sensitive information, or taking other harmful actions.

Q.17) In which one of the following ways does agriculture contribute to antimicrobial resistance (AMR)?

- a) By promoting responsible antibiotic use in livestock
- b) By reducing the use of antibiotics in farming
- c) By using antibiotics as growth promoters in animals
- d) By avoiding veterinary care for animals

Q.18) In the context of the Defense Sector, the term “Acceptance of Necessity” (AON) refers to –

- a) It signifies the official approval by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) for a specific capital acquisition proposal for the armed forces.
- b) It refers to the permission granted by the Defense Ministry to initiate the martial trial against the offenders.
- c) It facilitates the alignment of resources with priority areas, optimizing national security efforts.
- d) Cybersecurity strategies in the defense sector heavily rely on the acceptance of necessity for robust measures to protect critical infrastructure from cyber threats.

Q.19) With reference to the Artificial Intelligence, consider the following statements:

- 1. Enhancing natural human abilities is the fundamental concept behind Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- 2. General AI is less intelligent than Narrow AI.
- 3. Natural Language Processing (NLP) is considered a type of AI.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Camptothecin (CPT) is an important anti-cancer drug lead molecule which is extracted mainly from *Nothapodytes nimmoniana*.
- 2. *Nathapodytes nimmoniana* is a species of flowering plant widespread throughout India.

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.21) Which one of the following is the primary target of the newly discovered class of antibiotics, 'Zosurabalpin,' in combating the drug-resistant bacterium *Acinetobacter baumannii*?

- a) Cell wall
- b) Ribosomes
- c) Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) transport
- d) DNA replication

Q.22) Consider the following pairs:

Space Missions-----Objectives

- 1. Aditya-L1-----Observing the solar atmosphere
- 2. Gaganyaan-1-----Manned spaceflights
- 3. Mangalyaan-2-----Exploring Venus to expand knowledge of the solar system.

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.23) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Plasma waves are oscillations or fluctuations in the density of charged particles, such as electrons and ions, within a plasma.
- 2. Plasma waves play a crucial role in energizing and transporting charged particles throughout the magnetosphere.
- 3. The planet Mars do not have any intrinsic magnetic field like Earth.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.24) "Direct-to-Mobile (D2M) technology" was seen in the news recently. In this regard, which one of the following statements is correct?

- a) It streams multimedia content directly to mobile devices without an internet connection.
- b) It enhances mobile network speeds and bandwidth.
- c) It improves location tracking accuracy for mobile phones.
- d) It enables direct communication between mobile devices without cell towers.

Q.25) Which one of the following primary fuels does a Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell (PEMFC) use?

- a) Methane
- b) Ethanol
- c) Hydrogen
- d) Gasoline

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Q.26) Which of the following celestial bodies are most commonly associated with the L1 Lagrange point?

- a) The Sun and the Earth
- b) The Earth and the Moon
- c) The Moon and Mars
- d) Jupiter and Saturn

Q.27) Which one of the following is the primary difference between a hard landing and a normal landing in an airplane?

- a) The altitude at which the landing gear touches the runway
- b) The angle at which the airplane touches the runway
- c) The vertical speed of the airplane upon touchdown
- d) The amount of thrust used during the landing phase

Q.28) Which one of the following is the primary objective of a 'Bio-Imaging Bank'?

- a) To store and share high-quality biological images for research purposes.
- b) To diagnose diseases and monitor patient's health using medical imaging technologies.
- c) To develop and commercialize new imaging techniques for biological applications.
- d) To educate the public about the importance of bioimaging research.

Q.29) Consider the following statements:

1. India currently lacks access to surgical care.
2. India's current surgical system is based on civilian initiatives and subnational programmes.

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.30) Consider the following statements with reference to the "Counter-drone System", recently developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

1. It is a fully integrated anti-drone system that encompasses the detection, identification, and neutralization of drones.
2. It aims to provide air defense against conventional aircraft and missiles.
3. It uses radar systems for long-range detection and tracking.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.31) Which one of the following is correct with reference to the "Meissner effect", seen in the news recently?

