

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

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*For UPSC CSE Prelims*

**[4<sup>th</sup> Week] February, 2024**

## 10 PM Compilation February [Fourth Week] 2024

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## Ancient History

**Q.1) With reference to the Pallava Dynasty, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

1. Narasimhavarman I is considered the founder of the Pallava Dynasty.
2. It is renowned for its contributions to maritime trade and navigation.
3. The rise of the Rashtrakutas led to the decline of the Pallava Dynasty.

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

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

## Geography

**Q.2) Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the “Kaji Nemu”, which holds a Geographical Indication (GI) tag?**

- a) It is a non-citric fruit native to the Himalayan region.
- b) It is a commercially cultivated lemon variety with a unique aroma.
- c) It has been recently introduced to Assam from another country.
- d) It is primarily used for decorative purposes and not for consumption.

**Q.3) Which one of the following presents the correct sequence of seas from North to South?**

- a) Norwegian Sea, Baltic Sea, Adriatic Sea, Red Sea
- b) Mediterranean Sea, English Channel, Black Sea, Norwegian Sea
- c) Arabian Sea, Black Sea, Adriatic Sea, Tasman Sea
- d) Yellow Sea, Sea of Japan, Java Sea, Caribbean Sea

**Q.4) In which one of the following ways does La Niña affect the winter temperatures in India?**

- a) It leads to warmer winters in India due to increased cloud cover and humidity.
- b) It results in cooler winters in India due to enhanced cloud cover and increased rainfall.
- c) It has minimal impact on winter temperatures in India.
- d) It causes extreme cold spells and frost in northern regions of India.

**Q.5) The Red Sea is known for its high salinity. Which one of the following factors contributes to this salinity?**

- a) High evaporation rates and limited freshwater inflow
- b) Abundant rainfall diluting the salt content
- c) Discharge of industrial waste into the sea
- d) Cold currents from the Antarctic region

**Q.6) Consider the following statements:**

1. They are subjected to erosion on their upstream and deposition on the downstream.
2. They are devoid of any plant or animal life.
3. These are desert region characterized by sand dunes.

**Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct regarding "Char Areas"?**

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

## Polity

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

1. Article 39A of the Constitution provides for the state to secure equitable access to justice for all.
2. Article 130 provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

**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.8) The Godavarman Thirumulpad v Union of India judgment, seen in the news recently, is associated with the:**

- a) Protection of forests
- b) Pollution of water bodies and groundwater
- c) Issue of air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region
- d) Issue of pollution in the Ganges River

## Acts & Policies

**Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to the Places of Worship Act, 1991:**

1. The Act aims to maintain the religious character of places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947.
2. It applies to all places of worship in India.
3. Selling or purchasing of places of worship is prohibited under the Act.
4. As per the Act, no changes can be made to the existing religious character of places of worship.

**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.10) With reference to the Electoral Bonds scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a bond issued like a promissory note which shall be a bearer banking instrument and shall not carry the name of the buyer or payee.
2. Electoral bonds could only be purchased by individuals.

**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.11) Which one of the following is correct regarding of "Sagar Aankalan Guidelines"?**

- a) These guidelines aim to promote deep-sea exploration and resource extraction.
- b) These guidelines focus on developing sustainable fishing practices and conserve marine resources.
- c) These guidelines aim for information sharing and cooperation between maritime agencies.
- d) These guidelines aim for mapping and benchmarking the logistics performance of Indian ports.

## International Relations/Organizations

**Q.12) Which one of the following is the objective of 'UN World Restoration Flagships'?**

- a) Advocate for the protection of endangered species.
- b) Promote sustainable practices in land management.
- c) Accelerate large-scale landscape restoration efforts globally.
- d) Provide financial assistance to developing countries for restoration projects.