- a) It refers to the resistance of a superconductor at low temperature.
- b) It is the expulsion of magnetic flux from the interior of a superconductor.
- c) It is the increase in electrical conductivity with temperature in certain materials.
- d) It refers to the ability of a material to generate a magnetic field.

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Q.32) With reference to the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), consider the following statements:

1. It is the resistance of microorganisms to an antimicrobial agent.
2. E. coli has become resistant the latest generation of antibiotics.
3. Acquired antimicrobial resistance is caused by the structural characteristics of microbes.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.33) With reference to Proba-3's mission, seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. The mission is being led by Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos).
2. It aims to form a 144-m long solar coronagraph, which will create an artificial eclipse, revealing new views of the Sun's faint corona.
3. It consists of two spacecraft flying in close formation, creating an artificial eclipse.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.34) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Developing thorium-based nuclear energy technology is a strategic priority for India's energy independence and security.

Statement-II: Thorium is more efficient and cost-effective than uranium for producing nuclear energy.

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.35) With reference to the Cosmic rays, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. They are high-energy particles, moving at nearly the speed of light, originate from the Sun, our galaxy, and distant galaxies.
2. When cosmic rays interact with the Earth's atmosphere, it leads to the formation of ozone layer.
3. Gamma rays, X-rays, and ultraviolet light are the types of cosmic rays.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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Q.36) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently notified revised rules under “Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945”. Which one of the following is the primary objective of ‘Schedule M’ in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945?

- Define the permissible ingredients for different types of drugs.
- Specify quality control standards for drug manufacturing practices.
- Outline labeling and packaging requirements for medicinal products.
- Establish guidelines for advertising and promotion of drugs.

Q.37) Consider the following statements:

- Discover transient black holes by detecting their rare X-ray flares.
- Locate the electromagnetic sources of gravitational waves.
- Study X-ray transients like gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and flares from other stars.

How many of the above are the objectives of Einstein Probe (EP) satellite, recently launched by China?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.38) The ‘Milky Way Galaxy’ is a type of:

- Lenticular Galaxies
- Elliptical Galaxies
- Spiral Galaxies
- Irregular Galaxies

Q.39) With reference to Human Papillomavirus (HPV), consider the following statements:

- It is a group of viruses that can cause abnormal cell growth in infected individuals.
- HPV is transmitted through airborne droplets like coughing or sneezing.
- More than 95% of all cervical cancer cases are linked to persistent infection with high-risk strains of HPV.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Q.40) With reference to the New Generation Akash (Akash-NG) missile, consider the following statements:

- It is a type of Ballistic missile.
- One of the primary features that distinguishes the Akash-NG from the original Akash missile is its longer range.
- It is considered a force multiplier because it enhances the Air Force's ability to defend against multiple threats simultaneously.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

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Q.41) With reference to Tuberculosis (TB), consider the following statements:

1. TB cases in India have been decreased since 2022.
2. The transmission of TB primarily occurs through contaminated water or food.
3. Tuberculosis is preventable and curable.

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.42) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Dark matter is a form of matter that can't be detected through normal observational means.

Statement-II: Dark matter doesn't reflect or emit light.

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.43) Consider the following statements:

1. Thylakoids provide structural support for the chloroplast in the plant cell.
2. Cyanobacteria are photosynthetic bacteria that obtain energy through photosynthesis.

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.44) Which one of the following is the primary purpose of the "Drishti 10 Starliner UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle)", recently received by the Indian Navy?

- a) Combat operations and strike missions
- b) Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) in maritime environments
- c) Electronic warfare and communication jamming
- d) Cargo transportation and logistics support

Q.45) Consider the following statements:

1. India has the world's largest internet user base.
2. Online gaming in India has been linked to national security concerns and money laundering.

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.46) Consider the following statements:

1. Cervical cancer is both preventable and curable if detected early.
2. Cervical cancer is usually caused by an inherited genetic mutation.
3. The best way to prevent cervical cancer is through surgery to remove the cervix.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.47) Consider the following statements:

1. I-STEM (Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering facilities Map) is a National Web portal for sharing R&D (Research and Development) facilities.
2. Samavesha project launched by I-STEM is a wellness initiative, where communities engage in collective activities, promoting physical and mental well-being for all members.