**Q.13) Consider the following:**

1. Economic collaboration
2. Security and defense cooperation
3. Climate change

**How many of the above are the areas of cooperation under the 'Weimar Triangle'?**

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

**Q.14) With reference to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to facilitate political integration and harmonization of laws and regulations among its member states.
2. EFTA has a centralized legislative body, while the European Union (EU) relies on cooperation among national governments.
3. Germany is one of the member countries of EFTA.

**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.15) With reference to the Munich Security Conference, consider the following statements:**

1. It is often referred to as the 'Davos of Defence'.
2. It aims to facilitate humanitarian aid efforts in conflict zones worldwide.
3. The conference is only attended by leaders from European Union member states.

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

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

**Q.16) Which article of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) treaty is known as the "collective defense" clause, stating that an attack against one member is considered an attack against all members?**

- a) Article 1
- b) Article 2
- c) Article 5
- d) Article 10

**Q.17) Consider the following pairs:**

**Interpol Notice-----Objective**

1. Green Notice----- To warn about a person's criminal activities
2. Blue Notice-----To provide information on modus operandi, procedures, objects, devices, or hiding places used by criminals
3. Yellow Notice-----To seek information on unidentified bodies
4. Orange Notice-----To seek the location or arrest of a person wanted by a judicial jurisdiction or an international tribunal

**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

## Economy

**Q.18) Consider the following statements:**

1. India holds the title of the world's largest producer, consumer, and importer of pulses.
2. Kharif pulses contribute over 60% to the total production.
3. The government aims to attain self-sufficiency in pulses by the end of 2027.

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

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



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

1. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system does not operate on weekends.
2. National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) is suitable for both small and large value transactions.
3. Under Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), a minimum transaction amount is ₹2 lakhs.

**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:**

1. Cost of production
2. Demand and supply conditions
3. Prices in domestic and international markets
4. Land fertility levels

**Which of the above factors is considered by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACPC) when recommending a Minimum Support Price (MSP)?**

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

**Q.21) The "C2" cost of production in the context of Minimum Support Price (MSP) refers to:**

- a) All paid-out costs directly incurred by the farmer, either in cash and kind, on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, leased-in land, fuel, irrigation.
- b) The average cost of production for all farmers cultivating the crop in a particular region.
- c) The actual cost of production, including account rent and interest foregone on land and machinery owned by farmers.
- d) The projected cost of production based on future market trends.

**Q.22) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:** India imports over 60% of its edible oil needs.

**Statement-II:** Imported edible oils have higher nutritional value compared to domestically produced oils.

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

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

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**Q.23) In the context of government budgeting in India, consider the following statements:**

1. New Instrument of Service (NIS) refers to expenditure arising from a completely new policy decision that was not presented to the Parliament before.
2. A major expansion of an existing social welfare scheme is an example of New Instrument of Service (NIS).

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

1. The devolution of taxes from the central government to state governments contribute to fiscal decentralization by empowering state governments with greater control over revenue sources and enabling them to fund local projects.
2. Fiscal decentralization can promote accountability in government by standardizing tax rates across all 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.25) Consider the following statements:**

1. Sustainable Horticulture practices contribute to soil degradation.
2. The 1.0 Hectare Model of Integrated Farming is a farming system that promotes the efficient use of land and resources by integrating various agricultural activities on a single hectare of land.
3. India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world after China.

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

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

## Environment

**Q.26) In the context of coal gasification, which of the following statements are correct?**

1. It is the process of converting coal into natural gas.
2. Methane is the primary gas produced through coal gasification.
3. It is one of the water-intensive modes of energy generation.

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

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



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**Q.27) Golden-backed Frog is endemic to:**

- a) Western Ghats
- b) Eastern Himalayas
- c) Indo-Burma region
- d) Sundaland

**Q.28) Bonnet mushroom is classified as:**

- a) Autotrophs
- b) Heterotrophs
- c) Saprotrophs
- d) Chemotrophs

**Q.29) With reference to the Kanha Tiger Reserve, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is the largest National Park in Central India.
- 2. It lies in the Maikal range of the Satpura Mountains.
- 3. It is the first tiger reserve in India to have an official mascot named 'Bhoorsingh the Barasingha'
- 4. Swamp deer are widely recognized for their association with the conservation success of Kanha Tiger Reserve.

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

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

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

- 1. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
- 2. Global Connectivity Project is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations.

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

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

**Q.31) With reference to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), consider the following statements:**

- 1. It aims to advance scientific knowledge about climate change caused by human activities.
- 2. It conducts its own research on the climate change.
- 3. It considers the socio-economic impacts of climate change while conducting research or preparing the assessment report.

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

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

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**Q.32) Which one of the following statements is correct in relation to the “Global Stocktake”?**

- a) The Global Stocktake results in legally binding targets for each country.
- b) The Global Stocktake provides a non-binding, informative assessment of collective progress.
- c) The Global Stocktake determines which countries have met their climate targets and which have not.
- d) The Global Stocktake allocates additional funding to countries based on their progress in combating climate change.

**Q.33) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. International Single Species Action Plan aims to implement coordinated measures to restore migratory waterbird species to a favourable conservation status.
- 2. Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) has been developed under the framework of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

**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.34) Consider the following statements with respect to the Melghat Tiger Reserve:**

- 1. The forest is tropical dry deciduous in nature, dominated by teak.
- 2. The Tapti River and the Gawilgadh ridge of the Satpura Range form the boundaries of the reserve.
- 3. It is situated in Gavilgarh Hill in Maharashtra.
- 4. The Kota tribes are the largest tribal community in Melghat.

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

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

## Science & Technology

**Q.35) Which one of the following is used for effectively removing makeup and sunscreen due to its cleansing properties?**

- a) Distilled Water
- b) Micellar Water
- c) Thermal Water
- d) Flower Waters

**Q.36) With reference to the disease Diphtheria, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is a contagious infection of the nose and throat.
- 2. It is a bacterial disease caused by *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*.

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

1. It is an AI technique designed to mimic human decision-making processes.
2. The term 'Generative' refers to the ability of the models to learn how to create new data rather than simply recognising it.

**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.38) Which one of the following characteristics is shared by both asteroids and comets?**

- a) They have well-defined, circular orbits around the Sun.
- b) They originate from the same region in the early Solar System.
- c) They are primarily composed of gases.
- d) They have a same significant impact on Earth's climate.

**Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) Mission:**

1. It could fly into the stratosphere.
2. It could observe the universe in the widest range of infrared light.
3. It was operated jointly by NASA and the German space agency.

**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.40) With reference to the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a single-stage launch vehicle designed for placing satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
2. GSLV has been designed for launching communication satellites.
3. It has a lower rate of failure compared to the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

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

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

## Answer Key

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

## Answers & Explanations

### Ancient History

#### 1. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Pallava Dynasty is considered to have been founded by Simhavishnu, who ruled from around 550 to 580 CE. The Pallava Dynasty is known for its contributions to art, literature, and architecture, rather than maritime trade and navigation. The Pallavas were great patrons of the arts and played a crucial role in the development of South Indian architecture, sculpture, and literature.
- Statement 3 is correct. The decline of the Pallava Dynasty is often attributed to the rise of the Rashtrakutas, a powerful dynasty that gained prominence in the Deccan region. The Rashtrakutas, under their king Govinda III, defeated the Pallavas in several battles, leading to the weakening and eventual decline of the Pallava Dynasty.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### Geography

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

- Kaji Nemu is a commercially cultivated lemon variety with a unique aroma. Kaji Nemu is a special type of lemon found in the Kazi Narang village of Assam's Biswanath district. It has a unique sweet aroma and flavor, differentiating it from other lemon varieties. Kaji Nemu lemons are known for their thin and smooth skin, as well as their high juice content. They are used in various culinary applications and have potential medicinal value due to their high vitamin C content. It is much juicier than other varieties of lemons. In 2019, Kaji Nemu was awarded a GI (Geographical Indication) tag. The Assam government recently declared the 'Kaji Nemu' (Citrus Limon) as the official State Fruit.