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.48) 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

Q.49) 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.50) 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.

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Q.51) 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.52) 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.53) 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.54) 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

Q.55) 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

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Q.56) 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.57) 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.58) 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.59) 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

Q.60) 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

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Q.61) 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 - (c)	2 - (c)	3 - (b)	4 - (a)	5 - (b)	6 - (c)	7 - (a)	8 - (c)	9 - (c)
10 - (b)	11 - (a)	12 - (c)	13 - (c)	14 - (b)	15 - (c)	16 - (b)	17 - (c)	18 - (a)
19 - (a)	20 - (a)	21 - (c)	22 - (a)	23 - (d)	24 - (a)	25 - (c)	26 - (a)	27 - (c)
28 - (a)	29 - (c)	30 - (b)	31 - (b)	32 - (b)	33 - (b)	34 - (c)	35 - (a)	36 - (b)
37 - (c)	38 - (c)	39 - (c)	40 - (b)	41 - (c)	42 - (a)	43 - (b)	44 - (b)	45 - (b)
46 - (a)	47 - (a)	48 - (c)	49 - (b)	50 - (c)	51 - (b)	52 - (b)	53 - (a)	54 - (d)
55 - (a)	56 - (a)	57 - (b)	58 - (b)	59 - (c)	60 - (b)	61 - (b)		

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct option is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (C)

- Increased government control over citizens: Pegasus spyware has been used by governments to monitor and track the activities of citizens, including activists, journalists, and political opponents, which raises concerns about government overreach and violations of civil liberties.

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- Violations of individual privacy rights: Pegasus spyware can access sensitive personal information stored on infected devices, such as messages, photos, and location data, without the knowledge or consent of the device's owner. This raises serious concerns about violations of individual privacy rights.
- Identity theft and financial fraud: Pegasus spyware has the capability to steal sensitive personal information, including login credentials and financial data, which can be used for identity theft and financial fraud.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Huntington's Disease affects the brain. It is a neurological disorder that causes degeneration of certain areas of the brain, leading to symptoms like involuntary movements, cognitive decline, and behavioral changes.

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- Huntington's Disease is caused by a mutation in a specific gene that leads to the production of an abnormal protein that damages brain cells. It is an inherited disorder, meaning it is passed down from parent to child through a defective gene.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. XPOsat mission is specifically designed to observe sources that emit strong X-rays, including black holes, neutron stars, supernova remnants, and active galaxies. By studying their X-ray emissions, scientists hope to understand their physical processes, structure, and evolution. XPOsat carries two key instruments: POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) and XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing). POLIX is the primary polarimeter, capable of measuring the degree and angle of polarization of X-ray light. This information provides crucial insights about the magnetic fields and acceleration mechanisms around these high-energy objects.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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10. Correct Answer is (B)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (A)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct Answer is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

13. Correct Answer is (C)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which is responsible for their administration, policymaking, and operational control. The MHA also determines the operational priorities, tasks, and deployment of CAPFs across the country.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The largest CAPF in terms of personnel strength is the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The BSF (Border Security Force) is the second-largest CAPF. The primary role of CAPFs is not to assist the state police in emergencies but to deal with internal security threats and maintain internal security, law and order, and border security.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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15. Correct Answer is (C)

- The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) oversees Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani systems of medicine. Homeopathy is not included under the NCISM. It falls under the Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH), a separate regulatory body established under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

16. Correct Answer is (B)

- Cyber kidnapping, also known as virtual kidnapping or digital kidnapping, is a form of online extortion that involves threatening to harm an individual or release sensitive information unless a ransom is paid. The perpetrators often use technology to hide their identities and may contact victims through phone calls, text messages, or social media. It involves using digital means to coerce individuals or entities into paying a ransom or facing negative consequences, such as the release of compromising information.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