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Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 3. Correct Answer is (A)

- The correct sequence of seas from North to South is – Norwegian Sea, Baltic Sea, Adriatic Sea, Red Sea. **Sea in the News – Baltic Sea:** It is a semi-enclosed sea located in Northern Europe. It is a branch of the North Atlantic Ocean, stretching northward from southern Denmark towards the Arctic Circle. It divides the Scandinavian Peninsula from the rest of mainland Europe. It has about 8,000 kilometers of coastline, shared by many countries such as Sweden, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Estonia, Germany, Denmark, and Russia. It connects to the White Sea through the White Sea Canal and to the German Bight of the North Sea via the Kiel Canal. It also connects to the Atlantic Ocean through the Danish Straits. The Baltic Sea has three main gulfs: the Gulf of Bothnia to the north, the Gulf of Finland to the east, and the Gulf of Riga slightly to the south of that. It is commonly referred to as the largest brackish inland water body in the world. The Baltic Sea's water is less salty compared to the world's oceans because of the inflow of freshwater from surrounding land and the sea's shallow depth.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 4. Correct Answer is (B)

- La Niña typically results in cooler winters in India due to enhanced cloud cover and increased rainfall. This is because La Niña is characterized by cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific Ocean, which affects global weather patterns, including India. During a La Niña event, the cooler waters in the Pacific lead to changes in atmospheric circulation that can enhance cloud cover and precipitation over India. This increased cloud cover and precipitation can lead to cooler winter temperatures in the country.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 5. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Red Sea has some of the highest salinity levels among the world's oceans and seas due to its geographical location, climate, and limited connection to other bodies of water. The high evaporation rates in the region, coupled with the restricted exchange of water with the Indian Ocean through the narrow Bab-el-Mandeb strait, contribute to the elevated salinity levels in the Red Sea. These factors lead to a higher concentration of dissolved salts, making the Red Sea one of the saltiest bodies of water on Earth.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 6. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The riverine areas (island) of the river Brahmaputra are locally known as Char. Chars are island-like silt depositions in the lower parts of river basins. They are made of sand and silt. They are created naturally due to the accumulation of sediment transported in water from melting glaciers and eroding riverbanks. They are subjected to erosion on their upstream and deposition on the downstream.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. While the conditions on char areas can be harsh, they are not entirely devoid of plant and animal life. Certain specialized species of plants and animals can adapt to the dynamic and challenging environment of these areas. Char areas are not found in desert regions. They are formed by river systems and can occur in various environments, including floodplains, coastal areas, and river deltas.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)



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### Polity

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

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Article 39A falls within the Directive Principles of State Policy. It mandates the state to ensure that the legal system operates to promote justice on an equal basis. This includes providing free legal aid to those who cannot afford it. Article 130 provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

#### 8. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Godavarman Thirumulpad v Union of India (1996) judgment is a landmark legal case in India concerning environmental conservation and the protection of forests. The case was heard by the Supreme Court of India. The Supreme Court, in its judgment, recognized the importance of preserving forests and protecting the environment for the well-being of present and future generations. The court issued several directives aimed at preventing illegal logging, encroachments, and other activities detrimental to forests.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### Acts & Policies

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

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. The Places of Worship Act, 1991 prohibits the conversion of any place of worship and aims to maintain the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947. The Act applies to all places of worship, including temples, mosques, gurudwaras, churches, and monasteries. However, the Act does not apply to any place of worship which is an ancient and historical monument or an archaeological site or remains covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. As per the Act, the religious character of a place of worship existing on the 15th day of August, 1947 shall continue to be the same as it existed on that day, and no changes can be made to the existing religious character of places of worship.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Selling or purchasing of places of worship is not prohibited under the Act. However, no person shall convert any place of worship of any religious denomination or any section into a place of worship of a different section of the same religious denomination or of a different religious denomination.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

#### 10. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Under the Electoral Bonds scheme, the bond was issued like a promissory note, serving as a bearer banking instrument. The key feature of these bonds was that they did not carry the name of the buyer or payee, thus ensuring the anonymity of the donor.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Electoral bonds could be purchased not only by individuals but also by other entities incorporated or established in India, such as companies, firms, or associations. This meant that a wide range of entities could purchase electoral bonds and contribute to political parties without revealing their identity. However, the Supreme Court of India struck down the Electoral Bonds scheme due to concerns over transparency, accountability, and the potential for anonymous corporate funding in politics.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)



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### 11. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Sagar Aankalan Guidelines were launched by the Indian government to establish a comprehensive framework for assessing and improving the performance of Indian ports. It focuses on the National Benchmarking of Indian Ports' Performance to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of seaports across India. It would be applicable to all Indian seaports. It will transform the performance assessment of Indian ports. It will help in fulfilling "Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047". It will help in port development, modernization, green hydrogen and ammonia, port-led development, cruise sector, business and commerce, shipbuilding, and knowledge sharing.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### International Relations/Organizations

### 12. Correct Answer is (C)

- The objective of the UN World Restoration Flagships is to accelerate large-scale landscape restoration efforts globally. These flagships are initiatives recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations for their potential to restore ecosystems, promote biodiversity, and improve livelihoods. Its goal is to stop, prevent, and reverse the decline of ecosystems across all continents and oceans. **Seven initiatives under the UN World Restoration Flagships:** The Restoring Mediterranean Forests Initiative, The Living Indus initiative, The Acción Andina social movement, the Sri Lanka Mangrove Regeneration initiative, the Terai Arc Landscape initiative, Regreening agriculture in Africa, the Growing Forests in Africa's Drylands initiative.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 13. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Weimar Triangle was created in 1991. It is a regional alliance to promote cooperation among France, Germany, and Poland. It aims to strengthen bonds and encourage cooperation among the three countries, especially in politics, economy, and culture. Also, to tackle the common challenges faced by them. The forum offers a platform to discuss regional and global issues and has had a big impact on European relations and policies. **Areas of cooperation include:** Political dialogue, Economic collaboration, Cultural exchanges, Security and defense cooperation, Contemporary issues like energy security, climate change, and technological innovation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 14. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. EFTA primarily aims to promote free trade and economic integration among its member states, rather than political integration or harmonization of laws and regulations. It is an intergovernmental organization established in 1960 through the Stockholm Convention. EFTA focuses on reducing trade barriers and fostering cooperation in various economic fields, such as industry, research, and technology. EFTA does not have a centralized legislative body. Instead, it operates based on intergovernmental cooperation among its member states, similar to the European Union (EU). EFTA member states retain their national sovereignty and make decisions through consensus in the EFTA Council, which is the organization's highest governing body. The organization works alongside the European Union (EU). The current member states of EFTA are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. These countries are not part of the European Union but maintain close economic ties with the EU through the European Economic Area (EEA)

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Agreement, which allows for the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people between EFTA and EU member states.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 15. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Munich Security Conference (MSC) is often referred to as the 'Davos of Defence' due to its high-profile focus on international security and defense.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Its objective is to build trust and contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts, by sustaining a continuous and informal dialogue within the international security community. The conference is held annually in February. It is a venue for diplomatic initiatives to address the world's most pressing security concerns. It publishes the Munich Security Report. This is an annual report about figures, maps and research on crucial security challenges. It is not limited to leaders from European Union member states. Instead, it attracts participants from various countries worldwide, including heads of state, defense ministers, foreign ministers, military officials, and security experts.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 16. Correct Answer is (C)

- Article 5 is the cornerstone of NATO's collective defense principle. It states that an armed attack against one or more members is considered an attack against all and members must assist, including the use of armed force if necessary. NATO is a transatlantic security alliance of 31 like-minded North American and European countries. It was established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) on April 4, 1949. Its objective is to protect peace and to guarantee the territorial integrity, political independence, and security of the member states.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 17. Correct Answer is (A)