17. Correct Answer is (C)

- Agriculture can contribute to antimicrobial resistance when antibiotics are used as growth promoters in livestock. When antibiotics are overused or used inappropriately in farming, it can lead to the development of resistant bacteria that can spread to humans through the food chain or through direct contact with animals.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

18. Correct Answer is (A)

- In the context of the Defense Sector, the term "Acceptance of Necessity" (AON) is a critical step in the defense procurement process in India. It refers to the official approval granted by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) for a specific capital acquisition proposal for the armed forces.
- The AON signifies the formal acceptance of the necessity for the proposed acquisition and marks the beginning of the procurement process. It enables the concerned authorities to initiate the procurement process, including feasibility studies, tendering, and contract negotiations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

19. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The fundamental concept behind Artificial Intelligence (AI) is mimicking human intelligence in machines. The goal of AI is not to enhance human abilities, but to create intelligent systems that can perform tasks more efficiently or effectively than humans.
- General AI, also known as strong AI or artificial general intelligence (AGI), is a theoretical form of AI that possesses human-level intelligence and can perform any intellectual task that a human can. In contrast, Narrow AI, also known as weak AI, is designed to perform a specific task or set of tasks, such as facial recognition or language translation. General AI is considered to be more intelligent than Narrow AI as it possesses a broader range of cognitive abilities and can adapt to new tasks more effectively.
- Statement 3 is correct. Natural Language Processing (NLP) is a subfield of AI that focuses on enabling computers to understand, generate, and manipulate human language. It involves developing algorithms and systems that can analyze and interpret natural language data, such as text or speech, and perform tasks such as translation, sentiment analysis, and question-answering.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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20. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Camptothecin (CPT) is a powerful anti-cancer drug lead molecule that has been extracted primarily from *Nothapodytes nimmoniana*. CPT has shown significant anti-tumor activity against a variety of cancers, including ovarian, cervical, and lung cancer.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. *Nathapodytes nimmoniana* is not widespread throughout India but is endemic to the Western Ghats of India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. Correct Answer is (C)

- Zosurabalpin operates through a novel mechanism of action compared to traditional antibiotics. It doesn't directly target the cell wall, ribosomes, or DNA replication. Instead, it binds to a protein complex within the bacterium called LptD, which is essential for transporting lipopolysaccharides (LPS) to the outer membrane. LPS is a crucial component of the outer membrane, providing structural integrity and protecting the bacteria from various threats. By disrupting LPS transport, Zosurabalpin weakens the outer membrane, leading to bacterial death.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

22. Correct Answer is (A)

- 1 and 2 are correctly matched. Aditya-L1 is India's first dedicated solar observatory spacecraft, launched in September 2023. Its primary objective is to study the Sun's corona, chromosphere, and photosphere, providing valuable insights into solar activity, space weather, and its impact on Earth.
- Gaganyaan-1 aims to send three Indian astronauts into space for a low-Earth orbit mission, marking India's first human spaceflight.

Mangalyaan-2, also known as Mars Orbiter Mission 2 (MOM 2), is aimed at studying the Martian atmosphere and surface from its orbital path.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

23. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Plasma waves are a type of oscillation or fluctuation that occurs within a plasma, which is a hot and ionized gas consisting of electrons and ions. These waves are caused by the collective behavior of the charged particles in the plasma and can affect the behavior and properties of the plasma.
- Plasma waves play a crucial role in the dynamics of Earth's magnetosphere, which is the region around the planet dominated by its magnetic field. These waves can accelerate and transport charged particles, such as electrons and ions, throughout the magnetosphere, affecting the behavior of the radiation belts and auroras. The planet Mars does not have any intrinsic magnetic field therefore the high-speed solar wind coming from the Sun interacts directly with the Mars atmosphere.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

24. Correct Answer is (A)

- Direct-to-Mobile (D2M) technology is a new way of delivering multimedia content, such as video and audio, directly to mobile devices without the need for an internet connection.
- D2M uses broadcast networks, similar to those used for TV and radio, to transmit content directly to mobile devices. This means that users can access multimedia content even in areas with poor or no internet connectivity, or without using their mobile data.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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25. Correct Answer is (C)