- Only 1 is correctly matched.
- Blue Notice: To locate, identify or obtain information on a person of interest in a criminal investigation.
- Yellow Notice: To locate a missing person or to identify a person unable to identify himself/herself.
- Orange Notice: To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing an imminent threat and danger to persons or property.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

## Economy

### 18. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. India holds the title of the world's largest producer, consumer, and importer of pulses. India contributes 25% to global production, consuming 27% of the world's total, and importing 14%. Gram is the leading pulse, comprising about 40% of total production, followed by Tur/Arhar at 15-20%, and Urad/Black Matpe and Moong at approximately 8-10% each. The government aims to attain self-sufficiency in pulses by the end of 2027. India now produces enough chickpeas (chana) and various other pulse crops to meet its own needs, with only a minor shortfall in pigeon peas (tur) and black gram.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While pulses are cultivated in both Kharif and Rabi seasons, Rabi pulses contribute over 60% to the total production.

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Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 19. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 2 is correct. NEFT is suitable for both small and large value transactions. NEFT allows individuals to transfer any amount to the recipient's account in a one-on-one transfer basis without a maximum limit for funds that can be transferred in a single day.
- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including weekends and bank holidays. Immediate Payment Service allows for both peer-to-peer transfers and merchant payments. IMPS is available 24/7 throughout the year, including bank holidays, and enables real-time instant inter-bank funds transfer with no upper limit for transactions. There is also no lower limit or minimum transaction amount specified for IMPS.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 20. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) considers the following factors when recommending a Minimum Support Price (MSP): Cost of production, Demand and supply, Market trends, Price parity among different crops, Effect on industrial cost structure, Effect on cost of living, Terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture, etc.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 21. Correct Answer is (C)

- Different Production Costs Considered While Fixing MSP are:
- A2: All paid-out costs directly incurred by the farmer, either in cash and kind, on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, leased-in land, fuel, irrigation.
- A2+FL: Imputed value of unpaid family labour is added to the A2 cost to derive A2+FL.
- C2: Estimated land rent and the cost of interest on the money taken for farming is added to A2+FL to get the C2 production cost. It is a more comprehensive production cost.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 22. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement-I is correct. India imports over 60% of its edible oil needs. India is one of the largest importers of edible oils, as domestic production does not meet the country's growing demand. The imported edible oils primarily include palm oil, soybean oil, and sunflower oil.
- Statement-II is incorrect. The nutritional quality of edible oils does not depend on whether they are imported or domestically produced. The quality and nutritional value of edible oils are determined by various factors such as the type of oil, processing methods, and storage conditions rather than their origin.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 23. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. New Instrument of Service (NIS) refers to relatively large expenditure arising out of important expansion of an existing policy. Whereas, New Service (NS) refers to expenditure arising out of a new policy decision that was not brought to the notice of Parliament earlier. This may include a new activity or a new investment.
- Statement 2 is correct. A major expansion of an existing social welfare scheme is an example of New Instrument of Service (NIS).

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Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 24. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Devolution of taxes from the central government to state governments is a key aspect of fiscal decentralization. It empowers state governments with greater control over their revenue sources. This increased control allows them to decide how to allocate funds and prioritize spending on local projects that address the specific needs of their citizens.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Fiscal decentralization typically involves allowing states or local governments to have more authority over taxation and expenditure decisions. However, standardizing tax rates across all regions would go against the principles of fiscal decentralization, as it would centralize tax policy and diminish the autonomy of subnational governments.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 25. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Horticulture practices, when done sustainably, generally do not contribute to soil degradation. Instead, they can improve soil health by enhancing organic matter content, promoting beneficial microbial activity, and reducing erosion. Sustainable horticulture practices, such as crop rotation, mulching, and organic fertilization, can help maintain soil fertility and structure.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The 1.0 Hectare Model of Integrated Farming is designed to promote the efficient use of land and resources by incorporating various agricultural activities on a single hectare of land. This model combines crop production, horticulture, livestock rearing, and other components to create a diversified and self-sustaining farming system. India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world, following China. The country's diverse agro-climatic conditions and large population contribute to its significant production of various fruits and vegetables.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

## Environment

### 26. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Coal gasification is a process that involves converting coal into a gaseous mixture, often referred to as synthesis gas or syngas. This process occurs by subjecting coal to high temperatures and pressure in the presence of steam and controlled amounts of oxygen. The resulting syngas is primarily composed of hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and some methane, along with smaller amounts of other gases. The gasification process requires significant amounts of water for various purposes, including steam production, cooling, and gas cleaning. The water intensity of coal gasification is a concern in regions where water resources are scarce or stressed, as it can exacerbate water scarcity issues and contribute to increased competition for water resources among different sectors.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While coal gasification produces methane as part of the syngas mixture, it is not the primary gas produced. The main components of the syngas are hydrogen and carbon monoxide, which can then be further processed or used in various applications, such as producing synthetic fuels, generating electricity, or manufacturing chemicals.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 27. Correct Answer is (A)



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- The Golden-backed Frog (*Hylarana chalconota*) is endemic to the Western Ghats of India. This species is known for its distinctive golden-yellow dorsal coloration and is primarily found in the tropical wet evergreen forests and semi-evergreen forests of the Western Ghats. These frogs prefer to reside near streams, ponds, and other water bodies, where they can lay their eggs and find their food. They are insectivorous and feed on a range of small insects and arthropods such as ants, beetles, and crickets. It is about the size of a human thumb.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 28. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Bonnet mushroom (*Mycena*) is classified as a saprotroph. Saprotrophs are organisms that obtain their nutrition by breaking down and feeding on dead organic matter. Mushrooms, including the Bonnet mushroom, are the fruiting bodies of fungi, which play a crucial role in decomposition and nutrient cycling in ecosystems.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 29. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2, 3 and 4 are correct. Kanha Tiger Reserve is the largest National Park in Central India. It is also called Kanha-Kisli National Park, is a major tiger reserve and the largest national park of the Madhya Pradesh. Presently, Kanha area is split into two protected zones: Hallon and Banjar. It is located in the Maikal range of the Satpura Mountain. It is the first tiger reserve in India to have an official mascot named 'Bhoorsingh the Barasingha'. Swamp deer (Barasingha with IUCN status: Vulnerable) are widely recognized for their association with the conservation success of Kanha Tiger Reserve. The reserve has tropical moist deciduous forests. Kanha used to be the home of the Baiga tribe, a semi-nomadic group from central India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 30. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Adopted by the United Nations in 2015, the 17 SDGs cover a broad range of social, economic, and environmental issues, aiming to create a more sustainable and equitable world.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are: SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clear Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnership for Goals).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 31. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The IPCC aims to advance scientific knowledge about climate change caused by human activities. It provides policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts, and future risks, as well as options for adaptation and mitigation. The IPCC takes a comprehensive approach to climate change, including analyzing its impact on human societies and economics. This includes areas like health, displacement, poverty, and, employment.