- Recently, ISRO successfully tested a 100 W Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell Power System (FCPS) on the orbital platform POEM3. The aims were to evaluate the functioning of Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel cells in space and gather data to support the design of systems for upcoming missions.
- Polymer electrolyte membrane (PEM) fuel cells, also called proton exchange membrane fuel cells, use a proton-conducting polymer membrane as the electrolyte. Hydrogen is typically used as the fuel.
- These cells operate at relatively low temperatures and can quickly vary their output to meet shifting power demands. They are being developed mainly for transport applications, as well as for stationary and portable fuel-cell applications.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

26. Correct Answer is (A)

- The L1 Lagrange point is a specific location in the Sun-Earth system where the gravitational forces of the two bodies balance each other, allowing a spacecraft or satellite to maintain a stable orbit with minimal fuel consumption.
- The L1 Lagrange point lies approximately 1.5 million kilometers from Earth, towards the Sun. It is one of the five Lagrange points in the Sun-Earth system, named after the Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange who discovered them.
- The other Lagrange points, L2, L3, L4, and L5, are associated with the Earth-Moon system, where L2 is being used for deep space observatories such as the James Webb Space Telescope. However, the L1 Lagrange point specifically refers to the Sun-Earth system.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

27. Correct Answer is (C)

- The primary difference between a hard landing and a normal landing in an airplane is the vertical speed of the airplane upon touchdown.
- A hard landing occurs when the airplane's vertical speed upon touchdown is higher than normal, resulting in a greater impact force on the landing gear and airframe. This can be caused by several factors, including incorrect flare timing, insufficient flare, or gusty winds. The severity of landings is quantified using "touch down g," which refers to the gravitational force exerted on the aircraft's tires at landing. Generally, a landing with a "touch down g" exceeding 1.8 is classified as hard, indicating the force was 1.8 times the aircraft's weight. Recently, the Japan airlines experienced hard landing.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

28. Correct Answer is (A)

- A Bio-Imaging Bank is a repository of digital images of biological specimens, such as tissues, cells, and molecules, acquired using various imaging techniques like microscopy, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and computed tomography (CT). The primary objective of a Bio-Imaging Bank is to provide a centralized, standardized, and accessible platform for storing and sharing biological images for research purposes.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

29. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Access to surgical care remains a significant challenge in India, especially in rural and remote areas. According to a study published in The Lancet, only 10% of the

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population in rural India has access to surgical care. The current surgical system is largely based on civilian initiatives and subnational programs. These include programs like the Surgical Care Affordability and Reduction of Poverty (SCARP) project, Aarogyasri Health Care Trust, and the Karunashraya Palliative Care Project, which aim to improve access to surgical care in specific regions or populations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

30. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The DRDO's counter-drone system is designed to provide a comprehensive solution for detecting, identifying, and neutralizing drones, making it a fully integrated anti-drone system. Radar systems are a crucial component of DRDO's counter-drone system. These operate across different frequencies to detect and track drones, even stealthy ones, at considerable distances. This allows for early identification and response to potential threats.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Its primary purpose is not air defense against conventional aircraft and missiles. DRDO's system specifically focuses on countering drones due to their unique characteristics and potential threats.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

31. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Meissner effect is a phenomenon that occurs in superconductors, which are materials that can conduct electricity with zero resistance at very low temperatures. When a superconductor is cooled below its critical temperature, it expels any existing magnetic fields from its interior, creating a magnetic shield around itself. This is known as the Meissner effect.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

32. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. AMR refers to the ability of microorganisms, like bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites, to withstand the effects of antimicrobial agents, such as antibiotics, antifungals, and antiviral drugs. Bacteria like E. coli, Klebsiella, Acinetobacter, Staphylococcus aureus, enterococcus have become resistant to even the latest generation of antibiotics.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Acquired antimicrobial resistance is not caused by structural characteristics of microbes, but rather by genetic changes that occur within the microbe in response to exposure to antimicrobial agents.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

33. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Proba-3's mission is being led by European Space Agency (ESA).
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Proba-3's objective is to develop technology for precision formation flying and demonstrate the ability to create an artificial eclipse using two satellites. It aims to form a precise formation of two satellites flying in tandem, creating a "flying coronagraph" with a separation distance of 144 meters. The goal is to study the Sun's corona, the outermost part of its atmosphere. Proba-3 consists of two small satellites, each carrying a set of sensors and instruments, flying in close formation to create an artificial eclipse and study the Sun's corona.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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34. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement 1 is correct. Developing thorium-based nuclear energy technology is a strategic priority for India. India has significant thorium resources and sees thorium-based nuclear energy as a way to achieve long-term energy security and reduce its dependence on imported uranium. The country has a three-stage nuclear power program that aims to ultimately harness thorium-based nuclear energy.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Thorium is not necessarily more efficient or cost-effective than uranium for producing nuclear energy. While thorium-based nuclear energy offers some potential advantages, such as reduced nuclear waste and a potentially more abundant fuel supply, it also presents significant technical and economic challenges. Currently, uranium-based nuclear energy is the most widely used and established nuclear energy technology, and thorium-based nuclear energy is still in the research and development stage.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

35. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Cosmic rays are high-energy particles, mostly protons and atomic nuclei, that travel through space at close to the speed of light. They originate from various sources, including the Sun, our galaxy (Milky Way), and even distant galaxies beyond.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Cosmic rays do not contribute to the formation of the ozone layer. Some studies suggest that cosmic rays may indirectly affect the atmosphere by influencing cloud formation, but the ozone layer is primarily shaped by chemical reactions involving oxygen, ultraviolet radiation, and pollutants like CFCs. While gamma rays, X-rays, and ultraviolet light are forms of electromagnetic radiation, they are not classified as cosmic rays. Cosmic rays consist primarily of high-energy particles like protons, electrons, and atomic nuclei.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

36. Correct Answer is (B)

- Schedule M is specifically devoted to "Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and requirements of premises, plant and equipment for pharmaceutical products." It outlines detailed regulations for various aspects of drug manufacturing, including personnel, facilities, equipment, materials, documentation, and quality control procedures.
- It is a set of guidelines that specifies good manufacturing practices for pharmaceutical products. It outlines the minimum standards that pharmaceutical companies must follow to ensure the quality and safety of their products.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

37. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Einstein Probe, recently launched by China, aims to study transient cosmic phenomena and uncover mysteries of the universe. Its objectives include: detecting rare X-ray flares to discover transient black holes, locating the electromagnetic sources of gravitational waves, studying X-ray transients like gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and flares from other stars. The satellite is equipped with advanced instruments, including a lobster-eye X-ray telescope, which enables it to detect and study transient cosmic phenomena with high sensitivity.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

38. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Milky Way Galaxy, which contains our Solar System, is a large spiral galaxy. It has a characteristic spiral structure, with spiral arms winding around a central bar, and a halo of stars and dark matter

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surrounding the whole system. A spiral galaxy is a type of galaxy characterized by its distinctive spiral arms that radiate from a central bulge. These arms are often lined with bright young stars, dust, and gas, creating a spiral pattern when viewed from afar.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

39. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. HPV is a group of viruses that can cause abnormal cell growth in infected individuals. Some types of HPV can lead to cancer, including cervical cancer, anal cancer, and oral cancer. A persistent infection with high-risk strains of HPV is a major cause of cervical cancer. According to the World Health Organization, over 95% of all cervical cancer cases are linked to HPV infection.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. HPV is not typically transmitted through airborne droplets like coughing or sneezing. It is primarily transmitted through direct contact with infected skin or mucous membranes, often during sexual activity or other close physical contact.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

40. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The New Generation Akash (Akash-NG) missile is not a Ballistic missile but a Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) system. Ballistic missiles follow a ballistic trajectory towards their target after launch, while SAM systems are designed to be launched from the ground to hit aerial targets.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Akash-NG is an advanced version of the original Akash missile, featuring several improvements, including a longer range, higher speed, etc. The Akash-NG has a range of 60 km compared to the original Akash's range of 30 km. The Akash-NG's capability to engage multiple targets simultaneously enhances the Air Force's ability to defend against various threats, making it a force multiplier. The missile system's advanced technology and network-centric operation enable it to engage multiple targets with high precision and efficiency, improving the defense system's effectiveness against potential aerial threats.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

41. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. TB cases in India have decreased since 2022. According to the Global TB Report 2023, India has reported a decrease in TB cases from 2,135,830 in 2021 to 2,053,130 in 2022, a decrease of around 4%. TB is preventable and curable. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment can cure most cases of TB, and vaccinations are available to prevent infection.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. TB is not primarily transmitted through contaminated water or food. TB is caused by the bacteria Mycobacterium tuberculosis, which is usually transmitted through the air when an infected person coughs, speaks, etc.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

42. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement-I: Dark matter is invisible to our current telescopes and detectors. We can't directly observe it through electromagnetic radiation like light.
- Statement-II: Dark matter's invisibility stems from its lack of interaction with the electromagnetic force. It doesn't absorb, reflect, or emit light, making it invisible to our usual methods of observation.

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- Hence, Statement-I correctly states that dark matter cannot be detected through normal observational means, and Statement-II correctly explains that this is because dark matter does not reflect or emit light.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

43. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Thylakoids are membrane-bound structures within chloroplasts that contain chlorophyll and other pigments involved in capturing light energy during photosynthesis. While they are essential for photosynthesis, their primary function is not to provide structural support for the chloroplast. They are found in ancient, light-sensitive bacteria called cyanobacteria. They store chlorophyll, the substance in plants that reacts to sunlight and triggers photosynthesis. The thylakoid's function is to perform light-dependent reactions in photosynthesis.
- Statement 2 is correct. Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are photosynthetic bacteria that carry out oxygenic photosynthesis, similar to plants. They have the ability to convert light energy from the sun into chemical energy through photosynthesis, using water and carbon dioxide to produce oxygen and sugars.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

44. Correct Answer is (B)

- The primary purpose of the Drishti 10 Starliner UAV is intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) in maritime environments. The Drishti 10 Starliner is a state-of-the-art UAV designed to provide the Indian Navy with enhanced maritime surveillance capabilities. Its advanced sensors and long-endurance capabilities enable it to conduct extended surveillance missions over the ocean, gathering critical information for strategic decision-making and maritime security.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

45. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. India has the second largest internet user base globally, with over 850 million users as of 2023. This vast user base makes it an attractive market for various online services, including gaming platforms.
- Statement 2 is correct. Online gaming in India has been linked to national security concerns and money laundering. India's growing online gaming industry has attracted the attention of malicious actors, including those involved in financial fraud, money laundering, and even cyber espionage.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

46. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Cervical cancer is both preventable and curable if detected early. Regular screening tests, such as the Pap test and HPV test, can detect changes in the cervix that may lead to cancer, allowing for early intervention and treatment.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Cervical cancer is not usually caused by an inherited genetic mutation. Cervical cancer is mainly caused by infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is a sexually transmitted virus. Removing the cervix, a procedure called a hysterectomy, is not the best way to prevent cervical cancer. It is a major surgery with long-term implications for reproductive health. The primary methods of prevention are HPV vaccination and regular screening.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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47. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The I-STEM (Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering facilities Map) portal is a national portal that provides a platform for sharing scientific and engineering facilities among researchers, academia, and industry. The objective of the portal is to promote efficient use of research infrastructure, reduce duplication of investments, and foster collaboration among different institutions.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Samavesha project launched by I-STEM is not a wellness initiative, rather, it is a platform to enhance research collaboration in India by connecting researchers, industry, and start-ups with laboratory facilities and equipment. The Samavesha project is focused on fostering innovation and scientific progress by providing access to critical research infrastructure.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

48. 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](#)

49. 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](#)

50. 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](#)

51. 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](#)

52. 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

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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 'Paramyothecium 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](#)

53. 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](#)

54. 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](#)

55. 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](#)

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56. 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](#)

57. 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](#)

58. 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](#)

59. 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](#)

60. 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

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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](#)

61. 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](#)