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- Statement 2 is incorrect. The IPCC does not conduct its own original research. Instead, its primary role is to assess and synthesize the vast body of existing scientific literature on climate change.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 32. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Global Stocktake is a process established under the Paris Agreement that periodically assesses the collective progress towards achieving the goals of the agreement. It evaluates the actions and efforts made by countries in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate change, and providing support for climate finance. It assesses collective progress towards the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and identifies areas where additional efforts may be needed. UNFCCC countries conduct a 'global stocktake' (GST) to assess the world's progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement, every five years. The GST is a mechanism to measure collective progress, identify gaps, and chart a better course of climate action.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 33. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) is a key instrument developed under the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA). It aims to implement coordinated measures to restore migratory waterbird species to a favorable conservation status by addressing threats, habitat conservation, and international cooperation.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) has been developed under the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It is based in Bonn, Germany. It is an intergovernmental treaty dedicated to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 34. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Melghat Tiger Reserve was established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1967 and was declared a tiger reserve in 1974. The name 'Melghat' means the confluence of various 'ghats' or valleys. It is located on the southern offshoot of the Satpura Hill Range in Central India, called Gavilgarh Hill in Maharashtra. The forest is tropical dry deciduous in nature, dominated by teak. The reserve is a catchment area for five major rivers: the Khandu, Khapra, Sipna, Gadga, and Dolar. These are tributaries of the river Tapti. The Tapti River and the Gawilgadh ridge of the Satpura Range form the boundaries of the reserve. It was the first tiger reserve in Maharashtra.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. The Korkus are the largest tribal community in Melghat. Other communities include the Gawli community, the Gond tribe etc.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

## Science & Technology

### 35. Correct Answer is (B)

- Micellar water is used for effectively removing makeup and sunscreen due to its cleansing properties. Micellar water is a gentle solution with a mild detergent. It is a skincare product made up of tiny oil molecules called micelles – groups of molecules that are good at removing oil. The micelles in micellar water are created by special molecules called surfactants. These molecules have both



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hydrophilic (water-loving) and hydrophobic (water-hating) properties. These micelles molecules have water-friendly outer layer that easily mixes with water. It is a skincare product that consists of purified water, hydrating ingredients like glycerin, and mild surfactants that form micelles. These micelles act like magnets, attracting and lifting dirt, makeup, and sunscreen from the skin without requiring vigorous rubbing or rinsing.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 36. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Diphtheria is a serious contagious bacterial infection that primarily affects the nose and throat. It can lead to the formation of a thick, gray coating in the throat, making it difficult to breathe and swallow. The infection can also produce a toxin that can spread to other organs and cause complications such as heart and nerve damage. Diphtheria is caused by the bacterium *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*. The bacteria can spread from person to person through respiratory droplets, such as those produced by coughing or sneezing, or by direct contact with contaminated objects. A person can also be infected by breathing in infected respiratory droplets in the air.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 37. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Generative AI is not designed primarily to mimic human decision-making processes. Instead, it focuses on learning the underlying patterns and structure of data to generate new, original content that resembles the input data. These models can generate images, text, audio, and other forms of data, making them useful for various applications, including art, music, writing, and even scientific research.
- Statement 2 is correct. The term "Generative" in Generative AI refers to the ability of these models to learn how to create new data, rather than simply recognizing or classifying existing data. They learn the patterns and structures within a dataset and use that knowledge to generate new, similar data points. This could be text, images, code, and more. For example, a generative model may learn how to generate images that resemble faces given a set of parameters (such as the eyes, hair, or skin colour etc.).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 38. Correct Answer is (B)

- Both asteroids and comets originate from the same region in the early Solar System, known as the protoplanetary disk. This region consisted of dust, gas, and ice, from which celestial bodies like asteroids and comets formed. Over time, asteroids and comets diverged in composition and characteristics but share a common origin in this primordial disk of material around the young Sun.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 39. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. SOFIA was a modified Boeing 747SP aircraft that operated at altitudes of 38,000-45,000 feet, flying into the stratosphere. It was used to make observations of complex molecules, new solar systems, and planets in the solar system. It used infrared light to observe the universe. It could observe the universe in the widest range of infrared light. It is operated jointly by NASA and the German space agency. However, the mission was cancelled 2022 due to its high cost and inadequate scientific output.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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### 40. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. GSLV is a three-stage launch vehicle designed to place satellites in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO), primarily for communication purposes. GSLV has a higher failure rate compared to PSLV. PSLV is considered one of the most reliable launch vehicles in the world. GSLV has the capability to put a heavier payload in orbit than the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- Statement 2 is correct. GSLV has been primarily designed for launching communication satellites, which require placement in GTO or GEO to maintain a fixed position relative to the Earth's surface.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)